

Thursday, 8th July 2021

To EASO European Asylum Support Office

Seeking political support to build a city

Technology is simple.

Politics is hard.

(finding an agreement across 27 member states when a single veto can block the progress)

With your political support I am 100% absolutely convinced I will be able to find capital, resources, and technology to build a city.

There are a few foundational pieces of information that I would like to share, that led me to the conclusion that such action is necessary.

Climate Emergency

Climate breakdown. Extreme weather events. Food security. Water shortages.

Population competing for scarce resources.

“Syria: Climate Change, Drought and Social Unrest” - published back in 2012¹

The articles below are from 2021 and refer to recent heatwave and leaked IPCC report

*“Canada is a warning: more and more of the world will soon be too hot for humans”*²

¹ <https://climateandsecurity.org/2012/02/syria-climate-change-drought-and-social-unrest/>

²

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jun/30/canada-temperatures-limits-human-climate-emergency-earth>

“A leaked UN report warns ‘worst is yet to come’ on climate change”³

“Crushing climate impacts to hit sooner than feared: draft UN report”⁴

Moria, Lesvos, Greece

“EU announces funding for five new refugee camps on Greek islands”⁵

Ylva Johansson, the EU home affairs commissioner, visited Lesbos and Samos on Monday to announce that the EU would provide €250m of funding (£213m) for five new structures on the islands of Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Kos and Leros.

“Memorandum of Understanding: Commission support for the situation on the Greek islands Questions and Answers”⁶

The EU funding amounts to €121 million and the three new centres are expected to become operational by September 2021. In addition to these facilities and the new facilities in Lesbos, funding was also allocated by the budgetary authorities to build a new centre in Chios.

Refugee city

Given the current state of the climate emergency - this seems like the only sensible way to go.

Below is a selection of resources that highlight the necessity of building refugee cities.

“Refugee camps are the ‘cities of tomorrow’, says humanitarian-aid expert”⁷

“Migrant Cities Instead of Refugee Camps”⁸

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<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/a-leaked-un-report-warns-worst-is-yet-to-come-on-climate-change-heres-how-you-can-help>

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<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210623-crushing-climate-impacts-to-hit-sooner-than-feared-draft-un-report>

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<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/mar/29/eu-announces-funding-for-five-new-refugee-camps-on-greek-islands>

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_2284

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<https://www.dezeen.com/2015/11/23/refugee-camps-cities-of-tomorrow-killian-kleinschmidt-interview-humanitarian-aid-expert/>

⁸ <https://www.politasconsulting.com/migrant-cities-refugee-camps>

“Download our latest [concept proposal](#) (2018) for further detail on our current vision for refugee cities.”⁹

“Solve the refugee camps and you solve the refugee crisis”¹⁰

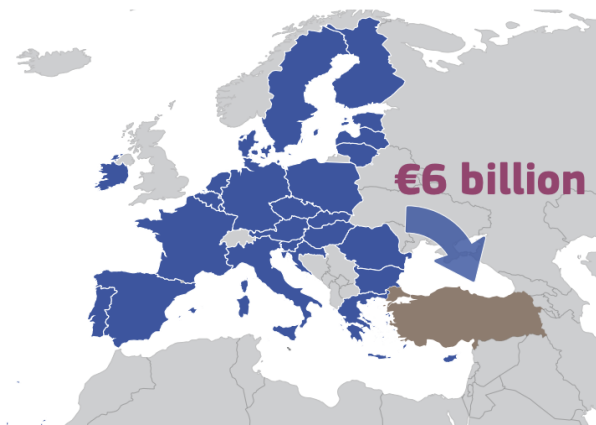
To do this, camps will need to be transformed into sustainable settlements and cities which can accommodate hundreds of thousands of people. That is what communities have managed throughout history when towns and settlements have emerged as the result of arrivals of refugees pushed out by invaders. Many of our cities have grown that way.

The camps designed as settlements, rather than just emergency-response sites, must become incubators for change and human development. They must allow for initiative, business development, entrepreneurship and learning.

Example of EU operating outside of the EU borders

“Facility for Refugees in Turkey: €127 million to boost EU's largest ever humanitarian programme”¹¹

TOTAL SUPPORT THROUGH THE EU FACILITY



Turkey's geographical position makes it a first reception and transit country for many refugees and migrants. As the result of an unprecedented influx of people seeking refuge, the country currently hosts **3,6 million Syrian refugees (out of a total of over 4 million refugees)** and is making commendable efforts to provide them with humanitarian aid and development support. The EU is committed to assisting Turkey in dealing with this challenge.

