

# URBAN AGENDA FOR THE INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

## THE CITY OF ATHENS EXPERIENCE

Sani Paraskevopoulou

Brussels

4 November 2018, ADDMA



Developed by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency and funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

**Accommodation and Services Scheme** for Asylum Seekers  
as part of ESTIA (Emergency Support to Integration & Accommodation)

# 1. THE EXPERIENCE FROM ACCOMMODATION & SERVICES SCHEME FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS



**Accommodation and Services Scheme** for Asylum Seekers

as part of ESTIA (Emergency Support to Integration & Accommodation)

# 1.1 PROJECT SCOPE

**Project scope**: to offer a **comprehensive response plan** for providing dignified living conditions to the refugees, while developing an ample **personalized monitoring and support mechanism** of each beneficiary (or family) throughout the whole duration of his/her stay in Athens

- ❑ **Accommodation in apartments – rentals and utility bills**
- ❑ **CBI – Cash Based Intervention**
- ❑ **Psycho-social support**
- ❑ **Medical care**
- ❑ **Integration initiatives**

# 1.2 PROJECT DATA - COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

**February 2017**

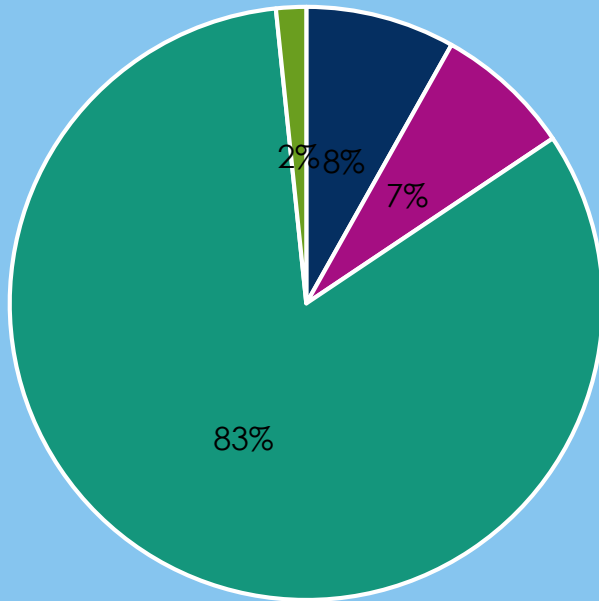
Country of Origin

■ Afghanistan

■ Iraq

■ Syrian Arab Republic

■ Other (Pak, Pal, Som, Mya, Lib, Sud, Dr Congo, Cam, Erit)



