

Immigrants and refugees in rural Norway - from problem to possibility?

Nordregio 25.11.2016



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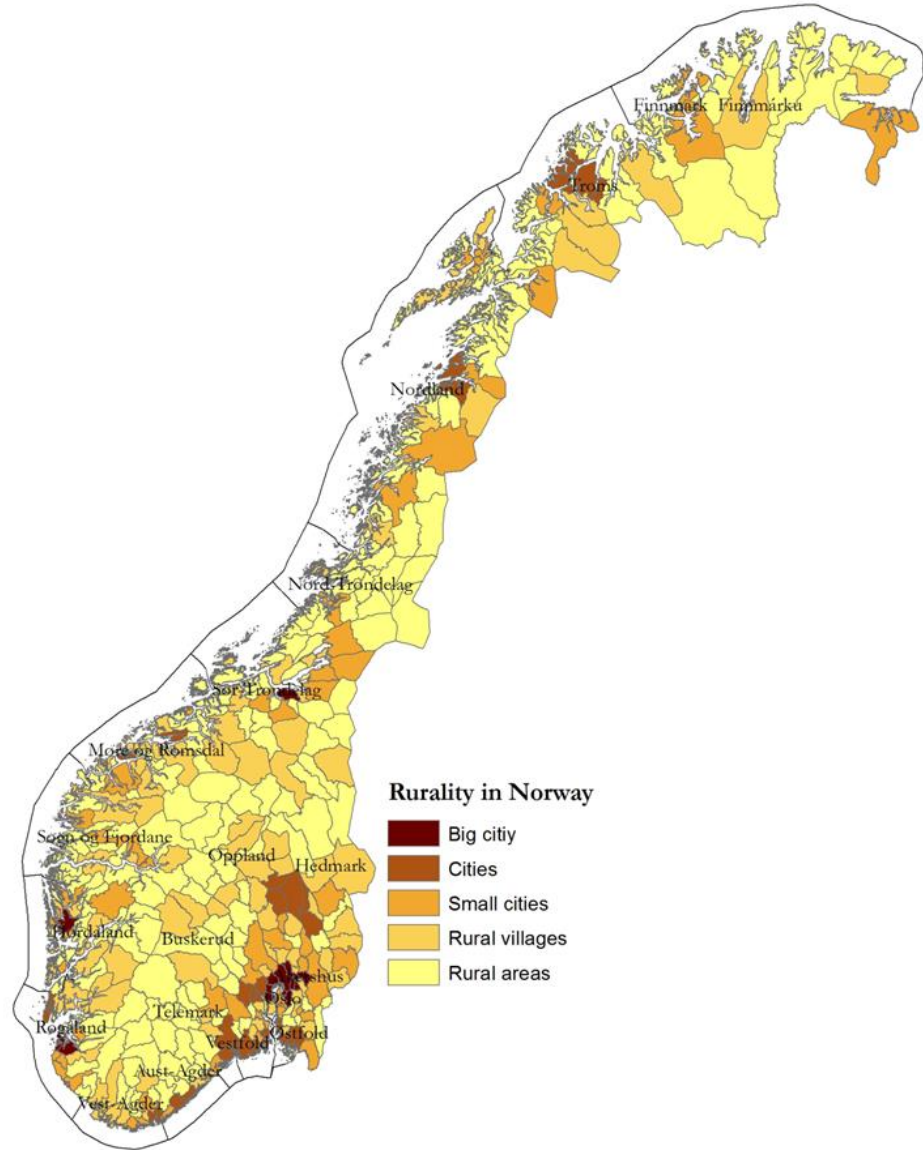
