

# Accessibility of Refugees and Asylum Seekers to the Housing Market: The Roles of Local Actors

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“Refugees Integration in Sweden”

Virtual peer-learning workshop EPSON

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# Relocation of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in France



**Governmental “hyperactivity” towards more restrictive immigration and asylum laws**

2019: three-month waiting period (délai de carence) before asylum seekers can access basic healthcare coverage.



**Increasing # of exiles (including children) sent to detention centers for longer periods**



**Non-compliance to the EU relocation plan**

Aim to relocate 30,000 migrants between 2015- 17  
By April 2017 : only 16,550 relocated



**Drastic application of the Dublin procedures**

45, 000 Dublin referrals in 2018 vs. 5,000 in 2014  
Low % of people being sent back to their ‘responsible’ country



**+ 30% of obligations to leave French territory (OQTF) between 2015 and 2018**

Execution rate dropped from 17% to 12% during the same time

# Local Aspects of Forced Migration



## Refugees and asylum seekers converge towards cities

More resources

Language, ethnic community, solidarity, sociability

Seek for protection and visibility



## Managing the “magnet effect”

(Deliberate) lack of public resources dedicated to the reception of refugees and asylum seekers, notably housing options in the context of restrictive EU and FR border policies

Fear of the rise of the far-right parties



## Consequences

Camps

Occupation

Dispersion

Relocation

“New” roles for cities

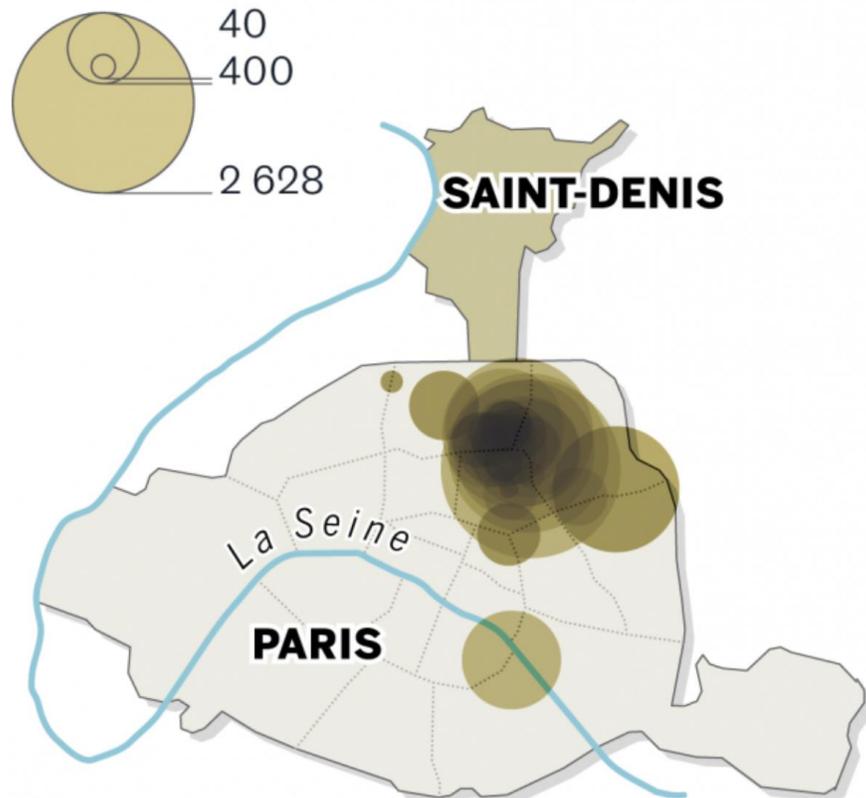
# The “Magnet Hypothesis” and the Creation of Urban Squats/Slums

While approximately one in two asylum seekers is not housed in France, the government will not create additional places in the national reception system in 2020.



