



Asylum reform in France and the evolving role of the homeless sector

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FNARS

- National umbrella organization that federates **870 non-profit and public organizations**
- They manage, all together, nearly **3 000 centres and services in the field of social inclusion**: emergency services, day centres, social residences, rehabilitation centres, training centres, centres for asylum seekers, ...
- More than **600,000 people** with social difficulties are hosted, every year, in FNARS network.

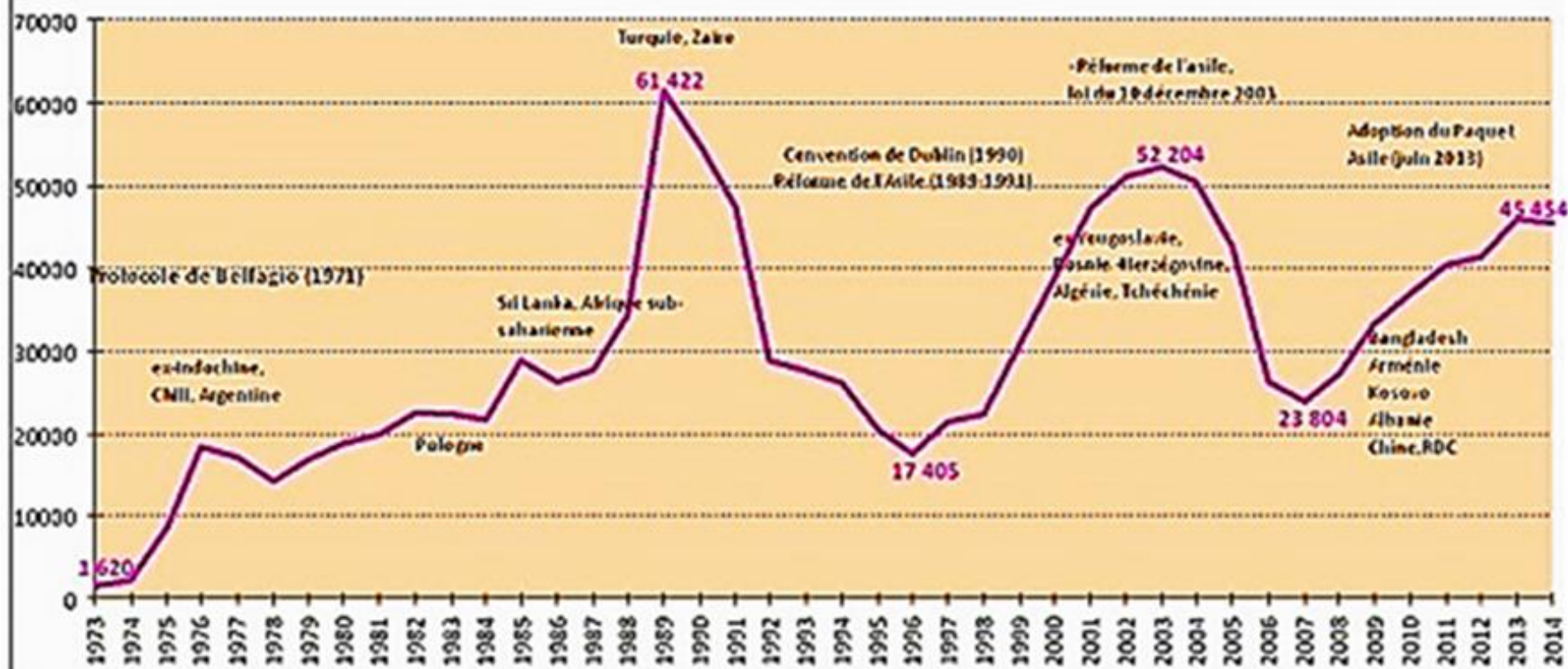


INTRODUCTION

- Among the 1 321 600 migrants who seek asylum in Europe in 2015, only **70 570 migrants lodged for a new asylum application in France**: +20% in comparison with 2014 when 58 845 persons seek asylum in France, + **213% since 2007 when 25 520 persons seek asylum**.
- But in **1989, 61 422 asylum seekers** introduced an asylum claim in France whereas they were 50 547 in 2004.
- So far, France is not facing an asylum crisis as regard to the number of migrants who seek asylum in France but rather in the way we react to their arrival.



