

**European Refugee Fund Community Actions
2000**

Interim Report

Results of research conducted

Project Number: 2000/ERF/101

Title: The Reception and Integration of Elderly Refugees

Implemented by: Asylum Co-ordination Austria

Reference period covered by this interim report:

May 2001 to January 2002

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Introduction

The interim report on hand contains essential results of topical literature as well as an analysis of the questionnaires returned by January, 15. Our examination of the situation of elderly refugees is based on the assumption that so far hardly any information is available on this vulnerable group of refugees.

a) Literature and research

During our research we only found a minimal amount of literature and research related to our target group. While the issue of ageing and migration has already aroused the interest of science and of various institutions concerned with old people's welfare, the group of elderly refugees is hardly taken into consideration. The assumption that the needs of elderly refugees are partly different from those of other migrants has not yet been sufficiently documented in literature. The results of existing reports are too exemplary and too specific for different groups or regions to allow any conclusions and findings of general validity.

b) Questionnaires

The second source of this report are 10 questionnaires.

These questionnaires have been developed for this project in order to get an overview of the situation of elderly refugees in the EU and in associating countries.

The questions were aimed at the number, education, living conditions/accommodation, country of origin, religion, linguistic proficiency, employment and qualification, advice, income situation, access to social benefit and health systems, to pensions, homes for the elderly, intergeriatric care, multiple straits. The questionnaire was also meant to be a resource for further contacts and research. Questions were aimed at facilities working with elderly refugees, good practices, networks, clubs, studies and experts or further resources for research concerning the questions mentioned above.

In several questions it distinguishes between different kinds of refugees, as legal requirements are often different for refugees with Geneva Convention status, asylum seekers and people with subsidiary protection. When compiling the questions we have taken into consideration that some questions would not be answered due to incomplete data and difficult access to data and that in some cases there would only be an approximate estimation of the situation not based on facts.

The questionnaire was sent to numerous organisations working with refugees, organisations that cooperate in ECRE.

Completed questionnaires from the following countries are available by now:

Austria

Greece

Finland

France

Netherlands

Luxemburg

Spain

Sweden

Furthermore:

Bulgaria

Czech Republic

Switzerland

The organisations we contacted also informed us about people or institutions as well as homepages on the internet to be consulted for further information.

Starting with a summary of the discussion about age limits to define the target group of *elderly* refugees the following twelve chapters provide an overview about the topics covered by our survey.

1. Determination of age limits

We initially agreed that a standardised age limit would be necessary for our research. It seems problematic, however, to assume a concept of ‘old people’ as it is applied in our society. We have „to reflect lower life expectancy in some refugee source countries (especially those from developing countries who have experienced prolonged deprivation and hence may experience age related morbidity at a relatively young age)“¹. Age is defined by society and therefore depends upon the function of the respective phases of one’s life and the definition of age in the refugees’ countries of origin. UNHCR points to various factors in its manual on Resettlement: „There is no fixed age to define an older refugee as *elderly*, largely because life expectancy differs among groups, and the process of ageing is affected by a number of factors, such as an individual’s physical and psychological health, along with family and social support, cultural background, living conditions and economic situation.“²

In its report on the situation of elderly refugees, the Executive Committee of the UNHCR points out to the regional variations of the meaning of ‘elderly’: „Of course, definitions of ‘older’ reflect average life expectancy of the region concerned; they range from the age of 46 in Ethiopia to 73 in Venezuela.“³ In the following report the age of ‘older refugees’ is assumed to be 60 or more. „The recent introduction of the age category of 60 and older in UNHCR statistics is not only a reflection of increased global attention to ageing populations, but also of UNHCR activities. [...] The age limit of 60 applied in UNHCR’s global statistics is consistent with the definition of elderly persons by the World Health Organisation (WHO).“⁴ For the determination of operational requirements a flexible age limit is considered sensible: „Special assistance may be extended to elderly refugees before they have reached the age of 60.“⁵

In the report „Age and Exile“ Finlay and Reynolds are quoted in relation with the question of an age limit for elderly refugees. They point out to factors that result in premature ageing: „The standard definition of the elderly as being those over retirement age is not always suitable for members of refugee communities. In common with others from different cultures they may have been used to different lifestyles and experiences and to economic disadvantages. Many will have been through traumatic experiences and losses in the course of their escape and subsequent exile. These factors may all have the effect of ageing people earlier. Those who were already in later life when they came to the United Kingdom may have been unable to work and therefore have adopted

¹ UNHCR Reception and Integration Handbook Refugee Elders: Draft Chapter Outline

² United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: *UNHCR Resettlement Handbook. Division of International Protection*. Geneva 1997.

³ UNHCR: The Situation of Older Refugees (EC/48/SC/CRP.39), August 14, 1998, paragraph 2.

⁴ UNHCR Women, Children and Older Refugees. Geneva, July 2001, paragraph 9.

⁵ Id. paragraph 9.

a retiree's lifestyle earlier than is usual here. In addition, dates of birth may have been calculated differently or recorded inaccurately in transit, so that some are actually older than their 'official' age.⁶ In this report elderly refugees are defined as „exiles aged 50 and over“.

„Old age has varying connotations in different cultures depending on the context in which the term is used. It is both a sign and a result of socio-economic development“. In a contribution to the conference 'Age in Exile' it says that „old age may be defined as retirement from active participation in economic activity and if so it varies by individual occupation areas of residence and country, according to various cultural norms.“⁷

It also has to be considered that advanced age becomes significant in different contexts. For example people over 45 years of age face increased difficulties in finding a job, and in some countries there are specific programs to facilitate the integration of these people to the labour market. This supposedly applies even more to refugees and migrants who arrive in EU countries only at that age.

The purpose of an examination is essential when determining an age limit. An earlier age limit is advisable if demographical data is to be used in order to react to social changes - for example to create facilities for elderly refugees -, as the group of 50 to 60 year olds will soon retire from employment. The French study *Les réfugiés âgés*⁸ primarily examined demographical data of people over 60, but data of those aged 50 to 60 were considered as well and used to point to changes concerning the countries of origin and the sex of the refugees.

Finally some degree of flexibility seems useful also because of the diverging statistical situation in different countries of the EU, even if such flexibility reduces the comparability of the results.

2. Figures of older refugees in the European Union

Available statistical information on elderly refugees is limited. The report of UNHCR indicates a lack of demographic data about elderly. „As the age group „60 and over“ was introduced only recently, some UNHCR operations were not able to report on this category.“⁹ A survey conducted by UNHCR in 1997 indicated that older refugees make up a much larger proportion of the UNHCR caseload than previously assumed. It had long been believed that older people were more likely to choose to stay in their place of origin, or, unfortunately, to perish in flight or to pine away and die in exile. In fact, older refugees make up about 10 per cent of the population of concern to UNHCR reaching, according to government statistics, 30 per cent in the case of Armenia. In many situations they are over-represented in refugee populations.¹⁰

UNHCR has made some progress in collecting data on groups of special concern, for example elderly refugees. However, information on the age of refugees in industrialised countries is still missing. Data analysed by UNHCR comprises refugees recognised according to the Geneva Convention and the Organisation for African Unit as well as applicants for asylum and persons of concern (after their return, internally displaced). „At the end of 2000, the demographic composition of refugees and persons of concern to UNHCR was available for some 6.1 million persons in 115 countries, constituting 41% of the total population of concern in these

⁶ Age in Exile – a report on elderly exiles in the United Kingdom, prepared by the British Refugee Council for the Age in Exile conference Nooordwijkerhout, the Netherlands 25-27 November 1988, page 3

⁷ Anonym: Elderly Refugees: Are there specific Health Problems? Page 3

⁸ Legoux, Luc: *Les réfugiés âgés*, 1991. Published by: Service Social d'aide aux Emigrants, 72 rue Régnauld, 75013 Paris.

