

EPSU



14 March 2016

■ Belgium: Asylum and Migration

Belgium = federal state

- **Federal** competences include:
 - Asylum procedure
 - Reception of asylum seekers
 - Voluntary and forced return
- **Regional** competences include:
 - Integration
 - Education
 - Housing
 - Employment
 - Reception of specific target groups (psychological, medical, minors)

■ Belgium: Asylum and Migration

■ 4 Administrations

- Immigration Office
 - Visas / access to the territory
 - Registration asylum procedure / Dublin
 - Detention / Forced removals
- Commissioner General for Refugees + Stateless Persons
- Aliens Litigation Council
 - Asylum and subsidiary protection (grant / appeal)
- Fedasil
 - Reception of asylum seekers
 - Voluntary return / refugees resettlement

■ 1 political authority: State Secretary for Asylum and Migration

- Access to territory, asylum, reception, forced/voluntary return, etc.



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■ Fedasil

Federal Agency for the reception of asylum seekers

Fact & figures

- Agency created in 2001 (operational 2002)
- Number of coworkers: 1533 persons
- Expenditure in 2015 : 300 Mi €
- Reception facility capacity:
16.269 beds (June 2015) -> 35.295 beds (March 2016)
- Buffer capacity included: 2.150
- Occupancy rate: 90,22%

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Our mission

- Organisation of reception (material aid) for asylum seekers
- Coordination of all reception operators
- Coordination of voluntary return and resettlement programmes
- Observation and referral of UAM
- Preparation, implementation and evaluation of reception policy

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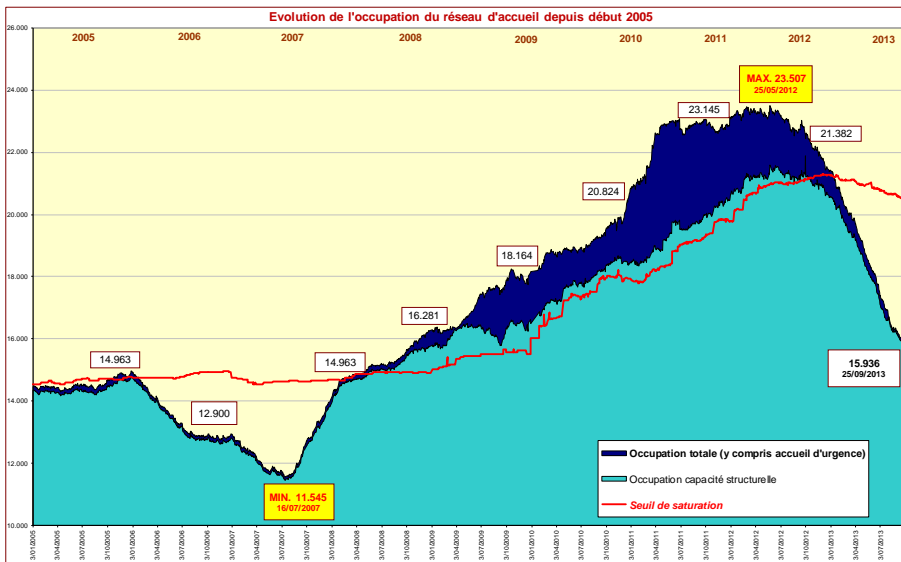
Reception and asylum crisis 2009-2012

■ Reception and asylum crisis 2008-2012

Causes

- Increased number of asylum applicants (mostly West Balkan)
- Increased number of applications for reception
- Increased number of pending cases
- Longer duration of asylum procedure

■ Reception and asylum crisis



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■ Reception and asylum crisis

Measures

- Expanded reception network (creation of new reception centres, of emergency reception facilities): up to 25.000 beds
- Increased number of protection officers (CGRS)
- Limitation of right to reception (multiple asylum application)
- Return path (voluntary return)
- List of « safe countries »

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Reception and asylum crisis 2015- ...

