

Refugees and asylum seekers in the Alps of Europe

The case of rural areas in Germany

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17-19th of May 2018, Pettinengo

1. Context: Dispersal of asylum seekers



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Decentral dispersal policies:

- **“*burden sharing*”,** (BOSWELL 2003) **vs. revitalizing rural areas**
(WEIDINGER 2018)

- **Current narratives among political stakeholders and spatial planners regarding accommodation of asylum seekers in rural areas** (WEIDINGER, *under review*):
 1. Availability of housing space in rural areas (vacancies) in contrast to metropolitan areas
 2. Labour shortages in rural areas
 3. Stabilizing demographic effects, maintaining infrastructures
 4. Integration succeeds better than in urban centres

Access to housing?

Access to employment?

Persistence?

What is meant by integration?

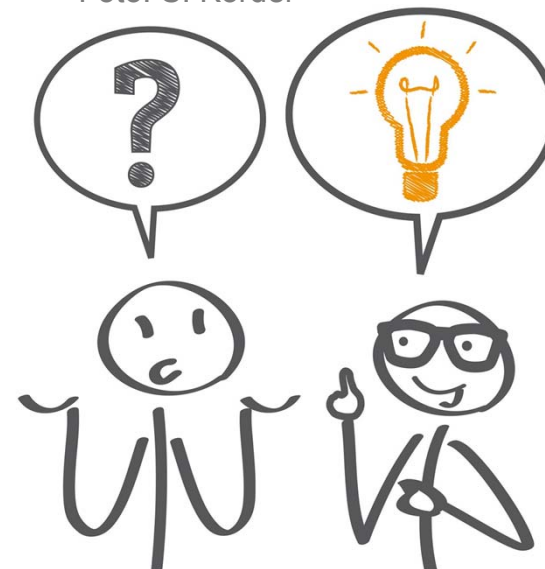
1. Context: Dispersal of asylum seekers



Foto: Ali A.



Foto: S. Kordel



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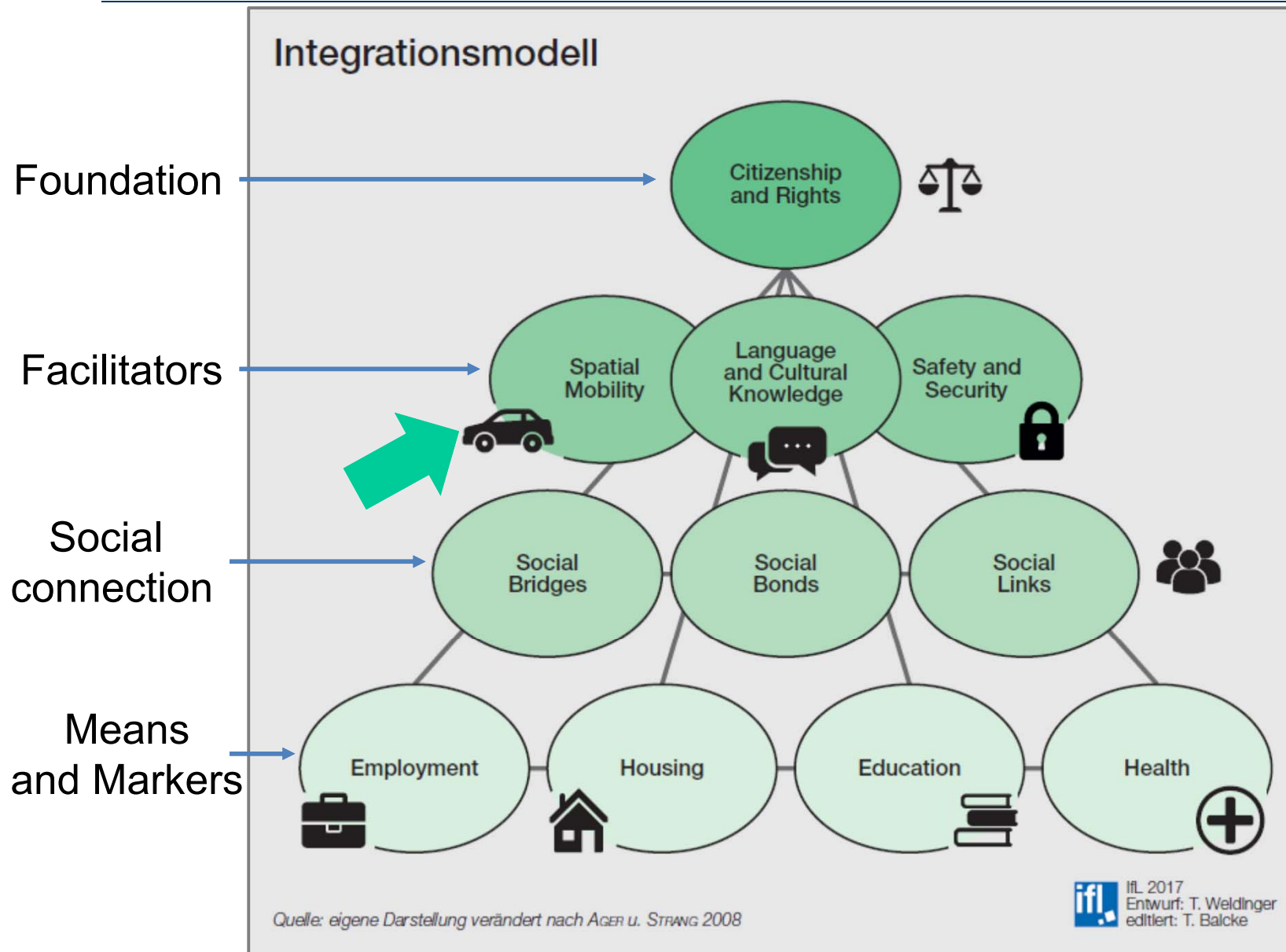
2. Integration in rural areas