⁹ UNHCR, Statistics and Registration: A Progress Report, EC/50/SC/CRP.10). 7. Feb.2000

¹⁰ UNHCR: The Situation of Older Refugees (EC/48/SC/CRP.39) 14.Aug.1998, paragraphe 2

countries.¹¹ Due to the lack of data from some countries the results for the regions are not fully representative. UNHCR emphasises considerable deviations both between regions and within regions.

Information on elderly refugees comprises just a few countries such as Croatia or Armenia, „in Europe, the gender and age composition was available on 155,000 persons of concern to UNHCR, 87% of whom were located in Croatia.“¹²

Investigations of UNHCR to the end of the year 1998 show relatively distinct deviations.

„Population ageing in the industrialized countries has reached an advanced stage; in Europe, 19.5 per cent of all refugees were reported to be 60 and over, which is quite similar to the United Nations population projection (20.3 per cent).¹³

The French study estimates that the overall number of elderly refugees and applicants for asylum in France was 23,200 in 1990. According to the data of OFPRA the share of refugees aged 60 and more is 17,6%, and that of 50 to 60 year olds is 7,6%.¹⁴

Data from numerous organisations of ethnical groups in Great Britain do not give relative numbers. Refugees who have aged in exile are included as well, without distinction to whether they have become naturalised.

Statements on the number of elderly refugees in the questionnaires

The questionnaires returned so far (from 11 countries) show that in some of these countries there is no information on the age of refugees. Accurate information arrived from Austria, Spain, Switzerland and Bulgaria.

In Austria, 951 out of about 30,300 asylum seekers were aged 50 and over in 2001, a share of 3,1%. In Spain 1% of the asylum seekers were older than 50. In Switzerland this group amounts to 2,5% of all asylum seekers, with a similar share of these persons among those with subsidiary protection. Refugees over 50 amount to 11%, which is distinctly more, of all Geneva Convention refugees - which is 3,000 persons.

For Bulgaria there is data for refugees over 60. Their share in all categories of refugees is 0,3%. Regional results from Sweden show that the share of persons over 50 is 0,5%, while they amount to 20% of the persons with subsidiary protection.

The statistics of the German Federal Office for Refugees shows that over 2% of all asylum seekers are aged 50 years and more (out of a total number of 80,000 in the year 2000).

An estimation of the number of refugees over 50 years of age based upon the questionnaires returned is not yet possible. It remains to be seen whether additional research and further questionnaires returned will improve the situation.

Even literature did not provide data concerning the number of elderly refugees in EU countries. The very limited amount of information is partly based on research carried out several years ago or deals with the situation in countries outside the EU. Most of these investigations do not indicate to the share of elderly refugees in the EU, as there are significant regional differences concerning the age structure and the ethnic origin of the refugees.

Sex

¹¹ UNHCR: Women, Children and older refugees. Geneva, July 2001, paragraphe 12

¹² id. paragraphe 12

¹³ UNHCR: Statistics and Registration: A Progress Report. (EC/50/SC/CRP.10) 7. Feb. 2000, paragraphe 15

¹⁴ Legoux, Luc: Les réfugiés âgés, 1991. Published by: Service Social d'aide aux Emigrants, Paris 1991, p. 11

Both data collected by UNHCR and the studies we analysed so far suggest that there are more women than men within the group of refugees aged 50 and over. One of the reasons for this is that women have a higher life expectancy, but the relative overlap of women can not be attributed exclusively to this fact, as there are far more men among younger refugees. This leads to the assumption that male refugees more often leave the country again or are naturalised more often than women.¹⁵

3. Countries of Origin

Information on the countries of origin of elderly refugees are scarce. Literature analysed so far contains data of this kind but dates back 12 years or longer.

In France¹⁶ more than half of the refugees over 60 were European in 1990, although they amount to only 13% of the overall population. Almost 50% originated from south-east Asia, 5% from the Middle East. Almost no other regions were represented in the statistics. However, the authors noted that that this ratio would change within the next 10 years, as the 50-60 year olds in 1990 had come from south-east Asia and Europeans were represented with only 20% in this age-group. Refugees from the Middle East already amounted to 8.4% and those from America to 4.5 %.

The number of European refugees was rather small overall, but they represented the majority of the elderly refugees and their migration dated many years back. It was expected that their number would decrease quickly due to mortality and the change of status by refugees from Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary (that amounted to 40% of all European refugees).

The number of refugees from south-east Asia was high, but they were predominantly young and migrated only recently. The share of persons of 60 years and more was 12.7%.

Two out of three refugees from the Middle East were from Turkey, there were hardly elderly persons among them. In the case of refugees from America, refugees aged 60 and over amounted to 7.3% of the overall number.

The results of investigations carried out by the British Refugee Council contain estimated statements on the number of elderly exiled after their countries of origin like Poland (75,000), Latvia (2,500), Czechoslovakia (2,000), Estonia (20-30), Lithuania (4,000), Armenia (3,000), Vietnam (22,000), Sri Lanka/Tamils (300), Ethiopia (95), Uganda (16), Latin America (2,500).¹⁷

As far as these numbers are concerned it is important to mention that many refugees have aged in exile. They would have to be included in investigations, just like elderly asylum seekers.

UNHCR statistics show that there is an uneven distribution of asylum seekers in the EU countries both with regard to the number and the countries of origin of the refugees. This is also reflected in the statements on the origin of elderly refugees in the questionnaires returned: there is no differentiation between asylum seekers and refugees, the Swiss data also includes those admitted temporarily. In some countries refugees from former Yugoslavia are among the biggest groups, in other countries there supposedly is a considerable number of elderly refugees among the asylum seekers recently arrived from Afghanistan or Armenia.

¹⁵ id. page 13

¹⁶ LEGOUX, p. 14ff

¹⁷ Age and Exile, p. 72ff

Main Nationalities of asylum seekers and refugees 50 years and older										
Austria	Afghan.	Armenia	Iraq	Iran	Georgia					
Greece	Iraq	Turkey	Tamil/Sri Lanka	Congo	Iran	Sudan	China			
Finland	Yugosl.	Iraq, Russia	Iran Somalia							
Netherlands										
Luxemburg	former Yugosl.									
Spain	Colombia	Cuba	Armenia							
Sweden										
Switzerland (gfk, aw, temp admit.)	Bosnia-Herzeg. 1400	Ex-YU (Kosova): 750	Sri Lanka:531	Vietnam: 488	Turkey: 356	Afghan. 201	Iraq: 189	Tibet: 178	Cambodia 157	Iran 148
Czech Republic	Russian	Ukrainian	Armenia	Afghan.						
Bulgaria	Afghan.	Iraq	Armenia	Iran	Stateless	Syria	Turkey			

4. Education

The French Study shows that 16% of the elderly refugees are illiterate, 36% have completed elementary school, 35% secondary school, and 13% have studied at a university.¹⁸

Up to now we collected few information about the education of elderly refugees.