**Today**

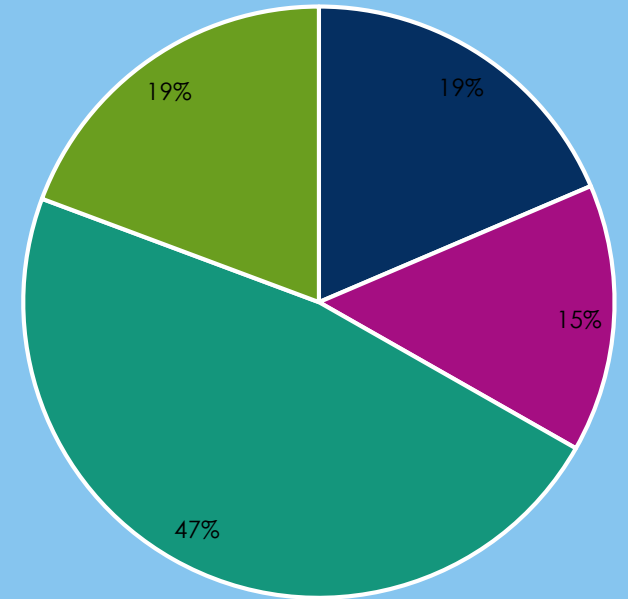
Country of Origin

■ Afghanistan

■ Iraq

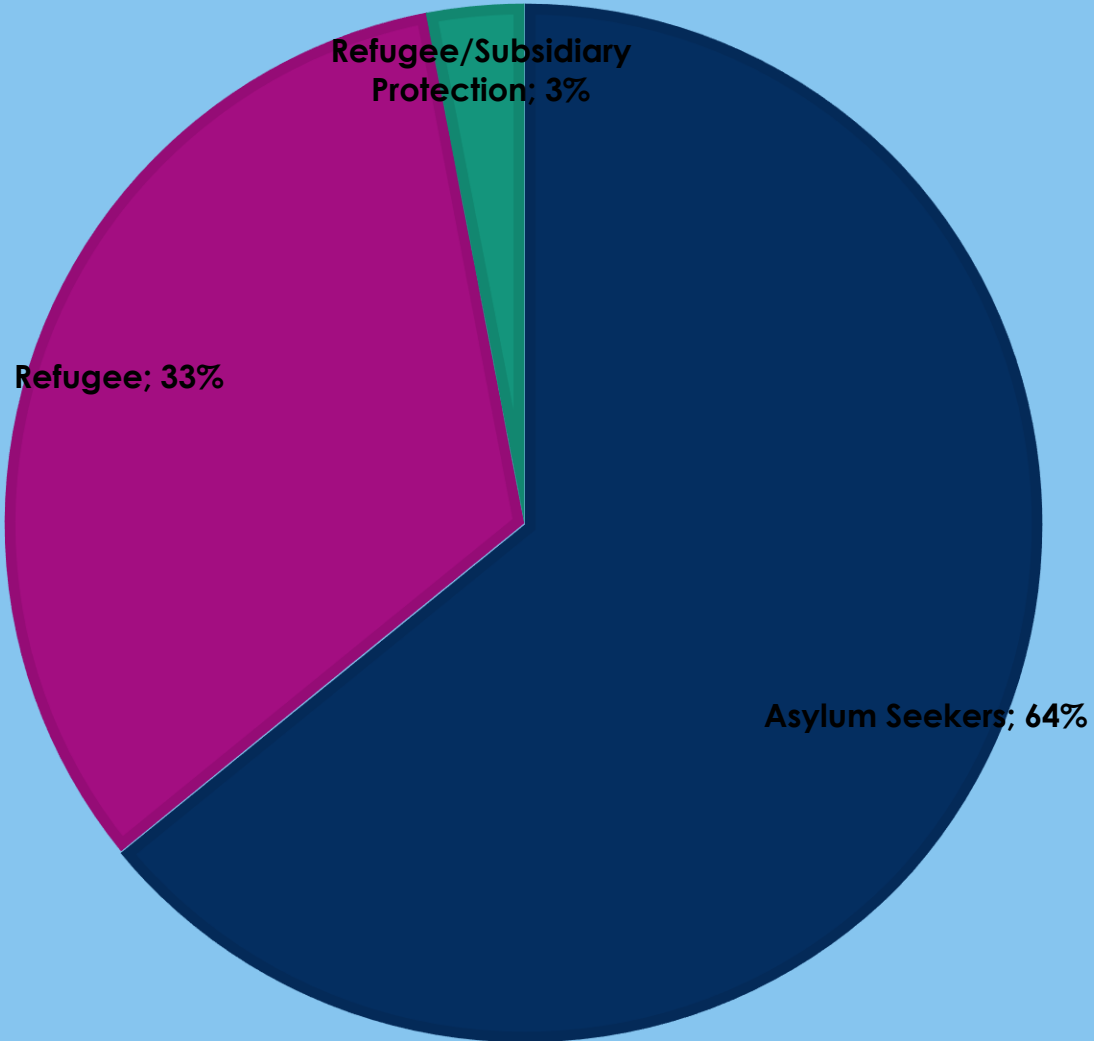
■ Syrian Arab Republic

■ Other (Al, Ang, Bgl, Bur, Cam, CAR, Com, Cdl, DRC, Er, Et, Gb, Gui, Ir, Ku, Leb, Mor, Nig, Pak, Pal, SL, Som, Sud, Tog, Tur, Ug)

