

**THE CHALLENGES OF THE ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THE PROCESS TO
OBTAIN THE REFUGEE STATUS IN IRELAND**

By

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Abstract

The principal Aims and Objectives of the Dissertation are to find answer to main questions about the challenges of the Asylum in the process to obtain the refugee status in Ireland, this question are focus to find why the people decided to came to Ireland instead of another country and the advantages of disadvantages, to know the challenges in the validation of their application, and focus in the conditions of accommodation provided by the Government in one particular Centre and for the last to know the strengths and weaknesses of the Irish System in relation with the asylum seekers, this information look to be the utility for the authorities and entities interested in the asylum seekers.

The method used was qualitative with the existing information related with the asylum seeker process and quantitative through the interview with a sample of asylum seekers in one direct provision centre with a methodology of critical realism focus on explaining what I saw and experienced, with an approach inductive in where the information was judged by observations.

The results showed that asylum seekers decided to came to Ireland for the facility of the language but the Irish system is very slow in give resolution for their cases with people spending years with limited conditions of employability and to re start a normal life in Ireland.

The principal conclusions founded were that the language is the main reason for the asylum seekers to decide to came to Ireland and the opportunity to came without visa follow, and even with that reason may people had problems in the presentation of their case for the language barrier and the long time of the interviews, and the last conclusion is that the time of waiting for a resolution is excessive.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

In the world the crisis of refugees is becoming more evident every day, during the last 2017 according to statistics of the United Nations the number of individual who were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violations was 68.5 million that is approximate the equivalent of the entire population of France.

The number of Refugees in the world were the highest ever seen in the 2017 according to UNHCR Statically Yearbook (2017) with approximately 25.4 million, 40 million internally displaced people and 3.1 million of asylum seekers around the world, the number has been increasing in the last 50 years and according to The Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) one person becomes displaced every 2 seconds, that is 30 people who are newly displaced every minute. And more alarming is that 1 in every 110 people globally is either an *asylum seeker, internally displaced or a refugee*.

Syrians continued to be the largest forcibly displaced population in the world, with 12 million people at the end of 2016. That's more than half of the Syrian population. More than 5 million people have fled Syria seeking safety in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and beyond. In Lebanon, where more than 1 million Syrian refugees reside, there are no formal refugee camps and approximately 70 percent of Syrian refugees live below the poverty line.

The 2/3 of all the number of refugees in the world are coming just from five countries: Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar and Somalia.

This situation has affect Ireland as well, not because Ireland has refugees around the world or displaced people, the problem of Ireland is the number of people who arrives to the country every year looking for an political asylum in the country, the number of people has exceed the resources of the Irish government in many occasions with the impossibility to protect this people and added to bureaucratic process they can spend years in Direct Provision Centres waiting for a response of their applications, and without the opportunity to work at least for the first 9 months after the submission of their application, and even after this time they have limitations of employability making the life of the asylum seekers difficult because they have are struggle between the limitations of their status and the dream to recover a normal life and even after obtaining the status of refugees they have to clash with many obstacles to have a normal life in their new country of residence.

Through this proposal we will explain the definitions of the concept of refugee and asylum seekers, as well as the difference between these two type of status, the document will try to explain the process that the asylum seekers has to face in Ireland in order to become a refugee and the evidences founded for many researchers in the area of the crisis and difficulties of the people who travel to Ireland and Europe looking for political asylum.

The dissertation focus in the analysis of the asylum seekers in Europe in specific in Ireland in one Direct Provision Centre (accommodation provided by the authorities) in Dublin, trying to observe and identify the biggest challenges that the asylum seekers face during the submission of their application and subsequent interview to support the validity of their request. Also in the challenges that the asylum seekers have in the Direct Provisional Centre and the difficulties that the system imposes on them while they are waiting for the resolution of their situation in the seek of the refugee statement.

Through the data collection with the asylum seekers in Ireland and the analysis of the information existing in the different government institutions and private organizations interested in the asylum seekers and refugees issues, obtained and present evidences of the poverty or effectiveness of the Irish system in the treatment of the asylum seekers not just only in the resolution of their cases also in the situation of the asylum seekers in the Provisional Centers in particular in the Provisional Centre located in Clondalkin, Dublin, better known as the The Towers.

After the analysis of the results, the dissertation will present a conclusion of the information under analysis to give a resolution of the findings and explore the possible suggestions for the hypothesis presented in the Dissertation.

Chapter 2 - Aims and Objectives

The number of people in Ireland in the status of refugees or asylum seekers in 2017 was 12,539 UNHCR Statistically Yearbook (2017) and the number has been rising in the last years (according to the statistics provided by the Eurostat in 2018), even when Ireland is not the country with the mayor number of asylum applications in Europe the numbers has been increasing and some of the centers in Ireland are overcrowding, for example reports in Clondalkin Towers Centre in Dublin by the RIA (Reception and Integration Agency) shows that the number of residents in this centre is superior of the number capacity contracted by the centre, that kind of conditions promote in some centres the existence of lack of maintenance and poor conditions for the asylum seekers.

Most of the asylum seekers in Ireland have to wait in average 18 to 20 months to have a resolution about their situation in Ireland (Arnold, S et al., 2018) with people waiting for more than 2 years, and for the first 9 months they are not entitle to work, they have to be waiting in the Direct Provision Centres with non-activities at all and with the restriction of just the small amount of money per week that the government provide for them that in most of the cases is not enough to cover their basic needs. The reasons mentioned above have created a big problem for the asylum seekers in Ireland and with this dissertation I will focus to answer three main research questions.

The first one is to see why the people from other countries are looking for asylum in Ireland instead of another countries of the European Union and what could be the advantages or disadvantages of this decision?

The second research question to answer is what are the major challenges that the asylum seeker face to prove the validity of their application?

The third question is to know how are the condition inside the Direct Provision Centre (The Towers Condalkin) and what could be improved in the Direct Provision Centres and the Irish system to facilitate the life of the asylum seekers while they are waiting for and resolution of their application?

With this information the authorities or any entity interested in the benefit of the Refugees and asylum seekers could see a more specific panorama of the real situation and problematics that this people suffer during the procedure and after this to try to find a solution for the problem in a short term.

Chapter 3 - Literature review

The first step to understand the problem of the refugees and the asylum seekers is to know the basics of the history of the refugees and the universal definitions of the word “refugee”, in English according to the United Nations in the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) in Geneva, better known like the 1951 Refugee Convention a “refugee” is someone who:

“owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reason of race, religion, nationality membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country”

This definition does not state that being a refugee is unique to situations of war, war is a visible examples of one of the types of persecution people flee.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that is a United programmer with the mandate to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and tasteless people, and assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country. By 2017, there were 25.4 million refugee men, women and children across the world and the more that the 60% of refugees worldwide come from just five countries: Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar and Somalia.

To get the status has a refugee in another country requires a big process, because at the beginning all the people looking for shelter in a different country of origin, can be described as an asylum seekers, for that reason result important to define what it is a “asylum seeker” because most of the people believe that is a synonym of a “refugee”, the asylum seeker cording to the Cambridge dictionary is

“someone who leaves their country, often for political reasons or because of war, and who travel to another country hoping that the government will protect them and allow them to live there”, in another words an asylum seeker is looking to become a refugee and not every asylum seeker will ultimately be recognized as a refugee, but every refugee is initially an asylum seeker.

The term refugee in English appear till the late 17th century from the French word refugee that means “gone in search of refuge, according to the Oxford dictionary.

The last report or the number of Asylum seekers application pending in Ireland was of 6,955 by the end of June 2019 according to information of the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), the number of first applications in the last years has been increasing from 2,245 in 2016 to 3,670 by 2018, with an average of 350 new applications every month in Ireland, with reports of the Reception and Integration Agency (Monthly report November 2018) of 6,209 contracted capacity accommodation the situation shows that the system can be easily surpassed if the expected volume of applications is increased slightly, something that happens before (O’Shea S. 2014).

The role of the United Nations for the refugees

The United Nations has been fighting to save lives, protecting rights and build a better future for refugee, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people. The commission that has being dealing with all this activities is The Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that was created in 1950, during the aftermath of the Second World War, to help millions of Europeans who had fled or lost their homes, during all this time the UN Refugee Agency has been protecting and assisting refugees around the world.

In 1948 by the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights (UDHR), the United Nations sets out, for the first time in the history fundamental human rights to be universally protected and declare under the article 14 that :

“everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution and at the same time mention that the right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the proposes and principles of the United Nations”,

With this precedent the right to be a refugee its set out in all the countries that belong to the United Nations, that was a big advance in the fight for the people in prosecutions in their own countries to find a way by the universal laws to look for a protection in another country and have an option to survived in a difficult situation.

Grounded in the article mentioned before in 1951 in Geneva the United Nations has a Convention relating to the status of refugees, that is the center piece of international refugee protection today, the convention was attended by delegates of the government of 26 countries and the convention agreements entered into force on 22 April 1954, the convention had an amendment in 1967 with the Protocol relating to the status of Refugees (Protocol of New York), which one of the most remarkable changes was the removed of the geographic and temporal limits of the 1951 convention and giving a universal coverage with the participation of 160 state parties, which includes 157 of the 193 United Nations member states.