From Spain, the Comision Espanola de Ayuda al Refugiado, CEAR we got the following figures:

Schooling, education	Percentage	Number
Primary school	22%	22
Secondary modern school	28%	28
High school	5,4%	6
University	12%	12

According to the estimation of Caritas Luxemburg 80% of elderly refugees have only primary school, male refugees in Greece have completed secondary education according to the refugee council, and some have studied at a university.

¹⁸ LEGOUX, page 44

5. Living Conditions / Accommodation

In the past few years several studies have investigated the social situation of refugees and asylum seekers. These studies also encompass the accommodation of refugees.

The study carried out by the Swiss Forum for Migration Studies compares social benefits for asylum seekers¹⁹ and concludes that among the 9 countries examined there are 3 different systems:

- Welfare assistance with limited benefits ensuring a basic standard of living
- Welfare assistance with graduated support modalities
- Comprehensive state welfare assistance

Access to benefits, duration and legal right were used to categorise the systems for the support of refugees that have been assessed differently.

The first of the systems mentioned above grants accommodation to the refugees for a period of time shorter than the duration of the asylum proceedings, and does not contain a legal right. Deficits of governmental support are lessened by a secondary system. „Besides individual regional authorities, humanitarian organizations also play an important role in ensuring a basic standard of living; thus asylum seekers are not left totally to their own resources.“ Austria and Italy are exemplary for this system.

The second system is a mixture of a system that shifts responsibility („Débrouillez-vous“) and one that grants comprehensive social support by the state. „Comprehensive support in state-financed admission centres is only granted to a minority of asylum seekers, while numerous people are only given partial support and others hardly receive any benefits at all.“ This system is in force in France and in Spain.

The third system - comprehensive state welfare assistance - is to be found in northern Europe, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Great Britain and Switzerland, as well as in Styria (a federal republic of Austria).

An essential element is the right to support at least during the time of legal stay. Correspondingly, state-funded welfare assistance is regulated globally for the whole category of people in the sphere of asylum. With the exception of Great Britain, all the countries listed have gradually developed specific structures, parallel to general welfare assistance, for the admission and accommodation of asylum seekers: the competent authorities allocate them to a place of residence on arrival, provide them with accommodation, mostly in communal centres initially. The minimum standards for personal living space in admission facilities are similar in all the countries.

The living conditions of asylum seekers with special needs, such as elderly refugees, were not investigated in this study. Only as far as social support in Spain is concerned it says that „certain categories are given preferential treatment in admission procedure on the basis of social criteria (lone parents, sick and elderly people, families with small children).“²⁰

Fabrice Liebaut's and Tanja Blichfeldt Johnsen's study on Legal and Social Conditions for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Western European Countries, ordered by the Danish Refugee Council, contains a survey on the accommodation of asylum seekers. Elderly refugees are not referred to

¹⁹ Denise Efonayi-Mäder: Sozialhilfe für Asylsuchende im europäischen Vergleich
Dänemark, Deutschland, Frankreich, Grossbritannien, Niederlande, Italien, Österreich, Schweiz, Spanien.
Forschungsberichte 14/ Februar 2001. 1999 by Schweizerisches Forum für Migrationsstudien

²⁰ Efonayi-Mäder, page ii

specifically. However, the study explicitly mentions a special regulation for elderly refugees: social support may be granted to this group even before there is a final decision on their application for asylum. „There is no provision which guarantees accommodation to asylum seekers from their arrival in Spain until such time as a decision on admissibility has been made, even though this may take up to 60 days. Vulnerable applicants may be assisted by the IMSERSO during that period and are given accommodation in the existing reception centres or in hostels.“²¹

The study carried out in Great Britain in 1988 repeatedly refers to the problem of a lack of appropriate accommodation, especially sheltered homes, nursing homes or homes with nursing. The need for accommodation for mentally challenged persons²² was also mentioned, as well as the problems of refugees who feel isolated and unable to keep in contact with their religious and social groupings.

Housing problems were also often referred to by refugees in the interviews conducted for the French study. Some refugees were living together with their children, which half of the persons concerned called a problematic situation due to overcrowding and other reasons. Some refugees lived with friends as they could not afford to rent a flat on their own because they did not have an income confirmation, which led to excessive rents. Additionally the fact of being an immigrant was seen to be one reason for problems on the housing market.²³

Evaluation of the questionnaires

The questionnaires returned contain little specific information on the situation of elderly refugees as far as accommodation and federal / communal support is concerned, which is partly due to the fact that there are no statistics on the age structure of refugees. In many questionnaires it is pointed out that the age of a refugee does not make a difference when it comes to accommodation, so that elderly refugees find the same conditions as others. We received some information on the practices of accommodation in these countries but do not want to refer to that, as they can also be found in the report of the Danish Refugee Council, for example.²⁴

According to the information we received so far there are no specific forms of accommodation for elderly refugees. We do not know of any reception centre, refugee camp or home for refugees adapted to suit the special needs of elderly refugees. However, the reception centres Kostelec and Orlici, opened in the Czech Republic in 2001, are supposed to be an exception: they were designed to provide all ‘vulnerable cases’, like unaccompanied minors, mothers with special needs, old people and others. Beside these accommodation centres provided by the state or by communities, there are also private facilities in some countries (Luxemburg, Sweden, Finland, Bulgaria). Not all of these facilities are supported by the states, however.

The period of time elderly refugees spend in reception centres or similar facilities deserves closer examination. In questionnaires returned from several countries it says that for one year or more asylum seekers live in reception centres that lack appropriate equipment for this group.

According to the information we received, further problems related to accommodation are the lack of federal support to rent a flat, insufficient housing capacities and resulting homelessness, the problem of isolation in case of accommodation in remote areas, and central catering, which reduces the opportunity to consider special needs of elderly refugees.

²¹ Fabrice Liebaut: Legal and Social Conditions for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Western European Countries, 2000. S 276

²² Age and Exile, p.77f.

²³ LEGOUX, page 64

²⁴ Liebaut. See also: Greek Council for Refugees: Reception Facilities for Asylum Seekers in the EU Member-States, 2001.

Both literature and questionnaires analysed predominantly show the housing situation of asylum seekers. There is hardly any information on the situation of refugees with Geneva Convention status or subsidiary status. There are some hints to integration homes and to prolonged stay in refugee camps due to a lack of housing facilities, but research has to be continued to get a comprehensive picture of the situation.

Even if the housing problem is solved in most cases, the accommodations do not prevent the isolation of elderly persons. This is the result of investigations in Great Britain that stress a need for accommodation for elderly refugees.

6. Free access to language acquisition

In the study Age and Exile nearly all communities mention insufficient linguistic proficiency as one of the priority problems. The French study found out that one third of the elderly refugees did not or hardly speak French. The study also established a connection between linguistic proficiency and the reasons to choose a particular country for exile.²⁵ In the case of refugees from south-east Asia, who often have a very limited linguistic proficiency, family rather than culture were decisive when choosing a country. Half of the refugees interviewed spoke French very well. They acquired their language skills when they were much younger, partly even before they left their country. Swedish organisations have stated that elderly female refugees have no or only a very limited ability to communicate in Swedish. We have not yet found more accurate information on this topic.

