

“Dealing with (un)wanted migrants in the altitude zone : the case of Valais in Switzerland”



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FOREIGN IMMIGRATION IN THE ALPS AND THE PHENOMENON OF REFUGEES
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Exploratory fieldwork in Valais

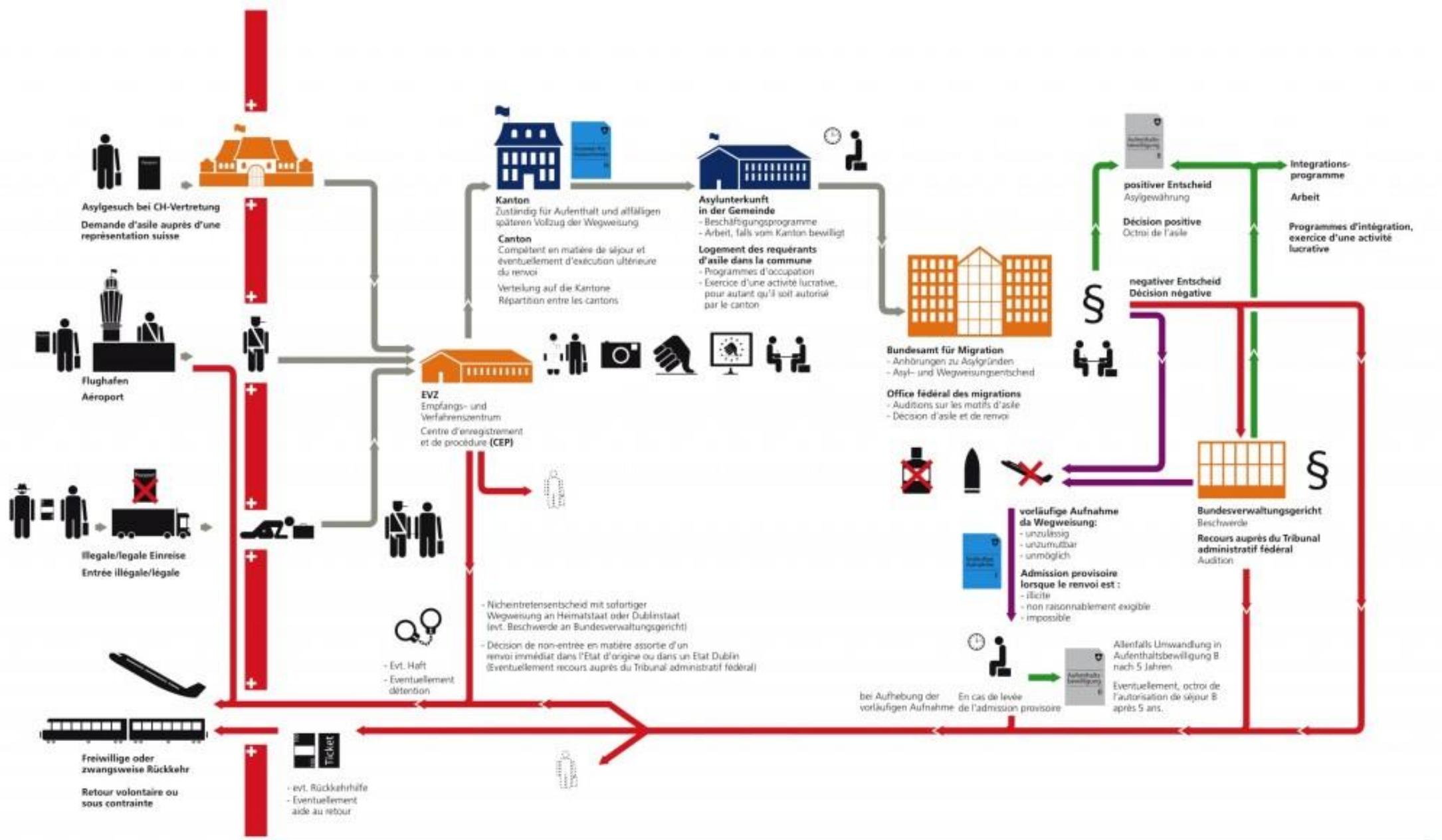
- Hidden field: need for a state of play
<https://www.vs.ch/web/sas>
- Framing Asylum system as a legal system that produces illegal citizen
- Some datas from the Canton's statistics: numbers, status, provenance (31.03.2017)
- Some theoretical approaches