In relation with Europe and the treatment of the asylum seekers, the Dublin Convention (Regulation No. 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, 2013) is the most important document

created by EU in where determines which EU Member State is responsible for the examination of the application for asylum, submitted by persons seeking international protection within the European Union where the asylum seeker has travelled through more than one EU Member State.

A system called Eurodac takes fingerprint records of asylum seekers as they arrive in the EU. If an asylum seekers fingerprint appears to have been recorded somewhere in the EU on an earlier occasion, then the asylum seeker is liable to be returned to that country according to the Dublin Convention.

The crisis of the asylum seekers in Ireland and Europe

Millions of people are forced to leave their homes every year because of conflict, violence, human rights violations, persecution, and natural disasters. The number of forcibly displaced people continued to rise in 2019, calling for increased humanitarian assistance across the world. At the end of 2018, 70.8 million people were in need of protection and assistance as a consequence of forced displacement. This is the equivalent of a person becoming displaced every two seconds. Most refugees live in urban areas followed by those living in camps or rural areas. (UNHCR).

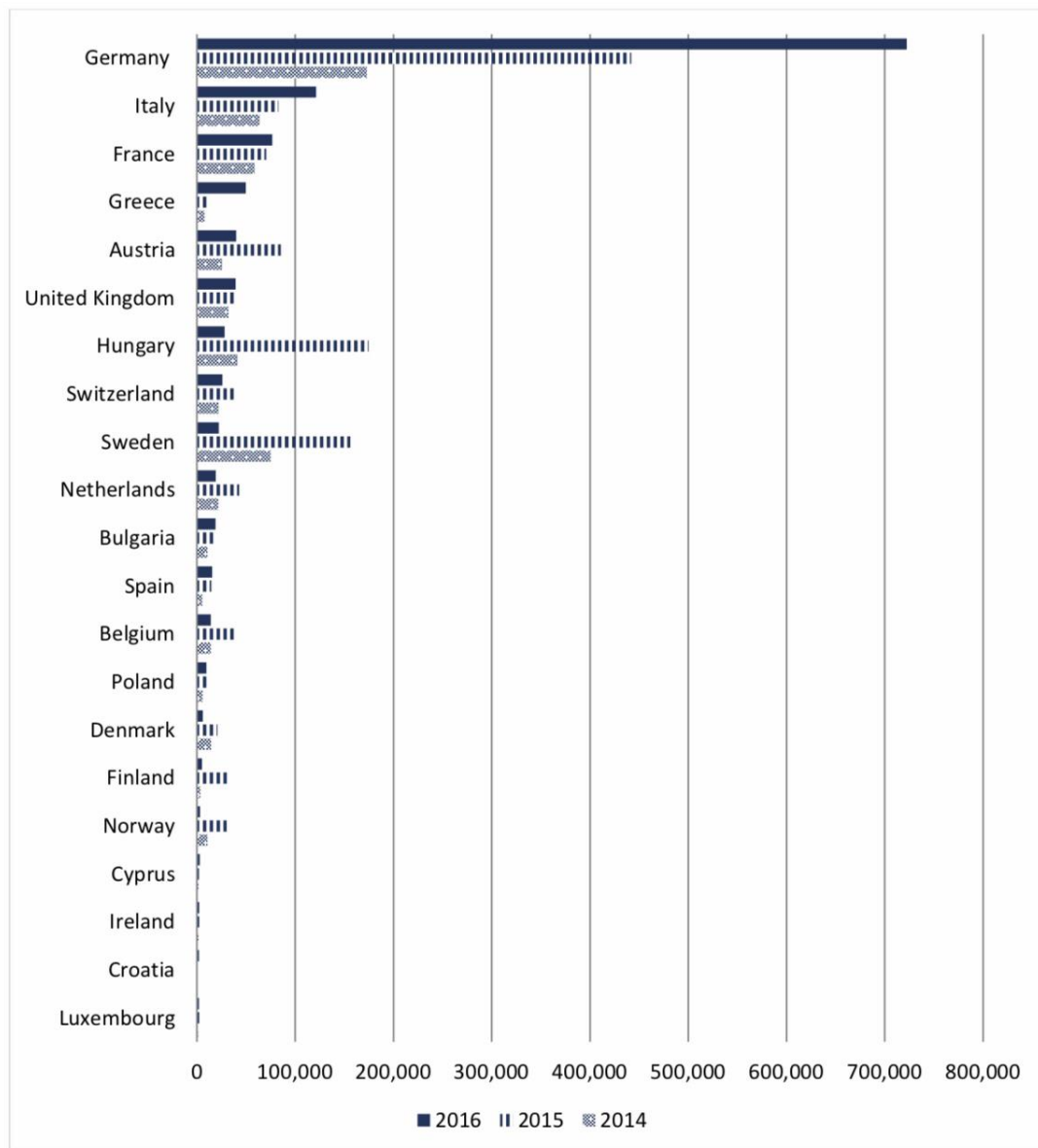
In April 2016, the European Commission adopted the Communication 'Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance. Forced Displacement and Development', presenting a new development-led approach to forced displacement. The objective is to strengthen the resilience and self-reliance of both the displaced and their host communities, working with host governments and local actors to support the gradual socio-economic inclusion of refugees and Internally Displace People (IDPs).

Policies and laws have been designed to deal with asylum seekers even though the standard for receiving asylum seekers vary considerably between EU countries today (Brekke, J and Brochmann, Grete, 2015), the efforts to create a unify system has fail, every country decides the reception conditions, access to integrations measures and social rights making difficult the coordination of the policies across the European Union. These differences encourage secondary movement by migrants, movement that the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) was intended to prevent. The current economic crisis heightens these differences, creating tension between countries and increasing the importance of reconsidering the common knowledge on harmonization efforts in Europe.

The Dublin Regulation (DR), which states that asylum seekers should have their cases processed in the European country in which they are first registered, constitutes one of the basic elements in the harmonized policies. The Dublin system is now challenged across Europe by gaps in reception policies and living standards: significant national differences prevail as to liberality in granting asylum status, access to welfare goods and the labor market (Florian, T 2016)

The European Asylum Dactyloscopy Database (EURODAC) was established in the European Union to have a control of the people who applies for protection in the EU having a fingerprint database, every asylum seekers that applies for asylum through the European Union is registered by the EURODAC. Since it was established in 2003, EURODAC has proved to be a very important tool providing fingerprint comparison evidence to assist with determining where the asylum seekers applied for the first instance for protection and following the Dublin Regulation it can be possible to determinate easily the Member State responsible for the application.

The number of applications for asylum in the last years in the EU has been rising for the wars in differences countries of Middle East and Africa, The principle country that received the asylum seekers in Europe is Germany by much, concentrating the majority of the applications in just 5 countries of the European Union as we can see in the Figure 1 , having more than 400,000 application every year Germany has become the main focus for the Asylum seekers follow by the closes countries from Syria and Afghanistan (Hatton, TJ, De Haas, R & Egger, 2017).



Source: Eurostat [migr_asyappctza]

Note: Nine Member States with fewer than 2,000 applications in 2014/2015/2016 are excluded from the chart: the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Figure 1. First-time Asylum applicants in EU and Norway, 2014-2016

Asylum Seekers and Challenges in Ireland

Ireland has acceded to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and in the New York protocol of 1967. UNHCR's supervisory role in relation to compliance with the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees is recognized in national legislation (The International Protection Act 2015). This Act came into effect on 31 December of 2016 and provides a procedure for the application for international protection. Under this new act is clarify the person who qualifies for international protection and is explained the following steps for the people looking for protection in the country.

Although in some countries UNHCR recognizes and registers refugees, in Ireland it is not UNHCR role to determine who is and who is not granted asylum. This is the responsibility of the Irish State and the Department of Justice, who receive and decide applications for asylum in the country under the terms of the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 protocol.

Accordingly, applications for refugee status should be submitted directly to the International Protection Office (IPO), who is the responsible within the Irish Naturlisation and Immigration Services (INIS) for processing applications for international protection under the International Protection Act (2015). This is only possible for a person who is already in Ireland.

In Ireland the Information Booklet for Applicants for International Protection (2017) provide detailed information about the process of applying for the International protection and explain the steps to follow in order to become be an asylum seeker registered in the country and the way to become a refugee, the information of the booklet explain the principled institutions involved in the process.

Asylum Seekers Working In Ireland

Before the 2nd of July of 2018 the Asylum seekers were unable to apply for a job in Ireland with the refusal of the right to access to the labor sector, the introduction of the European Asylum Support Office (2016), EASO guidance on reception conditions: operational standards and indicator, in the Irish Law. Ireland introduced with this new law the access to the labor market to the asylum seekers following the declaration of the Supreme Court, in February 2018, in where was mention that the prohibition of Ireland on employment was unconstitutional after a famous case of a Burmese person who spent eight years living in Direct provision, the access to the labor market is limited because the application can be made just after nine months of the application for the asylum in Ireland and even when you the asylum seekers received the permission they have to renew this every six month, limitation their option for jobs and their possibilities to get a notion for a long term.

According to the new rules of the country in the past year the law has change in favor of the asylum seekers, the Justice Minister Charlie Flanagan said that asylum seekers will be allowed to take up any form of employment except positions in An Garda Síochana, the Defense Forces and the civil service (Finn, Christina, Jun. 2018).