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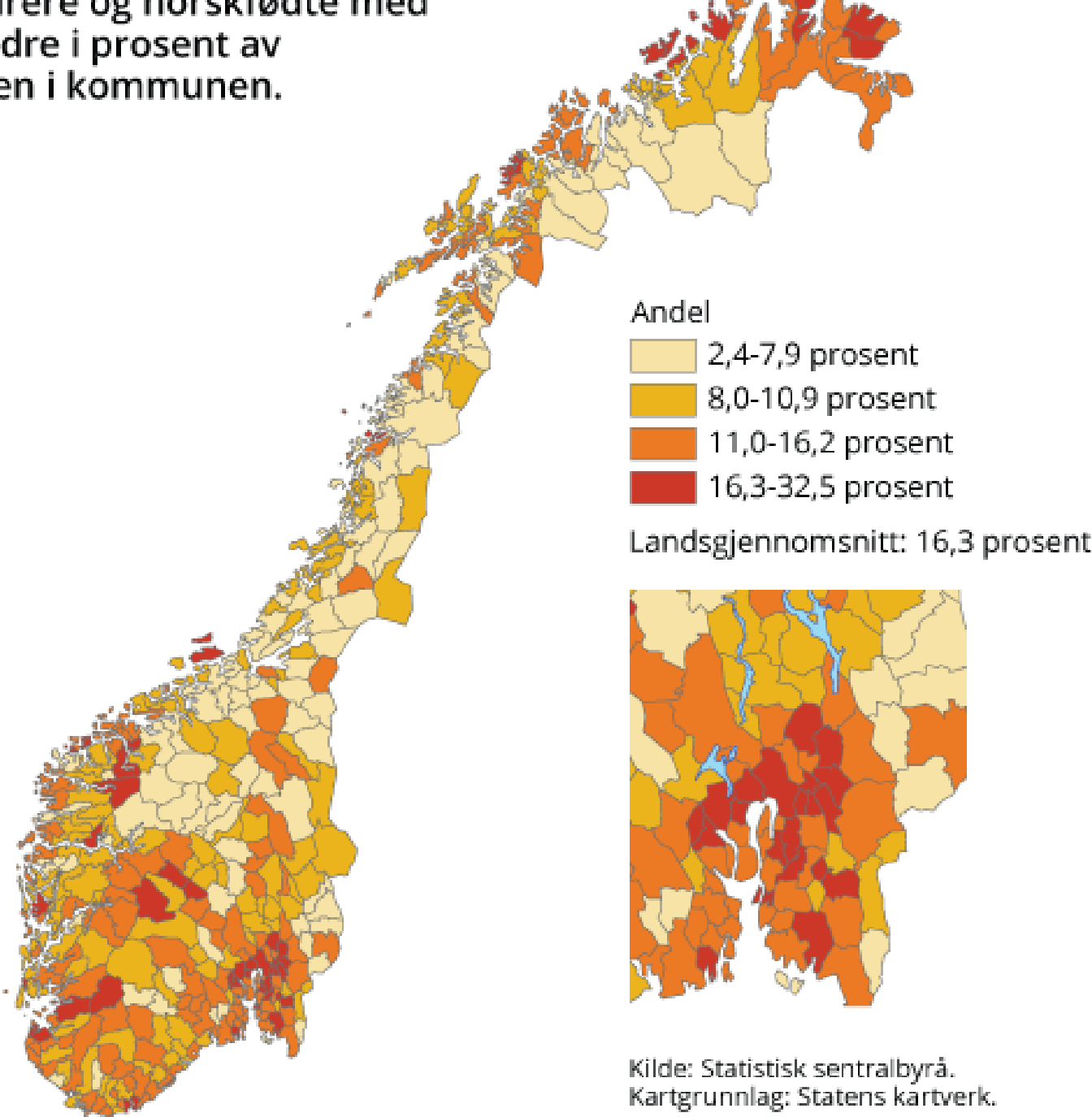
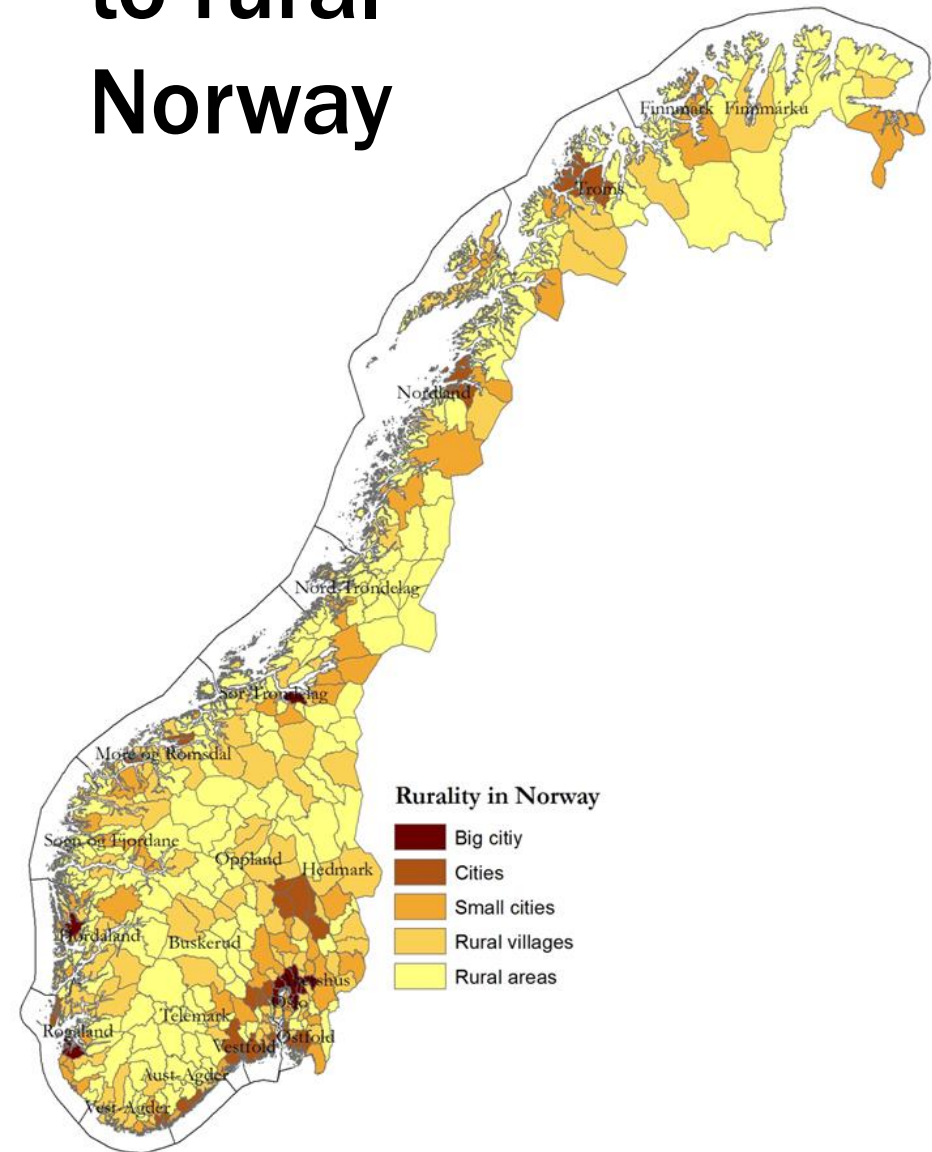
HØGSKOLEN I OSLO
OG AKERSHUS