Language skills always reinforce contacts with other people. They not only facilitate the access to the labour market. Better knowledge of the language reduces the dependence on others, and existing qualifications can sooner be reinstated. Getting in touch with neighbours, looking for apartments, further education, participation in social activities, the visiting doctors, authorities, officials and many other things become easier by the acquisition of the language.

The requirements for free access to language acquisition are different in the various countries of the EU. In principle refugees with Geneva Convention status may attend language courses free of charge; in a few countries these are only offered by NGOs. In some countries attendance is obligatory. Asylum seekers face far greater problems when learning the respective country's language, they often have to rely on NGOs to provide language courses. These courses often do not meet the needs of the refugees, however: there are hardly any language courses aiming specifically at the needs of elderly refugees. The importance of such courses becomes obvious in connection with the answers to point 7 of our questionnaire. Language barriers result from the fact that refugees often do not have access to advice in their native language.

The following survey was compiled using the questionnaires returned and the study on Legal and Social Conditions for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Western European Countries.

Free access to language acquisition

Country	Asylum seekers	Refuges with Geneva Convention Status	Refugee with Temporary Protection
Austria	Not entitled / offers only by NGO'S	Entitled, duration between 3-6 months	Only by NGO's
Belgium	Provided, limited places	Provided only by private	Only by NGO's

²⁵ Id. page 44

	are available	organisations	
Denmark	For all asylum seekers are offered minimum 5 hours per week	18 hours per week. This can be reduced where classes are designed for illiterate persons	Are offered
Finland	All reception centres offer language courses in Finnish or Swedish	Language courses is a part of integration programme	Language courses are offered in the reception centres
France	Asylum seekers are not entitled, only by NGO's	Compulsory language courses lasting at least 520 hours	Only in some accommodation centres
Germany	Not entitled, only by NGO's in some centres	Entitled for a 6 months period	Not entitled, not offered
Greece	Not entitled, only by NGO's or universities	The same like asylum seekers	-
Ireland	Not automatically entitled, only by NGO's	Are entitled	Are entitled if they have residency documents
Italy	Only by NGO's and in some municipalities and authorities	The same situation like Asylum seekers	The same situation like asylum seekers
Luxembourg	Language courses are offered but limited places are available, also by NGO's	Entitled only refugees without resources	-
The Netherlands	Entitled to Dutch lessons. Asylum seekers under the „self-care arrangement have no access to language courses	Entitled to attend a compulsory integration programme. 600 hours of Dutch tuition	The same situation like Refugees with Geneva Convention Status
Norway	Are entitled, 250 hours with compulsory attendance	Are entitled, 500 hours with compulsory attendance	The same situation like Asylum seekers
Portugal	Not entitled	Not entitled, only by NGO's	The same situation like recognised Refugees
Spain	Only by NGO's and in some reception centres	The same situation like asylum seekers	The same situation like asylum seekers
Sweden	Are entitled, 20 hours a week with compulsory attendance	Are entitled within the „Swedish introduction for immigrants	The same Situation like asylum seekers

Free access to language acquisition

Country	Asylum seekers	Refuges with Geneva Convention Status	Refugee with Temporary Protection
Switzerland	There is a opportunity to follow language courses which are organised by cantons in the first three months	The same like asylum seekers	The same like asylum seekers

UK	Doesn't have special programme for asylum seekers. The same situation like refugees with Convention status	There is no automatic or compulsory English language. Tuition are offered in charge low fees and in some cases can be offered free	As for those granted Convention status or Exceptional Leave to Remain
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We received information on courses in Denmark and Sweden that specifically take into consideration the situation of elderly refugees. Studieförbundet i Umeå informed us about „special teaching designed Swedish classes for the elderly who did not succeed in the communal Swedish classes. A very special method of teaching, a combination of individual learning computer programmes and group classes together with weekly individually planned interviews with the participants. Rather complicated but very successful. We have arranged outings and cultural activities for our participants too.“

Another example are courses in Ireland aimed specifically at people who are unable to participate in regular courses: „The Refugee Language Support Unit was established in 1996 by Foras Aiseanna Saothair (the Training and Employment Authority) in collaboration with the Department of Education and Science and the Centre for Language and Communication, in order to provide direct language services to refugees. The Refugee Language Support Unit currently offers free of charge a number of language classes at various levels for refugees (all categories) in order to prepare them for living and working in Ireland. At the primary school level, the Unit has provided fourteen schools with specialist teachers to assist refugee and asylum seeker children.“

„The unit (the Training and Employment Authority) has a programme (Community Outreach Programme) for refugees who are unable to access the formal English classes. This project enables women and older people to participate in Irish society to a greater extent. The criteria for persons who are eligible for this service is as follows: lack of child care facilities, distance to travel to classes; age complications and difficulties. The Unit also provides „Vocational Outreach Training“ to individuals on training and work placement, and to refugee organisations working in their own communities. The focus of the training is predominantly vocational, and language training is related to their immediate employment needs.“²⁶

7. Admission to the labour Market, further qualifications

When collecting data concerning the situation of elderly refugees we also wanted to know under which conditions they can participate in the labour market. We therefore asked for the requirements for the recognition of education and qualifications acquired in exile. From the questionnaires returned so far we have seen that diplomas are acknowledged, their compatibility is examined and that in some cases additional exams have to be taken. The recognition of professional qualifications is left to employers.

In none of the questionnaires were there any hints to special training or courses for the qualification of elderly refugees. In some cases we were informed that Geneva Convention refugees may participate in training programmes together with other employees.

As far as the access to the labour market is concerned there are different regulations within the EU. Refugees with Geneva Convention status are mostly allowed to work without formal restrictions. On the other hand the majority of the asylum seekers do not have access to the labour market, at least not immediately, and often need a specific approval. The following survey was put together using the report on social and legal conditions.

²⁶ Liebaut p. 160

Access to labour market

Country	Asylum seekers	Refugees with Geneva Convention Status	Refugees with Temporary Protection
Austria	No access to the labour market and adult education system / only under certain conditions	Free access to the labour market and adult education system like nationals	Access only with work permit / no access to adult education system
Belgium	No access to the labour Market and adult education system / only under certain conditions	Free access to the labour market and adult education system like nationals	No access to the labour Market and adult education system / only under certain conditions
Denmark	No access to the labour market and adult education system / only under special circumstances	Free access to the labour market and adult education system like nationals*1	No access to labour market / limited access to education system*2
Finland	No access to the labour market and adult education system*3	Free access to the labour market*4	Free access to the labour market, but it is difficult to find a job
France	No access to the labour market and adult education system	Free access to the labour market and adult education system *5	Only in some cases e.g. refugees from Kosovo
Germany	No access, it depend on date of arrival 7*	Free access to the labour market and adult education system	No access to the labour market and adult education system, it depends on date of arrival
Greece	Can be granted a temporary work permit	Free access to the labour market and adult education system	-
Ireland	Access is limited	Free access to the labour market and adult education system 8*	Access if they have received their residency document, limited access
Italy	No access, many are forced to work illegally	Free access to the labour market and adult education system	Free access to labour market and adult education system
Luxembourg	No access or it depend on date of arrival	Free access to the labour market and adult education system	-
The Netherlands	Access under limited conditions	Free access to the labour market and adult education system	Access under limited conditions
Norway	Access under limited conditions, they need a work permit	Free access to the labour market and adult education system	-
Portugal	No access or with a provisional residence permit	Access after work permit application, access to the adult education *7	Access after work permit application, access to the adult education *8