3. Case study: Bavarian Forest

4. Results: mobility matters

5. Outlook

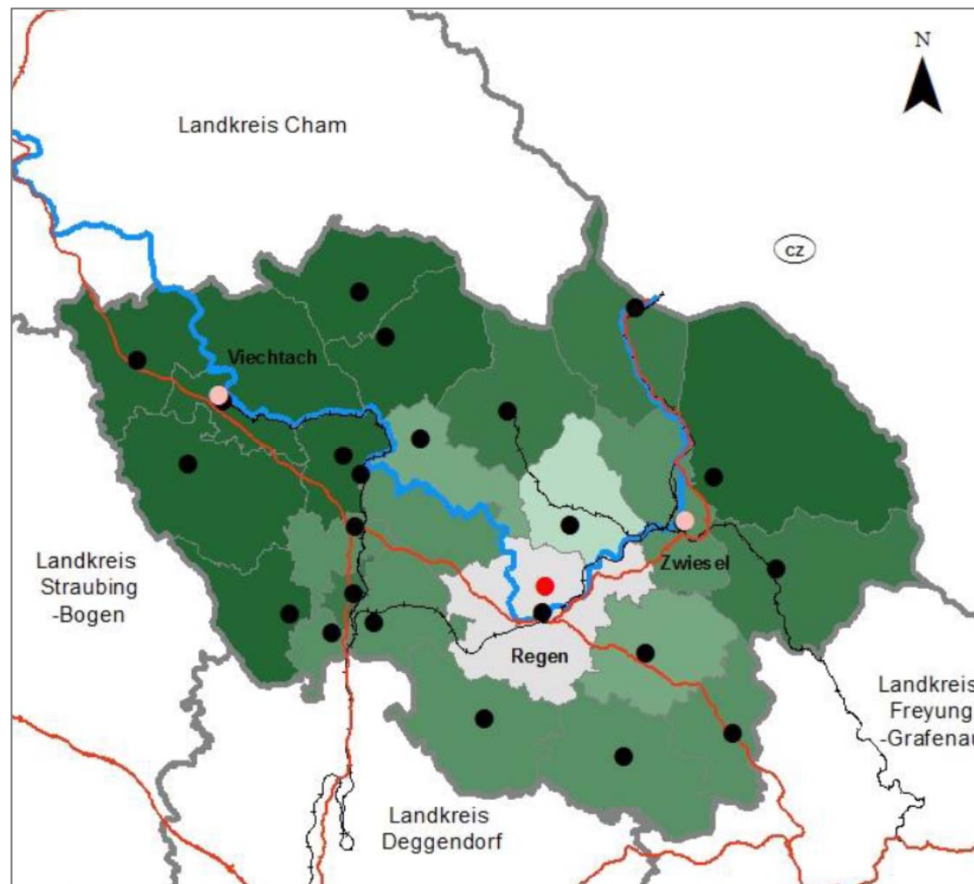
2. Integration in rural areas



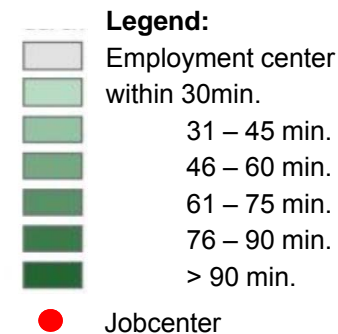
2. Integration in rural areas

Accessibility of relevant institutions

Average transport time to reach
employment center by PT



	REG
Average transport time PT	85min
Average transport time car	18min



CARTOGRAPHY: CHRISTIAN NEUMAYER

3. Case study: Bavarian Forest

