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SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND LABOUR MARKET ACCESS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS IN KRONOBERG COUNTY IN SWEDEN

INTEGRACJA OSÓB UBIEGAJĄCYCH SIĘ O AZYL NA RYNKU PRACY NA PRZYKŁADZIE REGIONU KRONOBERG W SZWECJI

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Summary. The paper investigates the reception of asylum seekers and their social and labour market's integration in Kronoberg County. The paper begins with a presentation of Kronoberg County as a part of Sweden, then refer to a short history of immigration to Sweden followed by an overview of the Swedish Migration Agency (Migrationsverket) and the receptions of asylum seekers as well as the access to the labour market. The paper lists the rights of those who come to Sweden as asylum seekers based on Swedish and European Union's acts, directives and regulations concerning asylum seekers and new arrivals. In the end there is an attempt to advocate the expense of asylum policy and its impacts on Swedish economic development.

Key words: access to employment, asylum seekers, asylum seekers' costs, LMA card, AT-UND, the Swedish Migration Agency.

Słowa kluczowe: zezwolenie na pracę, osoby ubiegające się o azyl, koszty przyjmowania osób ubiegających się o azyl, karta uchodźcy, Urząd do Spraw Cudzoziemców.

INTRODUCTION

Asylum is a fundamental right and granted to people feeling persecution or serious harm in their own country. Countries in the European Union share the same fundamental value and joined approach to guarantee protection for refugees. To remove significant differences in the treatment of asylum seekers across the European Union countries in 2013 The European Parliament and the Council completed the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).¹

¹Regulation (EU) No. 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person. The European Union has been working to create CEAS since 1999. From 2013 the CEAS made up of The Asylum Procedures Directive (fairer, quicker and better quality asylum decisions), The Reception Conditions Directive (humane material reception conditions for asylum seekers across the EU and that the fundamental rights of the concerned persons are fully respected), The Qualification Directive (grounds for granting international protection and therefore will make asylum decisions more robust), The Dublin Regulation (the protection of asylum seekers during the process of establishing the State responsible for examining the application, and clarifies the rules governing the relations between states), The EURODAC Regulation (access to the EU database of the fingerprints of asylum seekers under strictly limited circumstances in order to prevent, detect or investigate the most serious crimes, such as murder, and terrorism) – from www.ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum_en, access: October 2016.

In the European Union countries, the migrant population is more than twice as likely as the population as a whole to be unemployed. The employment's rate is a proxy for successful migrant integration (Poptcheva et al. 2015).

From the economics point of view, migration could fill gaps in low and high-skilled occupations, could balance labour market, contribute more in tax and social benefits than it receives, and could also spur innovation and eventually economic growth.²

Sweden is a Scandinavian country situated in Northern Europe, by area (450,295 square kilometers) is the third largest country in the European Union³ with a total population 9,975,453 inhabitants (Statistics Sweden, www.scb.se) it is the thirteenth country in European Union and with a consequently low population density of 21 inhabitants per square kilometer is the second country in European Union.

Sweden is divided into 21 counties which are the geographic subdivisions of Sweden. In the south of Sweden is situated in Kronoberg County. The region contains 8 municipalities: Alvesta, Lessebo, Ljungby, Markaryd, Tingsryd, Uppvindinge, Växjö and Älmhult with a total population 191,369 inhabitants⁴, which constituted only 1.94% of total population in Sweden. In the region's largest town Växjö there are 88,000 residents.

ASYLUM SEEKERS

On 10th December 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Right. The foundation of the Swedish migration policy is based on respect for human rights, which receives protection if necessary.

In the 1980s Sweden witness the rise of asylum seekers. In 1985 a new system for the reception of asylum seekers was introduced, and the Swedish Immigration Board⁵ was handed responsibility.⁶ From 1980 to 1989 nearly 34,000 people from Iraq and Iran received residence permits as refugees. Between 1990 and 1999 over 100,000 people from former Yugoslavia obtained residence permits in Sweden.

In 1997 Sweden set more restrictive provisions regarding immigration of family members, which limited asylum seekers' possibilities of being reunited with their families in Sweden, not keeping "the last link of the family chain"⁷ as a result. The age limit for family reunification for children was lowered from 20 to 18 years old.

One of the problems is that more and more asylum seekers have no identification or travel documents. The lack of documents became an interference in executing the refusal-of-entry decision that was being made. In 2005 the government has introduced a provisional act regarding people that have been refused to enter the country but never left Sweden.⁸ In August 2010 the government has introduced the right to asylum seekers who are able to

²See Eurostat data base on "Asylum and manage migration".