Country	Asylum seekers	Refugees with Geneva Convention Status	Refugees with Temporary Protection
Spain	Access is limited *9	Free access to the labour market and adult education system *10	Access to labour market upon request with special permission
Sweden	Access under limited conditions	Free access to the labour market and adult education system	Not automatically allowed to work or access to adult education system
Switzerland	No access to the labour market or under limited conditions	Free access to the labour market and adult education system	access depends on date of arrival

UK	No access but they can apply for permission to work which also includes the participation in vocational training scheme	Free access to the labour market and adult education system	No access to the labour market and adult education system
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*1 ...in practice it can be difficult to obtain the assessment and recognition of foreign diplomas or foreign education. In order to facilitate procedures, an advisory centre for foreign education and vocational qualifications was set up in January 2000 under the Ministry of education.

In order to promote refugees' educational opportunities and job prospects, special courses have been arranged for refugees. Some of these courses aim at finding actual work placement, whereas others are aimed at enabling refugees to receive further education.

*2 They are offered special educational activities at the centres, which are performed either in co-operation with Institution of the normal education system or directly by schools and other educational institutions. p.59

*3 ... asylum seekers may apply for a permission to work related to a specific job, after three months in the country. Because of the high unemployment rate in Finland, the permission is only granted by the local employment officer if the job cannot be filled by a national or someone with a residence permit. In practice, very few asylum seekers are able to find work.

Work and training activities are organised in the reception centres. Asylum seekers who refuse to participate in the organised activities may have their living allowance reduced.

The work activities proposed in the centres may include cleaning and repairing the reception facilities, office work, organising children, hobbies or cultural activities, etc. Handicraft workshops and projects outside the reception centres may also be established.

The training activities in the centres usually consist of language tuition and information on the Finnish society and the legal system.

Asylum seekers may also attend courses outside the reception centres, such as computer work and handicraft. In some cases, asylum seekers may organise training activities in the centres themselves. p. 75

*4 In principle, there are no restrictions to the adult education system. Some schools might, however, require the refugees to pass an entry test or to provide school certificates.

There are special training programmes for immigrants, which are open also to refugees and which aims is to improve the readiness for working life and vocational training. They usually last for one year. Attendance on these programmes may be part of the refugee's integration programme. p. 78-79

*5 Vocational training: recognised refugees are entitled to free vocational training. Refugees who do not receive unemployment benefit receive a state-allowance whilst following the training programme.

Subject to their ability in French, refugees can benefit from any of the programmes set up for unemployed persons. In addition, various programmes exist for migrants and refugees comprising both language courses and vocational training.

Further education: Like French citizens, they are allowed to study in the university of their choice, according to the courses and places available there. The recognition of foreign degrees is decided by a special committee at each university and is only valid there. p.100

*6 The vast majority of applicants are not allowed to work. Access to work after the first three-month period following their arrival in Germany is dependant on the date of arrival in Germany before 15 May 1997. Despite this restriction, a relatively high percentage of the asylum seekers concerned have found employment, particularly in industrialised urban areas. However, such work is generally unskilled and poorly paid. p. 116,117

*7 The Refugee and Language Support Unit have implemented a bridging programme (pre-vocational training) for people with status. Pre-vocational training was initially provided to the Bosnian community, but is now available to all refugees. The objective of this training is to provide participants with the necessary language support to enter and successfully complete pre-vocational training leading to mainstream courses and/or employment in an English-speaking environment.. p. 160

*8 but there is a language barrier

*9 Asylum seekers must apply to the Provincial Division for Labour and Social Affairs for a special authorisation to work. This is not given until they have already been in the procedure for six months, and only after consultation with the OAR.

In practice, asylum seekers' access to the labour market varies from province to province, and it is easier to obtain authorisation for a temporary job in agriculture than for permanent clerical jobs. p. 268

8. Mother language advise, specific offers, good practices

The French study Les réfugiés âgés shows the importance of information to the refugees: Mainly those refugees who were not integrated into their family experienced a lack of information as a barrier to integration and as a cause of problems. In the case of a refugee from Guinea this was the reason why the injuries he suffered in prison were treated only 2 ½ years later.

Almost all of the organisations who filled out our questionnaires emphasised that there were language barriers. Elderly refugees are offered the same advice as others, but there are no specific offers for this group.

In various countries advice is offered by NGOs, but consultations in the refugees' native language is often not possible. One of the problems mentioned was the difficult access to and the quality of such offers.

In some countries there are national or communal programmes for integration. We would like to mention Sweden as an example here. „Each municipality receiving refugees must establish an integration programme, individually tailored to each refugee. In practice, the programme must be set up in consultation with the refugee him/herself.“²⁷ Facilities for advising elderly refugees in their mother language are provided by reception centres and municipalities. They are organised by special schools or teachers and municipalities. Even though elderly refugees have easy access to information in Sweden, there are language barriers.

In Finland advice for refugees is offered only after they have been recognised as Geneva Convention refugees; if necessary, a translator may be requested.

Language barriers – good practice

Some examples of offers created for elderly migrants from Switzerland show possibilities to overcome language barriers.

Professional interpreting and cultural Mediation

The Swiss association is an interest group for the promotion of translation and cultural mediation in the health, social and education area. „Interpret“ has been founded in 1999. The organisation supports the exchange of experience and the networking of persons and organisations which are working as interpreters or co-operate with interpreters in the health, social and education area.

Information: Interpret, Martin Bühler, co-ordinator, telephone 031 351 38 28, e-mail: coordination@inter-pret.ch

Health adviser / Switzerland

published by the Federal Office for Health Issues, Swiss Red Cross and Caritas Switzerland.

The booklet (63 pages, for free) contains information on what to do in case of emergency, who to turn to, who will cover the cost of a treatment, how to lower insurance premiums or why additional fees have to be paid. Additionally it provides answers to the 20 most frequently asked questions concerning illness. A glossary explains important medical terminology, and the publication finally also offers a list of the most important social services.

The booklet is published in 19 languages: Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian, German, English, Farsi, French, Italian, Croatian, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Somalian, Spanish, Tamile, Thai, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese. It is already available in English, German, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

From November 2001 it will also be available in the other languages.

Information: Swiss Red Cross, Iris Stucki, Rainmattstr. 10, 3001 Bern

Model for the education of mediators

The project ¡Adentro! is for elderly migrants whose native language is Spanish. It aims at making Spanish seniors advisers who will then accompany their elderly fellow countrymen and help them to master their life on their own.