The new rules apply for the asylum seekers that had been in Ireland for more than nine months only and are waiting for the first decision from the International Protection Office (IPO) and is important to mention that even when they are waiting for the asylum they are allowed to receive a welfare payment weekly of €21.60 to buy personal stuffs because the asylums live in a direct provision places given by the government of Ireland. And the payment will continue to be paid for the 12 weeks when a person find an employment, depending of their earnings and hour worked, that money could be

reduced. And I under the same law the person that do find employment will have to start contributing to their cost of their stay at the Direct Provision center.

This change represent a big improvement in the life of the asylum seekers and also in the life of their families because is not surprising that in many times they have families at home, and having the possibility to work they will be able to provide support at their families too, another fact from the point of view of the asylum seekers and refugees is that their allowance of participation in the labor market is connected to gain recognition also in their social networks (Warfa et al. 2012), that becomes important for the integration in their new society and their feeling of successful life (Scheibelhofer et al. 2019).

The cost for the Government

Another important fact for the asylum seekers is the time that takes them to get the refugee status, according to Iris Refugee Council the reason for the long wait is caused for the introduction of the International Protection Act 2017, which caused a number of asylum applications to be brought back to the start of the process. (Ni Bhroin, S. Dic 2018), that delay in asylum process is “Hampering integration prospects” according to Enda O’ Neal the head of UNHCR in Ireland (Pollak, S. 2018), in a conference offered at University College Cork’s of Law, also mention that each year one person in a Direct Provision cost to the state €10,950 making reference of the McMahon Working Group Report (2015), and the cost pod processing is a fraction of this amount. Making financial sense to invest in decision making and also to improve outcomes for refugees.

Year	Asylum applications	Direct Provision residents	Cost
2000	10938	1811	No figure available
2001	10325	3823	No figure available
2002	11634	4006	83847
2003	7900	4595	76552
2004	4766	5684	83634
2005	4323	5590	84382
2006	4314	4059	78728
2007	3985	5291	83262
2008	3866	6118	91472

Figure 2, Table of applications, residents and costs 2000 – 2008 Information by (INIS 2006)

The numbers have also been increasing year on year over the past three years. In 2016, there were 4,696 people living in direct provision, 5,096 by 2017 and in the last year 5,828 persons according to the information provided by the Irish Refugee Council (IRC) based in reports by RIA. The capacity of Ireland's direct provision accommodation centres was of 6,093 by the end of 2018, and the last report by RIA made in January 2019 mentioned that the number of persons in Direct Provision was 6,355 for that reason RIA has to create express accommodation for many asylum seekers, using hotels and private houses has a Provisional Centres, and in not all the cases the properties are properly equipped to meet people's needs.

Reports from different organizations and newspapers emphasize in the problematic of the lack of accommodation for the asylum seekers, a number of commercial hotels in the east of Ireland were used as temporary Direct Provision Centres to meet the rise demand for accommodation of the asylum seekers in 2018 (Duncan, P and Pollak, S. 2018), and another example of this situation occur in September 2018 when RIA was unable to house 20 people and they were forced to refer to homeless services.

Because of the problematic of the huge number of asylum seekers and the lack of opportunities during the last decade , organizations has Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland (MASI), demand the freedom, justice and dignity for all the asylum seekers in Ireland, the organization demands the end of the direct provision, the right to work and education , and opposes deportation, that is the last stage if the process of refuge fails for the asylum seekers, even when they wait even 4 years in Ireland in the provision centers.

Delays in the Irish system to give resolution of the applications

One of the biggest challenges for the asylum seekers is to have a resolution for their cases with the Irish authorities, is remarkable to mention that recent reports mention an average of 18 to 20 months period between the submission application and the first interview (Arnold, S et al., (2018), this time is to extend and in the majority of the cases the International Protection Office (IPO) is responsible of this problematic. There are many organizations that are concerns of this problem and have been collection information with the asylum seekers for year like Spunout that according to their reports the average length of stay in the Direct Provision Centres is more than two years, with people also spending till 10 years in this conditions, they also appeal that the existence of physical and mental health issues among the residents is very common, the asylum seekers are five times more likely to experience metal health issues and psychiatric conditions.

Length of Time of RIA Residents in Asylum Process (Based on Initial Asylum Application) IN MONTHS												Total
0>3	3>6	6>9	9>12	12>18	18>24	24>36	36>48	48>60	60>72	72>84	84+	
766	584	437	635	607	496	941	892	294	140	75	267	
12.5%	9.5%	7.1%	10.4%	9.9%	8.1%	15.3%	14.5%	4.8%	2.3%	1.2%	4.4%	100%
Mean Length of Time: 26 Months, Median Length of Time: 18 Months												

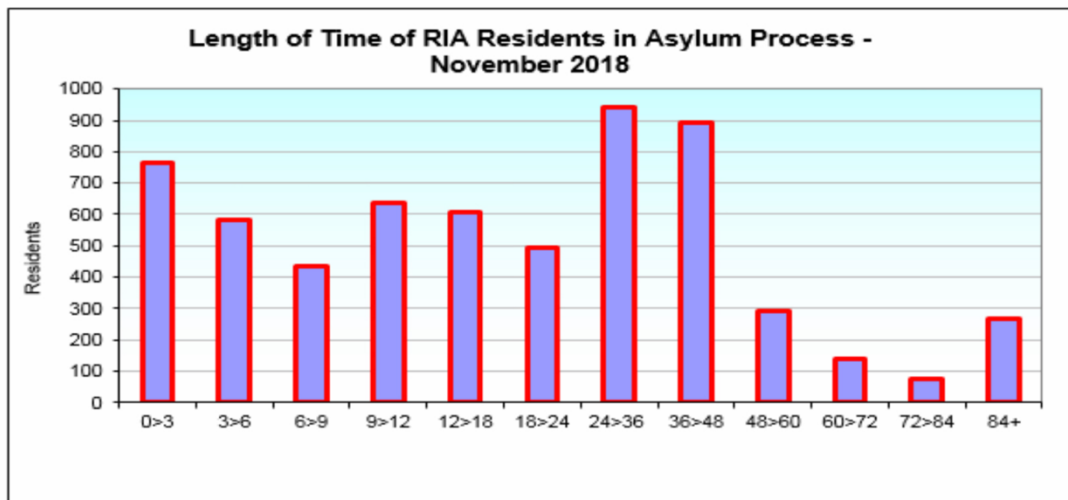


Figure 3. Length of time of RIA Residents in Asylum process (Info. By RIA, report November 2018).

One of the main contributions to the problematic with the asylum seekers was made by Bryan McMahon in the “Working Group to Report to Government on Improvements to the Protection Process, including Direct Provision and Supports to Asylum Seekers” (2015), that offer a great overview of the Protection System for the Asylum seekers providing possible solutions and suggestions to improve the Irish System in the treatment of the applications of the asylum seekers, also offer options to support the persons in the system given alternatives like financial supports in different areas for the asylum seekers like the possibility to work while they wait for the resolution of their case and focus in improvements in the accommodation provided by the Direct Provision (the places where the asylum seekers live).

Most of the suggestions given by Bryan McMahon had been implemented in the Irish system in order to increase the quality of life and conditions in which asylum seekers live, the report created an antecedent and made evident the systems lacks offering opportunities to improve the conditions

of the people and piercing the attention of the country in relation with the problematic of the asylum seekers in the country.

Accommodations for the Asylum seekers

In Ireland the accommodation for the asylum seekers is provided by the Irish Refugee Council (RIA) in places named Direct Provision, every person that arrives in Ireland through the Airport of Dublin that is the most common way that the people arrived to the country is sent to the Baleskin Reception Centre, that is located very close to the Dublin Airport, in this place the asylum seekers stay for a couple of weeks while the Refugee Council decide the permanent Direct Provision Centre to send them.

In Ireland the RIA accommodation portfolio by the end of 2018 was of 38 centres throughout 17 counties, with a contracted capacity of 6,209 places and were registered 5,928 persons living in Direct Provision Centres. These centres were: 1 Reception Centre, located in Dublin, 35 Accommodation Centres across different counties, and 1 Self Catering Centre located in Louth.

The reception procedure for the Asylum seekers follow the standards established by the European Union (EU High Commissioner for Refugees 2000), in where the availability of interpreters is a facility that the government of Ireland should provide for the asylum seekers “where necessary and possible”, that reference is used by the Refugee Act (1996), but not in all the cases is possible to have an interpreter for all the asylum seekers and this is a difficulty that the asylum seekers need to face at the beginning of their process, having a baulk at the firsts instance of arrived.

During years the problematic of the occupancy of the Direct Provisions Centres and their contracted capacity has been a problem, since 2016 the available accommodation in the Direct Provisions have been decreasing due to a confluence of different factors, like the expiry of contracts with the private accommodation providers and the ongoing houses crisis in Ireland which is reducing available accommodation sites. In particular in Dublin the number of Direct Provision has been decreasing with the closure of more than three centres in the last couple of years, the most recent is the closure of the Centre Hatch Hall (Conal, T. 2019) who was providing accommodation to 220 people and they have to be re accommodate in other Direct Provision around Ireland.