Study region: Districts of Regen and Freyung-Grafenau

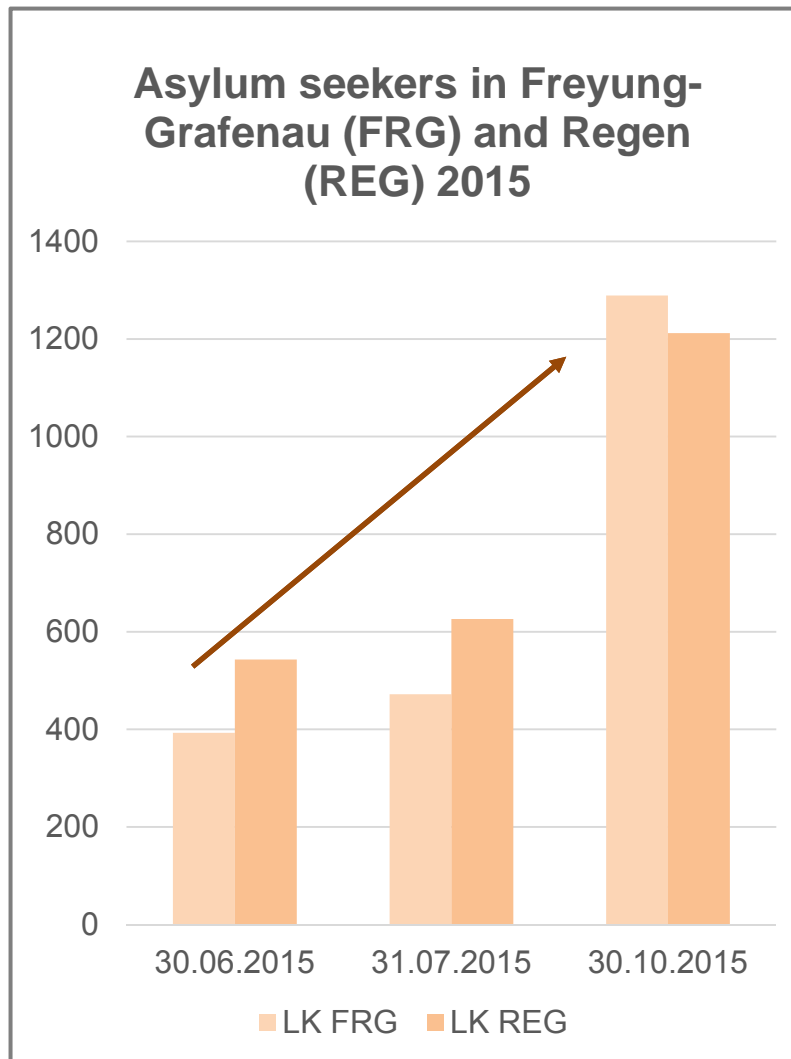


Cartography: Florian Dworzak 2018

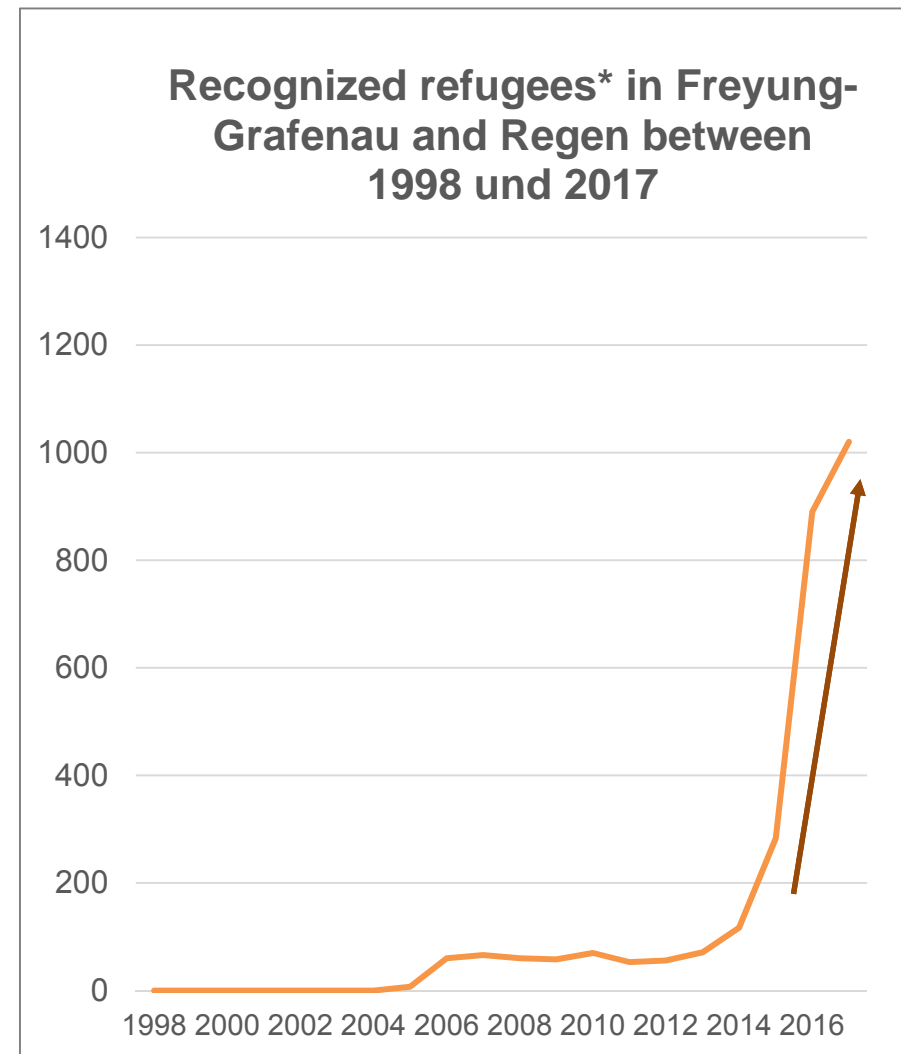
3. Case study: Bavarian Forest

	Freyung-Grafenau	Regen
Small towns (7.000-11.000 inhabitants)	3	3
Share of homeowners (Zensus 2011)	72.3%	64.7%
Share of vacancies (Zensus 2011)	5.4%	6.1%
Unemployment rate (average 2017)	3,0%	3.6%
Vacant positions for vocational training /1.000 EW (3/2017)	5,2	3,3
Population (31.12.2016)	78.180	77.187
Change of population (2006 to 2016)	- 3,2%	- 4,4%
Change of population (2012 to 2016)	+ 0,5% (+363 Pers.)	+ 1,1% (+858 Pers.)
Increase of foreigners (2012 to 2016)	82% (+1.498 Pers.)	113% (+2.187 Pers.)
Share of foreigners (31.12.2016)	4,2%	5,3%

3. Case study: Bavarian Forest



Eigene Darstellung nach Daten von iMVS
(integriertes Migrantenverwaltungssystem)