²⁷ Liebaut, page 238

9. Income situation, access to social benefit system

General statements on the income situation of elderly refugees can not be made as statistical information is not available. For those elderly refugees who are supported as asylum seekers or Geneva Convention refugees the general conditions as described in the current Reports on Legal and Social Conditions and Reception²⁸ may be considered accurate. The report also explicitly states that elderly refugees have been taken into account, as for example in Spain, where „in principle, social assistance is not available during admissibility procedure, but vulnerable applicants, such as one-parent families, families with young children, sick persons, and elderly or handicapped persons may be provided with social support from the time of the submission of their application, without it being necessary to wait for the decision to be made on its admissibility“²⁹

In many countries asylum seekers do not have a legal right to supplementary benefits, in some countries not even the covering of basic needs is granted.

The French study concludes that refugees who have come to France at old age need supplementary benefits or similar support. Half of the persons interviewed received at least one kind of financial support, 14 lived in a home for the aged (with the costs covered by social security), even though they are not yet very old. Of 12 other persons interviewed, 6 are supported by their families, 3 have a job, 2 receive a small pension and are supported by their children.³⁰

An analysis of financial support by the SSAE (social security office, support for emigrants) in 1990 for refugees older than 60 show cumulated handicaps. 82% had little or no resources, 52% of the women and 33% of the men did not have an accommodation of their own. Half of them had lived in France for less than 5 years.

According to the British investigation on the foremost problems of the different ethnical groups, money is not an problem of utmost priority. Problems of language and housing are rated high much more often.³¹

Geneva Convention refugees are entitled to supplementary benefits, still the answers in the questionnaires concerning the estimated income situation show that many people think that refugees live in poverty as compared to native citizens.

The report lists special regulations for elderly Geneva Convention refugees in Italy and Great Britain: In Great Britain additional benefits are also available for the elderly or those with disabilities.³² In Italy needy refugees are entitled to apply for financial assistance to the local Prefectures in connection with a specific integration programme. Vulnerable groups (persons with a serious illness, elderly and disabled persons, etc.) also have access to the programme after six years³³

Access to health care and pension system, special allowance for elderly refugees				
Country	Health care	Pension system	Special allowance	Retirement program

²⁸ Liebaut,

Efionayi-Mäder

UNHCR: Reception Standards For Asylum Seekers In the European Union. Geneva, July 2000

Geek Council For Refugees: Reception Facilities for Asylum Seekers in the EU Member-States

²⁹ Liebaut, page 267

³⁰ Legoux, page 62

³¹ Age and Exil, page 72 ff

³² Liebaut , page 320

³³ Liebaut, page 174

	asylum-seekers	gfk-ref	subs protect.	asylum-seekers	gfk-ref	subsidiary protection	asylum-seekers	gfk-ref	subsidiary protection	
Austria	depending on state or federal care provisions; part of as are excluded	yes	yes	as will not meet the legal provisions	same as nationals: only after 15 years paying insurance within 25 years		no			no
Greece	yes	yes	yes	no	no, but preconditions are going to be set now	no	no	65+	only housing benefit and old-age allowance with certain strict criteria, 102€/month	no
Finland	during asylum procedure	yes	yes	no	same as nationals					
France	yes	yes			yes			65+		
Netherlands	yes	yes	yes		yes					
Luxemburg	yes	yes					specific allowance allocated in centres for as	revenue minimum guaranty (919 € for single, 1545 € for couple)		
Spain	yes	yes								no
Sweden	yes	yes						yes	yes	no
Switzerland	limited to basic care	yes	limited to basic care	after 10 years of residence if paying insurance	like nationals after 5 years residence	like as	for women 63+, men 65+	for women 63+, men 65+	for women 63+, men 65+	
Czech Republic	basic health care	yes		no	criteria difficult to fulfil - at least 5 years work in Cz					no
Bulgaria	yes	yes	yes	if needed, 68+						

We have not yet received any information on the accommodation and supply of elderly refugees. We only got a report from Bulgaria on 4 refugees accommodated.

10. Return support programme to the country of origin

Most of the elderly refugees interviewed for the French study did not wish to return to their native countries; they also did not want to return in order to die ‘at home’, as it can more often be observed among migrants who left their countries for economic reasons.³⁴ Those who want to return share a certain political militancy. Elderly refugees often do not have a close relationship to their countries of origin any more.

The questionnaires analysed did not display any special return programmes for elderly refugees:

Return programmes		
Country	return programme	comments
Austria	no	

³⁴ Legoux, page 52

Greece	no	sometimes unhcr assisted programmes
Finland	no	
France	no, programmes for certain nationalities	
Netherlands	yes	Ethiopia, Eritrea, Turkey, Suriname; for 45+, receive monthly allowance
Luxemburg	yes	material help, transport, allowance 1190 €
Spain	yes	all countries (travel, documents, installation aid)
Sweden	no, same as others	
Switzerland	no, they are the last to send back	
Czech Republic	no	
Bulgaria	no	

11. Health - Intercultural geriatric care

The following survey on the results of the questionnaires returned shows that no special facilities for elderly refugees exist or are known in the area of health care, apart from some exceptions (Greece, Spain):

Health - Intercultural geriatric care						
Country	Health project			Intercultural geriatric care	Co-operation	Good practices geriatric care
	Asylum-seeker	gfk-refugee	subs protection			
Austria	No	no	No	No	yes	no
Greece	Yes	yes	yes	No	yes	no
Finland	no (same as for nationals)			No	yes	no
France				No	no	
Netherlands				No	no	no
Luxemburg	No	no	No	yes if resident, not for asylum-seekers	yes upon request	no
Spain	yes (social attendance)	yes	yes	No	yes (CEAR)	no
Country	Health project			Intercultural geriatric care	Co-operation	Good practices geriatric care
	Asylum-seeker	gfk-refugee	subs protection			
Sweden		yes	yes		yes	no
Switzerland	No	no	No	No		no
Czech Republic	No	no	No	No	yes	no
Bulgaria	No	no	No	No	yes	no

12. Multiple strains, special treatment

Isolation is a problem often mentioned in the French study. About half of the elderly refugees have close contact with others (often their own family), but part of them do not have any relatives in France, others describe their relationship with their families as being very loose.

One out of four refugees does not have any close contact with others, whereas another 25% has widespread and close relationships. Social contact seems to be connected with work - many of the isolated refugees do not work. Of the 80 persons interviewed, 22 were dynamic, 18 less active, 33 inactive, 6 were working at least part-time.³⁵ There are some studies on loneliness in the US. In the 20 stories of the lives of south-east Asian women, isolation is described to be as if they were mute and deaf in the social world that was supposed to become their „home“.³⁶

Preliminary results of the investigation

Loneliness and a lack of communication do apply to elderly refugees more often than to others. Furthermore the prolonged absence of friends and the feeling of being excluded from social life are often mentioned, but others do think that refugees meet friends regularly. According to the organisations the term ‘sociable’ does not at all apply to elderly refugees, and ‘well integrated into the host society’ hardly applies.

The psychological or emotional problem most often mentioned is ‘worry’. ‘Depression’ and ‘lonely’ are also mentioned frequently.

The questionnaire from the Czech Republic also contains an account of the difficult situation of some refugees from the former Soviet Union.

During the last years, the Counselling Centre for Refugees EHV has been dealing with a category of asylum seekers who need special attention.

