



Seminar in Thessaloniki 22-23 May 2013

Reception centres for asylum seekers in Norway Cooperation between state, local authorities and operators: roles and responsibilities

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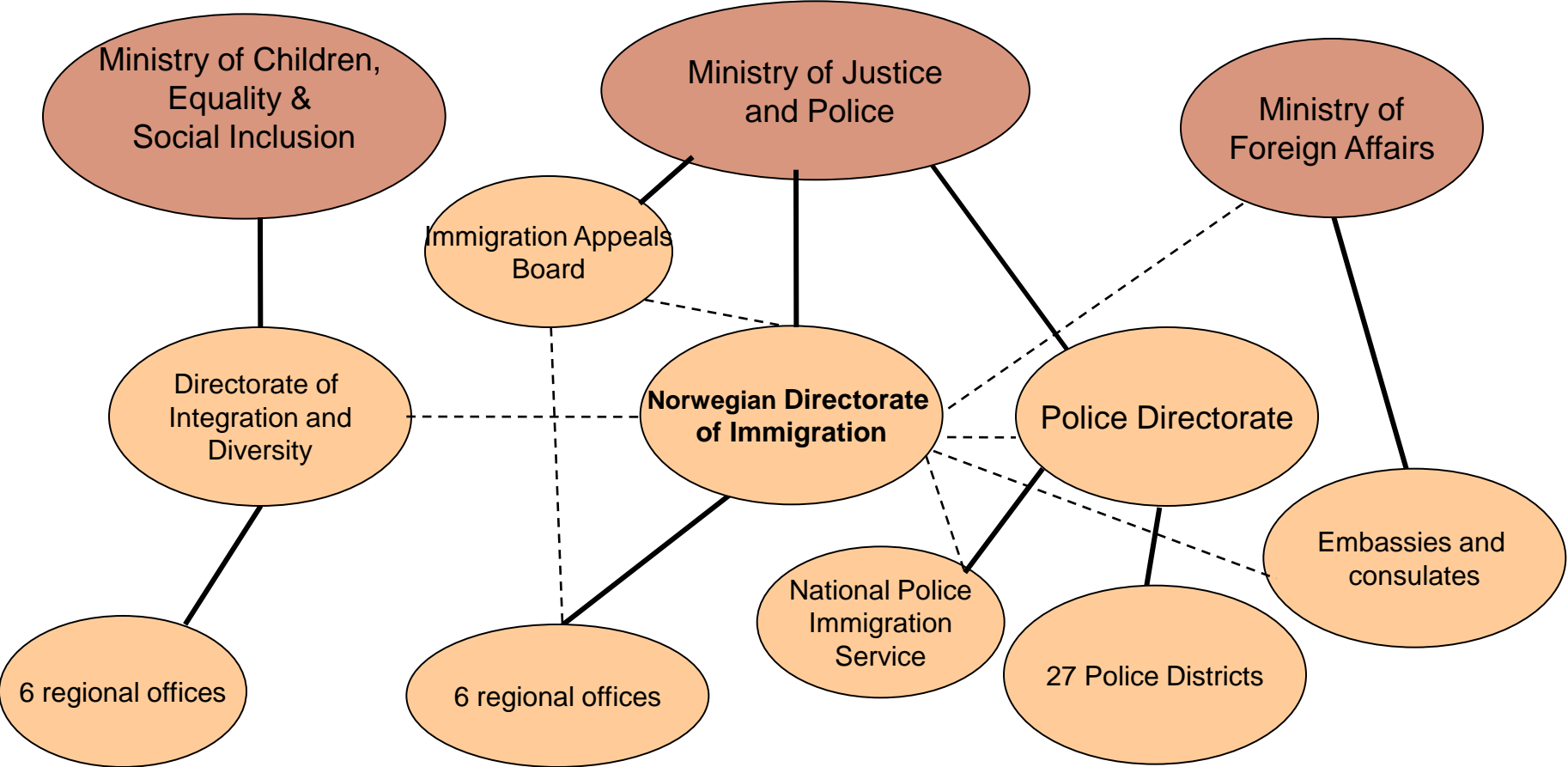


Reception Centres for asylum seekers in Norway and Greece. Benefits and implications for Local Communities