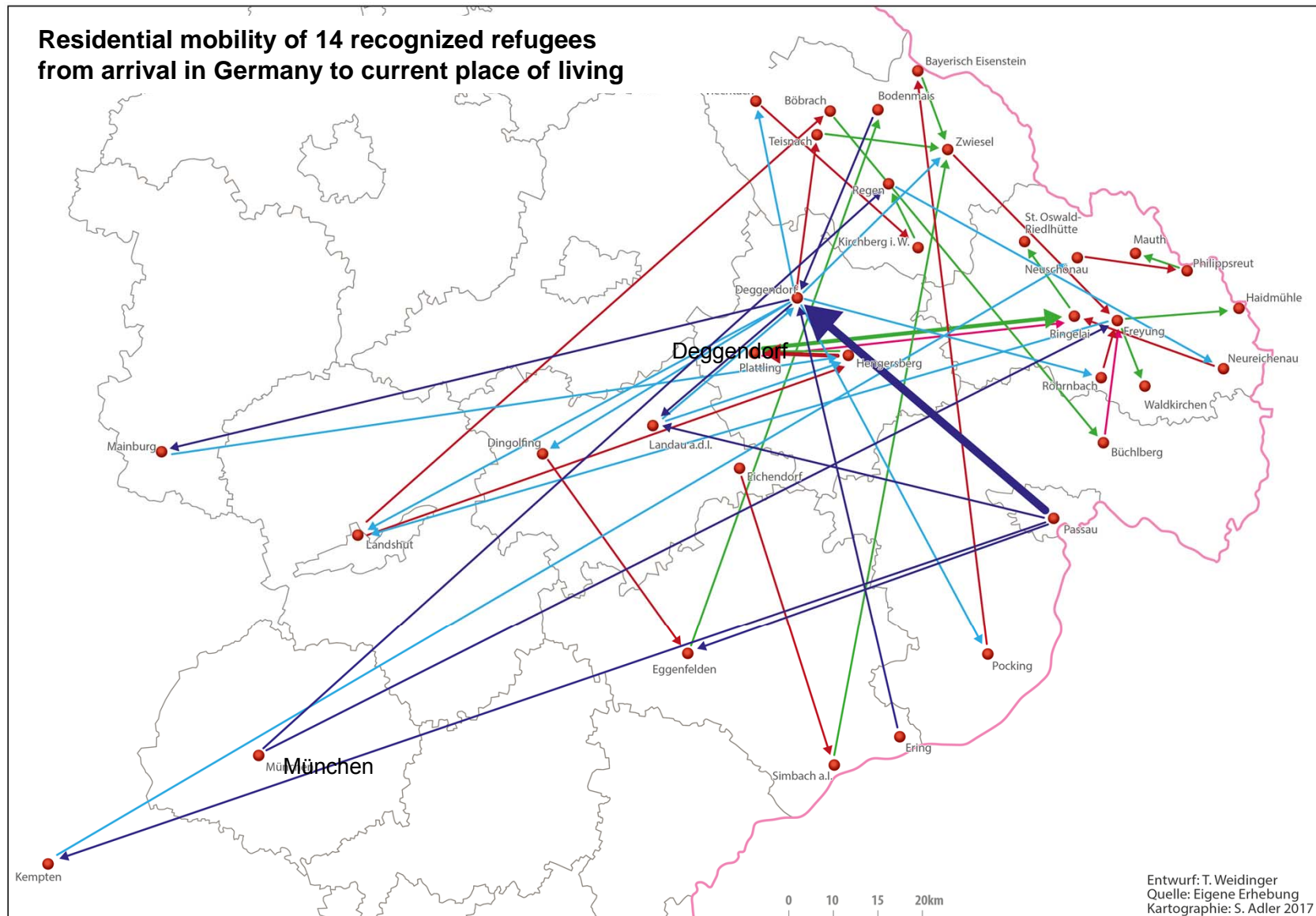
Eigene Darstellung nach Daten des AZR
(Ausländerzentralregisters)

* Personen mit Schutz nach GFK oder subsidiärem Schutz, nach Resettlement-Verfahren Aufgenommene, Gut Integrierte 10