** Population figures supplied by the Central Statistics office from Census 2016*

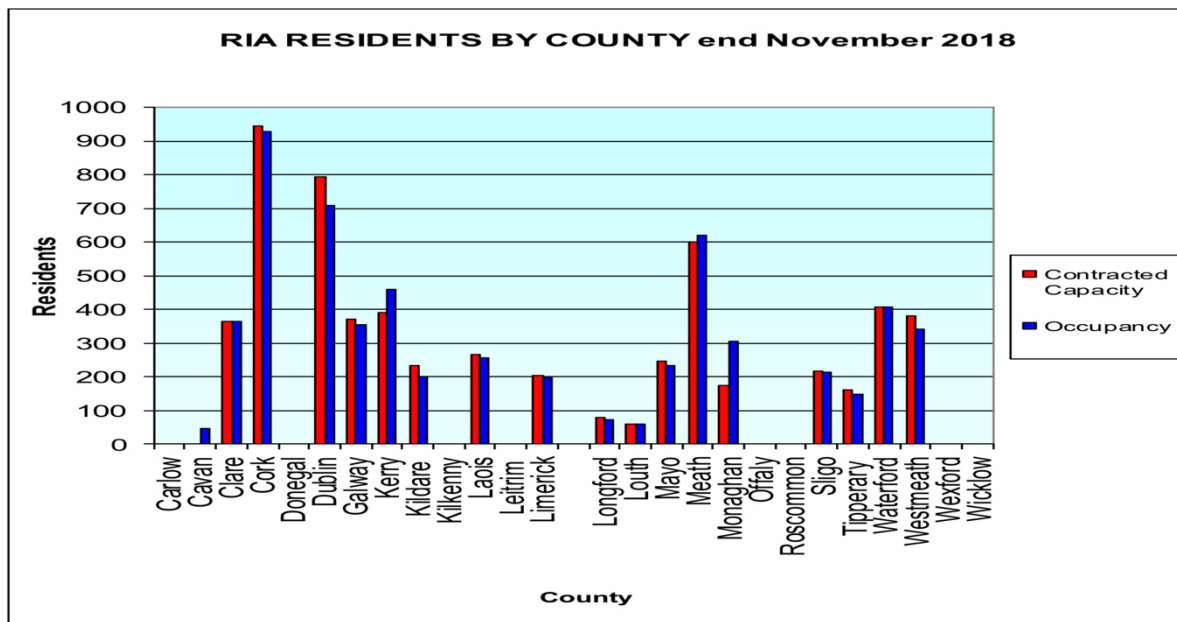


Figure 4. Residents by County in Ireland Direct in Provision (Info by the Central Statistics Office Census 2016)

This mobility of the asylum seekers in not promoting stability in the life of the people which also jeopardizes the possibility of social integration in their new society, when the asylum seekers are re located in a new centre their style of life have to re start again, they have to find a new job if they were working, they have to make new relations and if they are a family with minor they have to find a new school for the kids also in their new place; many factors will be modified with the change of

residency of the asylum seekers, if for local people can be difficult to move from one address to another, for an asylum seeker the difficulties are higher (Mayblin, L. 2014).

According to the statistics provided by RIA in Reports from October 2018 in Ireland there are 7 single male only accommodation centres and there is only one female-only reception centre in Killarney, Kerry named Park Lodge, the centre had an occupancy of 45 out of 55 places, and with the evidences of more than 5,000 asylum seekers in the country the number of places for women in a only females centres is very small, in particular because a lot of woman would like to access to this type of accommodation centre, most of the women would like to move to this places for security reasons, according to the Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI, Response to the Garda Inspectorate Report 2010), they have identified across the country the direct provision system as exacerbating vulnerabilities and in fact being a risk in terms of sexual violence, the study presents findings on the experience of 61 asylum-seeker and refugee survivors of sexual violence who availed of services provided by the RCNI in 2012. In that period the 61 people in where 54 were asylum seekers, attended rape crisis centres in Ireland having experienced 69 incidents of sexual violence with over 90 per cent related with rape. These numbers indicate a significant problem among the accommodation centers for asylum seekers.

Many non-profit organizations (NPOs) in Ireland believe that the current system creates barriers to integration, contributes to poor health and results in social exclusion, they remark the next issues has the most significant in relation with the accommodation Centres (McMahon, B. 2015):

- A number of Direct Provision centres are in isolated locations with limited transport option, despite recent progress, the majority of people living in Direct Provision centres still have no right to work, to access higher education or to cook for themselves.

- Three meals are provided at set times each day – residents have no facilities to cook for themselves
- Residents live in shared accommodation, with some adults sharing rooms with up to eight people of different backgrounds and nationalities.
- The majority of Direct Provision centres are managed by private contractors on a for-profit basis, on behalf of the State.
- The standards of accommodation and living conditions vary widely from centre to centre – however, efforts are currently being made to develop national standards for Direct Provision centres.
- Children have been born and raised living in these conditions, the long-term developmental effects of which are still unknown

Challenges after obtaining the Refugees status

One of the biggest problems that the refugees faced after obtained the status of refugees in Ireland is the possibility to become independents in the country a recover a normal life in a different country , further of the barrier of the language in some cases they have to face the problem of the housing in Ireland and many of the refugees do not find a place to live in the short term as they become homeless, for that reason many organizations in Ireland provided help to the refugees when they cannot find a permanent accommodation , this organization in their majority charities offer the service of accommodations not just for the homeless people even , for the refugees who cannot find a permanent place to live, the problem with this type of accommodations is that many of the other residents can be involved into drug problems or addictions even with mental problems and these kind of situations make the refugees vulnerable to get involved in addictions or major problems

Several voluntary organizations get government funding to provide temporary and permanent accommodation for homeless people and to provide advice and assistance to them. Of these, the main ones are:

Simon Communities in Ireland: simon.ie

Focus Ireland: focusireland.ie

Crosscare: crosscare.ie

St Vincent de Paul: svp.ie

De Paul Trust: depaulireland.org

Salvation Army: salvationarmy.ie

Peter McVerry Trust: pmvtrust.ie

Novas: novas.ie

Sophia: sophia.ie

Cope: copegalway.ie

Sonas: sonashousing.ie

Cuan-Teach Mhuire: cuanmhuire.ie

Merchants Quay Ireland provides a range of services to drug users and homeless people, including the Night Café in Dublin. Threshold and Trust also provide advice and assistance to homeless people, some members of the Irish Council for Social Housing (voluntary housing organizations) offer services and supports to homeless people.

Once granted refugee status, a refugee can stay in Ireland indefinitely and enjoy rights and responsibilities similar to those of an Irish citizen. Refugees also have the right to apply for family reunification in Ireland with immediate family members (within certain criteria) who may be in

different countries. A refugee is entitled to apply for Irish citizenship when they have been resident in Ireland 3 years from the date of their asylum application. A refugee can apply for a Travel Document which allows refugees to travel and return to Ireland without a re-entry visa. However, a refugee may not travel to the country they have been declared a refugee from for 5 years.

When the asylum seekers have been granted with the status as a refugees in Ireland, they have to leave the Direct Provision accommodation centres and move into other accommodation, either in private rented accommodation or social housing when the people cannot afford to pay for private rented accommodation or buy their own homes, in the case of the social housing system the local authorities are the main providers according to eligibility and need. These system involves more expenses for the Ireland government, the housing crisis in the country make difficult for the Refugees to rent a property in Ireland in particular in Dublin, for that reason in many Direct Provision Centres people with the status of refugees still living in these places, is the case of the Clondalkin Centre in Dublin in where at least 40 refugees still living in the Direct Provision and many have been in this centre for many years gathering places that could be transferred to asylum seekers. But this is a problematic that could be studied in future researches, how the housing crisis is affecting the Refugees.

Chapter 4 - Research Methodology and Methods

During this dissertation we will need to use a methodology in order to find new information related with the problematic of the asylum seekers and refugees in Ireland and for that reason the methodology used will follow the proposed scheme of *Sunders et al., 2015*, in the book *Research Method for Business Students*, in where we will need to define our philosophy, then our approach to theory development, followed by the methodological choice in order to define an strategy to obtain information and define our time horizon, and with all this procedure collect the data and analysis the information to get a conclusion based in the information obtained during this research.

According to *Mason (2002)* exist a fundamental question that you have to answer in order to define your methodology process, and is to identify what is the nature of the phenomena, or social reality , that you wish to investigate, this question will help us to identify your ontological position or perspective, that means to see what is the nature and essence of things in the social world, in this proposal the essence are people, social actor and humans, because the idea is to identify according to the actors involved in the process of political asylum what are the major difficulties of this process and find if the actual system for the asylum seekers is effective in their opinion and what could be improved in the system for help them to have a normal life while they are waiting for the resolution of their application.

Knowing your ontological perspective of the situation you can identify what we regard as knowledge or evidence of findings in the social world and these evidences are the case of this research.

Following the research onion of *Sunders et al., (2015)* the first step is to define the research philosophy that refers to a system of beliefs and assumptions about the development of knowledge in

this research the proposal of philosophy will be the critical realism, that according to Saunders et al. (20015) is focus on explaining that what we see and experience, in terms of the underlying structure of reality that shape the observable events. For our case of study maybe the information provided by the institutions in Ireland will not reflect the real situation of the refugees, that could be better or worse than the information that we can find about them in the government files, for example maybe the number of asylum seekers provided by the government is one thousand but the real number of the asylum seekers with the children are the double and the research will judge this information trying to find the layer behind. The theory of the Critical Realism was developed by Has Bhaskar (1978) mentioning the existence of three layers, one is the real another the actual and the third is the empirical.