Rural Norway



Immigration to rural Norway

Figur 3. Innvandrere og norskfødte med innvandrerforeldre i prosent av totalbefolkningen i kommunen. 1. januar 2016



Kilde: Statistisk sentralbyrå.
Kartgrunnlag: Statens kartverk.

The outline

- Main policies
- A few facts about immigrants in rural areas
- Negative framing and potentials
 - Political and administrative leadership
 - Recognition and support of immigrants initiatives
 - Efforts to match immigrants potentials with local needs
 - Networks and organisation

Policies

District policy

- People and economic activity all over the country
- Strengthening the regional centers

Main strategy for settling refugees

The refugees are distributed all over the country

The municipalities are asked to settle a certain number of refugees

The municipal board decide

IMDi assigns actual refugees to actual municipalities

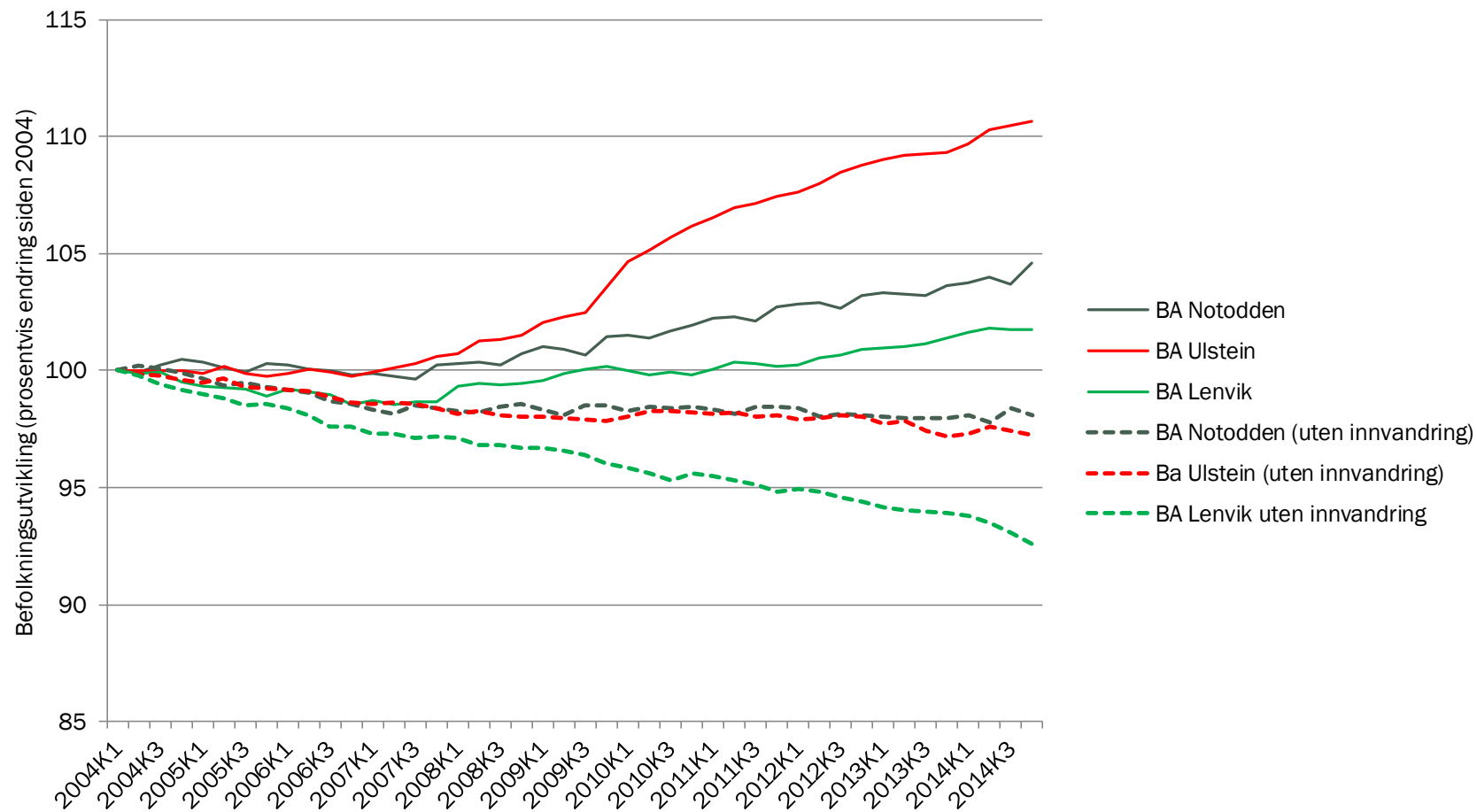
The refugees have

- a right to housing,
- right/obligation to follow a 2 year introductory program
- right to economic support for 2 years