In general, they are:

- old people (over 60 years old). Sometimes they are actually younger than 60, but appear prematurely aged;
- they come from countries of the former Soviet block;
- they have psychological and mental problems, ranging from depression and neurosis to clearly psychiatric symptoms such as paranoid delusions;
- they refuse psychiatric treatment which they often fear as just another form of oppression as which it had indeed been used in the former Soviet Union;
- they have difficulties to live in the environment of a huge collective accommodation, such as a refugee camp with approximately 300 inhabitants;
- most of them are alone and lack support from family abroad;
- they claim to have suffered persecution in their country and to be unable to return.

Many of these people are not „genuine asylum seekers“. After being refused by the High Court, they still refuse to go home. Maybe for these cases a special kind of accommodation could be provided in a small centre with special health, social and mental care. This could be a good idea, but the question of how to finance such facilities is still unsolved. The ministry of the interior provides food and shelter in the refugee camps. If a refugee decided to live outside the camps, he or she would either have to find work (which is very difficult) or to apply for financial support. This financial support has to be applied for at the local authorities of the city where they live, and the whole process takes at least 2 or 3 months.

³⁵ Legoux, page 59

³⁶ Jane A. Bennett, Daniel F. Detzner: Loneliness in Cultural Context. A Look at the Life-History Narratives of Older Southeast Asian Refugee Women. (=The Narrative Study of Lives Vol 6) Thousand Oaks 1997

What could be hoped for in such cases? Under the Asylum Law, they could theoretically be granted humanitarian asylum. This, however, could perhaps lead to an increase of such cases. They could also receive leave to remain (strpění) on humanitarian grounds under the Aliens Law. However, in this case they would not be entitled to any kind of benefits.

The staff of the Counselling Centre for Refugees has not yet found an adequate solution to these cases. However, we believe it is very important to broaden this discussion and to try to find a better support for these particularly vulnerable clients.

Measurements facilitating integration

In the course of our investigations we have come across some integration programmes that also take elderly refugees into account.

Spain:

On behalf of the IMSERSO („Instituto de Migraciones y Servicios Sociales“), several NGOs run various programmes specifically aimed at facilitating the social integration of refugees in Spain. Emergency allowances for vulnerable persons: The allowances may cover the payment of rent deposits, housing rent and living expenses for refugees whose access to the labour market is deemed to be especially difficult. Eligible persons are likely to be over 55 years of age, single women with children, young people, persons suffering from serious illnesses, as well as persons authorised to remain in Spain under the provisions of Section 17(2). of the Asylum Act (leave to remain on humanitarian grounds or for reasons of public interest) while awaiting the issue of residency and work permits³⁷

Denmark:

The local municipalities must offer an introductory 3 year integration programme to all newly arrived aliens (with the exception of Nordic and EU citizens) over the age of 18 and below the age of retirement.

The integration programme must start within one month following the alien’s settlement in the municipality. Persons who do not need or are not able to participate in the integration programme may be excepted fully or partly, for a shorter or longer period. People granted disablement pension can be excepted definitely.³⁸

Finland

All refugees – including those who wish to settle by themselves – undergo a special integration programme, which includes language tuition, adult education in Finnish society and culture, vocational counselling and on-the-job training. If necessary, they may also follow specific programmes intended to improve their readiness to working life and training.

The content of the integration programme is drafted by the refugee him-/herself together with a representative of the municipality and/or the employment office. The maximum period for this integration programme is 3 years.

³⁷ Liebaut, page 272

³⁸ Liebaut, page 57

Sweden

Sweden does not have a law-based integration programme for refugees. Under the current system introduced in 1985, the National Immigration Board (SIV) concludes agreements with the municipalities regarding the reception of refugees (and certain other aliens) in their area. Each municipality receiving refugees must establish an integration programme, individually adapted to each refugee. In practice, the programme must be set up in consultation with the refugee him/herself and in partnership with the local employment office. Municipalities receive an extra grant if they receive elderly and handicapped refugees as well as unaccompanied minors.³⁹

We also asked for specific needs and measures that facilitate the integration of elderly refugees. Evaluation of the questionnaires:

Country	Useful measures to integrate	Special needs	Good practices reception + integration	Networks	Clubs, activities,	Research
Austria	friendly reception, work assistance, integrative measure	social safety, work, health and geriatric care	no	yes	yes (national clubs mainly for male, leisure activities, few intercultural activities)	no
Greece	special centres with advice, social activities, training; employment schemes, social welfare	serious health problems, financial assistance	no	yes	yes	no
Finland	support own cultural way of living	protection, shelter, special aid for integration		yes	no not known	not in deep
France	more easily access to languages courses, enable to work, improve social life		no	no	not known, may exist	no
Netherlands			no	yes	yes: religious, informal financial self-help-groups	yes
Country	Useful measures to integrate	Special needs	Good practices reception + integration	Networks	Clubs, activities,	Research
Country	Useful measures to integrate	Special needs	Good practices reception + integration	Networks	Clubs, activities,	Research
Luxemburg	obligatory language courses, earlier access to labour market for asylum-seekers, more understanding of their problems by host country, less red tape		no	no	no	no
Spain		regular income, social security benefits	no	no	no	no
Sweden			yes	yes		no
Switzerland			no	yes	yes	yes (migration)

³⁹ Liebaut, page 238

Czech Republic	special language courses, interpreters for medical appointments and hospitalisation, buddies, short asylum-procedure	preventive and curative health care, diet,	no	no	not for elderly	no
Bulgaria	involve in actions/assistance; ensure accommodation and financial assistance, facilitate communication with compatriots	medical care, communication with compatriots, accommodation in homes for elderly	no	no	yes	no

13. Prospects

The research carried out so far has shown that there is little information available on the situation of elderly refugees. One reason for this certainly is that this group has not yet received much attention and is therefore almost not 'existent' for the administration. This is why it is not much of a surprise that the attempt to receive general information on the number, sex, nationality, accommodation etc. has led to rather sparse results. In practice, however, specific support for elderly refugees is already provided in some cases or at least the need for facilities and measures to support elderly refugees has been recognised. We expect to receive more completed questionnaires from other countries. Due to shortage of time we have not yet had the opportunity to obtain additional information concerning the questionnaires. This will have to be done during the second year of the project.

Only special research projects can give a detailed account on the circumstances of elderly refugees. Some results have been referred to in this preliminary report. Further research of literature and examples of good practice will provide a clearer picture of elderly refugees and their possibilities for integration.

Appendix A: List of involved organisations

Partner organisations

Luxembourg, Caritas Luxembourg, Vesna Mirkovic/Agnes Rausch.

Phone: 00352 (0) 213 89 522.

e-mail: agnes.rausch@caritas.lu

Austria, Volkshilfe OÖ, Flüchtlingsbetreuung.

4020 Linz, Schillerstr. 34

e-mail: guenther.dachs@volkshilfe-ooe.at

Phone: 0732,603099

Fax: 0732,603099,14

Finland, Oulu Reception center (run by government)

Leila Pölkky Pieskä

E-mail, leila.polkky-pieska@mol.fi

Phone 003588,5345400

Fax: 003588,5307663

Sweden, Municipality / Botkyrka Kommun

Fagelviksvägen 1B, 14553

Norsborg, Sweden

E-Mail, hans.nylund@botkyrka.se

Tel/Fax, 0046853062727

Netherlands, Fundation for Promotion for Social Participation

Sarphatikade 13

NL-1017 WV Amsterdam

E-Mail, bmpadam@xs4all.nl

Phone: 0031 (20) 4282728

Telefax: 0031 (20) 428 29 28

Organisations that have returned questionnaires:

Austria, Volkshilfe OÖ, Flüchtlingsbetreuung.