Switzerland's policy towards foreigners and its asylum policy

- Asylum policy is based on Geneva's convention, established in 1951 by the international community following the second world war and its atrocities.
- Since 1951, the people who have to escape their country and come to Switzerland to seeking asylum are supposed to be protected against persecution on the ground of race, religion, nationality, belonging or political stand.
- In Switzerland, since 1st January 1981, the Asylum law (Lasi) grants asylum and refugee status. The State Secretary for migration is the federal body that decides an Application to the asylum seekers.
- « *The secretary of State for migration (SEM) decides whether or not to grant asylum, as well as the removal of an asylum seeker. » (LAsi art. 6a al. 1)*
- Called before Office fédérale des Migrations (ODM), le SEM is attached to the Department of justice and police (DFPJ) and is based in Wabern in the canton of Bern.

An arbitrary system to ensure effective deterrence

- Since 1981, the LAsi concerns very few people in Switzerland (1%) but has undergone many changes across popular votes, (the latest on 5th June 2016) in a tightening up of the rules
- Due to Swiss federalism, each canton has a policy leeway to enforce the federal law. As a result, the social conditions and resources for asylum seekers vary from one canton to another
- « ...where social assistance should be seen in a process of social integration, emergency aid framed within a deterred context further marginalizes people and increases their psychosocial distress (Sanchez-Mazas,



+ Schweizer Grenze
Frontière suisse

■ Kanton / Gemeinde
Canton/Commune

■ Bund
Confédération

→ Weg zum Asylentscheid
Etapes de la décision d'asile

■ green arrow
positive Entscheid
Décision positive

■ red arrow
negativer Entscheid
Décision négative

■ purple arrow
negativer Entscheid mit vorläufiger Aufnahme
Décision négative assortie d'une admission provisoire

■ Rüchling
Refugie

■ Schlepper
Passeur

■ Registerung
Enregistrement

■ Grenzsanitärische Untersuchung
Examen sanitaire à la frontière

■ Erkennungsdienstliche Behandlung
Mesures d'identification

■ Befragung und Anhörung zu Asylgründen
Audition sur la personne et les motifs d'asile