For this research the idea of using a critical realism as a philosophy is to do not look the problems as the bigger picture because maybe what we can see is just an small part of the big picture, because maybe the problem of the asylum seekers is not considered by the government as a priority in this moment for the number of asylum seekers at the moment, but in the future could be just the beginning of several problems for the government.

The approach to the theory development in this research will be the inductive that is mean that the information will be judged to be supported by the observations as Ketokivi and Mantere (2010) mentioned in their book, even when the conclusion will be supported by the observations, it is not guaranteed.

The idea of this approach is generalizing from the specific to the general, making a theory of generation and building. Always trying to find the felling of the people affected not just the

information provided in order to find a conclusion and understand the nature of the problem for the asylum seekers.

During this research the methodological choice will be the mixed method of research design , because this method includes a quantitative and qualitative method with triangulation between the result of any of both methods, the idea would be to conduct exploratory discussions with a few responsible managers of the places that provided accommodation to the asylum seekers in Ireland and trying to figure out what are the normal process for an asylum seeker in Ireland to the status of a refugee and see according to their opinion what is the best way to support the people during this process and what are according to them the most challenging aspect of the bureaucracy process trying to identify the factor that could help the individuals to pass through this process in a faster way , during this discussions the method used will be the qualitative, also the research would look to talk with the authorities that follow the process of the asylum seekers having an interview withes specific questionnaires (using the qualitative method to have a better perspective of the situation with the managers of the program).

Another mix procedure would be conducted by a questionnaire to the asylum seekers in Ireland having specific questions to analyse the principal factor that have been stopping their process of change of status as a refugees, also designing the questionnaires to explore the difficulties that they had to fill their application when they first contact the authorities to submit their application, doing a quantitative report of the results. But in the other hand have open questions to know the feelings of the people about the accommodation centres and the facilities provided to see if is reaching their needs and know about their opinion related with the effectiveness or weakness of the Irish system according to them know and what are the major difficulties that are confronting to improve their quality of life.

The exact nature of this interactions and iteration in this particular research project may shape the way in which qualitative and quantitative methods are integrated at each of phase of the research (Greene 2007).

The research will use an interview strategies to find information from the people involved in the process of become refugees and focus on interview with the asylum seekers that are facing problems to find a normal life in their new country, this interviews will be conducted in the places in where the council provide accommodations or with entities voluntaries that provide accommodations to this people, producing with this strategy information quantitative to support the research using descriptive and inferential statistics. . This strategy can be supported by a narrative inquiry with a few important members of the asylum seekers that are representatives of a big group of the asylum seekers for their characteristics this process consist of a storytelling procedure to obtain qualitative information. Chase (2011) distinguishes between asking participants to generalize when answering questions is more structured types of qualitative research and being invited to provide a complete narrative of their experience.

For the last step of the methodology it has to be selected the cross sectional study , because the idea of this research is to find what are the biggest challenges for the asylum seekers currently in Ireland, not just have in consideration the opinion of the authorities also the opinion of the asylum seekers in Ireland and for that reason the study is in an specific time for a particulars phenomenon , the thirty research question is looking to know what are the currently conditions inside the Direct Provision Centre and what could be improve in the Direct Provision Centre and the Irish System to facilitate the life of the asylum seekers while they are waiting for the resolution of their application. For that reason mentioned the cross sectional study is the most indicated for this research.

According to the methodology selected the method used was the interviews with questionnaires and for that reason we cannot do interviews to all the population of our research , we must choose a sample representative of our total population instead of census because according Barnett (2002) the using of sampling makes possible a higher accuracy than census.

If we choose to analysis all the asylum seekers in Ireland that would supposed to mean that the total universe is the total number of asylum seekers in the country with the last report by the EUROSTAT of 6,955 persons subject of asylum applications pending, the number is significantly large and for that reason the research it will be focus on one Direct Provision Centre located in Dublin, the name of the Centre is Clondalkin (better known by the Towers), and according to the last report by RIA in November 2018 the number of people living in the provisional centre was 225, but is important to consider that not all the people living in this particular Direct Provision are asylum seekers, with 60 people recognized as refugees already by the Government but living in the accommodation centre for the difficulties to find a private accommodation, the number of the universe to investigate is of 165 people. The number of formal interviews conducted was 10 and with 6 informal conversation with the asylum seekers to have one total of representation of the universe of 10%, that is a correct representation of the total number of asylum seekers.

Chapter 5 - Presentation of Data

The information obtained through the interview with the asylum seekers is in a close relationship in general terms with the information that we can find on in the data base of the organization in charge of the protection of the asylum seekers and Nonprofit organizations that support the asylum seekers in their way to the refugees status, with the majority of the asylum seekers having in average a very prolonged waiting times, (Database of IPO based in information statistics from the EASO report 2018), spending above 18 to 20 months (Arnold, S. Et al. ,2018) this information match with the respond of the interviewers with the 50% of them waiting from 2015.

Another aspect that has a coincidence between the primary and secondary research is the barrier language in the application and during the interviews for the validation of their application, (McMahon, B. 2015) mentioned by many interviewers has one of the biggest challenges for them during the interviews with the authorities, that dispute between the right of have a translator and the possibility of have one is stopping in many cases the possibility of sixes for their applications.

The interview with the asylum seekers (Appendix) consisted in 10 questions related with their opinion and experience through the Irish system and Provision Centre with an introductory questions about their personal details: as the nationality, the range of age, time of arrival to the country and if they travel with family following by the questions about their opinion of the Irish System and Provisional centre in order to answer the research questions.

The following charts will express in a better way the data obtained by the introductory questions and follow by the 10 main questions of the interview with the asylum seekers.

Figure 5. Range of Age

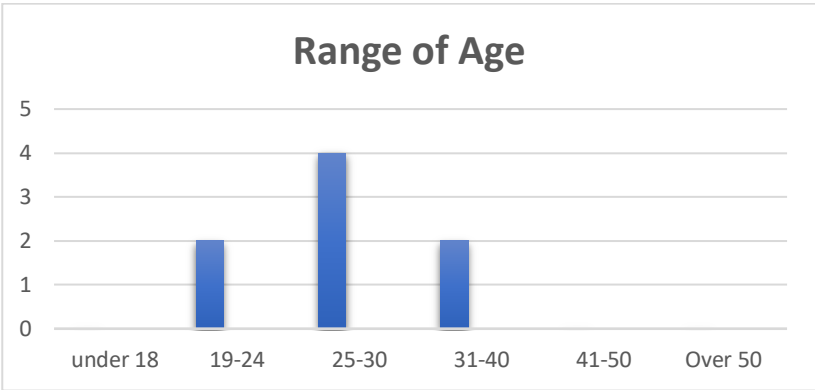


Figure 6. Nationalities

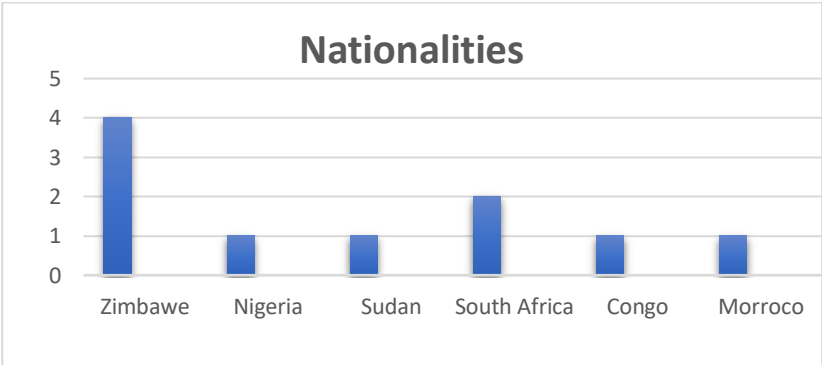


Figure 7. Arriving Year

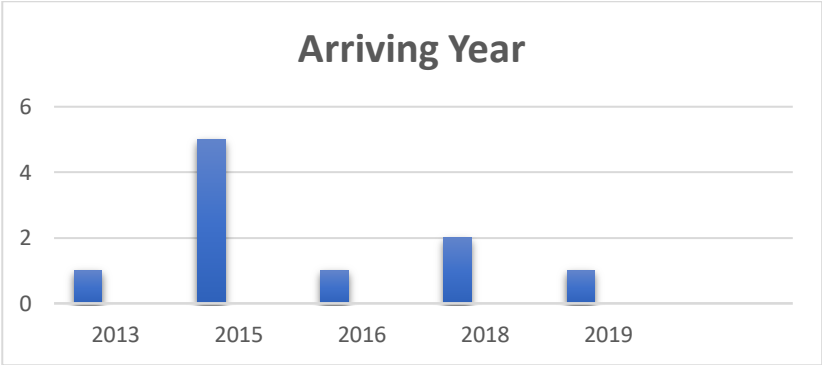


Figure 8. Arrive in Ireland Alone or with Family

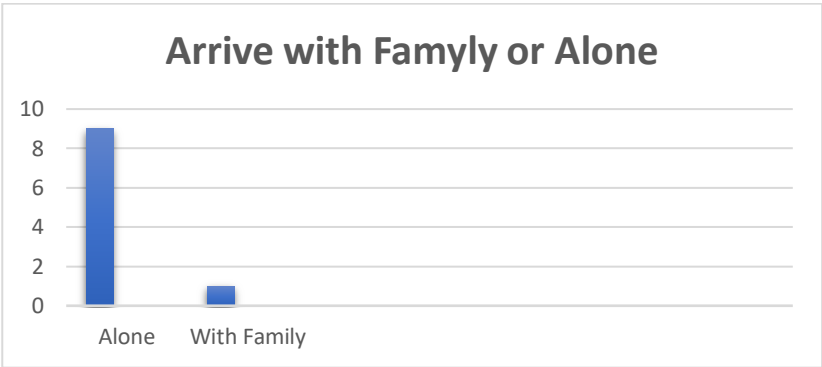


Figure 9. How they got Information about Applying in Ireland and reason for apply in Ireland?