4020 Linz, Schillerstr. 34

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Phone: 0732,603099

Fax: 0732,603099,14

Bulgaria, Bulgarian Helsinki

5 Angel Kanchevstr. 1000 Sofia

E-mail, peregrine@aster.net

Phone, 00359-2-9802049

Fax, 00359-2-9813318

Czech Republic, Czech Helsinki Committee, Counselling Centre for Refugee

Senovazua 2. Prague 1

E-mail: refug@helsincz.anet.cz

Phone: 00420-222479

Finland, Oulu Reception center (run by government)
Leila Pölkky Pieskä
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France, Forum Refugies
19 rue de la Baisse, BP 105469612 Villeurbanne
E-mail direction@forumrefugies.fr
Phone/fax, 0033(0)478037475

Great Britain: British Refugee Council
3 Bondway London SW8 ISJ UK
Phone/fax: 0044(0) 20 7820 3080
E-mail: saoirse.kerrigan@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Greece, Greece Council for Refugee.
25 Solomon 57, Athen 10682 Greece
E-mail: gcr1@gcr.gr
Phone: 0030-10-3802508
Fax: 0030-10-3802508

Luxembourg, Caritas Luxembourg, Vesna Mirkovic/Agnes Rausch.
Phone: 00352 (0) 213 89 522.
e-mail: agnes.rausch@caritas.lu
Phone 003588,5345400
Fax: 003588,5307663

Netherlands, Dutch Refugee Council
Postbus 2894, 1000 CW Amsterdam
E-mail, info@vluchtelingenwerk.nl

Spain: Spanish Commission for Refugee
Plaza De La Constitution Assistance
Nº2, BAJO, C.E.A.R Local 15
28760 Tres Cantons Madrid
E-mail, servjuridcent@cear.es
Phone, 0034-91-8046543
Fax, 34-91-8046886

Sweden, Municipality / Botkyrka Kommun
Fagelviksvägen 1B, 14553
Norsborg, Sweden
E-Mail, hans.nylund@botkyrka.se
Tel/Fax, 0046853062727

Switzerland, Swiss Refugee Council
Monbijoustr. 120
Postfach 8154, 3001 Berne
E-mail, sabine.schoch@sfh-osar.ch
Phone, 0041(0)313707575

Appendix B Literature

Further Reading on the topic of Older Refugees:

- AGE (London), *Work Programme 2001*:
Democratic structure, Promotion and awareness raising, Policy influencing, Health program, Social policy: Employment, Active aging, Prolong working life, Life long learning.
Social protection: Sustainability of pension systems, Issue of social exclusion.
Social inclusion: Fight against poverty and social exclusion.
Specific targeting the most vulnerable persons including older people, their integration and participation.
Equal opportunities: Reconciliation of work and family life, Right and equal opportunities of older women
Non discrimination: Issue of discrimination based on age, Equal treatment in employment and occupation etc.
- *Age in Exile*, Report from an International Conference on Elderly Refugees in Europe, 25th – 27th November 1988, Report on Conference Proceedings, Jaeger, Gilbert Chairman, Leeuwenhors Congress Centre, Langelaan 3, 221 of 1 XT, Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands.
- *Age in Exile*, International Conference. Introductory statement by H.E. Georg Anderson, Swedish Cabinet Minister for Migration Policy.
- Anonym : *Elderly Refugees: Are there specific health problems?*, Refugee Health Collection. British paper presented at the seminar of elderly refugees on 27 June 1979 by Red Cross, National Headquarters, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London. This study was not accessed
- Bennett, Jane A., Detzner, Daniell F.: *Loneliness in cultural context, a look at the Life-History Narratives of Older Southeast Asian Refugee Women*. USA
The Narrative Study of Lives, Volume 5, SAGE Publications, 1997
This study describes loneliness amongst South east Asian women and ways to reduce loneliness amongst refugee elders.
- British Refugee Council: *Age in Exile*, report prepared for the "Age in Exile" Conference, Leevenhorst Congress Centre, Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands, 25th – 27th November, 1988, Editor Ruth Wilson. August 1988.
This study collected information about the situation of older and elderly refugees of different ethnic minorities (Russian, Eritrea and Poland) in England. It describes their needs such as accommodation, emotional/psychological health problems and further issues such as adequate income support., care in the community, medical care, housing and voluntary organisations.
- Efiionayi-Mäder, Denise: *Sozialhilfe für Asylsuchende im europäischen Vergleich Dänemark, Deutschland, Frankreich, Grossbritannien, Niederlande, Italien, Österreich, Schweiz, Spanien*. *Forschungsberichte* 14/ Februar 2001. 1999 by Schweizerisches Forum für Migrationsstudien
- *Elderly Migrants in Sweden*: a fact-paper from the Swedish government.
Paper for Age in Exile.
This study from Sweden is about the aging in Sweden, data and facts and about the number over 60-year ethnic minorities.

- *Evaluation of Elderly Refugee Program*, Final Report. submitted to Department of Human Services State of Minnesota, August 22, 1988
The study gives a statistical survey on the numbers of refugee elders in the USA, their nationalities, occupations, level of education and current employment and leisure time.
It looks at their escape routes, conditions of flight and the overall cultural context. In particular it focuses on whether the cultural context radically differed from that of the host society. A discussion is also developed on whether these is a loss of being able to use their native Language to reach others in their new world.
- Fraser, Very Rev. Ian W. *Elderly Refugees in New Zealand. The Story of Nansen Home*, Lower Hutt,. Reprint January 1985.
This study describes the situation of the older refugees in New Zealand.
- Greek Council For Refugees: *Reception Facilities for Asylum Seekers in the EU Member-States*. (2001)
- IGC-statistics: *Statistical data by inter-Governmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugee and migration Policies in Europe, North America and Australia (IGC) in Geneva*.
- Legoux, Luc : *Les Réfugiés Âgés*. Editor : Service Social d'aid aux Emigrants. Paris 1991
The first part of study is a statistical evaluation of available data. The second part is a qualitative analysis of 80 interviews with older refugees and why they chose France as an exile country and the difficulties they are confronted with.
Estimated number of older refugees (60+) is about 23,200. 12,700 of them are women and 10,500 are men. It also includes further statistical information on sex, nationality, country of origin, distribution of elderly refugees in France, language acquisition, qualification/education and family and marital status.
- Liebaut, Fabrice and Tanja Blichfeldt Johnsen: *Legal and social conditions for asylum seekers and refugees in Western European countries*. Danish Refugee Council, 2000.
- UNHCR, *Statistics and Registration: A Progress Report*, EC/50/SC/CRP.10). 7. Feb.2000
- UNHCR: *Older Refugees: Looking Beyond the International Year of Older Persons* (EC/50/SC/CRP.8)
Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 1999, General Assembly, Official Records Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/55/12)
- UNHCR : *The Situation of Older Refugees*, (EC/48/SC/CRP.39) 14.Aug.1998
- UNHCR: *Women, Children and older refugees*, Geneva, 19 July 2001.
- Vienna Integration Fund: *Elderly Immigrants in Vienna*, 1999