Location with more opportunities

Last year, many refugee families that came to Germany headed straight to large cities. This might have not been the absolute best choice. Smaller and more rural areas might offer sometimes better opportunities in terms of jobs and housing while may offer greater safety too. To find out where these places are, several dataset have been taken into account. German district’s open job situation and the numbers on available housing was provided by the Empirica Institut. The number of attacks per Bundesland was counted by the German newspaper Die Zeit, which also provided a count of refugees that came to Germany in the first half of 2015.

We visualized this data in form of a map. The intention is to show the mismatch between the most suitable locations for refugee families identified in the analysis on jobs, housing and recent attacks on refugees per state, and the places refugees moved to in the beginning of 2015.

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**Intro catch**

Tragedies and suffering in their home countries make refugees take the great risk to seek refuge and a safer and more stable situation in EU countries such as Germany.

At this moment, experts expect that around 1 million refugees came to 1 Germany last year. Germany’s Federal Office for Migration and Refugees Affairs calculates with 500.000 refugees coming to Germany in 2016.

1: According to "Rheinische Post", Bundesinnenminister Thomas de Maizière reported to the director of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees Affairs

**Question/problem**

**Outcome summary**

**Detail of findings**

**Future suggestions/criticism**

**Notes:**

According to German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere, a total of 1.1 million refugees were registered in Germany in 2015 – 428,500 of them from Syria.

**Zweibrücken** (french *Deux-Ponts*) is the smallest district town in Germany, with 34.011 inhabitants.

National currencies including Zambia's, Kazakhstan's and Ukraine's currency suffered significant fluctuations over last year.

**Minimum wage levels for 2015**

Per hour minimum wage levels adjusted for PPP (**Purchasing Power Parity)**

Real development of **minimum wages** per hour\*

comparing levels from 1.1 to 1.1 of the following year in %

\*Nominal development of the national minimum wage levels, adjusted for

consumer prices

\* Nominale Entwicklung der Mindestlöhne deflationiert um den nationalen Anstieg der Verbraucherpreise

pro Stunde in KKS (Kaufkraftstandards)\*\*\*

17 von 22 EU-Staaten 2016 oder kurz davor ihre gesetzliche Lohnuntergrenze angehoben

**Driving up the national minimum wage level in Europe**

**17 out of 22 EU member states did increase their minimal wage levels in 2016 or late 2015**

**Germany's state capitals in comparison**

**Comparison by state**

**An approach to filter Germany's districts according to its opportunities & threats**

**There is a way to identify best possible locations for refugees…**

**What is the journey to a better life? Is there a way to identify best possible locations for refugees?**

Tragedies and suffering in their home countries make refugees take the great risk to seek refuge and a safer life in EU countries such as Germany. At this moment, experts expect that around 1 million refugees came to Germany last year. The Empirica Institut issued a research report to discuss how and where refugees that decide coming to Germany could find relief and possibly a better life. For a full picture, we included data on German district’s open job positions and their indices on available housing. Additionally, we compared how many refugees already did arrive and where immigration is highest with data from Germany’s newspaper Die Zeit. Lastly, we compared possible ‘sweetspots’ said to offer the best possibilities, with the number of recent violent attacks on refugees and their accommodations.

**Who thinks in rural parts are no jobs, is dead wrong!**

A direct allocation of refugees to certain places and regions would only be possible during the asylum application period. Once the application has been granted, immigrants receive the full right of mobility. The risk is that once they receive that right, many would stream to large cities, where they would find a stronger community of fellow countrymen. This is called Diaspora-Effekt. The Empirica Institut argues however that opportunities in rural places may be much better. One way to bind refugee families to a place, after the asylum period has ended, could lie in the established job situation of at least one refugee family member. Job opportunities in rural places are better than in large metropolises. The map shows the distribution of open job positions for the working population between the age of 20 and 60.

**Rural districts and medium sized cities win!**

Large cities such as Munich, Hamburg and Freiburg are not to find at the top of the list. Instead, rather small rural districts such as Main-Tauber-Kreis, Hildburghausen, Tuttlingen or Sonneberg can convince. Also medium sized cities such as Memmingen, Schwerin or Coburg can offer the best open job situations. These places can offer 20 or more open job positions per 1,000 working population, while the countrywide average is only 13, 4.

**A ruling rural housing market**

The housing market in rural Germany could offer great opportunities for refugee families, not only in respect of short term accommodation, but offer better chances beyond. In shrinking regions, the amount of single family houses keep loosing its value. These properties have little chance to be occupied again on a long-term basis. It is expected that there are around 600,000 of these kind of properties available throughout population shrinking regions. This is a great chance for former refugee families, argues the Empirica Institut.

**Planning long-term is much more important now**

Gymnasiums and other short-term refugee accommodations have its limits and the long term view of how refugees can be integrated is more important than a short term perspective. Respectively, in 2013 and 2014 only 110,000 and 173,000 people applied the first time for asylum in Germany. For 2015, at least 800,000 first-time applications were made. For 2016, experts calculate with around 2 million refugees that will apply and seek asylum. But this is not the end of the discussion. A longer-term perspective on the topic may show a different picture. Analysts at Empirica Institut calculate that only a certain share of refugees will stay in Germany, after they found some rest and peace. Many will continue their journey to places such as the US, UK, the Netherlands and France.

**The number who will stay is much lower**

OECD’s official numbers suggest that out of 1 million EU-wide asylum seekers, only 350.000 und 450.000 would receive a permanent right to remain. This would amount to a share of 35 to 45 percent who would actually stay. Assuming a share of 40 percent, if 2 million refugees would be expected to come to Germany, the country would essentially ‘only’ need to find a solution to be able to provide housing for 800,000 additional citizens on a long term basis. These 800,000 are thought to already live together and sooner or later are expected to ask for a common living space.

**Last year, they first arrived in large cities**

Large cities such as Berlin, Hannover, Hamburg and Munich were the first destinations refugees populated last year (January - June, 2015). The data was provides by the team of Die Zeit. Sachsen, Hessen, Bayern and Rheinland-Pfalz offered their distribution key. The Bundesland Niedersachsen offered their calculated data based on their distribution key. Baden-Württenberg allocated according to the number of population per district.

**Far more refugees come in form of families and share of children from Syria is especially high.**

In 2014, the share of asylum seekers that were children was 28 percent. Germany’s average population of under 16 year olds only amounts to 14 percent. The share of refugees that come in form of families tent to come from Syria fleeing war. The

Here is a safe bet for refugee's decision where to settle

**Attacks on refugees strongest in Sachsen & Nordrhein Westphalia**

**Refugees arrived mainly in large cities last year**

**Sweet spots exist, such as between Trier and Worms or in Thuringia**

**As seen, attacks on refugees occurred most significantly in Bundesländer such as Sachsen & Nordrhein Westphalia in the last 16 months. While refugees arrived mainly in large cities last year, opportunities on jobs and housing may be somewhat better in rural areas. Areas where sweet spots exist are in the south-west such as in Trier and Worms or in the north-east like in Thuringia.**