

## Fast Track Action Boost – Summary Partner Cities Research Reports

*The FAB-project partner cities have composed reports on the current system for receiving newcomers and refugees on a national and local level. The reports background, development in recent years, specific challenges regarding female newcomers – and best practices. This is a short summary of these reports. Please contact the FAB-team to get the full information.*

### Population in FAB-partner cities

	Stockholm	Vienna	Berlin	Madrid	Milan	Serbia
Population	949 761	1 867 582	3 711 930	3 221 824	1 380 873	6 982 604
Foreign nationals	227 950	697 500	716 400	422 700	266 862	7 866

### Main country of origin – refugees in 2017

Stockholm	Vienna	Berlin	Madrid	Milan	Serbia
Syria	Afghanistan	Syria	Venezuela	Eritrea	Pakistan
Iraq	Iraq	Iraq	Syria	Somalia	Afghanistan
Eritrea	Syria	Afghanistan	Colombia	Afghanistan	Iraq
Afghanistan	Russia	Eritrea	Ukraine	Iraq	Cuba
Stateless	Somalia	Iran	Algeria	Syria	Syria

### Common challenges

*These are challenges that can be traced in several, or all of the partner cities:*

- Knowledge of local language is the key to entering society.
- The validation of competences is essential in order to effectively enter the labour market.
- The challenge is to make an efficient and accurate validation.
- Knowledge of the local labour market

- Housing situation. In all of the cities, there is a shortage of housing and rent is very high. It is hard for newcomers to find suitable living arrangements.
- Waiting time for permit creates a very stressful situation of uncertainty
- The physical health of the refugees.
- Attitude of employers, there is not always a will to give newcomers a chance of employment.
- Matching problem – the labour market requires competences that newcomers may not have.
- Regulations may create obstacles, like work permit etc.
- Responsibility between different governmental instances are not always clear, the systems are all very complicated.
- The influx of refugees in recent years put strain on systems; that means that some processes take extra-long time, decisions will have to wait etc.
- General attitude and prejudice in society.
- Bridging cultural differences.

## Specific challenges

*These challenges are specific for the partner cities. Some of the challenges may be shared to some extent as well:*

**Madrid** - High unemployment rate, which creates significant challenges for newcomers to enter the labour market.

**Berlin** - Has received an extremely large group of refugees.

**Milan** – Has experienced a change in movement pattern by becoming a final destination. This has put new demands on the local reception of refugees.

**Stockholm** - New laws affect the newcomers and create an unstable situation.

**Vienna** – Has experienced large budget cuts that affect the work with newcomers.

**Serbia** – Massive influx of migrants passing through land borders, few intend to apply for asylum in Serbia.

## Best practices

*The common background for best practices are:*

- Collaboration between public sector, NGOs, employers, trade unions and other stakeholders
- Shared knowledge, learn from each other in order to get a shared view and to learn from others
- Accountability, in order to deliver according to guidelines and laws, several cities take own initiatives
- Projects – creates a possibility to explore new measures

*Best practices from partner cities:*

### **Madrid**

In Spain there is a campaign initiated by the United Nations High Commission for refugees that involve employers in social projects in order to offer employment opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers. The companies offer training and work experience that may lead to employment.

### **Berlin**

Both integration facilitators and Neighbourhood moms in Berlin offer low-threshold information for newcomers. The methods are outreach work in local neighbourhoods that build relations with the residents.

### **Milan**

In Milan, the SPRAR-program offers initial support for newcomers the first six months. One measure is to offer reception in families. This include local families in receiving newcomers, and in creating social inclusion.

### **Vienna**

Start Wien offer support, orientation and training for newcomers. That include language courses, counselling and information modules in mother tongue. By the Vienna Board of Education Booklet, the newcomers get a tangible overview of their activities.

### **Stockholm**

Stockholm offer SFX - Language training for professionals. That include language studies combined with vocational training. The courses specifies in both academic and non-academic professions. By participating in a course, the students also gain a professional identity.

### **Serbia**

Serbia has adopted new laws that regulates the employment of migrants and asylum seekers in accordance with European legislation. By improving the legal framework, the possibility of issuing work permit for a much wider number of foreign groups is now possible.

## **Conclusion**

The FAB-project partner cities have many shared challenges. By discussing and meeting, valuable knowledge is shared. All of the partner cities have all developed effective practices with positive outcome, which is shared through the project.

One shared challenge is unfortunately the general attitude in society towards newcomers. The media is portraying the current situation as very problematic, or as a »crisis«, which makes an impact on the general idea of receiving newcomers. Hopefully, the FAB-project can be a platform that can spread more positive news and good examples in Europe.