Évolution du nombre des premières demandes de protection internationale depuis 1973





CHANGES INTRODUCED BY THE LAW ON ASYLUM REFORM - 29 JULY 2015

- The asylum reform is a transposition of 2 EU directives adopted in 2013:
 - Procedure directive
 - Reception conditions directive
- As regard to the procedure the goal is to implement **speed up access to the procedure and shorten processing times**:
 - asylum seekers must be able to lodge their asylum claim within 3 to 10 days max,
 - 6 months max. to evaluate the asylum claim in first place, plus 5 months max. in case of appeal/ before, up to 18 months.
- **Less procedural guarantees** are granted to asylum seekers :
 - in “accelerated procedure” their case is instructed within 15 days, the appeal is made towards only one judge.



- As regard to the reception conditions, the objective is to **provide accommodation for all asylum seekers through:**
 - A **narrow management of asylum seekers access and stay in dedicated accommodations**: mandatory orientation of asylum seekers in housing at the national level, fines imposed on organization when housing asylum seekers whose claim have been rejected, new procedure to expulse refugees and rejected asylum seekers from housing, ...
 - **An augmentation of accommodation units for asylum seekers, especially in CADA** which are dedicated housings for asylum seekers (different from HUDA, ATSA): **+11 030 accommodation units / + 14 629 CADA units (2015-2017)**
 - **Cuts in social care support**: 1 sw / 15 to 20 asylum seekers less than the ratio before the reform (1sw/10-15 asylum seekers), preparing the « integration » of asylum seekers is not a mission for social workers anymore, ...



LIMITS OF THE LAW ON ASYLUM

- The reform did not solve the breakdowns in accessing dedicated accommodation for asylum seekers and refugees already existing at **3 stages**.
- In France, separation between asylum and homelessness sectors (policies and funds):
 - **Asylum comes under the Home Affairs Ministry**
 - **Homelessness comes under the Ministry of Social Affairs**
- On the ground, no clear distinction.



1. BEFORE LODGING ASYLUM CLAIM: the reform did not succeed in speeding up access to the procedure in the region of Paris: + 3 months. Two new programmes dedicated to migrants but funded by homelessness sector :

- **CAO for migrants from Calais** : 4167 departures to 107 centers in France since october 2015.
- **Emergency housing for migrants in Paris camps**: about 20 evacuation since july 2015 in emergency housing near Paris. Last evacuation: 6th june: 1 200 persons



2. DURING THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE: asylum seekers can be accommodated in CADA or HUDA with different kind and quality of social support. CADA is the reference.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012-2016
Asylum seekers	61 440	66 265	64 310	75 750	86 601*	+25 161
Cada	21 410	23 476	24 418	29458	38 353	+ 16 943
Huda	23 849	25 560	26 160	25 476	22 611	- 1 238
Total accomodation units	45 259	49 036	50 578	54 934	60 964	+15 705



- **Number of accomodation units is underestimated**
- **Av. time for asylum process**
 - in 2014: 8,7 months at first instance, 16,2 months in case of appeal
 - in 2016: obj. 6 months first instance, 5 months in appeal
- FNARS asks for: + **20 000 accomodation units** from 2015 to 2017.

=> **In 2014, 28 000 asylum seekers (43%) were not sleeping in dedicated accomodation: stock + newcomers. Many asylum seekers are lodged in emergency housing.**



3. AFTER THE DECISION:

- In 2015 **31% of asylum seekers (26 700 pers.) got an international protection** : in 2010, only 50% of new refugees were living in decent housings (social or private), 3 years later, only 70% of the same refugee group were living in decent housing (ELIPA, 2013).

=> Fear that access to housing will be harder now that social support is very less intensive + speed up exit from CADA.

- In 2015, **69% (53 000 pers.) were rejected from asylum**. About 10 % are expelled from the country.

=> Many of them turn to emergency accommodations but more and more, they are refused as French **standard of unconditional shelter is inceasingly in jeopardy**.



FRANCE EUROPEAN COMMITMENTS TO WELCOME REFUGEES

1. Welcome **19 714 asylum seekers relocated from greek and italian hotspots** before 2017: direct access to CADA + asylum claim process within 4 months + national platform to access social or private housings.
2. Welcome **10 000 refugees resettled from Turkey and Lebanon** before 2017: direct access to housing + specific social support.

=> A risk of competition between users?



CONCLUDING RECOMMANDATIONS

- Increase prefecture and organization capacities to **speed up access to the procedure**;
- **Create more accomodation (+ 10 000 in 2017) units** for asylum seekers as for homeless to prevent any competition among users phenomenon.
- **Improve asylum seekers social support**, especially as regard to access to housing and develop programme easing access to private housing (social guarantor, ...)
- Protect the **standard of unconditional shelter in emergency housing**