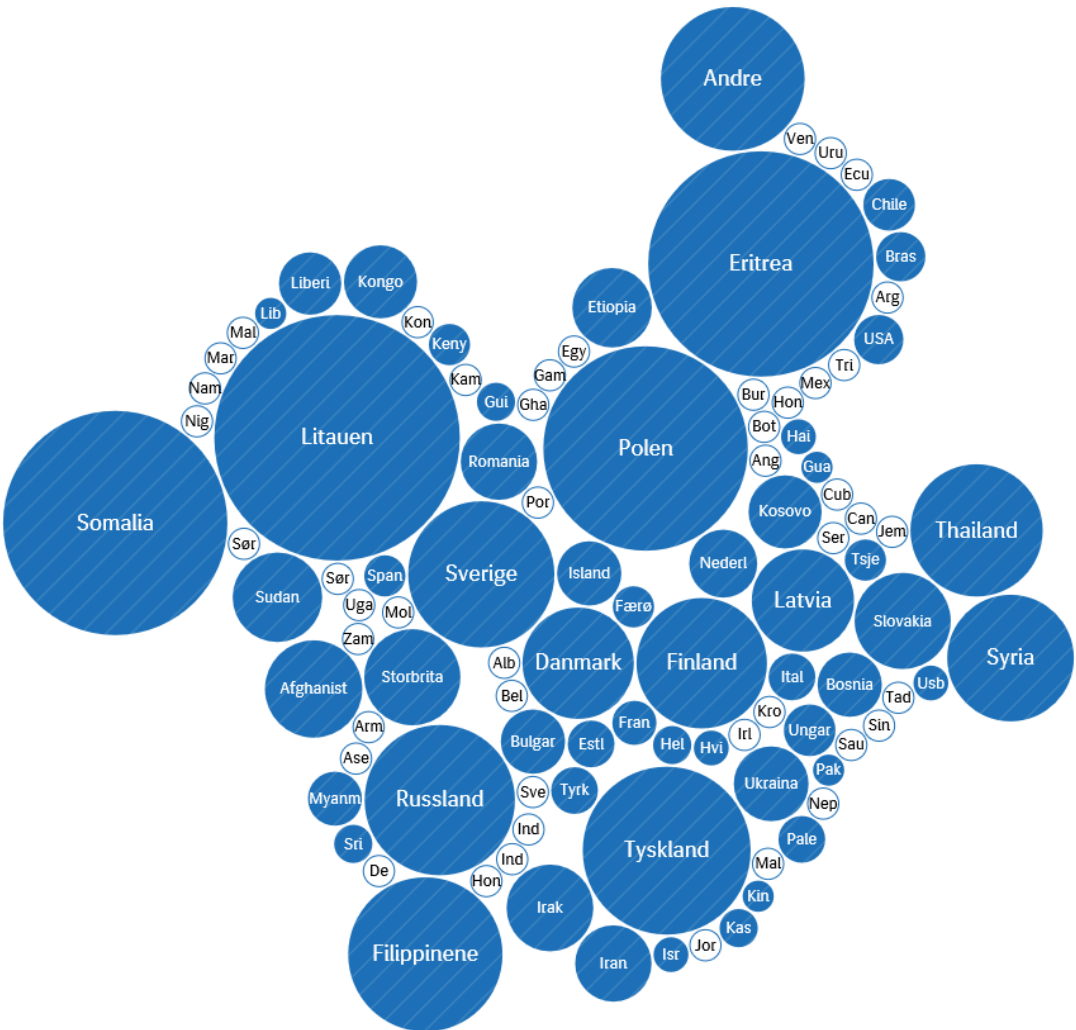
Facts

Population 2004 til 2015

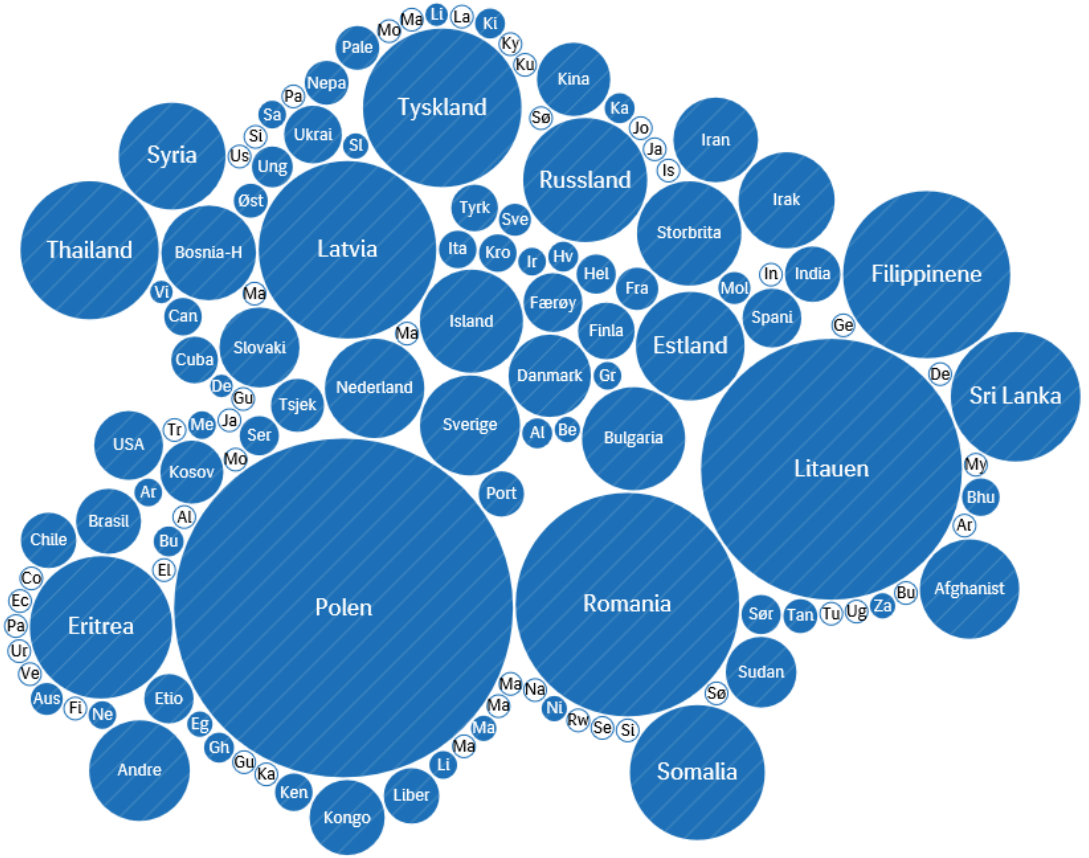
2004=100



Immigration have different regional impacts



Midt-Troms



Søre Sunnmøre

Immigration have different impacts in different places

	Population	Immigrants % of the population	Refugees % of imm. population	Settled refugees % per resident 2015
Midt-Troms	30 000	7,3%	37%	5 ‰
Søre Sunnmøre	47 750	10,5%	22 %	3,1 ‰
Norway	5 252 166	13,0%	25 %	2,2 ‰

