

## *National Policy on Asylum*

*e.g. What measures are foreseen by central government for the reception and integration of asylum seekers and refugees? Recent changes in asylum law? Have these changes improved or worsened the situation and what impact have they had on city policies?*

## **Name of City - Prague**

### *City Profile*

**Resident population: 1,2 mil. populatins in Prague**

**Number of immigrants ('economic', asylum seekers, refugees): Aliens having residence permit account fo 5% of the total population of Prague.**

**This year asylum was granted to 49 people and not granted 4 793 applicants, the asylum procedure of 6 250 persons was discontinued. Curently 1 295 people to whom asylum was granted and 10 490 asylum seekers live in the Czech republic.**

**Number of asylum seekers: 1 700**

**Number of refugees: 100**

**Three main countries of origin of asylum seekers and refugees: Ukraine  
Vietnam  
Moldova**

### *Local Policies*

#### Reception

#### **Accommodation**

- reception center – 14 days
- residence center – until the decision on grating asylum comes into force (out of Prague)
- refugee camps – their right (out of Prague)

#### **Social Assistance Health Care**

**The layover center serves to housing applicants for asylum, to the time of the decision in administrated proceedings on the granting of asylum gains legal force. Basic hygienic standards, meals and health care etc. are ensured for the foreigner housed there. In accordance with conditions determined by law, the applicant is obligated to reimburse fully or partially the**

provided housing, meals, eventually other services and allowances costs.

In the Czech health care in hospitals was provided mostly the person from the Ukraine (17,8%) Vietnam (14,3%), Slovak republic (11 %) and the former countries of the Soviet Union (9,4%). Health care was provided most frequently to foreign citizens in the City of Prague region – 45,8 %. The most frequent hospitalization reasons were injuries and poisonings, followed by circulation system and digestiv tract systém illnesses.

## Integration

**Language Courses** - yes, is possible (school)

### **Professional Training and Employment**

Foreingers or stateless persons employed in the CR hold similar status as citizens there of. However, they can only perform the job if they received a permit to work, and residency visa for purposes of employment. Foreigners, who attained the right to permanent residency, or an asylum in the CR domain, have rights and incumbencies as citizens therefor, and their economic activities are not specially monitored. Numbers of work permits granted are contingent with the labor market conditions. Districts with low unemployment percentage as a rule indicate larger number of foreingers that attained permits to work. The issued valid work permit drop at the break of 1996-1998 was not due to disinterest in work by foreingers in the CR, but was a consequence of worsening labor market situation, and increased unemployment of Czech citizens.

In the interest of economic cooperation development, and regarding essentials of the work force market, the CR is concluding agreements on reciprocal citizen employment, eventually accords on the tranee employment or exchange.

Statistics number – City of Prague:

Employment and residence permits of foreigners

With valid work permit and trade license: 50 000 (CR 165 000)

With permanent resid.permit, with holding visa for res. Over 90 days 58 000 (CR 200 000)

### **Education**

The education of foreign citizens ensues from the following six fundamental principals:

1. for the compulsory school attendace period free education is provided in basic and special school, inclusive of education during performance of institutional and protective training of the foreigner:
  - who received permanent residency permit in CR
  - who in the CR reside temporarily, i.e. to whom a short-term do 90-days visas were grantedm and without visa
  - to whom was given asylum in the CR

- with visa for the purposes of sefferance stay, and temporary protection reasons
- 2. payless education also in upper secondary schools is provided for the same categories of foreign citizens
- 3. to foreigners attending higher vocational schools the same payments are stipulated as for Czech citizens
- 4. for realization of institutional and protective training the same payments are stipulated as for Czech citizens
- 5. foreign citizens studying in Czech school, learn under the same conditions as Czech citizens
- 6. the school is obliged to tutor Czech language in an extraordinary teaching form to the pupil foreign citizen

### Co-operation with Non-profit Organisations

Czech Helsinki Committee  
Archdiocesan Charity of Prague  
ADRA – Civic Association  
Organization for Aid to Refugees  
IOM – International Organization for Migration  
Czech Catholic Charity  
Centre for Negotiation and Resolution of Conflicts

Highlight one aspect which you consider "good practice" in the day-to-day work of reception and integration