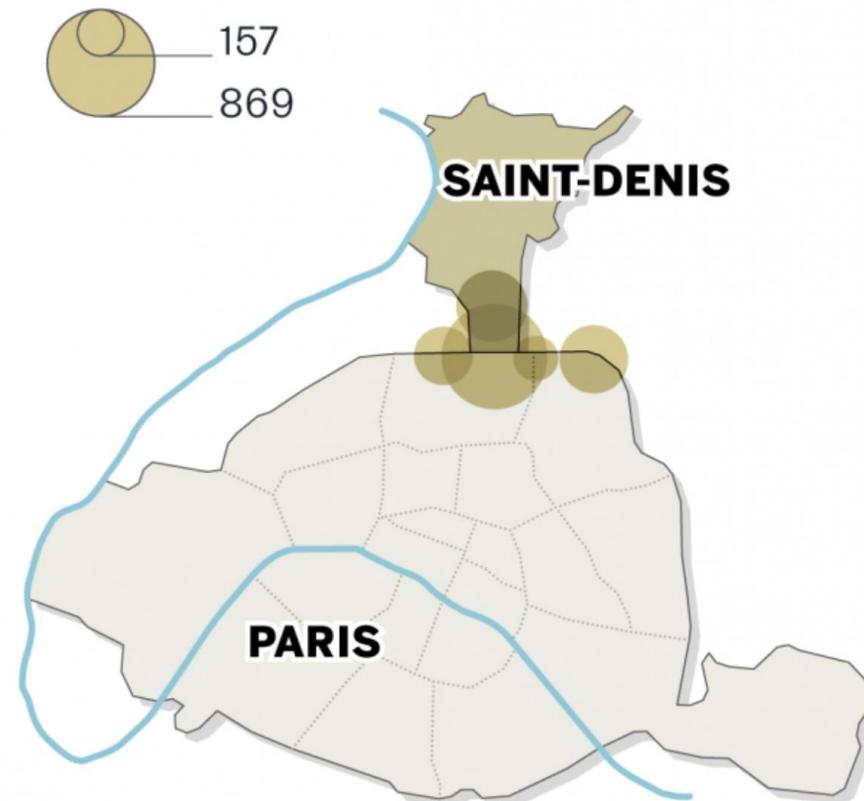
### Jun 2015 - novembre 2016

Nombre de migrants évacués lors des opérations successives



### Automne-hiver 2018-2019

Nombre de migrants par campement, au 11 janvier





...eurs logent de l'ex-collèg



...occupé depuis le samedi 31 août



découverte d'un squat de

# “Dispersion” and Regionalisation Policies

- **Centre d’Accueil et Orientations** (CAO) after the evacuation of to “Jungle de Calais” → Local state (prefectures) requested mid-sized and small cities to house asylum seekers; creation of more housing options outside of big cities
- **Dispersal strategy** (Agier et al. 2019)
  - Dispersed across different sites : asylum seekers have a more restricted access to media and voluntary associations
  - State can better control the situation, deal with applications individually, avoid mass effect that offered leverage to collective action
  - Cost saving strategy : cheaper rent options in “fragile spaces” (Arfaoui, 2020) & less expensive than hotel nights (Slama, 2020)

# How do local actors react to this state injunction?

- Considered as an opportunity of revitalization for small cities in economic and demographic decline (Arfaoui, 2020; Gardesse, 2020)
  - Yet, some hostility (e.g. housing facility set on fire) (Deschamps et al. 2020)
- Less police control
  - Yet, creation of new forms of forced mobility (Deschamps et al. 2020)
- Reception & welcome is facilitated because of the closeness of local actors
  - Yet, sponsorships of asylum seekers and refugees by local residents is not institutionalized and remain very precarious; one main issue being the “retention” of refugees and asylum seekers in these small centres

# Actions CTAIR 2019

## Actions menées dans le cadre des contrats territoriaux pour l'accueil et l'intégration

### New Roles for Cities?

- Territorial Contracts for Reception and Integration of Refugee
  - Between national state and large cities and based on a territorial audit
  - Funding of local actions deemed complementary to integration national strategies (300,000 EUR for each contract)
    - French language classes, housing, employment opportunities, access to health, social participation through the arts, driving classes, etc.
  - Often implemented by non-governmental organizations
  - Currently, 11 contracts have been signed, more to come...

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