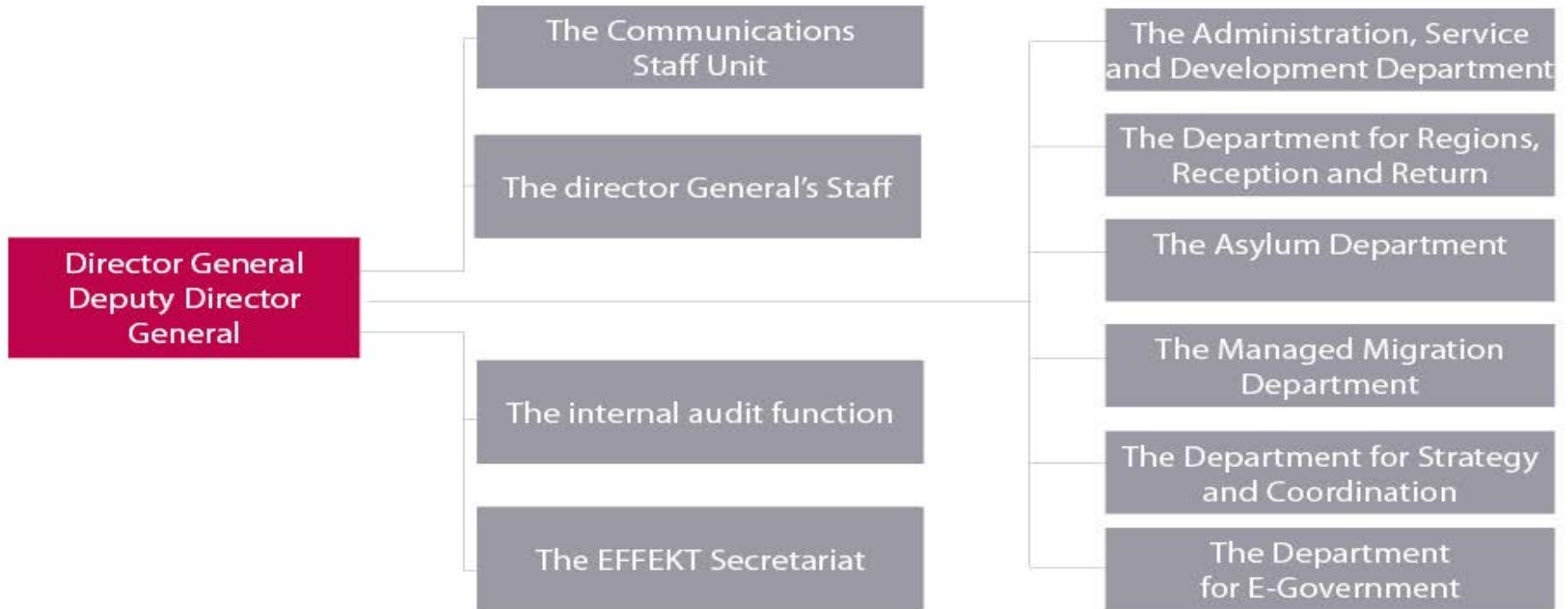
The main seminar objective

- exchange experiences
- Share best practices: central and local authorities and NGOs/Operators for reception centres
- Facilitate initiatives for building a network