And place matters for immigrants possibilities

Some common traits across regions

Overrepresented in manual jobs

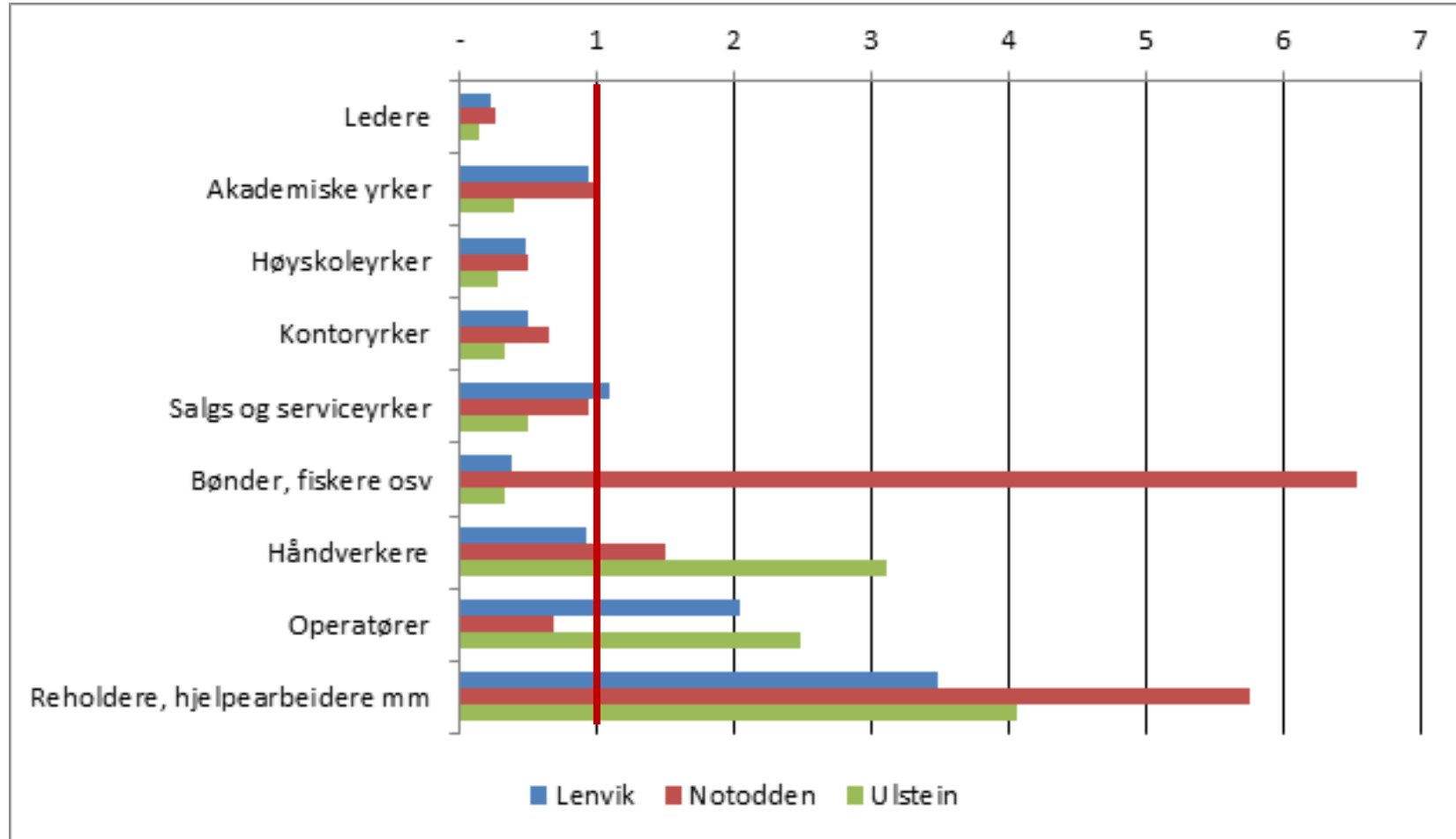
Overqualified



Herøynytt desember 2014

Received differently in different regions

Relative difference among immigrants and Norwegians: occupation/region. Norwegians = 1.



Framing

Ba innvandrere søke jobb - ingen ble kalt inn



– Truer velferdsmodellen

innvandrerbarn faller ut av videregående skole arbeidsledigheten
blant innvandrere tre ganger så høy

Må bli slutt på dobbeldiskriminering av innvandremenn

- Hjelper ikke med fine formuleringer

Utdannet ingeniør - jobber som tolk

– Kommer dårligst ut

De er ingeniører, men kjører taxi og vasker hotellrom

...tjener 240.000 mindre enn nordmenn

Migrants can make very powerful contributions to our societies. But these contributions can only be made if we are ready to recognize and use the potential of migration

*C. Malmstrøm
EU Commissioner 2013*

Potential for what?