Reception and asylum crisis 2015

Causes

- Increased number of asylum applicants (Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan)
- Increased need for reception and decreased reception places after last reception crisis (from 24.000 to 16.000 beds)

■ Reception and asylum crisis

Measures

- Expanded reception network (buffer capacity, new reception facilities, emergency and temporary reception facilities)
- Increased number of employees and protection officers
- Influx management – ‘pre-reception’

■ Dispersal plan

Implementing a geographical dispersal plan of reception facilities for municipalities

- goal: a balanced distribution of applicants for international protection within the national territory
- reception places to be created via dispersal plan: initially 5000 places
- dispersal according to following parameters :
 - number of inhabitants of the municipality (35%)
 - total of net taxable income (20%)
 - number of existing reception places in the municipality (30%)
 - number of beneficiaries of social welfare benefits (15%)

Key figures

■ Reception network

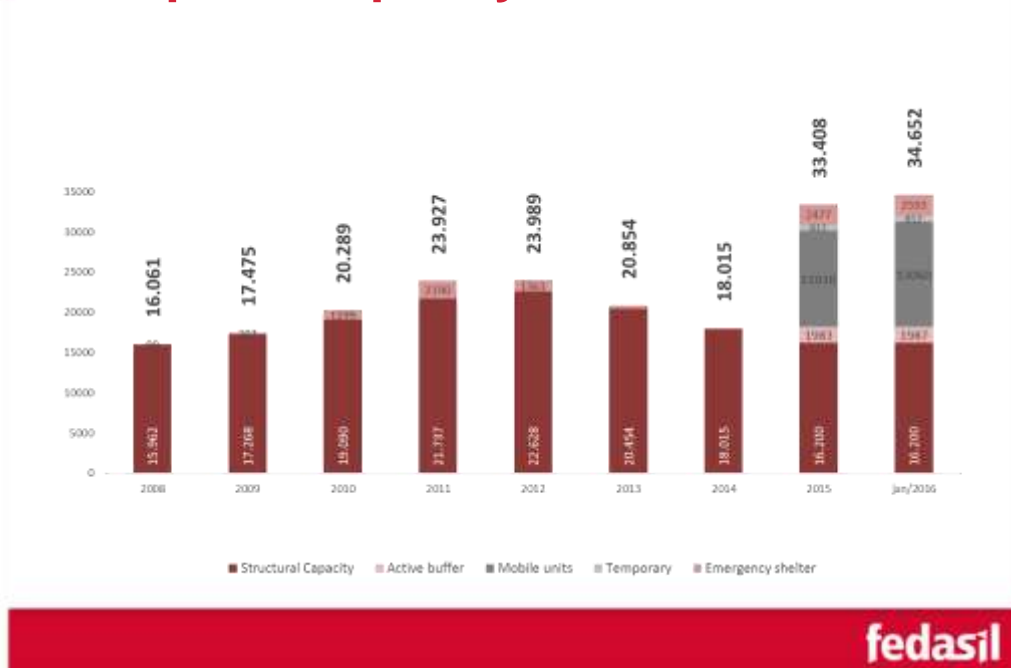
- **Several operators – coordinated by Fedasil**
 - **27 reception centers of Fedasil**
 - **Reception operators (communal and individual reception):**
 - ❑ 27 centers Croix-Rouge Communauté francophone (Red Cross)
 - ❑ 23 centers Rode Kruis (Red Cross)
 - ❑ 4 Socialistische Mutualiteiten, SOI Gent, Samu social (2),
 - ❑ 2 Caritas International Belgium
 - ❑ 11 facilities managed by 4 private operators

 - ❑ Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen
 - ❑ Ciré
 - ❑ Local reception initiatives – PCSW (municipalities)
-
- **Pre-reception by Red Cross : 1000 places**