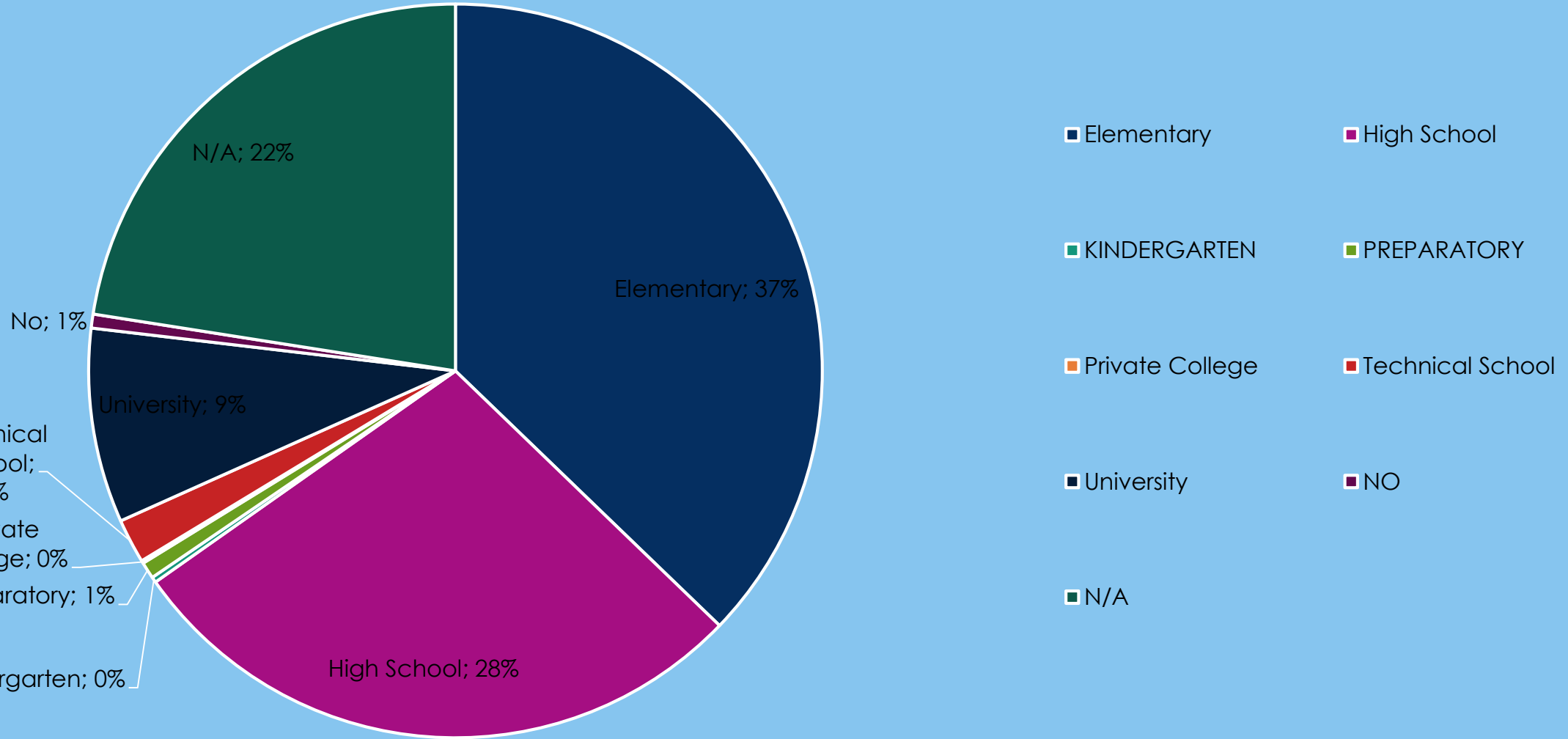


# 1.3 PROJECT DATA- ASYLUM STATUS

- Asylum Seeker
- Refugee
- Refugee/Subsidiary Protection

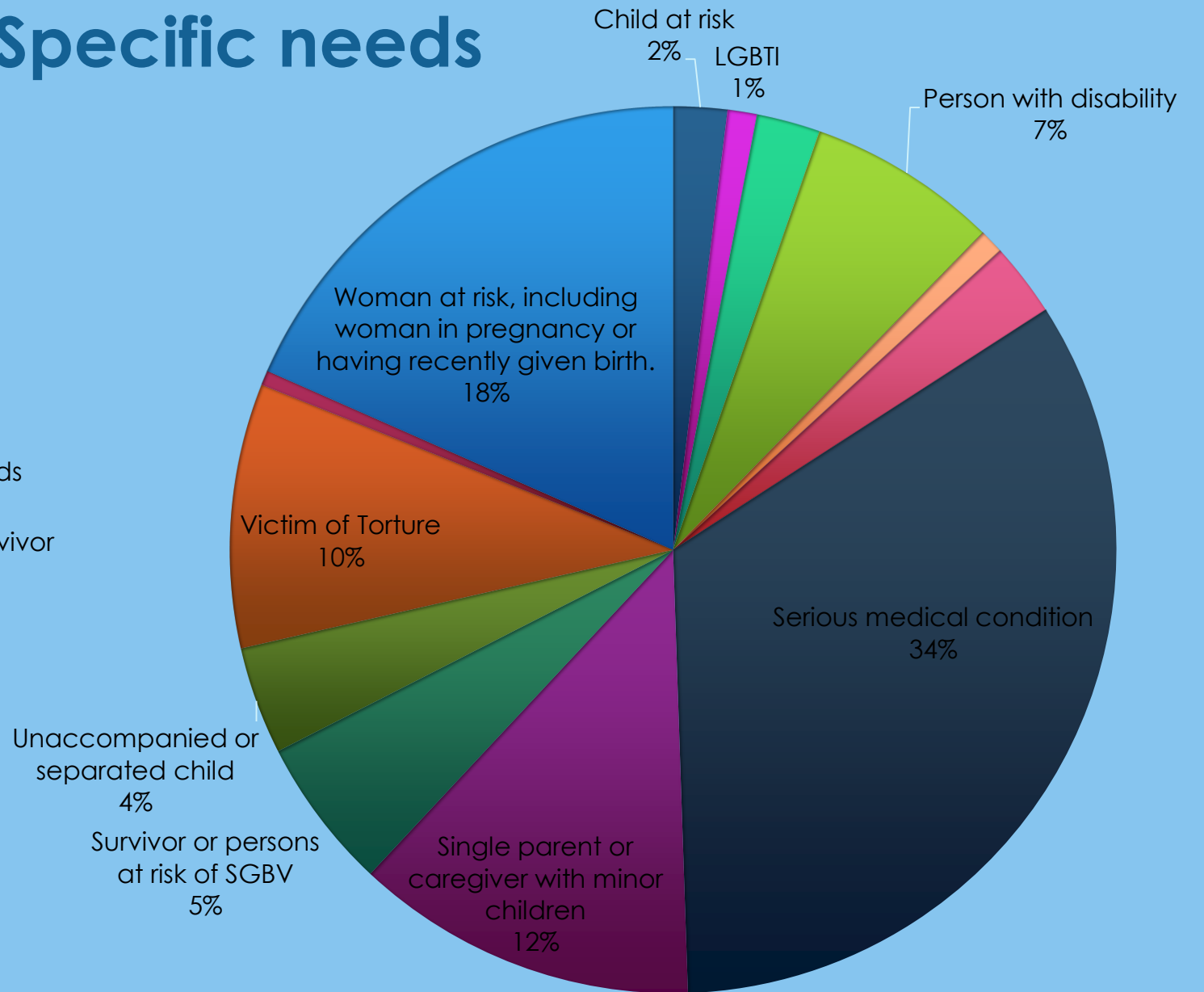


# 1.4 PROJECT DATA- EDUCATIONAL PROFILE (OCTOBER 2018)

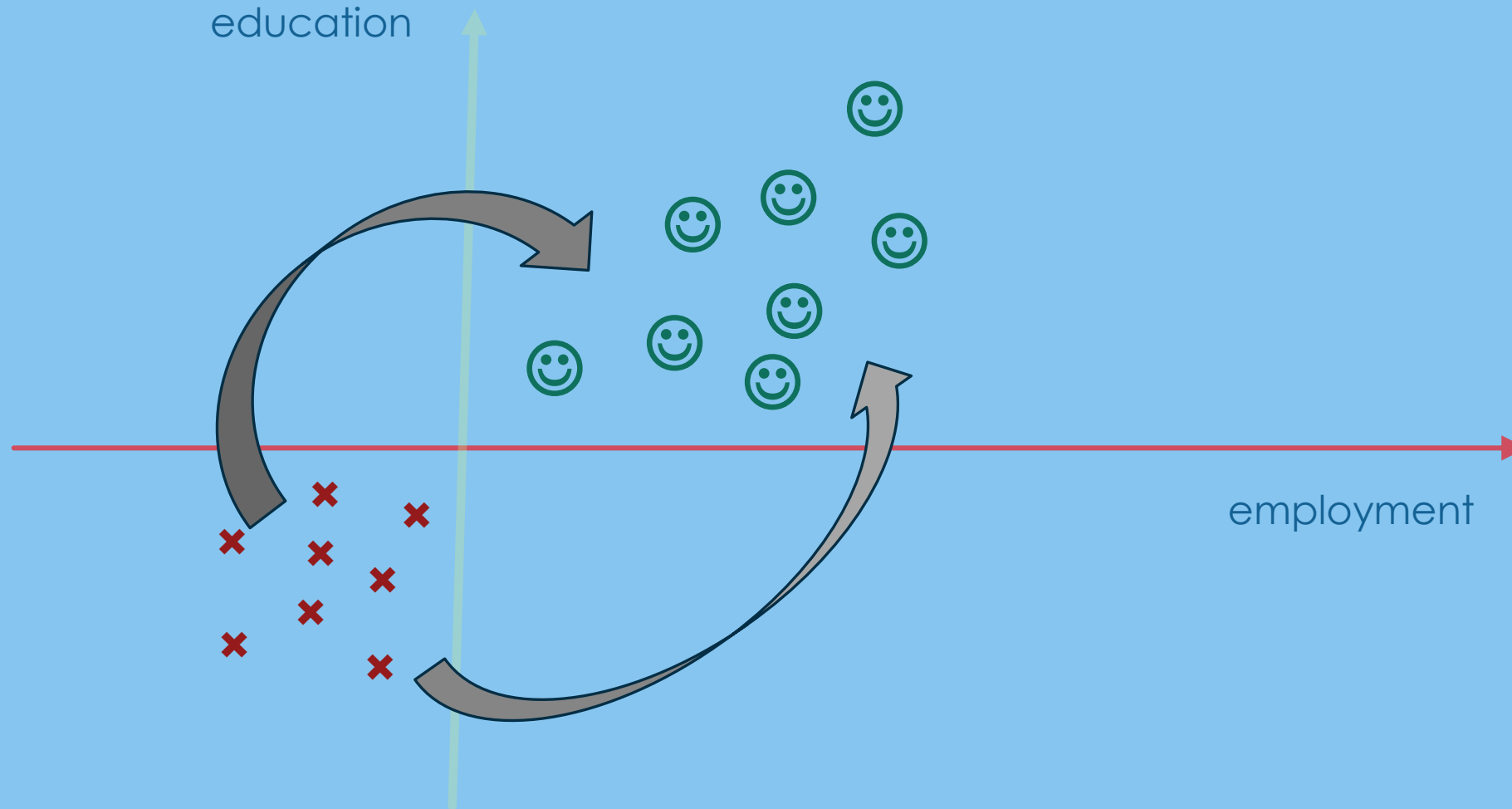


# 1.5 PROJECT DATA- Specific needs

- Child at risk
- LGBTI
- Older person
- Person with disability
- Person with specific legal and physical protection needs
- Persons with a post-traumatic disorder, in particular survivor and relatives of victim of ship-wreck
- Serious medical condition
- Single parent or caregiver with minor children
- Survivor or persons at risk of SGBV
- Unaccompanied or separated child
- Victim of Torture
- Victim of trafficking in human beings
- Woman at risk, including woman in pregnancy or having recently given birth.



## 2. OUR INTEGRATION APPROACH





## 2.1 Our Integration approach - EMPLOYMENT

facilitate asylum seekers/refugees' access to employment, further supporting the beneficiaries' psychosocial empowerment.

- issuance of social security number (**AMKA**), tax registration number (**AFM**), yearly **tax declaration** and other relevant to employment papers/procedures.