■ unbestimmte Warte-/Aufenthaltszeit
Durée d'attente/de séjour indéterminée

■ Gesetz
Loi

■ Krieg / Bürgerkrieg
Guerre/Guerre civile

■ Rückschaffung nicht möglich
Rapatriement impossible

■ Haft
Détenion

■ Rückkehrhilfe
Aide au retour

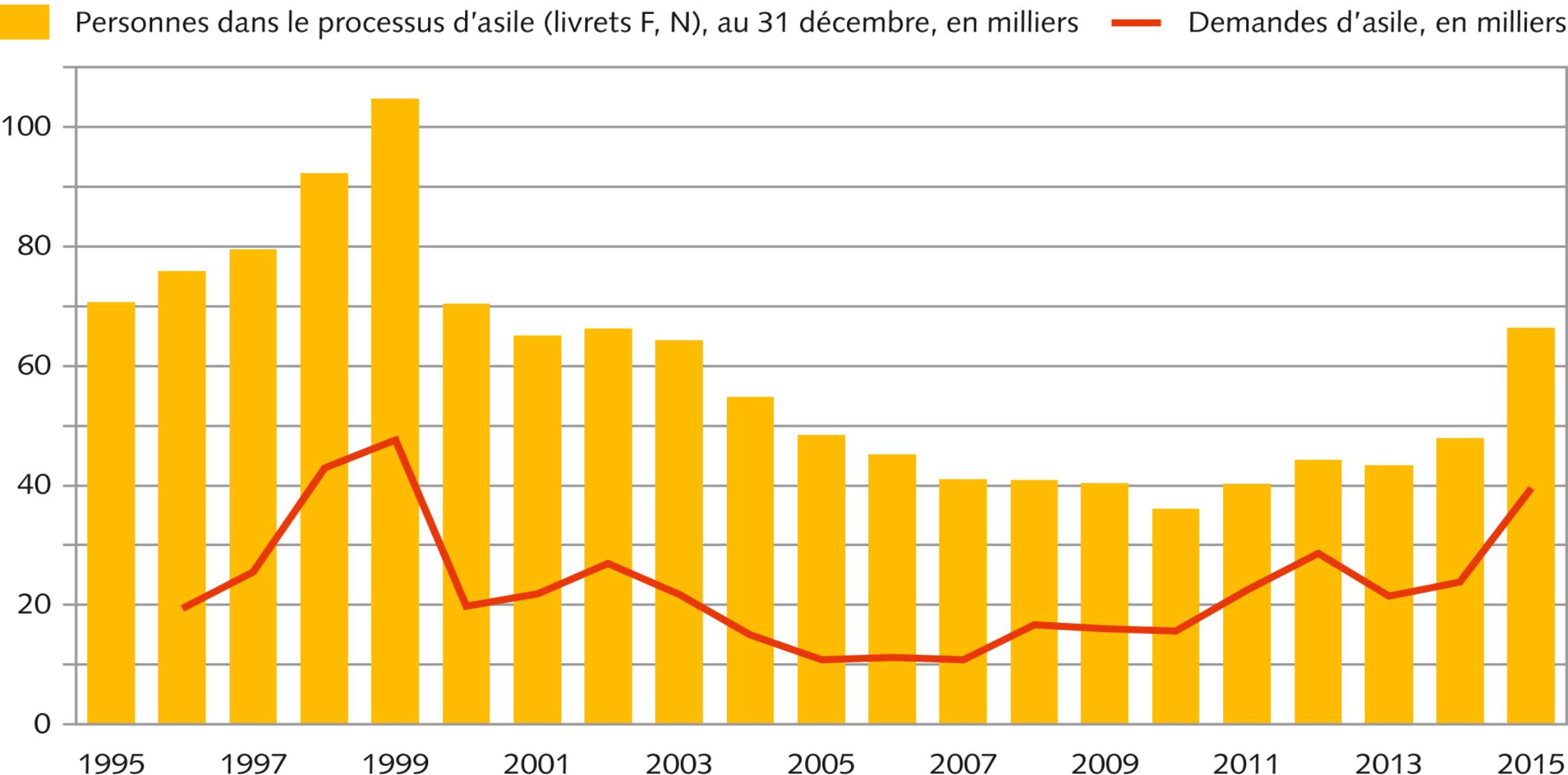
■ Europac

■ Umgang medizinische Versorgung
Soins médicaux insuffisants

Personen, welche die CH verlassen müssen und unterlaufen

Personnes tenues de quitter la Suisse et passant à la clandestinité

Demandes d'asile et personnes dans le processus d'asile



Sources: OFS – PETRA, STATPOP; SEM – SYMIC

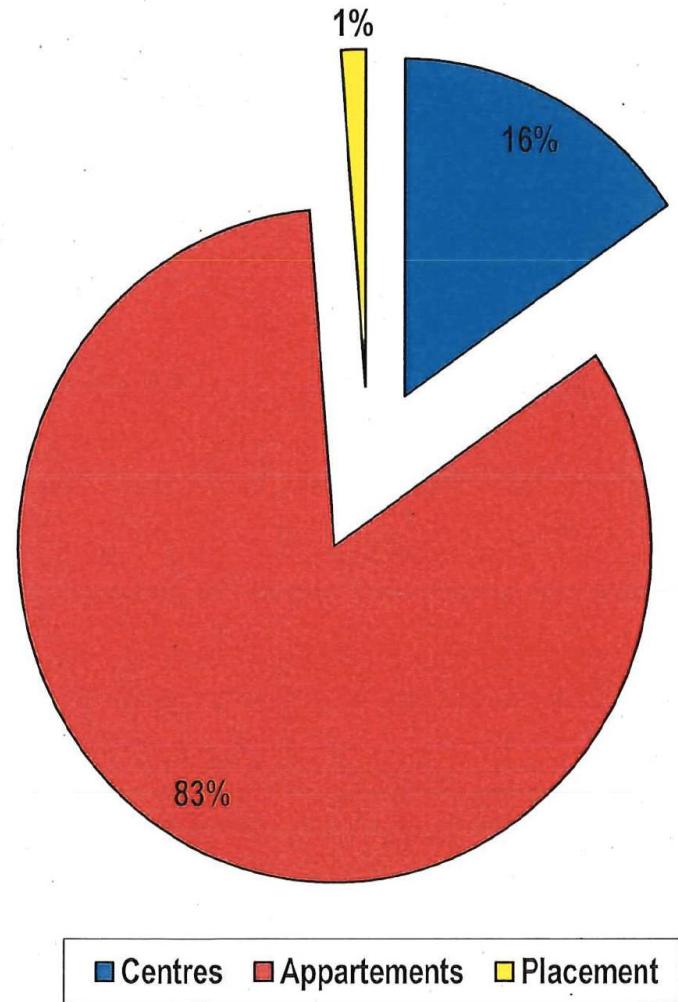
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Swiss context : 1,3%

- Since 2015 : increase in requests for asylum
« en 2015, 39 523 requests in Switzerland, that is 15 758 more than in 2014 (23 765 requests). » (SEM)
- Conflicts in the Middle-east (Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan), and Africa (Somalia/Eritrea)
- In 2016: 4,9 requests for 1000 inhabitants -> 1,3% of the entire Swiss population
 - *N permit (under request for asylum)*
 - *B permit (recognised refugee)*
 - *F permit (temporary admission)*
 - *people pending deportation*
- European average: 2,6 requests for 1000 inhabitants (SEM).

Situation in Valais, 03.2017



- Asylum seekers according to housing

Total: **2811**

Centres: 434
Appartements (804): 2342
Placement: 35
(- administrative detention;
EMS, Youth social
centres;)