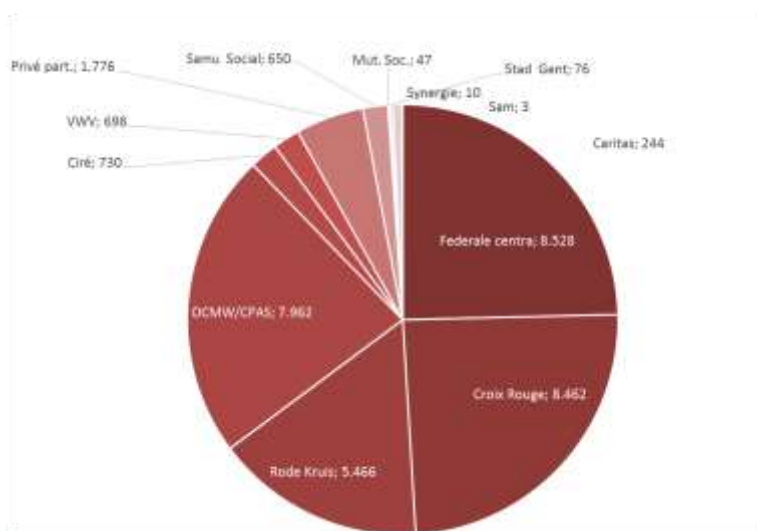
Reception network



Reception capacity

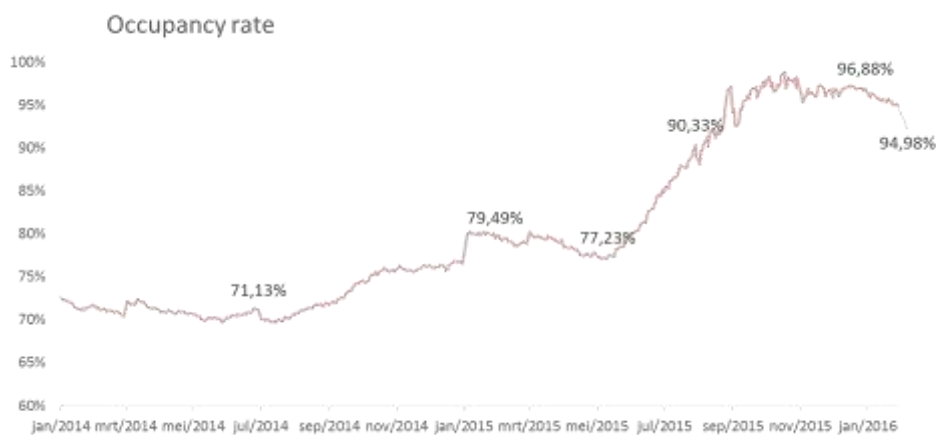


■ Capacities by operator



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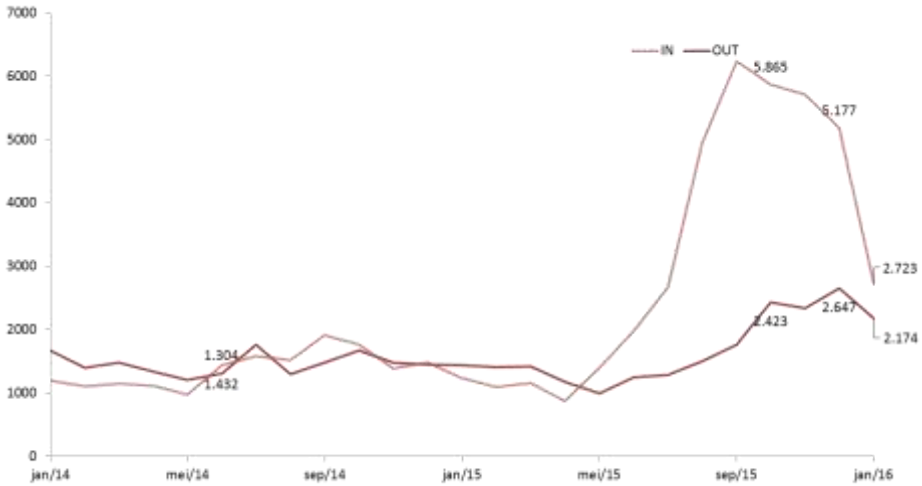
■ Reception network : occupancy rate