Maintain and increase the population

Contribution to the workforce

Contribution to maintain local services

Create and maintain businesses

Greater social diversity

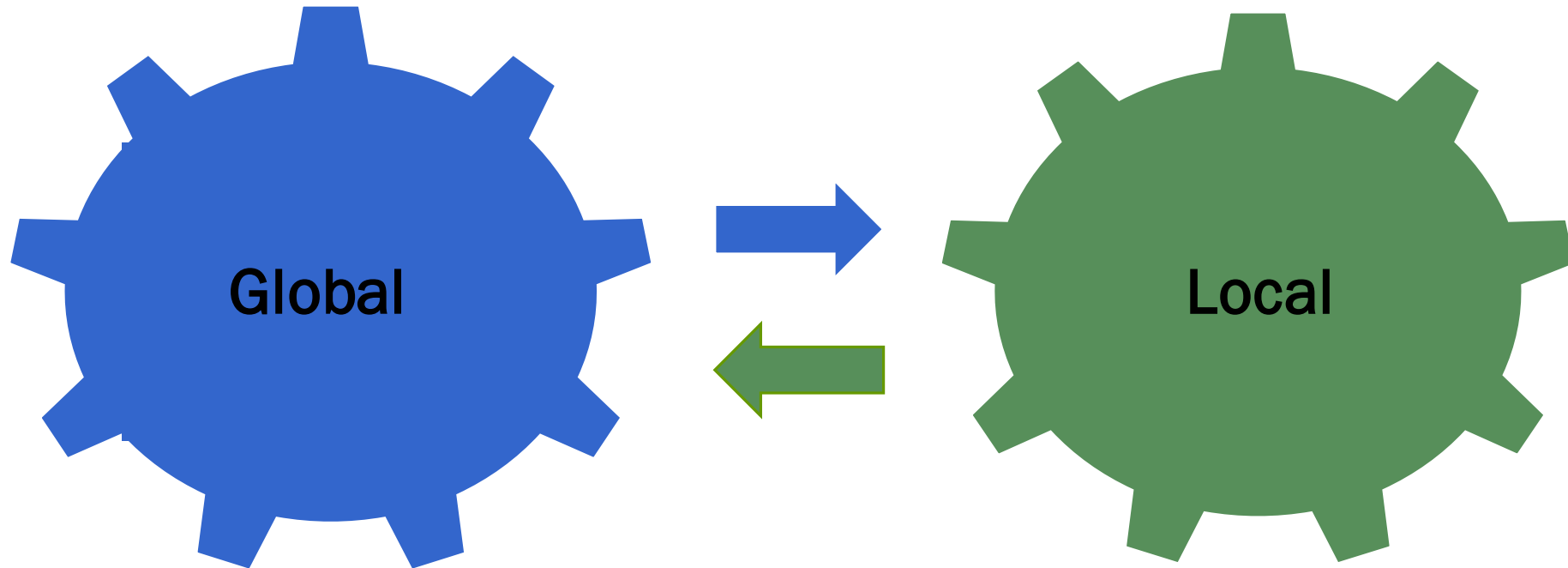


Four approaches to ease the potential of immigration and integration

- Political responsibility
- Recognition and support of immigrants initiative
- Efforts to match immigrants potentials with local needs
- Networks and organisations

Take leadership and give direction!

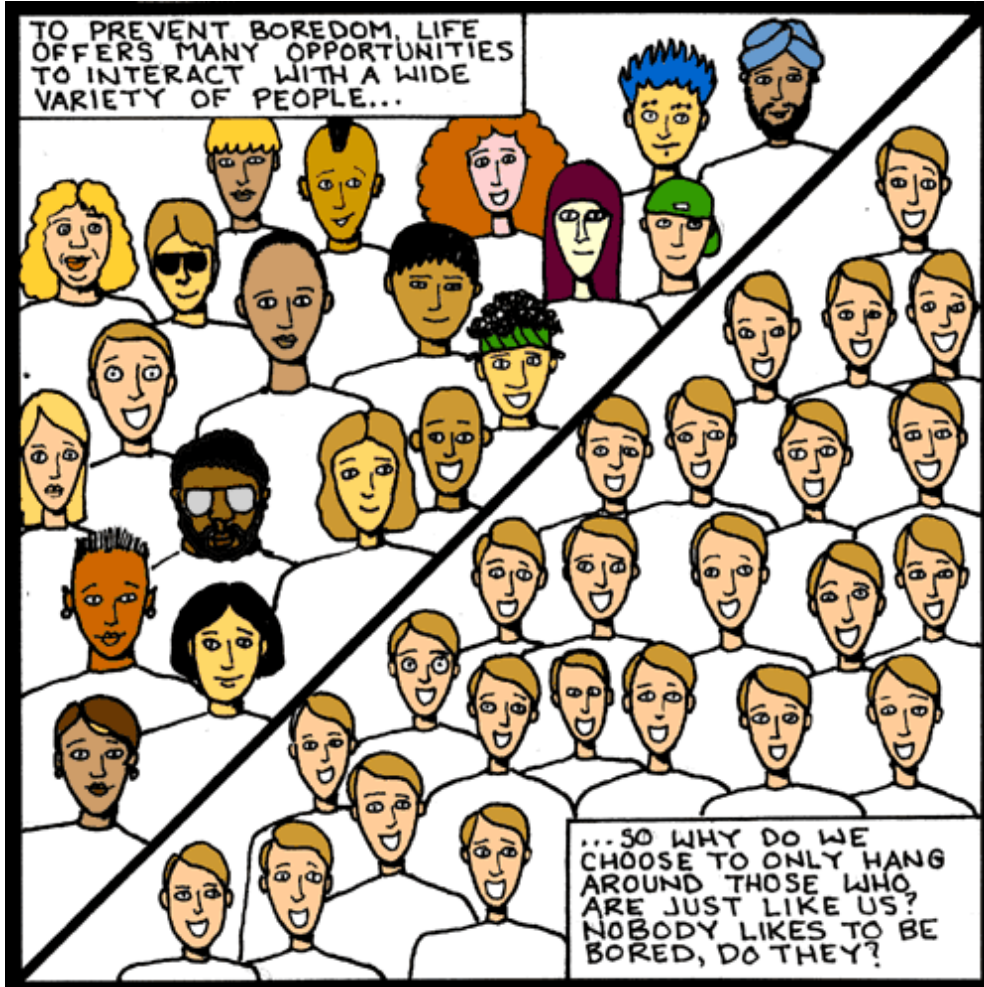
Political and administrative attention



Look for connections

What does this imply for us? – What is our room of manouvre?