EU assistance is aimed at supporting refugees who have fled violence in their country, in particular those living outside of camps and in vulnerable situations, while supporting also their host communities in providing access to quality education, health, protection and livelihoods, as well as other local services.

⁹ <https://refugeecities.org/concept-note/>

¹⁰

<https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2020/3/17/solve-the-refugee-camps-and-you-solve-the-refugee-crisis>

¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_19_5049

Technology

Clay printing [\[edit \]](#)

In April 2021, the first [prototype](#) 3D printed house made out of [clay](#), [Tecla](#), was completed. The [low-carbon housing](#) was printed by two large synchronized arms from a mixture of locally-sourced soil and water as well as fibers from [rice husks](#) and a binder.^{[48][80][49]} Such buildings could be highly cheap, well-[insulated](#), stable and weatherproof, climate-adaptable, customizable, get produced rapidly, [require only very little easily learnable manual labor](#), [mitigate carbon emissions from concrete](#), require less energy, reduce [homelessness](#), help enable [intentional communities](#) such as [autonomous](#), [autark eco-communities](#), and enable the provision of housing for victims of natural disasters as well as – via [knowledge-](#) and [technology-transfer](#) to local people – for [migrants to Europe](#) near their homes, including as an increasingly relevant political option. It was built in Italy by the architecture studio Mario Cucinella Architects and 3D printing specialists WASP. The building's name is a [portmanteau](#) of "technology" and "clay".^{[48][49]}

Data and projections indicate an increasing relevance of buildings that are both low-cost and [sustainable](#), notably that, according to a 2020 UN report, [building and construction](#) are responsible for ~38% of all energy-related carbon dioxide emissions,^[81] that, partly [due to global warming](#),^{[82][83]} [migration crises](#) are expected to intensify in the future and that the UN estimates that by 2030, ~3 billion people or ~40% of the world's population will require access to [accessible](#), [affordable housing](#).^[48] Disadvantages of printing with clay-mixtures include height-limitations or horizontal space requirements, initial costs and size of the non-mass produced printer, latencies due to having to let the mixture dry with current processes, and other problems related to the novelty of the product such as their connection to [plumbing systems](#).^{[48][49]}



The *Tecla* as of 2021.



Video showing the eco-house and its construction

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Links to some companies that already do it:

- <https://mightybuildings.com/>
- <https://newstorycharity.org/>
- <https://www.3dwasp.com/en/3d-printed-house-tecla/>
- <https://3dprint.com/222125/contour-crafting-dod-contract/>

Note: 3D printing process can happen using concrete but personally I believe that clay (dirt, dust, earth) is more widely available and has lower environmental cost.

Alternative: Compressed Earth Block¹³

The downside - requires manual labour.

¹² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Construction_3D_printing#Clay_printing

