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

Data from 2016!!!
Please find an updated version soon on:
https://www.geographie.nat.fau.de/person/person/stefan-kordel/
1. Context: Dispersal of asylum seekers

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
2. Integration in rural areas

[Diagram showing the model of integration with various components: Citizenship and Rights, Spatial Mobility, Language and Cultural Knowledge, Safety and Security, Social Bridges, Social Bonds, Social Links, Employment, Housing, Education, Health.]

Foundation
Facilitators
Social connection
Means and Markers
2. Integration in rural areas

Accessibility of relevant institutions

Average transport time to reach employment center by PT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>REG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average transport time PT</td>
<td>85min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average transport time car</td>
<td>18min</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Employment center
- within 30min.
- 31 – 45 min.
- 46 – 60 min.
- 61 – 75 min.
- 76 – 90 min.
- > 90 min.
- Jobcenter
3. Case study: Bavarian Forest

Study region: Districts of Regen and Freyung-Grafenau

Cartography: Florian Dworzak 2018
### 3. Case study: Bavarian Forest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Freyung-Grafenau</th>
<th>Regen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small towns (7,000-11,000 inhabitants)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of homeowners (Zensus 2011)</td>
<td>72.3%</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of vacancies (Zensus 2011)</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate (average 2017)</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant positions for vocational training /1,000 EW (3/2017)</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population (31.12.2016)</td>
<td>78,180</td>
<td>77,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of population (2006 to 2016)</td>
<td>-3.2%</td>
<td>-4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of population (2012 to 2016)</td>
<td>+0.5% (363 Pers.)</td>
<td>+1.1% (+858 Pers.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase of foreigners (2012 to 2016)</td>
<td>82% (+1,498 Pers.)</td>
<td>113% (+2,187 Pers.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of foreigners (31.12.2016)</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Case study: Bavarian Forest

Asylum seekers in Freyung-Grafenau (FRG) and Regen (REG) 2015

- 30.06.2015
- 31.07.2015
- 30.10.2015

Recognized refugees* in Freyung-Grafenau and Regen between 1998 und 2017

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

Eigene Darstellung nach Daten von iMVS (integriertes Migrantenverwaltungssystem)

Eigene Darstellung nach Daten des AZR (Ausländerzentralregisters)
### 3. Case study: Bavarian Forest

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

Residential mobility of 14 recognized refugees from arrival in Germany to current place of living
4. Results: mobility matters

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

- **Type A**: Rural-urban migration
- **Type B**: Remigration to rural areas
- **Type C**: Immigration to rural areas
- **Type D**: Rural staying
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

→ 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 attachments to place
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

Thanks for your attention!

Available on www.cambridgescholars.com