Situation: 31.03.2017
Canton du Valais



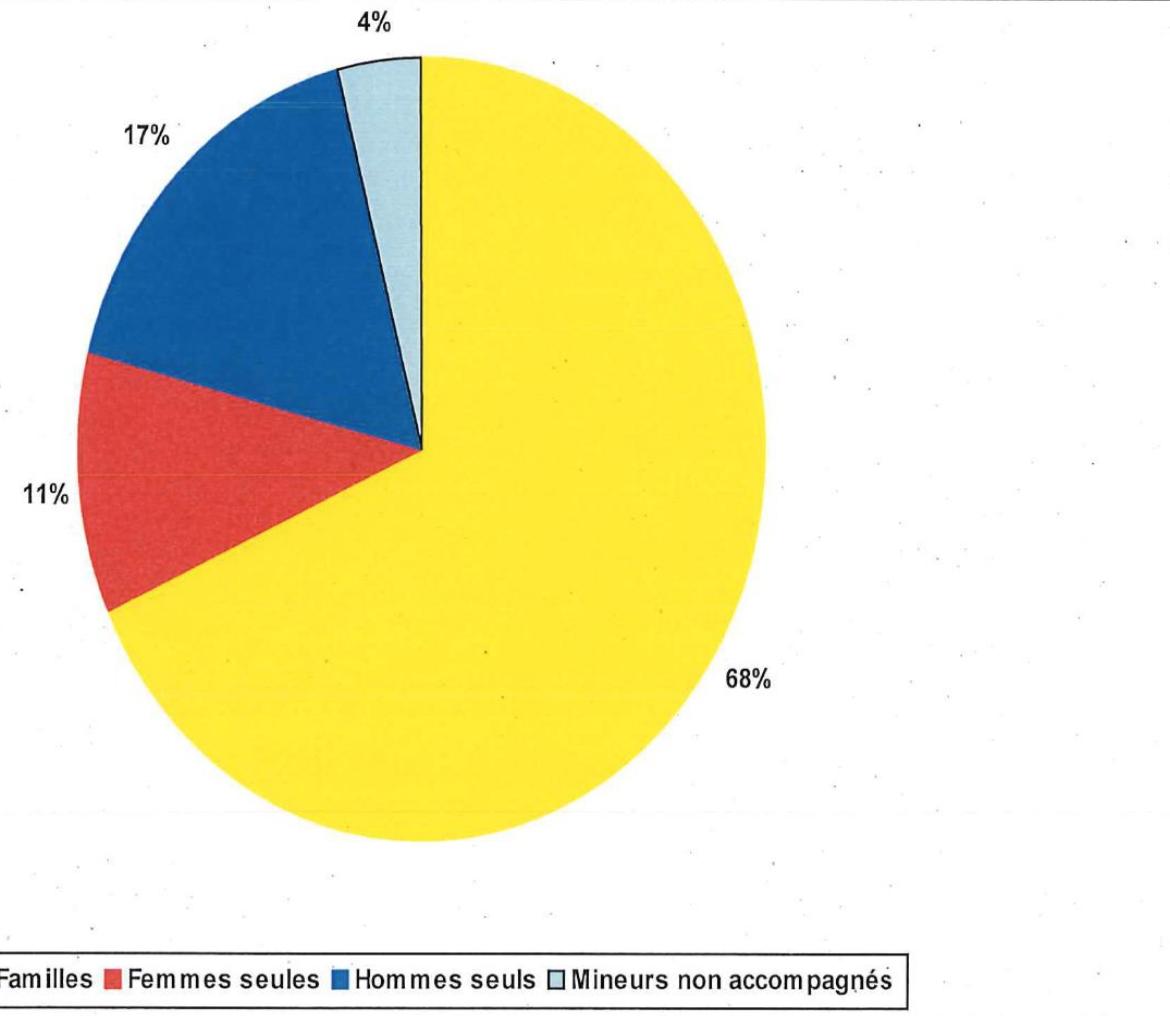
Asylum Centres

Located at more than 1000 Meters high:

- ◆ **Foyer Inalp: Vernamiège** (1321 Meters, 184 inhabitants)
- ◆ **Le Temps de vivre: Mayens-de-Chamoson** (1350 Meters, 290 inhabitants)
- ◆ **Sanaval: Crans-Montana** (1500 mètres d'altit., 6500 inhabitants)
- ◆ **Foyer de l'Ours: Les Agettes** (1002 mètres d'altitud, 337 inhabitants)

Nom	Localité	Présents	Places
Foyer Ardon	Ardon	40	60
Foyer de l'Ours	Les Agettes	28	31
Foyer Bernadette	Martigny	29	29
Le Temps de Vivre	Mayens de Chamoson	64	75
Le Rados	Sion	84	102
Sanaval	Montana	12	27
Premier Accueil	Sion	3	24
Kajüte	Steg	10	20
Foyer St-Gingolph	St-Gingolph	43	70
Foyer Inalp	Vernamiège	36	64
Flüchtlingsheim	Visp	56	60
Centre Les Barges	Vouvry	29	38
Total		434	600