On 4.3.2016: 35.295 places and occupancy rate of 90,22%

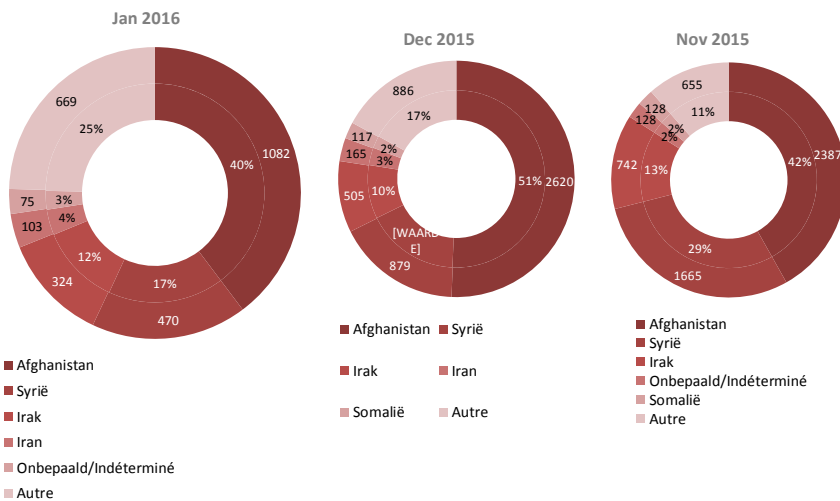
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In & Out 2014-2016



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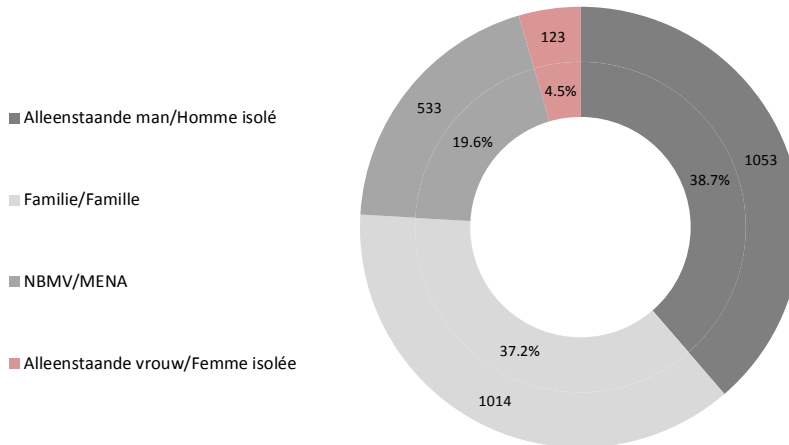
Countries of origin



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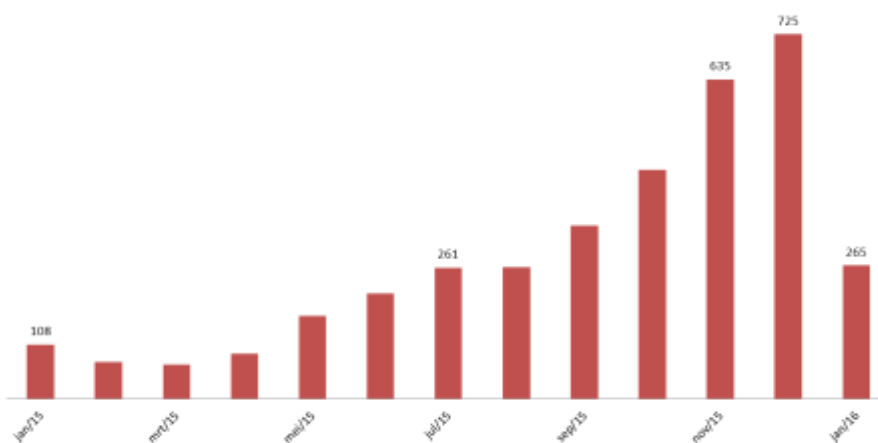
In: family composition

Jan 2016



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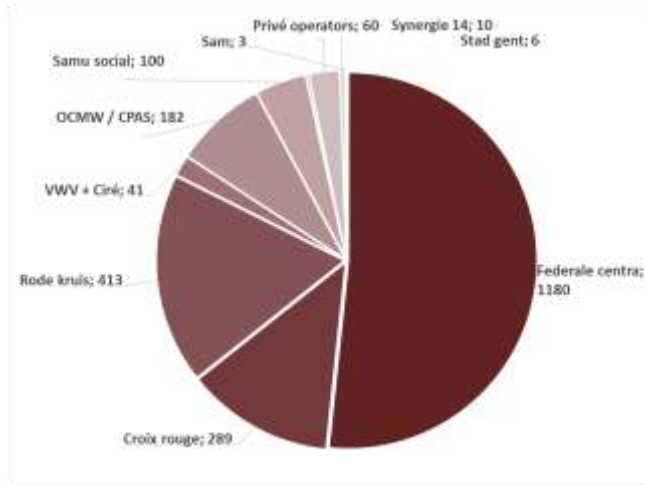
Inflow UAM