³From 1st January 1995 joined the European Union.

⁴In 2016 17.3 percent of inhabitants are immigrants.

⁵The predecessor of the Swedish Migration Board.

⁶Before Labour Market Authorities (AMS) had responsibility for asylum seekers.

⁷This link regards a single, adult sibling, who had been left in the homeland when the other siblings and parents moved to Sweden.

⁸Over 30,000 people were assessed in accordance with the act and around 8,000 people had kept hidden in the country.

prove their identity in order to work during the established processing. In order to reduce the number of asylum seekers⁹, in November 2015 Sweden has introduced temporary border controls.

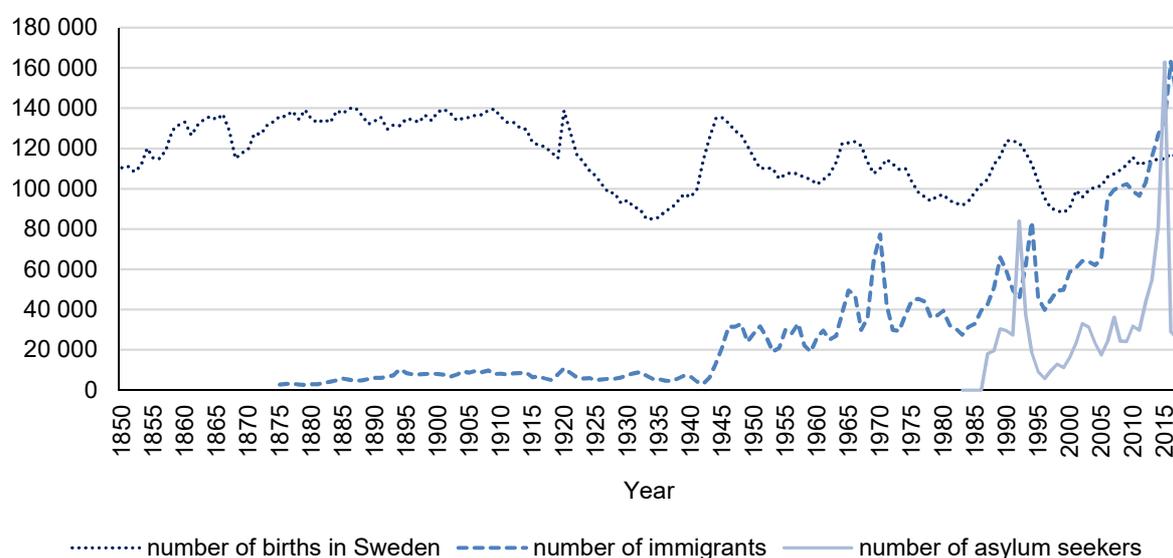


Fig. 1. New inhabitants in Sweden from 1850

Source: own calculation based on the data from www.sweden.se/migration, access: November 2016.

Figure 1 shows the number of birth in Sweden, and the number of foreign-born immigrants includes asylum seekers who claimed asylum, and the number of asylum seekers. The figure also shows an interesting fact, since the years 2013 the number of immigrants has exceeded the number of newly born inhabitants in Sweden, which also includes children of immigrants who arrived in earlier years. In addition, waves of asylum seekers can be observed, 1990s when occurred the breakdown of Yugoslavia and a little over 100,000 people fly to Sweden. The second wave is related to the European migrants' crisis in 2015.

SWEDISH MIGRATION AGENCY

The Swedish Migration Agency is the authority for issues related to residence permits, work permits, visas, and reception of asylum seekers¹⁰, returnees, citizenship, and repatriation (1§ and 1a§ of the Ordinance 2007:966). By ordinance of the Swedish Parliament and Government¹¹ the Swedish Migration Agency has the main responsibility for the Asylum Examination and the Reception of asylum seekers. The Swedish Migration Agency activities

⁹162,877 people had applied for asylum in Sweden at the end of 2015 (the Swedish Migration Agency, according to Eurostat 162,450 people had applied for asylum in Sweden in 2015). In 2015 European Union Member States granted protection to more than 333,350 asylum seekers. It was more than 30 per cent of asylum seekers since 2008 (www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat 75/2016-20 April 2016).

¹⁰An asylum-seekers is a person who makes her/his way to Sweden and who requests protection from persecution but has not yet had her/his application reviewed finally by Swedish Migration Agency and the Migration Court or Migration Court of Appeal.