- **Compiling** of a database with a significant number of CVs (more than 220).
- **Designing and implementing activities** for a more accurate profiling of the beneficiaries' skills, experience and future expectations (e.g. focus groups).
- **referring** to services and NGOs for developing skills and gain access to the local labor market.

## 2.2 GOOD PRACTICES

- **Direct access to funds through UNHCR**
- **Certain flexibility in adapting structure and offered services as the needs were emerging**
- **Accommodation in apartments and not collective buildings or camps promotes desegregation and autonomy**
- **Cash assistance & cash contribution**



Developed by UN-ICL, the UN Refugee Agency and funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

**Accommodation and Services Scheme** for Asylum Seekers

as part of ESTIA (Emergency Support to Integration & Accommodation)

## 2.3 INTEGRATION CHALLENGES

- **Manage deceptive expectations build by the smuggling network**
- **No horizon** - Lack of integration programs or plan – civil societies try to fill the gap with ad hoc initiatives
- **Language barrier**
- **Limited access to public services**
- **High unemployment rate in the country**



Developed by UNAIOS, the UN Refugee Agency and funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

**Accommodation and Services Scheme** for Asylum Seekers

as part of ESTIA (Emergency Support to Integration & Accommodation)

## 2.3 INTEGRATION CHALLENGES (CONT.)

- **Vulnerabilities**
- **Lack of central administration's resources: Education, Health, Labour**
- **Prejudices**
- **Skills' deficit**
- **Uncertainty → distress → demotivation**
- **Segregation: spatial and social**



Developed by UNAI/CS, the UN Refugee Agency and funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

**Accommodation and Services Scheme** for Asylum Seekers

as part of ESTIA (Emergency Support to Integration & Accommodation)

### 3. THE FUTURE - WALK THE PATH OF INCLUSION

- Integrate accommodation, skill's development and employment into one program
- Subsidise/incentivise the private sector to employ/train migrants and refugees
- Microfinance – encourage entrepreneurship – social enterprises
- Focus on facilitating access to programs and funds
- Cities on coordination, implementation role – build on existing capacity

## 4. FACTS & FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

- Addressing migrants and refugees with a unified plan
- Synergies from bringing together 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> generation migrants and current refugees
- Qualifications recognition
- Citizenship/ residence permission
- Access facilitation - dedicated units within the municipal structure

## 4. FACTS & FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

- Discriminatory behaviour and prejudices at the public servants' corps
- Housing
- Skills development-vocational training
- Cities and/or implementation bodies get direct access to funds
- Agree on realistic and attainable KPIs; monitor and control progress
- Sustainability as prime objective

## 5. SOME TRAITS OF A BLENDING FACILITY

**Equally accessed**

**sustainable**

**pragmatic**

**Cohesive & comprehensive**

**Easily accessed**

**rewarding**

**transparent**



Developed by UN-ICCS, the UN Refugee Agency and funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

Accommodation and Services Scheme for Asylum Seekers

as part of ESTIA (Emergency Support to Integration & Accommodation)



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**