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■ Capacity UAM

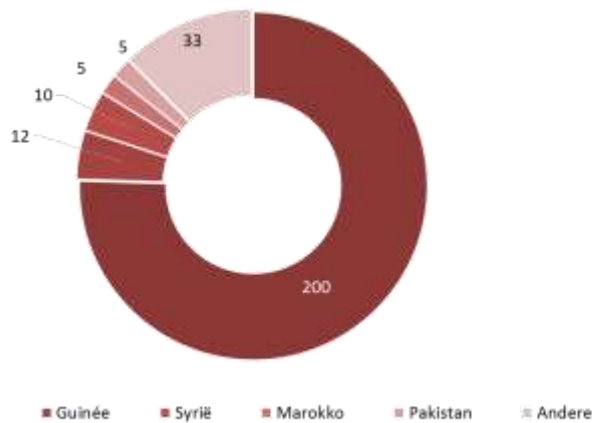
Operational capacity: **2.284 places**



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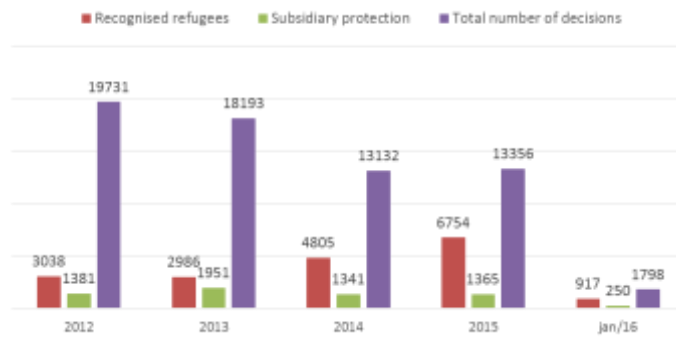
■ Inflow UAM by nationality

Jan 2016



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Protection rate



	Recognised Refugee	Subsidiary protection	Recognition rate
2012	15,4%	7,0%	22,4%
2013	16,4%	10,7%	27,1%
2014	36,6%	10,2%	46,8%
2015	50,6%	10,2%	60,8%
jan/16	51,0%	13,9%	64,9%

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Legal basis

■ Legal basis: Reception Act 2007

- ▶ Accommodation, meals, clothing & sanitary products
- ▶ Information
- ▶ Evaluation of needs
- ▶ Medical and psychological care
- ▶ Social and legal support
- ▶ Access to interpretation services
- ▶ Pocket money, daily allowance & communal services
- ▶ Education and activities
- ▶ Reception in phases
- ▶ Right to work (after 4 months)
- ▶ Internal rules and sanctions
- ▶ Complaints procedure and appeals
- ▶ Code of deontology

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■ Legal basis



Who?

- Asylum seekers
- UAM
- Some groups during their illegal stay

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■ New reception model

Principles

- Flexibility of reception network
- More reception facilities adapted to special needs