¹¹It answers to the Ministries of Justice and Employment.

are divided into six geographical regions: North Sweden, Mid Sweden, Stockholm, West Sweden, East Sweden, and South Sweden. Each region consists of units that received asylum seekers.¹²

The head office of the Swedish Migration Agency with the Financial Affairs Department, Human Resources Department, International Department, Communications Department, Legal Affairs Department¹³, Development Department, and the Operation Support Department are located in Norrköping, 160 kilometers south of Stockholm.

One regional office situated in Växjö (Swedish Migration Agency's geographical region South) and unit at Alvesta and Lenhovda registered from 2007 until December 2015 19,714 asylum applications. However, not every asylum seekers received the asylum, Fig. 2 shows the number of individuals enrolled in the Swedish Migration Agency in Kronoberg County and number of those who received decision on asylum application during this nine-year long period.

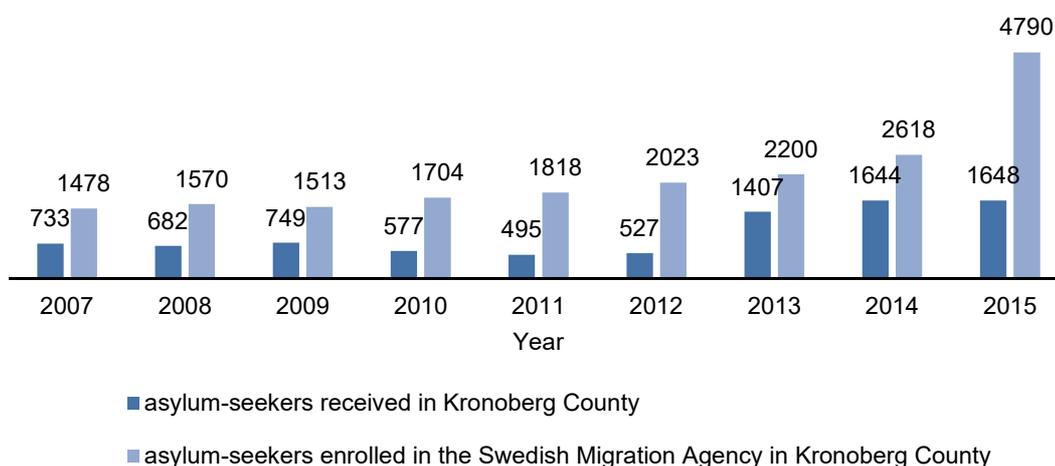


Fig. 2. Asylum-seekers in Kronoberg County

Source: own calculation based on the data from the Swedish Migration Agency, [www.migrationsverket.se statistik](http://www.migrationsverket.se/statistik), access: November 2016.

ASYLUM PROCESS

The Reception of Asylum Seekers and Others Act (1994:137) regulate rights and regulations concerning asylum seekers. However, the process of an asylum application is the same as the process for a permit application. An arriving person submits an application for asylum to the Swedish Migration Agency. The asylum seeker is asked to visit the Swedish Migration Agency within 2–3 weeks and to explain the reason for seeking protection in Sweden. After that Swedish Migration Agency checks with the Aliens Act (2005:716) which including the rules for a permit in Sweden and investigates a background of the asylum seeker. On the basis of collected information, the Swedish Migration Agency grants or rejects a permit to stay in Sweden.

¹² And examine different types of applications for residence permits.

¹³ Including Lifos, the Centre for Country of Origin Information and Analysis.

The image (Fig. 3) below shows the process of an asylum application taken from beginning to the end.

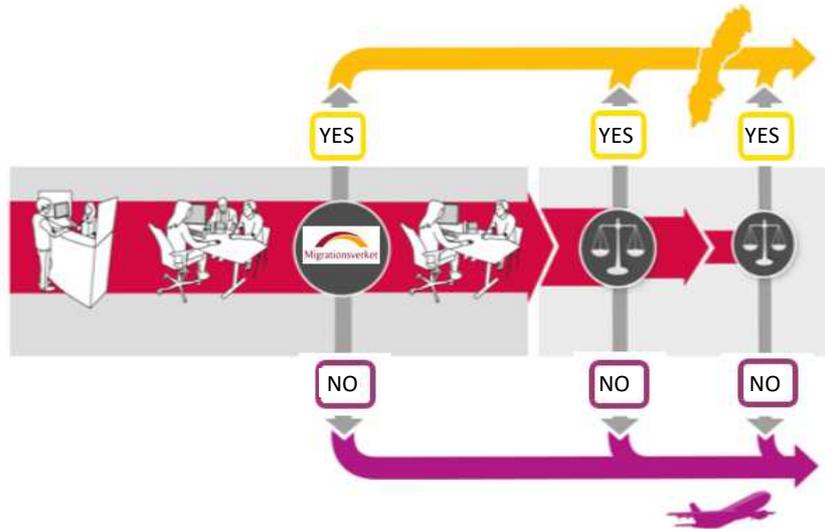


Fig. 3. The process of an asylum application

Source: The Swedish Migration Agency, www.migrationsverket.se, access: October 2015.