The Norwegian immigration authorities



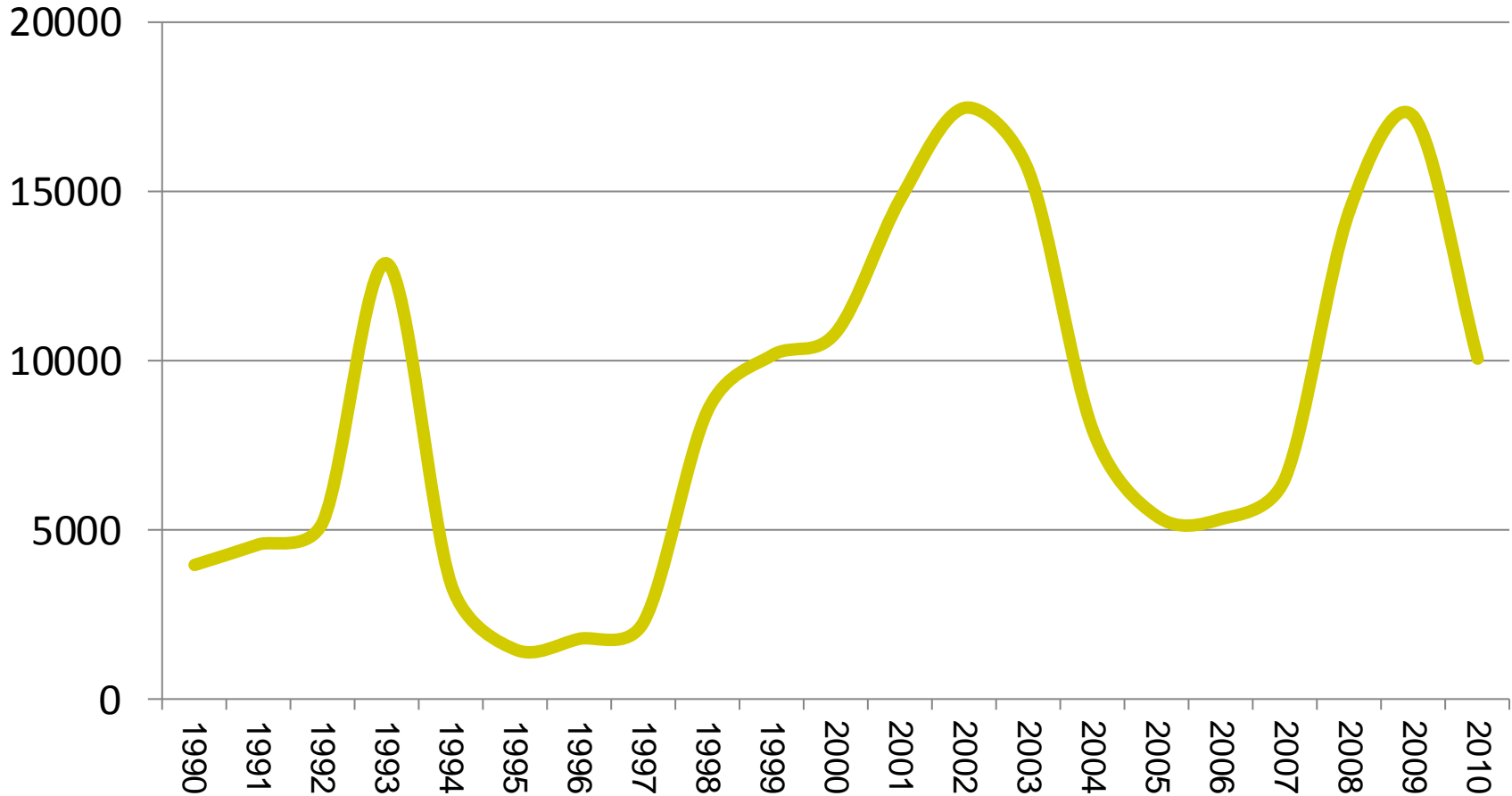
Norwegian Directorate of Immigration



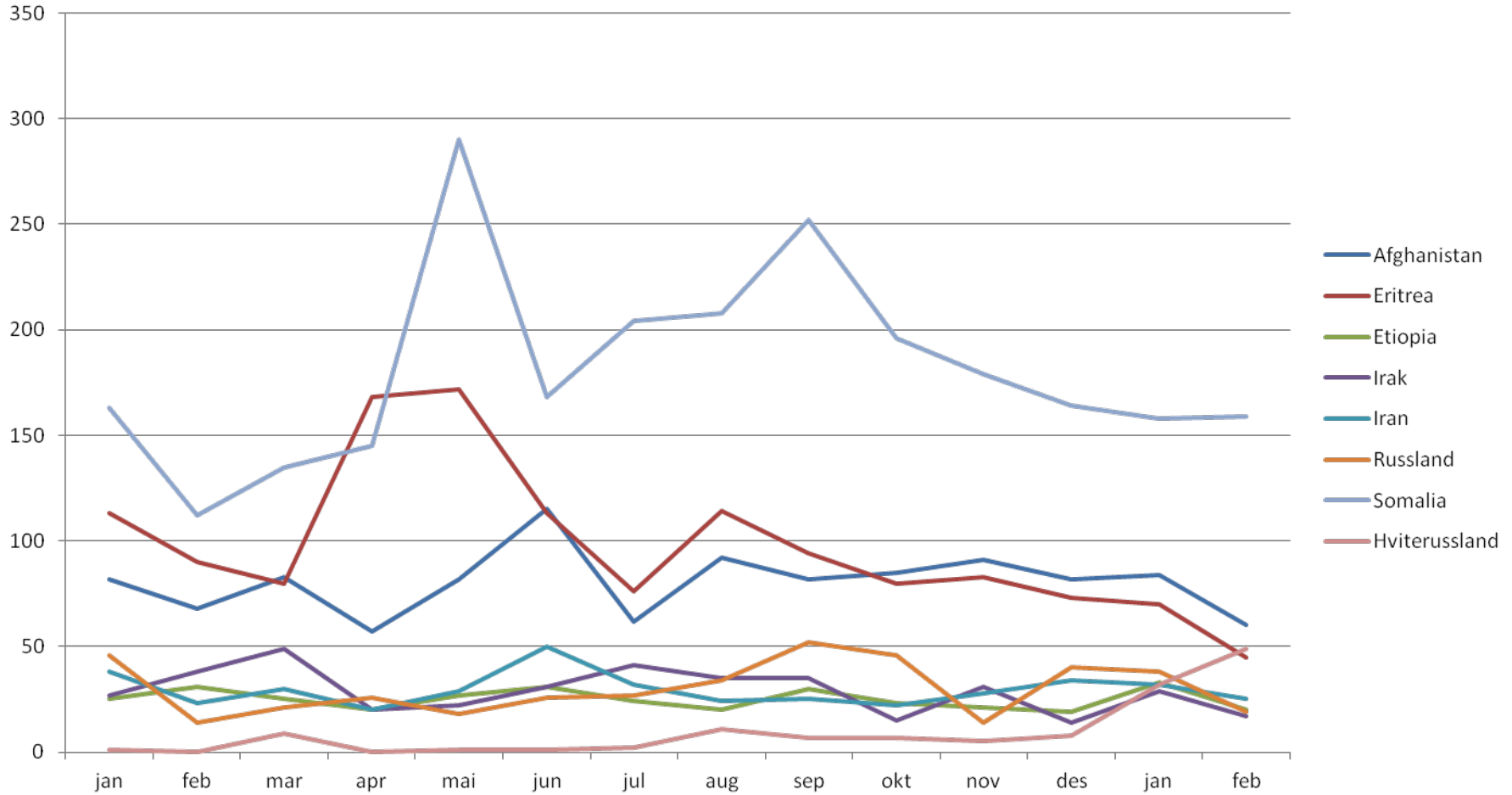


- Established in 1988 – has over 1000 employees
- Implement Norway's immigration policy
- Main targets:
 - Process and decide in asylum and other permit cases
 - Establish, develop and administrate the reception centers. Develop return programs and administrate the voluntary return program run by IOM
 - Competent authority in the migration field