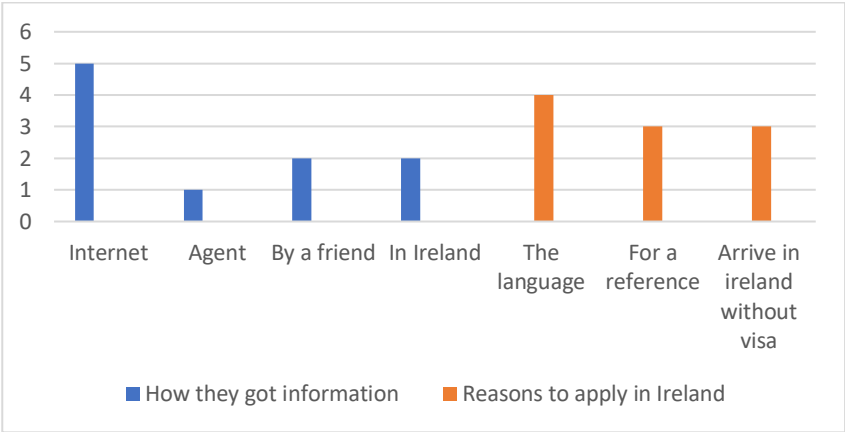


Figure 10. How was the process to submit the application and barriers?

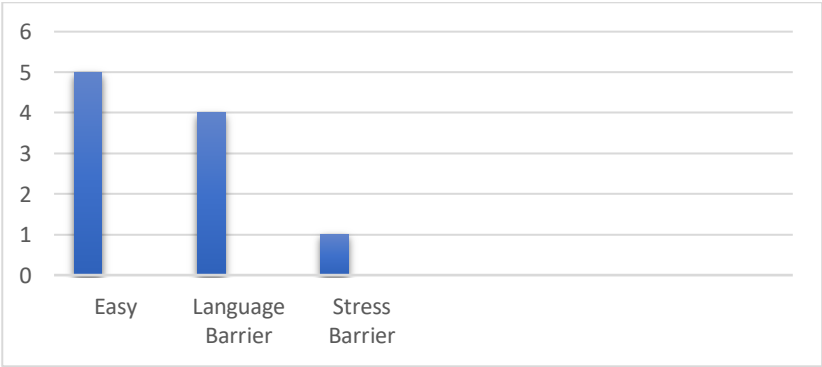


Figure 11. Possible Improvement in the Irish System when they arrived.

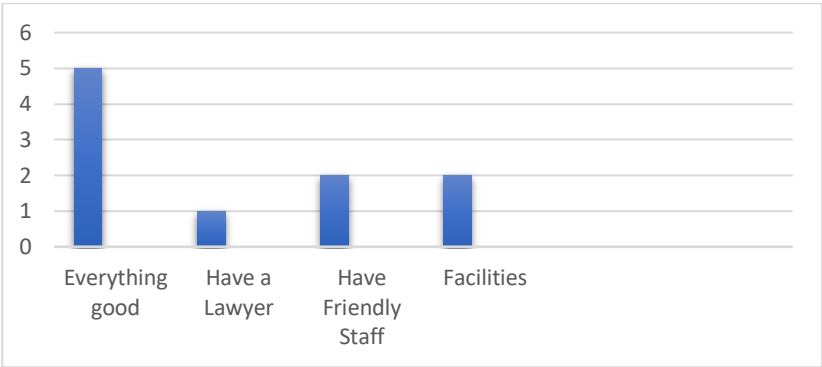


Figure 12. Sharing Room and Opinion about accommodation

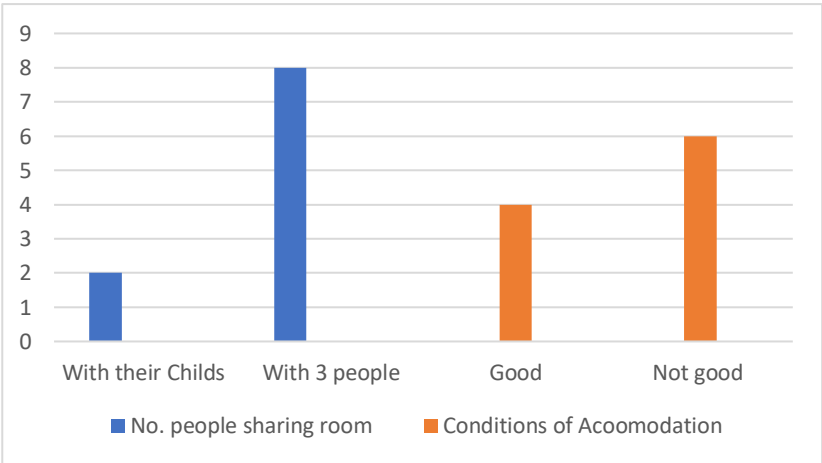


Figure 13. What would they change in the Provision Centre?

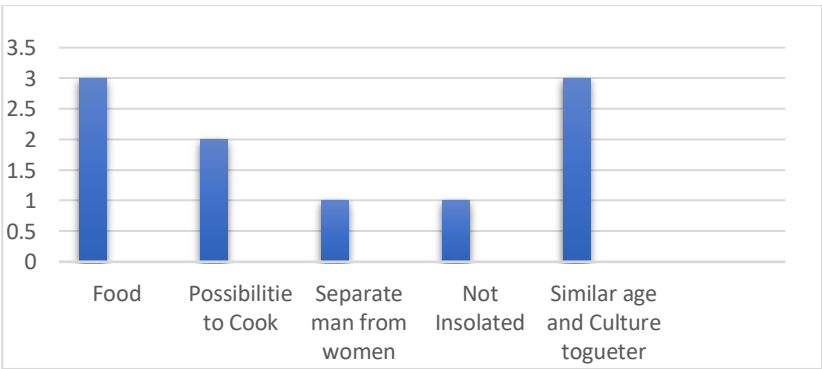


Figure 14. Most challenging aspect in presentation of the case with authorities.

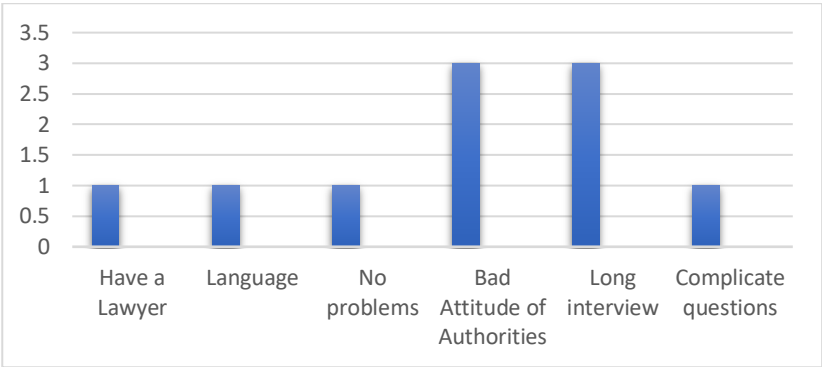


Figure 15. Authorities keep informed about their cases.

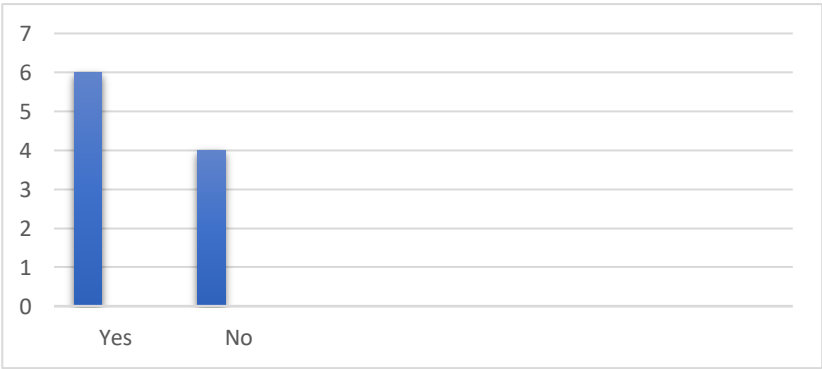


Figure 16. Effectiveness of the Irish System and reason.