However, if the Swedish Migration Agency has refused a permit to stay in Sweden, an asylum seeker has the right to appeal the decision within three weeks. The appeal must be submitted by the applicant in the same Migration Agency in order to reassess the decision. If the Migration Agency doesn't find a reason to change the decision, the appeal will be then referred to and examined by the Migration Court. If the decision has not been changed the applicant has the right to appeal to the Migration Court of Appeal within three weeks of having received the decision. Migration Court of Appeal is the highest court, therefore its decision is final and the appeal is no longer possible.¹⁴

WAITING TIME

The Swedish Migration Agency is responsible for an asylum seeker during the waiting period (1 § of the Act on Reception of Asylum Seekers and Others 1994:137). Applicants may arrange their own living (EBO – independent accommodation) or live in accommodation arranged by the Swedish Migration Agency (ABO – the Migration Agency's accommodation center). Table 1 shows that the total expenses for asylum accommodation increase almost 10 times from 2010 to 2015. In 2012 about 60 percent of the asylum seekers in Sweden chose to live in ABO. In 2016 around 51 percent of them chose the Migration Agency's accommodation respectively to nearly 64 percent of the asylum seekers in Kronoberg County (Statistik, Anvisning till kommuner och bosättning Kommunmottagna enligt ersättningsförordningen, www.migrationsverket.se).

¹⁴According to Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals, a person who does not leave the country within the provided time frame will be given a re-entry ban for minimum one year and up to five years.

If applicants have not resources or income the Swedish Migration Agency pays for their accommodation. However, asylum seekers have obligated to pay if they have an income or own means, and food has been served at accommodation center.

Table 1. Total expenses for asylum accommodation (k SEK)

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	313 315	389 618	641 548	1 031 946	2 158 130	3 809 097

1 SEK = 0,1094 EUR December 1st, 2010, 1 SEK = 0,1155 EUR December 1st, 2012, 1 SEK = 0,1078 EUR December 1st, 2014, 1 SEK = 0,1038 EUR, October 1st, 2016.

Source: Riksbank is Sweden's central bank, www.riksbank.se statistik/valutakurser, The Swedish Migration Agency, www.migrationsverket.se, access: October 2016.

The Swedish Migration Agency is responsible for asylum seekers. For those of them with no resources, the Migration Agency offers financial support. They are being given daily expenses compensation, accommodation compensation, and special allowance. Asylum seekers who are granted daily expenses compensation get a bank card from ICA Bank which is linked to the deposited account. The daily expenses compensation is conditioned by accommodation (ABO, EBO) and foods including. The daily allowance is also covered expenses for clothing, footwear, and other consumables, personal care, dental care, health care, and pharmaceuticals and leisure activities (5§ of the Regulation 1994:361). When the accommodation includes food the daily compensation is 24 SEK per day for a single adult. Adults who share household expenses receive 19 SEK per day, children up to 17 years old receive 12 SEK per day.

The amounts at not include foods accommodation are respectively: 71 SEK per day, 61 SEK per day and 37 SEK per day for children up 3 years old, 43 SEK per day for children from 4 to 10 years old and 50 SEK per day for children from 11 up to and including 17 years of age. Families with more than two children have the right to obtain 100 percent daily compensation for two eldest children and 50 percent of compensation for the other (6§ of the Regulation 1994:361).

In the special case, the Swedish Migration Agency can make separate, one-off payments. The special allowance commits to very strong needs which cannot be covered by the daily compensation (for example winter clothes, glasses, dietary supplements, disability equipment, and baby equipment) (7§ of the Regulation 1994:361). Asylum seekers apply for the special allowance separately from the daily compensation.

If the asylum seeker is offered a job¹⁵ at places where the Swedish Migration Agency cannot offer housing, she or he can apply for a *residential compensation* which is SEK 850 per month for families or SEK 350 per month for a one-person household (4§ 3 of the Regulation 1994:361).

