From the results of the analysis, it appears that refugees do settle in the wrong places.

This is due to government’s ruling how to allocate refugees in Germany, says Lukas Weiden, who works at research institute Empirica: On a first level the refugees are allocated to the Länder based on the Königsteiner Schlüssel - which is based on population and tax revenue shares. On a second level the Länder have their own mechanisms - mainly based on population shares - to allocate them to the counties and municipalities, says Weiden.

Another reason why migrants seem to congregating in the wrong places may be due to the fact that refugees behave like domestic migrants, explains Weiden. “Refugees don't know these more livable areas and never heard of them. Also for refugees to have family and the chance to meet acquaintances in rural parts or small cities and towns is lower.” The current aim for the government is that refugees are more or less equally distributed across the nation. The result is that refugees move to the same cities, which are already expensive and where housing is short in supply, while taking little advantage of housing in the rural areas. In short, Weiden says that refugees do not have the incentive, nor the interest to move to places where the data seems to suggests it is best.

To the question why the German government is not actively encouraging refugees to find better places, Weiden has no answer. Last week however, his research institute published a new [study](http://www.zia-deutschland.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/aktuelle-fluechtlingsverteilung-ueberfordert-wohnungsmaerkte-der-deutschen-grossstaedte/) on behalf of the Germany’s central property committee ([ZIA](http://www.zia-deutschland.de/)) actively suggesting a new ratio of allocating refugees in Germany which takes available resources like jobs and empty house into account.