3. Case study: Bavarian Forest

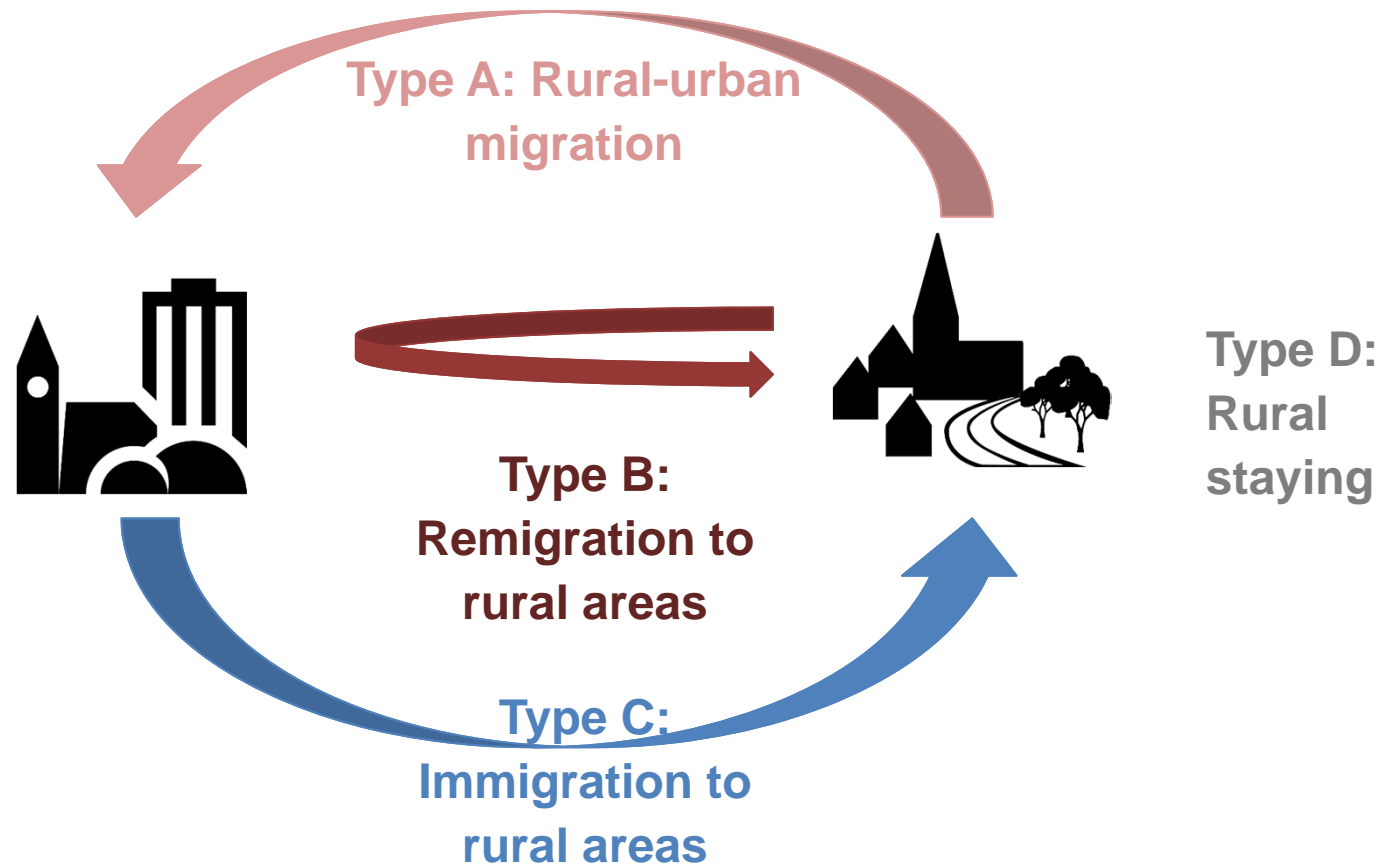
Method	Participants	Topics	Numbers
Guideline-based expert interviews	Local Stakeholders (Politics, Volunteers, Social Life, Real Estate)	Reception and everyday practices of refugees, search for a flat, learning processes in institutions	31 (45 Pers.)
Participatory Tools	Recognized refugees (> 18)	Mobility patterns and everyday lives, future housing perspectives	41 / 67
Quantitative Survey	Recognized refugees (> 18)	Choice of site of living, search for a flat, everyday life	171
Secondary data processing	-	Population, employment structure, real estate market, social benefits	-
Documentary analysis	-	Reception and everyday practices of refugees, measures of integration	-

4. Results: mobility matters



4. Results: mobility matters

- Residential mobility **during the asylum procedure**: transfer between accommodations
- Residential mobility of **recognized refugees**



4. Results: mobility matters

Factors that encourage staying

- Presence of family
- Availability of own apartment
- Living in one of the small towns

→ **intraregional differences with regard to staying perspectives**

→ **key role of local elites**



4. Results: mobility matters

Everyday mobility: VFR (visiting friends and relatives), shopping trips, participating in religious feasts

„Most of them have relatives in Germany [...]. They are on tour all over Germany to visit each other. And when **the date of release of their pocket money approaches, they come back.**“

Employee of town administration, 07/2016



September	2016	Montag	05.09.2016
		Dienstag	06.09.2016
Oktober	2016	Dienstag	04.10.2016
		Mittwoch	05.10.2016
November	2016	Mittwoch	02.11.2016
		Donnerstag	03.11.2016
Dezember	2016	Montag	05.12.2016
		Dienstag	06.12.2016
Januar 2017	2017	Dienstag	03.01.2017
		Mittwoch	04.01.2017