Asylum seekers' children have the same right as other children in Sweden to go to a pre-school, primary/secondary school and high school (2§ of the Regulation 2001:976). However, they are not obligated to attend the school, although the municipal authority is responsible for ensuring that those who wish to attend school are offered a place.¹⁶

¹⁵Contract must be at least 3 months according to 4 § of the Regulation 1994:361.

¹⁶Municipal authorities are responsible for the teaching although the Swedish Migration Agency pays the cost. The remuneration may be paid for children staying in a reception center or in a municipality; with 62,000 SEK per year for a child in kindergarten, 50,700 SEK for a child in preschool, 99,500 SEK for a student in elementary school and 113,100 SEK per year for a student in secondary school.

In Sweden, as well as in other European Union countries, all asylum seekers receive a document proving their asylum seekers' occupation. In Sweden this Asylum Seekers Card called LMA card. It is a plastic personal card with photo. It is not an identity card (ID card). First LMA card is valid for four months. When valid of LMA card expires asylum-seekers automatically get new six months valid LMA card.

The Act on Health Care for Asylum Seekers and Other (2008:344) contains provisions on obligations to offer health and dental care for asylum seekers in accordance with agreements between Local Authorities and Regions and the State the country councils. All asylum seekers are offered a free *health assessment*.¹⁷ Although asylum seekers under 18 years old have the right to the health care under the same terms as children residing in Sweden, adult asylum seekers are offered only deferred treatment (maternity care, abortion care and contraception counseling) (5§ of the Act 2008:344).

Fees for health care are 50 SEK for a doctor appointment at the health care center and doctor appointment after referral, and 25 SEK for visit after referral to health care center other than a doctor. Protection care in case of contagious sickness is free of charge. Moreover, there are free of charge prevention for children, prenatal care, pregnancy care, and childbirth (paragraphs 2 to 4 of the Regulation 1994:362). Fees for acute visits to the hospital vary over the country. However, acute dental care at the national dental service cost asylum seekers patient 50 SEK.¹⁸ Medicine with prescription does not cost more than 50 SEK for asylum seekers above the age of 18, and it is free of charge for children up till 18 years old (6§, 6a § of the Regulation 1994:362). If during a six months period the cost of health care exceeded 400 SEK, asylum-seekers can apply for a special grant from the Swedish Migration Agency to cover any costs 400 SEK (7§ of the Regulation 1994:362).

SWEDISH LANGUAGES COURSE

In 2015 Swedish Government has introduced an establishment package which shortens the time for asylum-seeker to get a work permit. This has been called "Swedish from a first day" (Svenska från dag ett) and "Swedish every day" (Vardagssvenska) related to asylum seekers living at ABO. The study program involves groups' meeting for jointly learning Swedish language and culture. The courses are free of charge. According to the Regulation on State Subsidies for Public Education Efforts of Asylum Seekers and Certain Newly Arrived Immigrants (2015:521), the Swedish National Council of Adult Education (Folkbildningsrådet) received assignments for establishment bet. The Swedish National Council of Adult Education (Folkbildningsradet): The Council allocates state grants to Folk High Schools and Study Associations and also tags along and evaluates the performance within popular education organizations.

In Kronoberg County asylum seekers have been offered Swedish course and language cafés at many different adult education associations in Medborgarskolan, Folk High School (Folkuniversitet), Frivilligtakademin, the Swedish Red Cross, Arbetarnas Bildningsförbund Södra Småland and others.

¹⁷The health assessment does not affect the application of protection.

¹⁸Dentists' fee is for acute visit to a private dentist without approval from the national dental service. If asylum-seekers due to the urgent need has engaged to another dentist Swedish Migration Agency will pay for the part of the fee that exceeds SEK 50 (8§ and 9§ of the Regulation 1994: 362).

ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT¹⁹

The linchpin of the Swedish policy is targeting most asylum seeker and new arrivals into work or training after their time in the establishment within two years. To achieve this goal knowledge, skills and qualifications of asylum seekers must be taken advantage of in a better way to address the Swedish labour market. The ability to switch from asylum seekers to a labour migrant was introduced as a part of Swedish government policy to develop the labour migration of third-country nations and respond to labour market needs (AIDA County Report, 2015, 43–44). From 2017, in order to expedite the establishment of the Swedish labour market for asylum seekers during the asylum process, the above tasks are being implemented permanently into the Public Employment Service activities. For shortening the time to work the Public Employment Service shall offer a mapping of educational background and experience in jobs during the asylum period the Public Employment Service mapping was resolved in connection with the budget for 2016. In order to finance, these activities over the coming year the appropriation will increase to SEK 90 million in 2017 and to 55 million SEK from the year 2018.