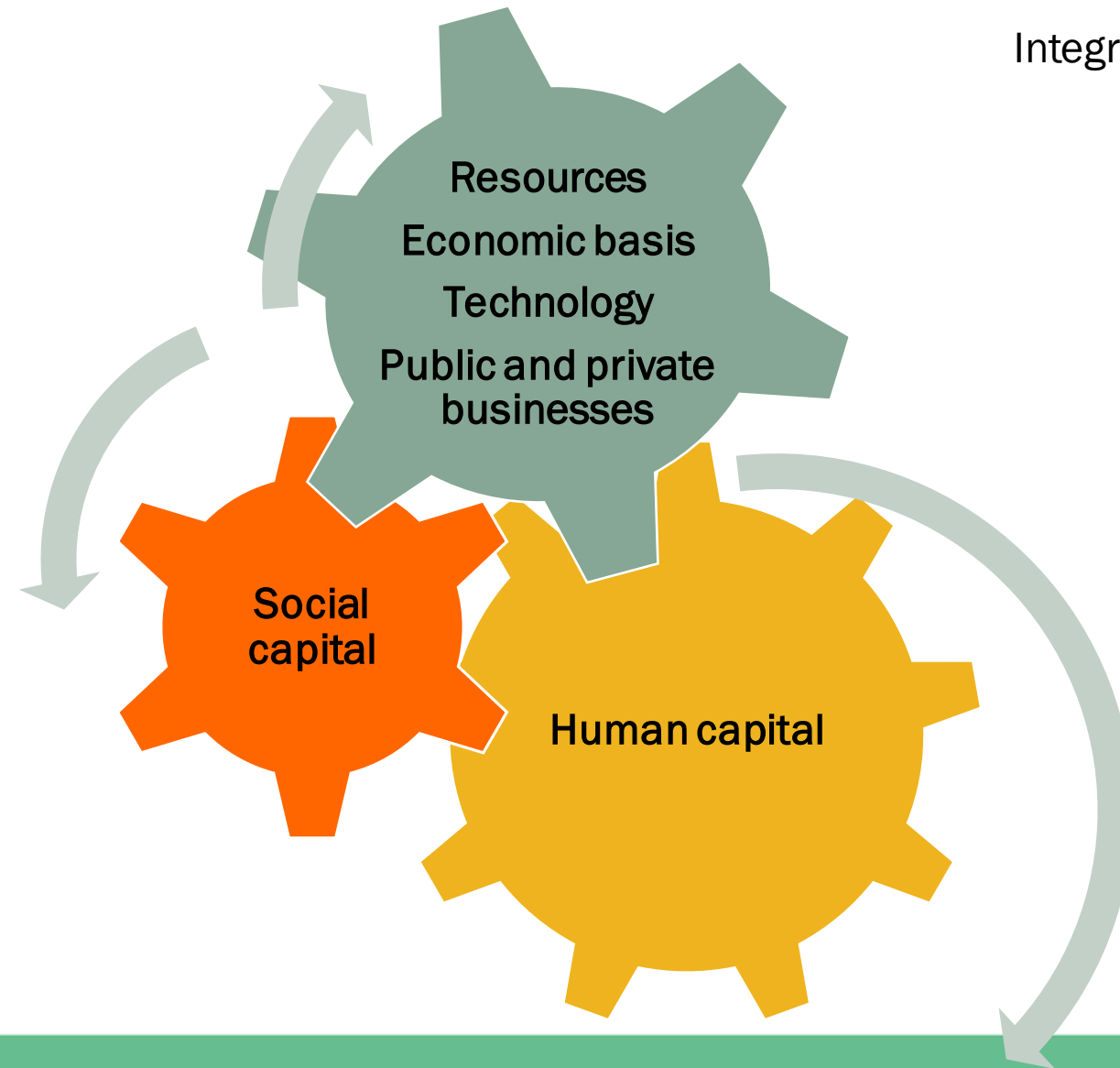
Representations of the local population



Regional
development

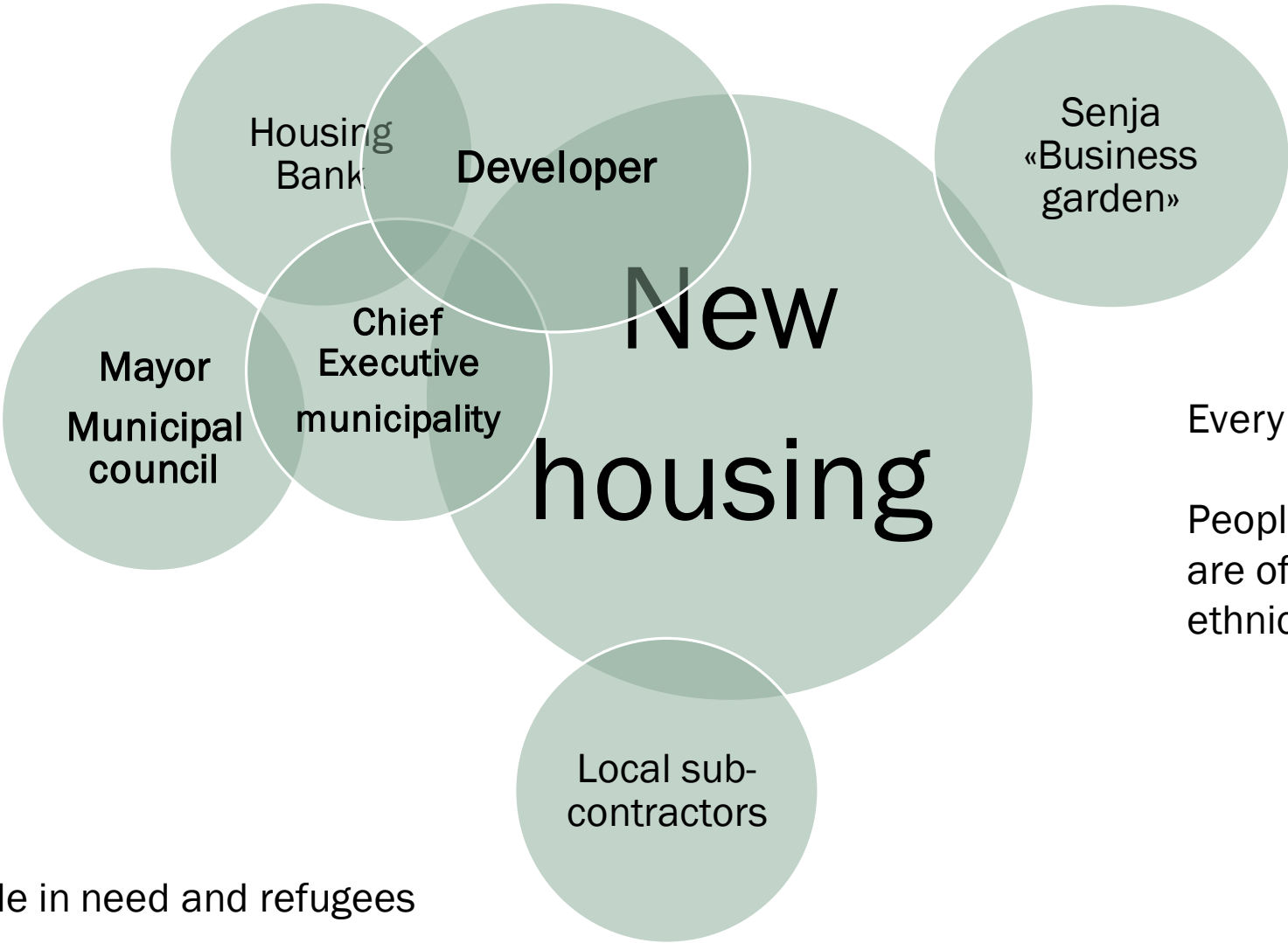
Integration

Integration is the most important issue in N today. Then we should organise this topic where the important decisions are taken



Work

Create on's own job – in collaboration with others



Every 5th gründer is an immigrant

People with immigrant background are often more successful than ethnic Norwegians

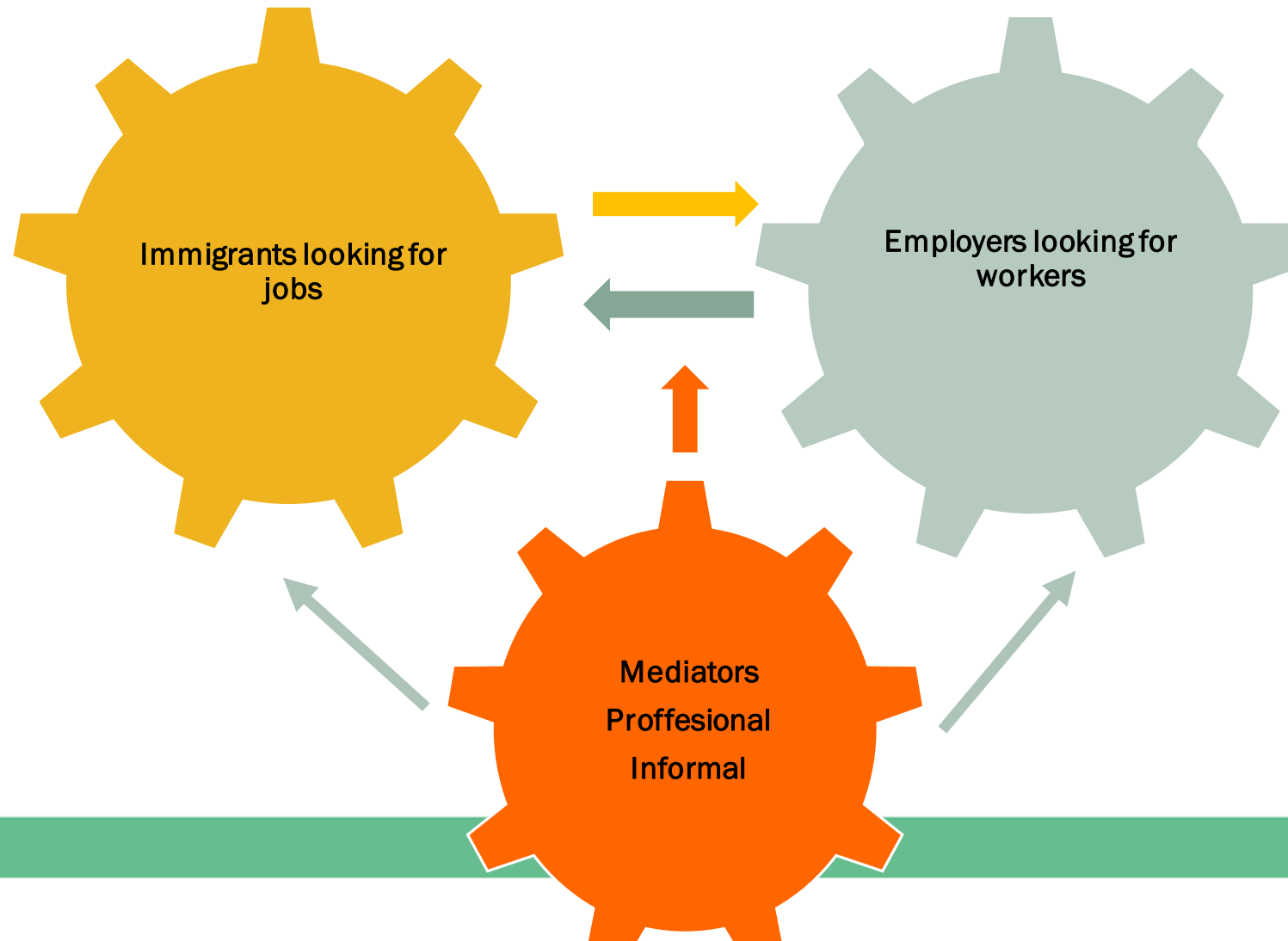
Housing to people in need and refugees



Important mechanism

- matching of employers and job-seekers

Possibilities?





Networks promote employment



The importance of the local organisations

- 2016: Voluntary organisations more important for local integration
- Municipalities cooperating with local organisations (74%)
 - Creating meeting places for immigrants and locals
- When functioning, local organisations are:
 - «Entrance» to the local community
 - Connect immigrants to the local everyday life

It feels good that people know us, it make us feel well- there are always somebody asking – How are you? How are your kids?

If immigration should be a potential for majority population, immigrants and local communities

In addition to activities and services -

Arenas to discuss and reflect upon:

- How immigration and cultural diversity can be positive, but also challenging for the community
- On how values and attitudes are challenging different groups
- How traditions are changed, should be changed or preserved
- How to manage eventual competition between groups in important areanas like housing- and labour market

Thank you!



Comments, questions?

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