Foto: T. Weidinger 2016

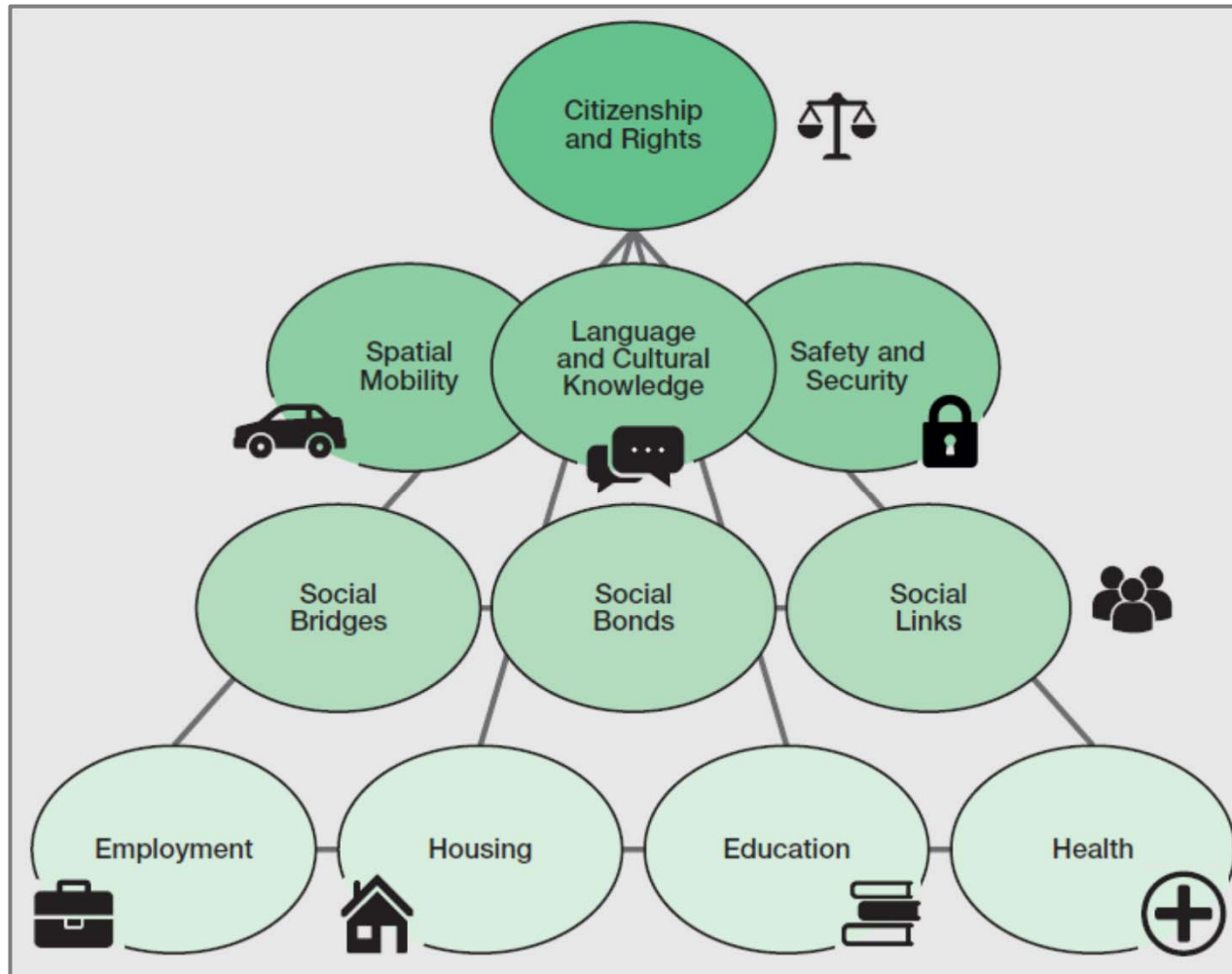
→ **adaption of mobilities as a reaction to restriction policies**

5. Outlook

- **Placement** of asylum seekers in rural areas
- **Hypermobility** → measurement of real presence of asylum seekers and refugees based on territorial concepts is nearly impossible
- **Transient migration** → **provisional character of site of living**

→ **understanding of mobilities as a prerequisite for successful rural development**