¹³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compressed_earth_block

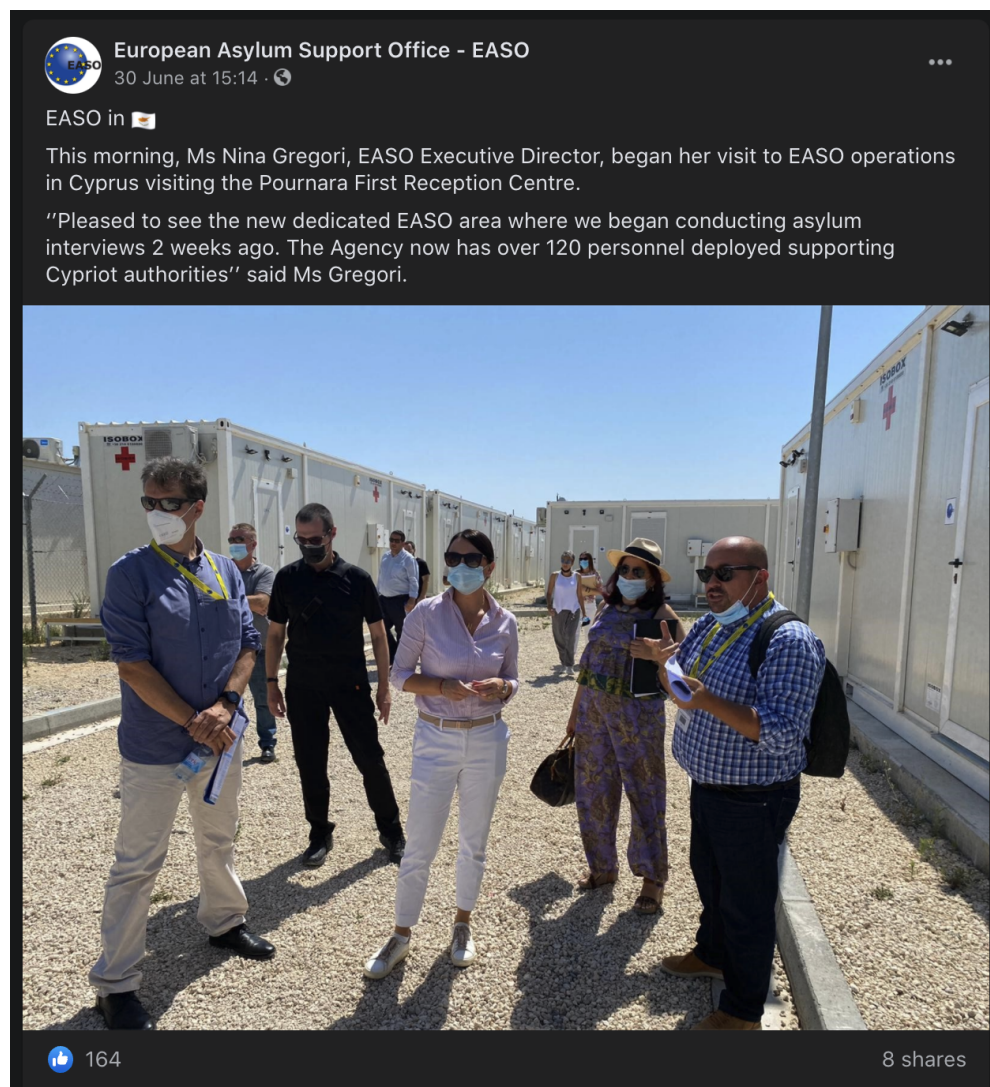
Depending on circumstances, manual labour might be available in abundance - for example areas with high unemployment. Regardless of the actual choice of technology, I genuinely believe that with economies of scale, it will be possible to achieve 1/10 of the time and 1/10 of the current cost.

When accounting for the opportunity cost and long-term benefits for nations and communities it's another 10x factor.

Current technology: containers

Costly to transport?

Require energy for cooling?



¹⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/easo.eu/posts/3125814470975582>

Personal background

- I was to COP24 (UN climate change conference) in Katowice
- I will be attending COP26 in Glasgow
- I am a reviewer of the latest IPCC report

Loads of my work relates to new models of economy and governance.

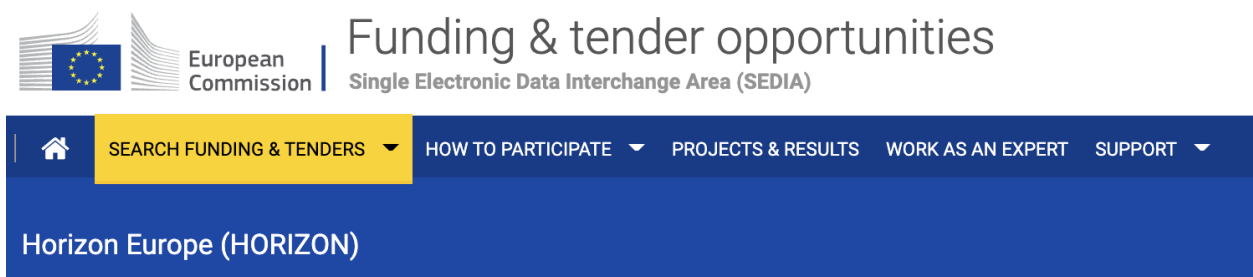
COVID gave me loads of hope, radical change is possible.

Political support first

“With your political support I am 100% absolutely convinced I will be able to find capital, resources, and technology to build a city.”

Optionally, if there is already an allocated budget, I'm enthusiastic about applying for funding.

[EU Funding Horizon](#)



If you happen to know if some of the funding is addressing the problems in this letter - please point in the right direction.

Wrapping up, next steps

Kindly asking for feedback, introductions, more information about your current plans.

Or maybe you already reached similar conclusions and similar projects are being developed?

One way or another - let's remain in touch - climate change is not going anywhere and the refugee crisis will only accelerate.

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