Figure 4 based on data from the Public Employment Service and the Statistic Sweden, shows the foreign-born unemployed rate in Kronoberg County divided on the reasons for immigration: refugees and their relatives and other foreign-born immigrants. In every municipalities of Kronoberg Country inhabitants with refugee's background are more likely to be unemployed than other foreign-born immigrants within the time frame, and the result is not unique for Kronoberg County.

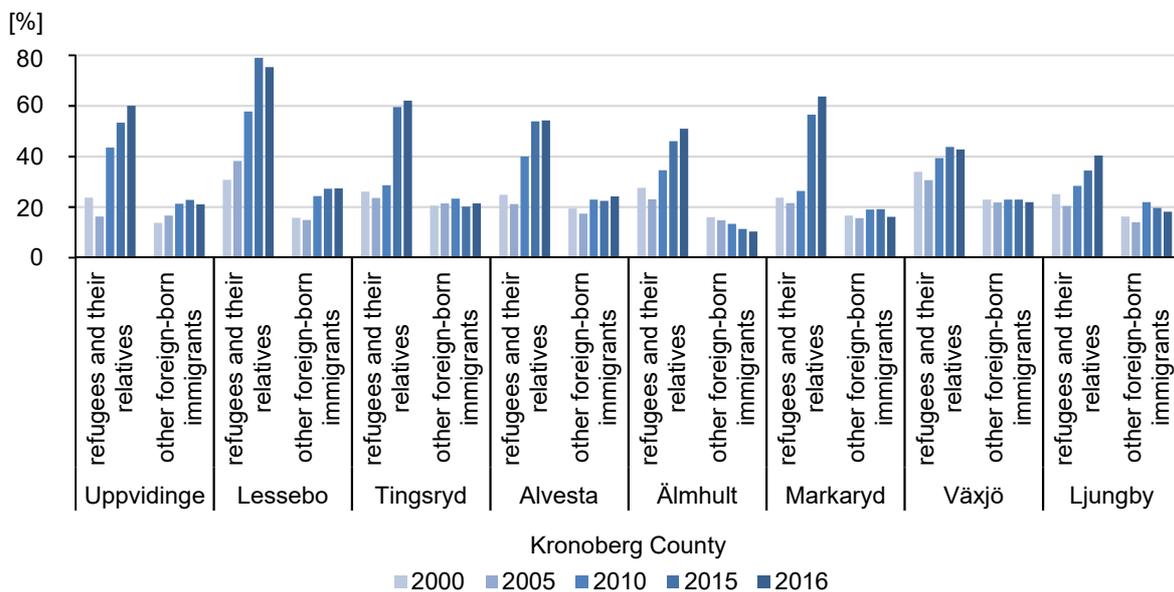


Fig. 4. The unemployed rate for migrants in Kronoberg County in 2000, 2005, 2015 and 2016
Source: own calculation based on the data from Statistic Sweden, www.scb.se, and the Public Employment Service, www.arbetsformedlingen.se.

¹⁹According to art. 33 of the Reception Conditions Directive an access to employment for an asylum seeker must be granted within a maximum period of 9 months.

In the budget for 2017 the government has proposed to encourage asylum seekers' and new arrivals' knowledge of the Swedish language and knowledge of Swedish society; civil society 135 million SEK in 2017, 110 million SEK in 2018, 100 million SEK in 2019 and 30 million SEK in 2020, for language skills through adult education 135 million SEK in 2017, 120 million SEK in 2018, 106 million SEK in 2019 and 41 million SEK in 2020.

From 2017 the County Administrative Boards have responsibility for coordinating the efforts of asylum seekers. Efforts are supposed to carry out by several different actors and shall be aimed to strengthen Swedish language skills and to promote the establishment of the labour market (www.regeringen.se budget proposition, access: September 2016).