5. Outlook



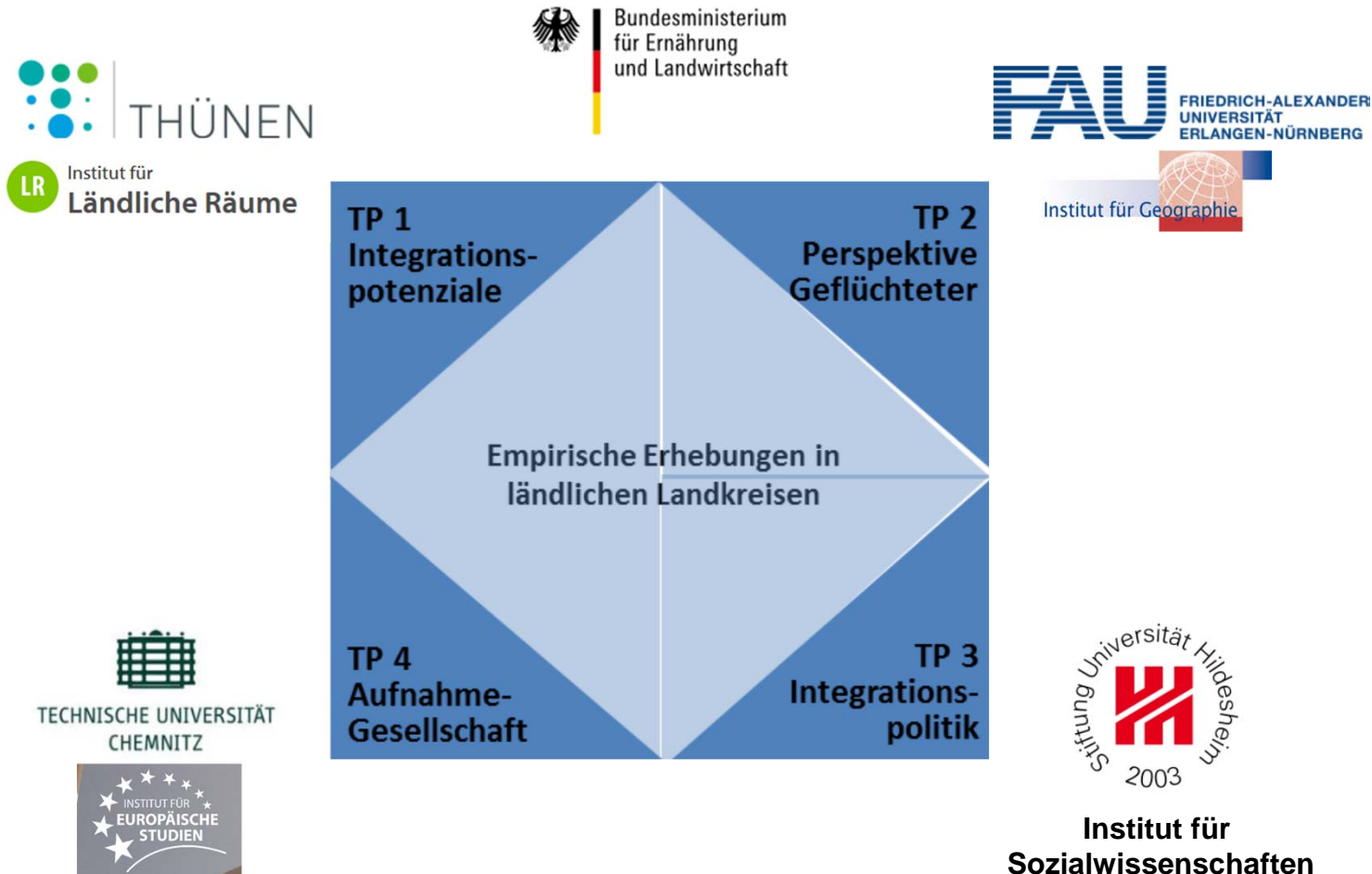
→ fostering **access**
to **realms of**
integration

→ fostering **attach-**
ments to place

WEIDINGER, KORDEL & POHLE 2017

5. Outlook: multiperspectivity matters

Joint project „Future for refugees in rural regions in Germany“ (2018-2020)



The case of rural areas in Germany

Processes of Immigration in Rural Europe

The Status Quo, Implications and
Development Strategies



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Thanks for your attention!