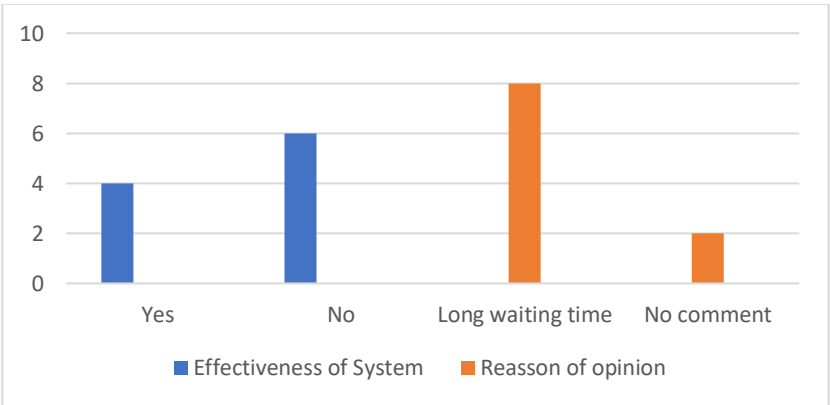


Figure 17. How is their quality of life and could be improved?

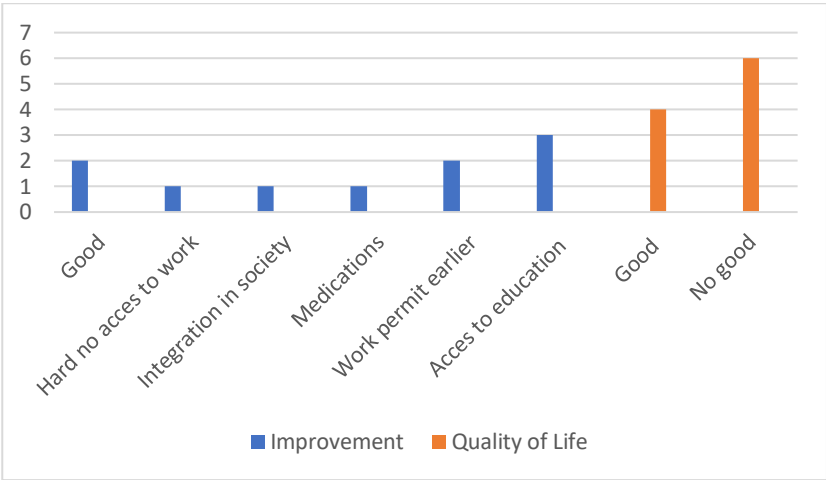
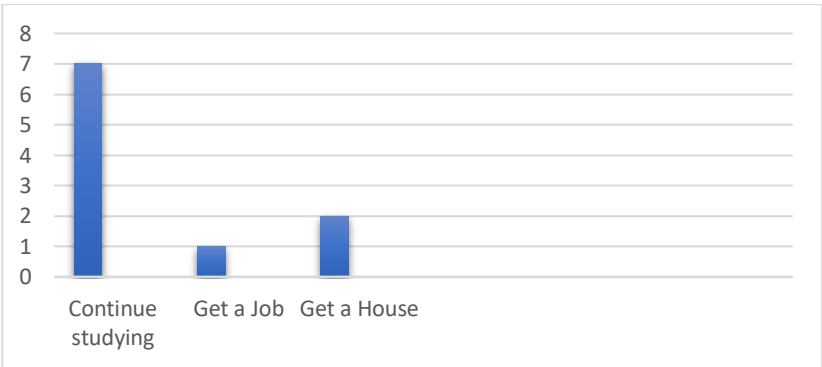


Figure 18. Principal plan for their future if they get the status



There is some information collected by the interview not mentioned in this presentation of data, but this information will be used in the data analysis for the qualitative research findings due to its nature cannot be interpreted in a Figure, is complementary information by the asylum seekers in the interviews that does not enter in the criteria mentioned above.

Chapter 6 - Data Analysis

The first information collected in the interviews with the asylum seekers are the introductory question that can help us to know more about the type of refugees that arrive to the country and shows that the total number of the people in the interviews are from Africa with a big majority of the asylum seekers from Zimbabwe with 4 of the total people in the interviews, the range of age in the sample shows a parity between the age of the asylum seekers going from the range of 19 to the maximum of 50 year as having the major number of asylum seekers in the age between 31 and 40 with 4 interviewed. With most of the representative people of the sample coming alone to the country with 8 and just 1 women came to the country with her two children, and one more person arrived with a friend looking both for the asylum in Ireland.

The last parameter in the introductory question is the year of arriving to the country and surprise that the half of the interviewers arrives from 2015 having at the moment at least 4 years in the Provision Centre System, one person even mention that arrives at the end of 2013 that is mean at least 6 years waiting for the resolution of their application, this person in particular mention during the interview that she was refused of the status and appeal the decision and for that reason she consider that the process has extended that long. The last two people arrived in 2018 and the last of the asylum seekers mention that had just 2 week in Ireland, all this details show a big variety in the waiting time for the asylum seekers but with tendency for long terms greater than 18 months.

The first question was above how did they get information to apply in Ireland and the 50% found information online in websites provided by the Government, and the other two people by a friend, one person with an agent at their home country and the last two people arrived to the country first and later they applied in the country. The reason because they applied in Ireland and not in another

country of the European Union is shown in Figure 9, with language being the first option for 40% of the asylum seekers, followed by 30% for the facility to arrive in Ireland without a Visa passport and with the same percentage for a reference by a friend or agent in their country.

The second question analysed how the process of submitting their application went when they arrived and half of the people mentioned that the procedure was easy, 40% mentioned that language was a barrier to filling the documentation and one arrived with stress and this became a barrier to filling the application due to the reasons that led her to leave her country.

The third question was to explore the improvement in the system that they considered could be beneficial, showing that 50% considered the system effective and without need of changes, two people proclaimed a bad treatment by the authorities, two people complained about the facilities provided, in particular the lack of food and clothes to protect them from the cold conditions in the country.

The fourth question was about their opinion of the Direct Provision and 40% mentioned to be pleased with their accommodation, and the majority mentioned the shared room problem that is not given privacy and a remarkable 40% commented the existence of a clash of culture in the shared room, having problems to communicate and interact with the other members of their room for the differences of culture, language and range of age, one more person mentioned the instability of the people who share a room. The complementary question here was to know the number of people sharing the room and apart from the two women who mentioned to have their own room because they have children, the rest of the people share the room between 3 people. Showing that the accommodation in Clondalkin Centre tends to be of not more than three people in a room, that could be considered as a positive or negative point.

The fifth question addressed in the Figure 13, pointed the changes that the asylum seekers would like to have in the Direct Provision in order to have a normal life, the 50% is related with the food (cooking facilities and variety in options in the food), follow by the 30% referring to the clash of culture and possibilities to share the accommodation with people from the same age and similar nationality, with 10 % have the option to have accommodation in Centres for only-women , and another 10 % the possibility to be part of the society and don't feel isolated in the centres.

The sixth question is talking about the challenges to present their cases with the authorities, they have to enter into an interview and show evidences of the validity of their cases, with 3 people mentioned the long of the interviews that is making complicated and stressful the situation inducing the forgotten of evidences, the bad attitude of those responsible for conducting the interview mentioned for 2 people and with one mention was to have a lawyer, the language barrier and not problems at all during the interview.

The seventh question was to know if the authorities keep informed the asylum seekers about the situation of their application and the 60 % mentions to have access to this information just with asking to the manager of the place and two people mention that they received information letters, the other 40% emphasize that there are not way to see the status of their application and they just need to wait for a final answer.

The question number eight explore the opinion of the asylum seekers about the effectiveness of the system with 6 persons saying that the system in not effective and the remaining 4 persons believe that the system is effective , but also the 80% mention the slowness of the system to respond and the rest did not want to comment nothing again the system.

The ninth question ask how is their quality of life and what could be improved?, the 60 % believe that their qualities of life is not good for the reason mentioned in the question before while the 40% thinks that his quality of life is Good, they would like to have access to education in a 30% , the 20% mention that would be a good improvement to have the opportunity to work before the ninth months of waiting declared by the Government.

The last question was related about their expectations for the futures and the vast majority would like to continue studying with a 70% and 20% to get a house and for the last 10% get a job.

The information obtained by the interview with the asylum seekers is a quantitative information that was measurable in charts, but also I collect information quantitative with the manager of the centres but for confidential reason this information cannot be display, but the analysis was that they believe that the slowness of the system is due to the bureaucracy and lack of staff to answer the requests.

Chapter 7 - Discussion

In reference of the question why they apply in Ireland and not in another country of the European Union, the graphic on (Figure 1) is showing that the majority of asylum seekers apply in Germany and other countries, Ireland is one of the last countries selected by the asylum seekers in Europe. The people arriving in Ireland looking for social protection in the last year has been from countries in civil conflict like the case of Syria, Georgia and Zimbabwe (IPO Monthly statistical report 2019) the main reason because the people are choosing Ireland in accordance to the primary research is the language (see Figure 9) the people from countries like Zimbabwe , South Africa and Nigeria have the English as a second language of study and with big portions of the population using as a first language. The second reason is the opportunity to arrive to Ireland without the need of visa and for the recommendations of an agents or friends according to the interviewees.