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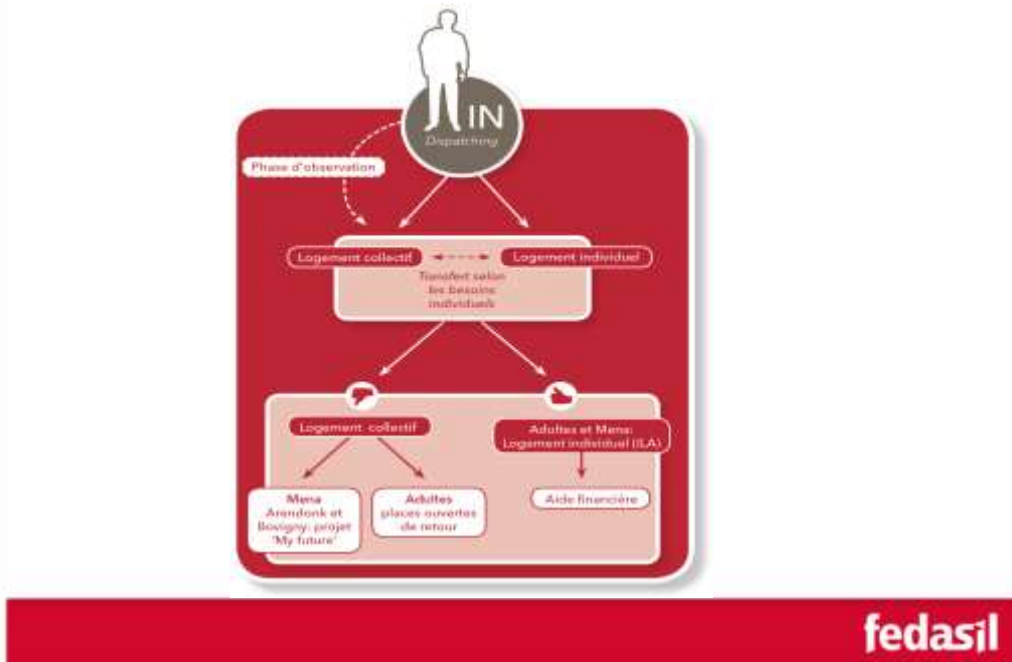
■ New reception model

Objectives

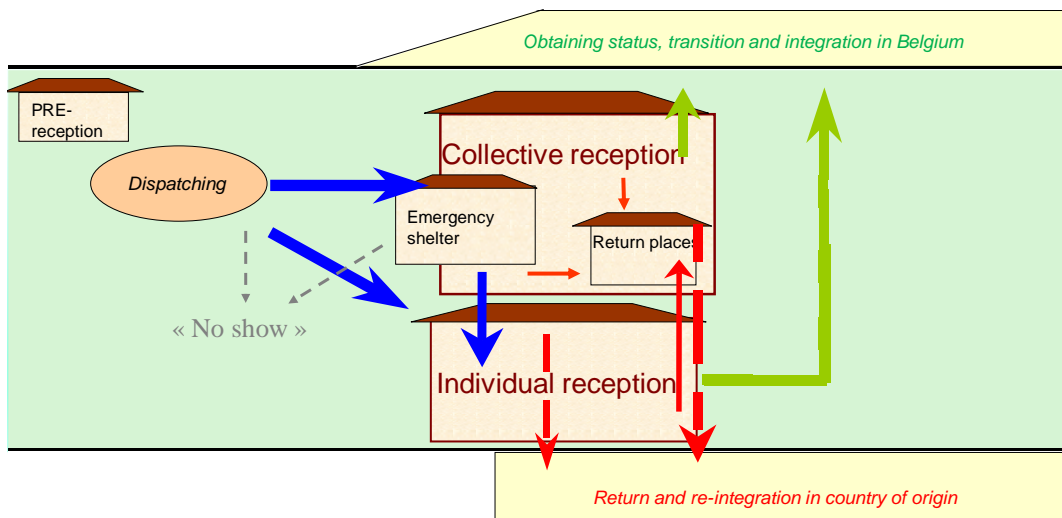
- Less transfers between reception facilities
- Better and faster integration for person granted asylum
- More reception facilities adapted to special needs

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■ New reception model



Reception model (end 2015)



- New reception model on hold
- No transfers, except for urgent medical disciplinary transfers
- ³⁴ Priority to high recognition rate or extended stay for assignment to local reception initiative

Outflow

■ Transition for persons with protection status

Protection rate + 60%

- Transition period of 2 months
- Delay of departure possible
- Conditions for delay:
 - Large families with minors
 - Medical cases
 - Pregnancy or birth
 - Other vulnerability (f.ex. lack of an autonomy)
 - End of school year
 - Signed rental agreement
- Measure: aid for departure “meal vouchers”

■ Rejected applicants

- ▶ General principle : promote voluntary return as a durable solution and as alternative to forced return and illegal stay
- ▶ Legal framework (art.6/1 reception act) : the « return path » since January 2012
- ▶ Implementation since July 2012: Return path in several steps

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■ Future challenges

- Transposition of reception directive (recast)
- Stabilise reception network
- Quality standards for all reception facilities - audits
- New reception model
- More reception facilities and adapted reception for persons with special needs (medical care, mental disorders, victims of torture...)

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Thank you for your attention

Questions?

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