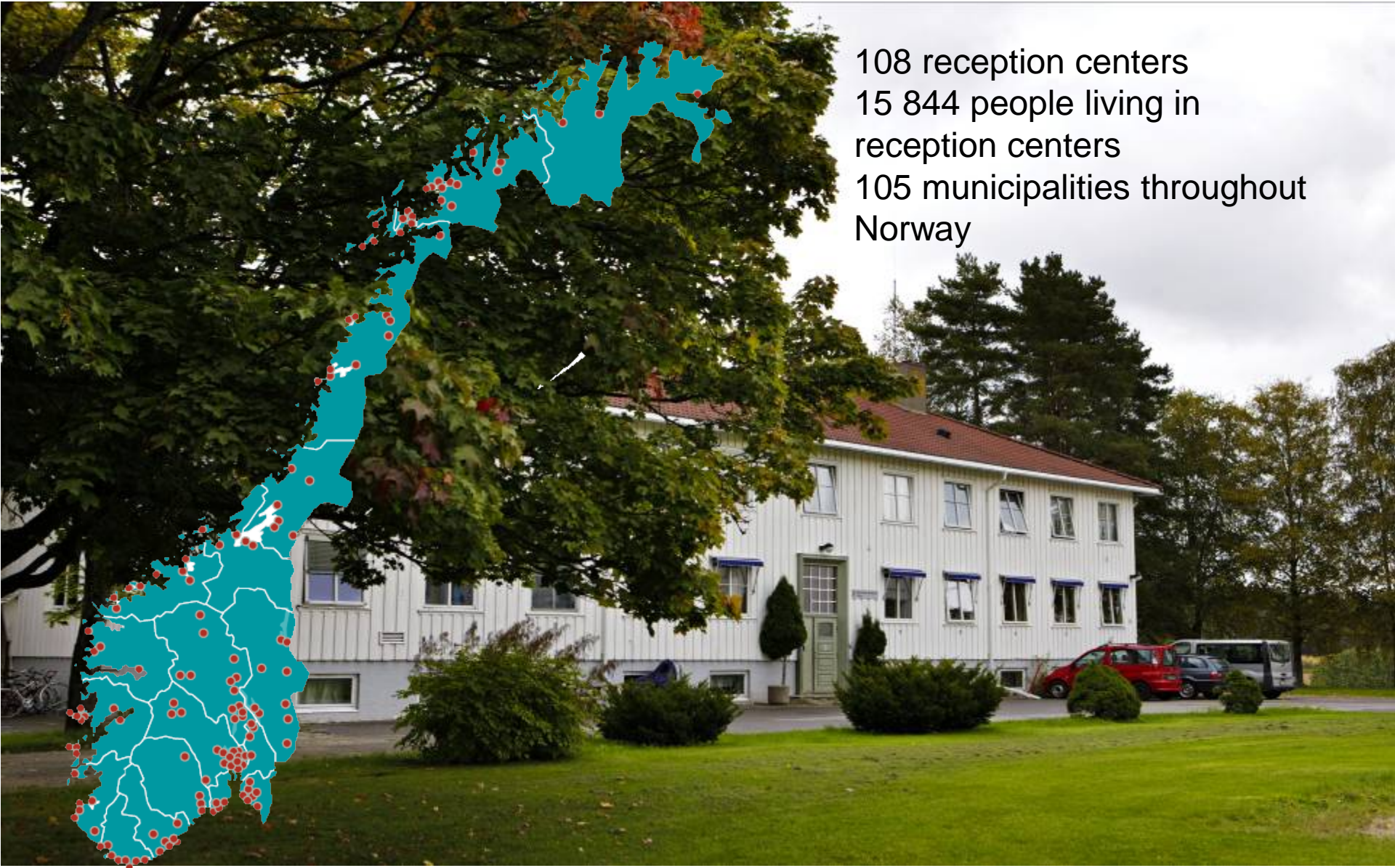
Asylum – variations in numbers



Applications for asylum by country of origin the last 14 months



Reception centres, May 2013



108 reception centers
15 844 people living in
reception centers
105 municipalities throughout
Norway



- Asylum seekers have the statutory right to accommodation while their applications are being processed.
- UDI has the responsibility to provide accommodation in a reception centre.
- The accommodation should be simple but adequate

The Norwegian reception system

- Management of the reception centres is contracted out through public tenders
- Total evaluation of the tenders – price, location, services to the asylum seekers and pronouncement from the municipality are key elements in the evaluation.
- Service providers could be municipalities, private enterprises and non-governmental organizations(NGOs)
- UDI controls the services through annual auditing and unannounced visits.



The local authorities have the responsibility to provide:

- Health care
- Child care
- Education for minors
- Norwegian for the adults

The "host municipality compensation" covers average costs



It is voluntary to stay at reception centres. Those who choose a private accommodation will not receive economic benefits from the Norwegian authorities.

The residents are free to stay or leave the reception centres as they want – the Directorate of Immigration (UDI) does not have the authority to restrict the freedom of movement of asylum seekers



Different types of reception centres:

- Transit - new arrivals
- Ordinary
- Special - unaccompanied minors: generally provide higher standard, more activities; staff is present 7/24
- Reinforced units - residents with special physical or psychological needs

Arrival/transit centre

- Initial processing
 - Registration
 - Asylum interview incl language analysis
 - Medical examination
 - Information
 - Identify residents with
 - Dublin cases
 - Clearly unfounded applications
 - Special needs



- Housing shall be of a simple but adequate standard
- As normal a place to live as possible for persons in an abnormal life situation
- Offer single women accommodation in units shielded from men; procedures for dealing with violence/abuse of women
- Provide for the basic needs (food, shelter, clothing)



The information programme:

Informs about the asylum process, rights and obligations, and includes:

- arrival information,
- information preparing for settlement for those granted a permit and
- return information for those whose application has been rejected

- Presents the Norwegian society and its fundamental values

Return Programme

Part of a comprehensive strategy to:

- increase the number of voluntary / voluntary assisted returns
- enhance the capacity of the police to arrange forced returns

Training and qualifying activities for adults and children

- Information and individual counseling
- Special training programs for parents
- Leisure activities

UDI



Utlendingsdirektoratet
Norwegian Directorate
of Immigration

www.udi.no