Humanitarian admission programmes in Germany for beneficiaries of protection from Syria

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23.03.2017, Nuremberg
Total number of persons admitted via different humanitarian admission programmes and schemes (2012-Feb 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admission programme</th>
<th>Persons entering per year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP Syria</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resettlement</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian Admission TUR</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocation from Italy and Greece</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission Procedure for Afghan Local Staff</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private sponsorship programmes for Syrian beneficiaries of protection</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
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Source: Federal Office for Migration and Refugees; ni = no (yearly) information
HAP Syria

• Unlike the resettlement programme, Germany has had humanitarian admission programmes for 60 years now (resettlement since 2012)

• Examples:
  1956: 13,000 refugees from Hungary;
  1979: 35,000 boat people from Vietnam

• In 2013 and 2014: three humanitarian admission programmes for all in all 20,000 beneficiaries of protection from Syria, its neighbouring countries, Egypt & Libya (admission until 2016)
• **UNHCR recognized refugee status** was only partly required; dossier based selection by proposals of i.a. the federal Länder, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, the Foreign Office or the Federal Ministry of the Interior

• **Selection criteria**: humanitarian reasons, family ties, contribution to the reconstruction of the country after the conflict has ended ← priority for those who received a declaration of commitment or a promise of assistance with accommodation and support from relatives in Germany

• **Pre-departure information**: provided by IOM
HAP Syria

- **Departure**: 1/3 charter flights (UNHCR selected persons); 2/3 individual departure

- **Accommodation**: 1/3 first two weeks in a reception centre (UNHCR selected persons); 2/3 mostly private accommodation and (relatives and host municipalities)

- **Residence title** was issued usually for two years; includes a work permit from the very beginning not based on the assumption that the admitted TCN will stay in Germany permanently but may return when the conflict in the crisis state is over
Family reunification

- HAP Syria: may only be permitted in exceptional cases

- In contrast: Since 1 August 2015 Resettlement refugees are put on equal footing with beneficiaries of protection in regard to family reunification (privileged treatment: certain conditions for family reunification shall be waived)

- **Side note:** Family reunification has been suspended until 16 March 2018 for all those who were granted subsidiary protection after 17 March 2016 (does not concern HAP Syria or Resettlement)
Challenges

• Provide decentralized housing in local communities
• Difficulties in counseling due to parallel existence of different admission procedures

Best practices

• Central first reception for 14 days (short and clearly defined period)
• Counseling and support during the first year after their arrival in their community
Thank you for your attention

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References and photo credit

**National study:**

**References:**

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