The submission of the application for the people looking for asylum in Ireland has to follow a procedure directed by the Irish Government (Centre for Criminal justice and Human Rights, 2018, Beyond McMahon), giving protection to the asylum seekers when they first arrive to the country by the airport in Ireland. The European Asylum Support Office (EASO 2016) provide de requirements that the authorities should provide to the asylum seeker in order to facilitate the submission, and according to the primary research the opinion of the asylum seeker is positive and in agreement to cover their needs in the half of the people (see Figure 10) but the barrier language and the stress to arrive in a new country with the problematic behind them makes complicate the process for some people, is a disadvantage that the asylum seeker face in Ireland who does not follow all the guidelines of the European Union for example in relation to providing translators for the asylum seekers as we can see in the Figure 10 a few people had problems when they fill their application and the lack of

this services in Ireland affected the validation of the request, this lack could be related to economic factors (Brekke, J and Brochmann, G. 2015).

The waiting time for the Asylum seekers in their resolution of their cases in Ireland has been attacked to be a very slow process (Ni Bhroin, S. 2018 and O'Shea, S.2019), with people waiting in average 20 months (Arnold, S et al., 2018), reaffirmed with the results with the interviews with the asylum seekers showing even higher waiting times for almost 4 years in average (see Figure 7) for the half of the interviewees , looks that the situation has becoming worse in a few direct provision centres in particular in the Clondalkin the Towers with the resolution of the cases, exceeding the waiting time mentioned in most of the official websites of the Government (Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner, ORAC, 2016).

In relation with what could be change in the Direct Provision Centre of Clondalkin to improve the living conditions of the asylum seekers the primary research shows that concerns about the food and the possibility to cook for themselves in 50 % of the interviewees people (see Figure 14), with 10% of mentions of the separation of the man and woman in different centres, and the inclusion of the asylum seekers in their new society with another 10%, the secondary research show evidences of poor condition in the Direct Provisions backed by the information obtained in the Secondary research (Moore, Aoife 2019) there are the overcrowded problem according to findings (Duncan, P and Pollak, S, 2018) it looks to be something to take in consideration because is mentioned in Figure 12 of the primary research that the majority of the people is sharing room with 3 people and with the complain of many organizations above the living conditions of the asylum seekers (Moore, Aoife, 2019).

The last discussion is about the conditions of life for the asylum seekers in where the 60 percent of the people mention to have a not good qualities of life (see Figure 17) and mentioned the access to

the education as the most important aspect for them with the 30 percent of the people and in second place was the earlier working permit with 20 percent of mentions, and the integrations in the society and access to medication were mentioned just for one person in every case, the Working Group to Report to Government on Improvements to the Protection Process including Direct Provision and Supports to Asylum Seekers,(better known as the McMahon report 2015), pointed in many times the lack of access to the education system and the unconstitutional ban to the access to work with many restrictions, even given advices of the consequences for the money loosed by the Government for this prohibitions, for that reason is priority to change that rules not just only for the benefit of the asylum seekers also for the economic savings for the country.

Chapter 8 - Conclusion

In this section I will give the conclusion of this dissertation based in the comparison of the primary and secondary researches and responding to the research questions raised at the beginning of this research document.

In relation with the first research question that was to see why the people from other countries are looking for asylum in Ireland instead of another countries of the European Union and what could be the advantages or disadvantages of this decision?. We can conclude that the major reasons are in first place the language, later the option to do not need visa for many African countries to came to Ireland and for last the information provided by websites and agents in their own country. Even when Ireland is not their first option because countries as Germany, France, Greece, Italy and Hungary (EASO 2018) are the most popular alternatives, still being a problem for the country the management of all this people.

The second conclusion about what are the major challenges that the asylum seeker face to prove the validity of their application? The answer in first instance is the language barrier with many people facing problems to understand the questions and not all the times with the possibility of translators, added to the long time of the interviews because they only have one chance to present their evidence the challenges becomes bigger.

The conclusion related with the conditions inside the Direct Provision Centre in Clondalkin and what could be improved in the Direct Provision and the Irish system to facilitate their life in the waiting process, is that the in Clondalkin centre there are many people living there with most people sharing a room with at least two people in particular the single persons and the centre has been overcrowded

in many times and with the lack of a place for asylum seekers to cook for themselves makes difficult the conditions for the asylum seekers and the biggest improvement for the asylum seekers would be to reduce the time of resolutions of their applications and give them permission to work without limitations and as soon as possible to make them feel with the same rights that the local people.

A future dissertation could address the issue of asylum seekers after obtaining the refugee status in Ireland, because the Provision Centre still given accommodation to refugees that cannot find the way to provide a home and livelihood for themselves and integrate into their new society.

Reflection

There are many experiences that I had during the have some times frustration some times excitement, sometimes tiredness but every feeling and every document you read gives you a better opportunity to improve yourself and also know you better, you can see if the research is for you and you like It to go forward in a PHD study or maybe the research proves in difficult, in my case results very difficult to combine my normal life with the dissertation in particular because I have to work long hours during the week, and I didn't have much free time to do another activities during the research , maybe dedicating all my time in a research I will feel les tired.

Related with the research process the start with the selection of your topic that in my case interested in the asylum seekers situation in Ireland and the world, for that reason I choose this topic, but even when the topic results very interesting I learn the importance to focus on follow the steps of the dissertation and do not spent too much time reading information irrelevant to complete the dissertation.

The literature review is a difficult point because you need to be very careful to select the documentation more relevant and more related with your topic because there are many ways to obtain the information that you want to use from printed the books websites from the organizations , journals, articles, interview, manual and statistics online and you need to read many documents in order to find the correct information to use in our dissertation, the quantity of documents is extent and you need to filter the relevant information for your research also many articles are block and you cannot get access at least you paid for them making sometimes frustrating this situation.

I learn about the importance of taking notes about every relevant article, journal or book and write the references in order to access to this information in the future and do not lose the track of this data because sometimes you read an article and you are planning to use this information in your dissertations and I lost a few documents like that just because I forgot to put a note, and takes me a lot of time just to find the information I wanted to refer in the Dissertation.

Another aspect important was the selection of the Methodology in where you have to learn many methodologies and try to select the one that fits better your research or try to follow not too many authors because sometimes the methodology is very different and becomes confusing.

The collection of data once that I select the methodology in my case start with the selection of the questions for the interviews I learn the importance to test the questionnaires in order to be more accurate in received the information that you expect and do not write question that could be confused for the respondents. Another challenge in my experience was the difficulty to find the people for my interviews; first for the inconvenient that I was planning to visit on specific centre named hatch hall and I got the permission to have the interviews inside the place but for my health problems I couldn't attend on time and the centre close, and I have to move far to another centre in Dublin in order to get the interviews and without permit to have the interviews in inside the place I wait outside the Centre to ask the Asylum seekers if they wanted to participated, so I lost many days waiting outside just to get an interview, the second was that the asylum seekers did not want to be recorded by audio and it was difficult to convince the people to participate in the interviews, some of them decided to participated but answering the questions in paper and their the language was a barrier also because I had to explain many times the questions for some interviewers that did not speak a good English.

Results difficult to avoid putting your own opinion about the topic but is important to be impartial and just follow the results and finding and after a while you get used to the fact that you need to support every comment that you made with the referencing in order to make sure that the information is backed up with academic references.

After the learning process I consider that was very productive for me because at the end of the dissertation I feel very confident talking about the topic that I choose, after reading many documents laws and books, you fell an expert in the area, and you can give an opinion more accurate about your topic.

In general terms is very important to be really organized with the topics of the dissertation and information that you are collecting and plan the hours to work in the dissertation being very organized with your other activities to combine both aspects. I have to spend many hours in front of the computer and with my normal activities result very difficult to have free time for another activities for the last months, I fell that I was just doing the dissertation and sleeping many days in particular.

After all the time I spend in the dissertation I fell really happy for finishing my dissertation and thankful for all the learned through this dissertation.

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Appendix

Interview with asylum seekers

Introductory Questions

Range of age:

Under 18 years 19 – 24 25 – 30 31 – 40 41 – 50 Over 50 years

Where are you from?

When did you arrived to the country?

Did you came alone or with your family?

1. How did you get information about the way to apply for the asylum in Ireland? And why did you apply in Ireland?
2. Once you arrived to the country, how was the process to submit your application for the asylum seeker and what challenges did you find to fill all the documentation?
3. Is there any that you would like to improve in the Irish system or you think it would be helpful when you arrived to the country to facilitate the process?
4. What are the conditions of your actual accommodation (if you share a room with how many people) and what is your opinion about the provisional accommodation provided by the government of Ireland?
5. Would you change anything in the provisional center to make your life easier during the waiting for the resolution of your application?
6. During the presentation of your case to the authorities in Ireland, What do you consider to be the most challenging aspect to request your application?

Complementary Question

How long have you been waiting for the response of your application?

7. Did the authorities keep you informed about your application or how can you get access to see what is the status of your application?
8. Do you consider that the Irish system for the process for the asylum seekers is effective? Why yes or why not?
9. How do you consider your quality of life? What would help you improve your quality of life while waiting for the resolution of your case?
10. If you get the status has a refugee in Ireland, do you have a plan or idea of the future steps to try to have a normal life in Ireland? And what would be if you have?