In accordance with the Reception Conditions Directive 2013/33/EU adopted in 2013, asylum seekers can access the labour market if after a period of nine months there is still no first-instance decision by the authority on their asylum application (art. 15(1) of the Reception Conditions Directive 2013/33/EU). Asylum seekers shall be granted access to the labour market immediately after they have been granted protection status. Although Sweden admitted immediate employments accessing for asylum seekers, they have to fulfill certain requirements. Asylum seekers must be able to establish their identity through original documents or authorized copies.²⁰ In order to have the right to work for the duration of the application process, they need to have a certificate (*AT-UND – undantag från arbetstillstånd – exception from work permit*) stating that the asylum seeker is exempted from the requirement to have a work permit (art. 5, 4§ of the Aliens Ordinance 2006:97). Asylum seekers who have fulfilled abovementioned conditions receive LMA card stating an AT-UND. AT-UND's status lasts until a final decision on the asylum application is made or until the applicant cooperates in preparation to leave Sweden voluntarily. In case the asylum-seeker rejects cooperation the right to work is ceased. However, only 20–30 percent of asylum seekers inscribed in the Swedish asylum system have the certificate required the work ability. In areas that require certified skills asylum seekers can generally not work, so their choice is limited in practice to the unskilled sector. Languages requirements and the general unemployment rate of around 7.5 percent are the biggest impediments to getting a job (AIDA Country Report 2015, 44). From June 2016 Swedish banks accept bank accounts for asylum seekers based on LMA card stating an AT-UND ([www.regeringen.se artiklar/2016/06/asylsokande-ska-fa-tillgang-till-bankkonto](http://www.regeringen.se/artiklar/2016/06/asylsokande-ska-fa-tillgang-till-bankkonto), access: June 2016).

COSTS OF ASYLUM SEEKERS

The Swedish Agency for Public Management²¹ assessed the costs incurred by municipalities and county councils associated with the increased number of asylum seekers and new arrivals, and analyzed the extent to which these costs are accounted for in the overall cost of the system of local government financial equalization (The Swedish Agency for Public Management Drn 2015/43-5, 12).

²⁰If asylum-seekers are not established their identity at the time of application for asylum it will be made a further decision on their right to work.

²¹The Swedish Agency for Public Management is the Government's organization for analyses and evaluations of state and state-funded activities (www.statskontoret.se).

Since March 2016 the reception of new arrivals has become obligatory for municipalities. Municipalities and county councils provide this public service task to asylum seekers and help them integrate with the local community. These reception services are financed by the state. Municipalities and county councils are reimbursed by the state for the costs related to asylum seekers through government compensation schemes (The Swedish Agency for Public Management Drn 2015/43-5, 15–16). A municipality has the right to an annual recompense of 500,000 SEK. The compensation shall be payable before the end of January in the calendar year in respect of which the agreement applies. For agreements relating to parts of a calendar year, compensation shall be commenced for a month equal to one-twelfth of the annual amount (1b§ of the Regulation 2002:1118).

A municipality or county council are entitled to reimbursement for education provided to asylum seekers' children. The compensation is paid for children staying in a reception centre or in a municipality; the amounts are: 62,000 SEK per year for a child in a kindergarten, 50,700 SEK for a child in a preschool, 99,500 SEK for a student in an elementary school and 113,100 SEK per year for a student in a secondary school (5§ of the Regulation 2002:1118).

A municipality has the right to claim reimbursement for costs of providing care to unaccompanied minors. The compensation is 1,900 SEK per child per day if the child is being taken care of in a care home, and 1,000 SEK per child per day if the child is being taken care of in a supported housing. A municipality which placed an unaccompanied child in a foster home is entitled to reimbursement of 39,000 per placement and 31,000 SEK when a minor is placed in a care home or supported housing (7§ and 7a§ of the Regulation 2002:1118).

The costs of health care for asylum seekers were presented in an annual survey. The survey showed that in 2015 health care for asylum seekers cost 2 billion SEK. Expenses have increased roughly at the same rate as the increase in the average number of asylum seekers over the years. The County Council receives a fixed compensation for the costs of health care and dental care provided to asylum seekers which which in 2016 ranged from 3,550 SEK to 5,340 SEK per person depending on the person's age (The Swedish Agency for Public Management Drn 2015/43-5, 24–25).

The largest expense incurred by municipalities is related to providing care to unaccompanied children. The Swedish Migration Agency paid out 6.5 billion SEK to municipalities in 2015 (almost 80 percent of compensation applies to unaccompanied children) (The Swedish Agency for Public Management Drn 2015/43-5, 23).