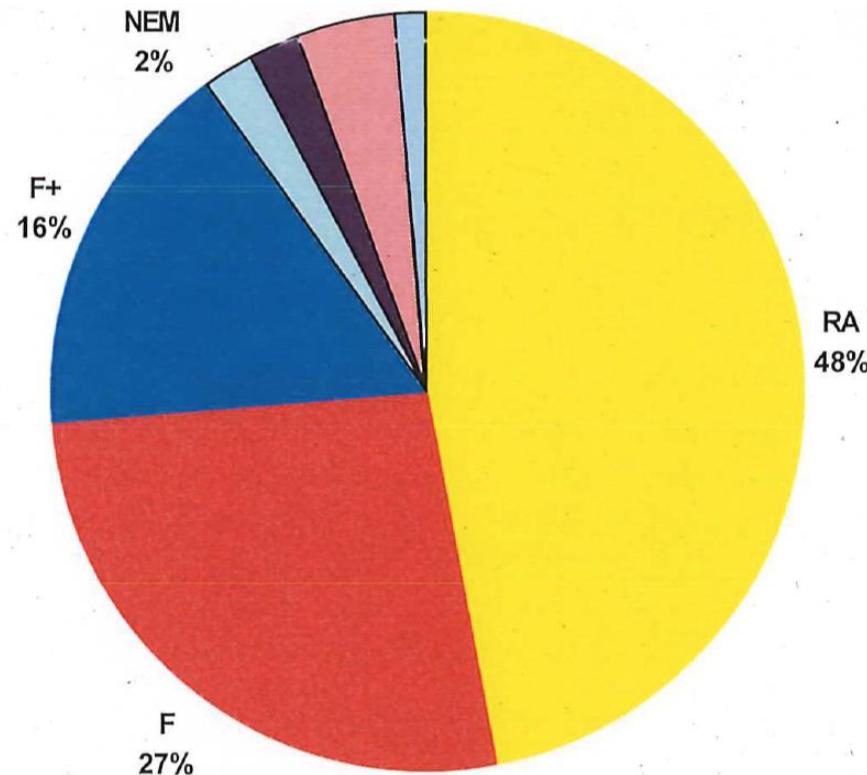
More families than singles



Families:	1'912
Single men:	483
Single women:	309
Unaccompanied minors:	107

2'811	

Status



Status	Total	Enfants	Potentiel
F+7	462	76	386
F-7	753	293	460
NEM	61	13	48
RA	1'316	426	890
RAD	112	22	90
RDM	36	7	29
RR	71	18	53
	2'811	855	1'956

F+7 = temporary for more than 7 years; F-7 = temporary for less than 7 years; NEM = non entrée en matière; RA = Asylum seeker; RAD = débouté (application rejected); RDM = cas Dublin (multiple requests); RR = recognised refugee.

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Categories & status

<u>Catégorie</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>RA</u>	<u>F - 7 ans</u>	<u>F + 7 ans</u>	<u>NEM</u>	<u>RAD</u>	<u>RDM</u>	<u>RR</u>
Familles	1912	850	567	357	23	49	29	37
Femmes seules	309	203	52	21	4	18	1	10
Hommes seuls	483	207	89	84	33	43	6	21
Mineurs non accompagnés	107	56	45		1	2		3
	2811	1316	753	462	61	112	36	71

Youth

School Age Children

- Asia 328 (68%)
- Africa 122 (25%)
- Europe 34 (7%)

484

Unaccompanied minors

- Asia 40 (37%)
- Africa 66 (62%)
- Europe 1 (1%)

107

Main nationalities, 31.03.2017

• Afghanistan	571
• Erythrée	503
• Syrie	369
• Irak	198
• Somalie	182
• Serbie	105
• Sri Lanka	104
• Ethiopie	103

Socio-economical status

Financial status

Catégorie₁

• Assisté ₁	2'233
• Partiellement assisté	289
• Indépendant	254
• Détention	35

	2'811

Working activities

- *Total presences* 2811
- Children (->16 years) 879
- Potential workers 1932
- **Total with activity** 300

¹ categorie used by Valais'administration

Paradox : between welcoming and deporting

Asylum system in Switzerland is a legislative system, forced by law, a deterrent apparatus

Asylum Act contradicts international Human Rights in many aspects

How building up projects to better live together for individuals with uncertain legal status, susceptible to being removed at any time and temporary cast aside by the society ?

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