Aldén and Hammarstedt (2016) performed an analysis of refugee immigration and public sector finance and assessed the public sector's cost related to refugee immigration in years from 2005 to 2007 and 2006 to 2012. Within that period the average age of refugees was 35 with about 67 percent of them being male. Nearly 30 percent of the refugees had higher education upon arrival in Sweden. The average public sector cost was 192,000 SEK per capita for refugees who immigrated in 2005²² in the first year of immigration. After five years immigrants with refugee background cost public's sector approximately 129,000 SEK per

²²Respectively 181,000 SEK per capita for refugees who immigrated in 2006, 188,000 SEK in 2007. According to Aldén and Hammarstedt's results, the public sector cost is between 95,000 SEK to 190,000 SEK per refugee during first year and between 37,000 SEK to 125,000 SEK after seven years in the country.

capita, after seven years 95,000 SEK, and 70,000 SEK per capita for refugees residing in Sweden since 2007. After seven years upon arrival to Sweden, the highly educated refugees cost approximately 60,000 SEK per refugee, and around 107,000 SEK per refugee with nine years or a less of formal education; during the first year of stay in Sweden the public cost was about the same for highly educated and less-educated refugees.

As Aldén and Hammarstedt's (2016) findings suggest, about 9.8 percent of the refugees who arrived in Sweden in 2005 found employment in 2006, respectively 14 percent of those who immigrated in 2006 and 9 percent among those who arrived in 2007. The employment rate increases with time spent in Sweden. Five years upon arrival about 39 percent of the refugees who arrived in 2005 were employed, more than 30 percent of those who immigrated in 2006 and 34 percent among those who came in 2007.

Among highly educated refugees who arrived in 2005 about 49 percent were employed after staying in Sweden for five years, and after seven years nearly 60 percent found employment. As it comes to refugees with nine-year compulsory schooling or shorter formal education, 37 percent landed jobs after five years and 48 percent after seven years.

CONCLUSIONS

According to Delmi rapport by Malmberg et al. (2016), the increase in immigration taking place during the 2000s has had a significant impact on Sweden's demography. The Swedish Migration Agency's statistic and Statistics Sweden show that the total number of immigrants between 2000 and 2015 was 750,000 people with nearly 49 percent being asylum seekers.²³ In Kronoberg County during the period 2007–2016 more than 23,000 people sought asylum, among which 40 percent were granted asylum status.

In August 2016, more than 10,000 asylum seekers voluntarily left Sweden. Almost 80,000 people who sought asylum in Sweden in 2015 were expelled and forced to leave the country against their will. The Swedish Migration Agency estimates that 46,000 migrants who were denied asylum will "disappear" until 2019 with majority of them turning into "undocumented persons" (Svenska Dagbladet, www.svd.se/migrationsverket-46000-kan-avvikarna-maste-aren).²⁴

Many comparative studies and time-series data suggest that refugee migration has a positive or at least neutral long-term effect on a host community's economy. According to Delmi report, Swedish economic growth will increase in the coming years up to one percentage point above expectations if the increase in immigration remains at a much lower level than forecasted in 2000 (Malmberg et al. 2016). Delmi report's findings prove that fifteen years of high immigration rate have led to an increased working age population thus providing the necessary conditions for significantly faster economic growth than an alternative scenario with lower net immigration. Higher economic growth may lead to increasing consumption and

²³According to data from the Swedish Migration Agency in 2000s around 380,000 people sought asylum or protection as a dependent to the refugees in Sweden.

²⁴According to www.migrationsinfo.se approximate calculations from 2010 are staying between 10,000 to 35,000 undocumented people in Sweden and of these, an estimated 2,000–3,000 are children. In European Union, it is estimated that there are about 2.8 to 8 million undocumented.

higher tax revenues.²⁵ During the 2020s the tax revenues may be significantly higher than they would have been without increased immigration in recent years. Overall, the figures suggest a relatively bright future for Sweden in the coming years.

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²⁵In Sweden, annual tax revenues constitute around 50 percent of GDP.

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Streszczenie. Artykuł ma na celu przybliżenie procedury przyjmowania osób ubiegających się o azyl w Szwecji oraz ukazanie ich integracji na rynku pracy na przykładzie regionu Kronoberg. W artykule zaprezentowano region Kronoberg jako integralną część Szwecji, następnie przedstawiono krótką historię Urzędu do Spraw Cudzoziemców (Migrationsverket) oraz ewolucję przepisów dotyczących przyjmowania i działań na rzecz osób ubiegających się o azyl, w rezultacie zezwalających na podjęcie zatrudnienia w czasie oczekiwania na decyzję o przyznaniu azylu na terenie Szwecji. Poza procesem azylowym i powiązаныmi z nim uwarunkowaniami prawnymi przedstawiono także działania państwa na rzecz osób oczekujących na decyzję o przyznaniu azylu oraz koszty ich przyjmowania.

