



SHARE COVID-19 survey

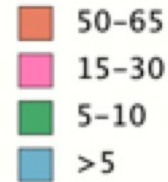
Good practice, opportunities & specific findings



Aims

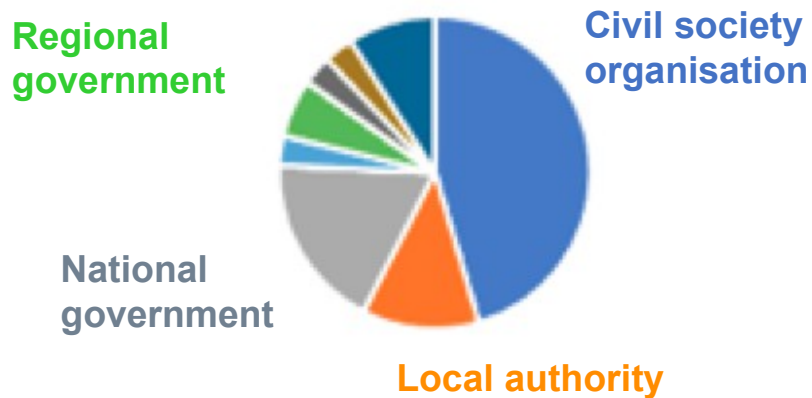
- Map the impact of COVID-19 on welcome and integration for refugees and migrants across the EU.
- Map welcome and integration responses to COVID-19 and identify best practice that can be taken forward in the pandemic recovery.
- **Online survey** (8 EU languages), accompanying **desk research and interviews** (October 2020-January 2021).
- Formal collaboration with Entraide Pierre Valdo (France) & CEPAIM (Spain) - *SHARE TI*

Number of SHARE Network survey responses:

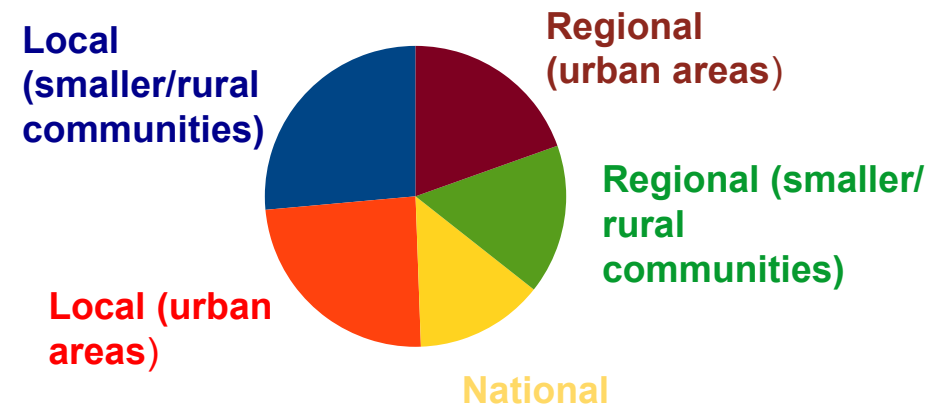


Who responded?

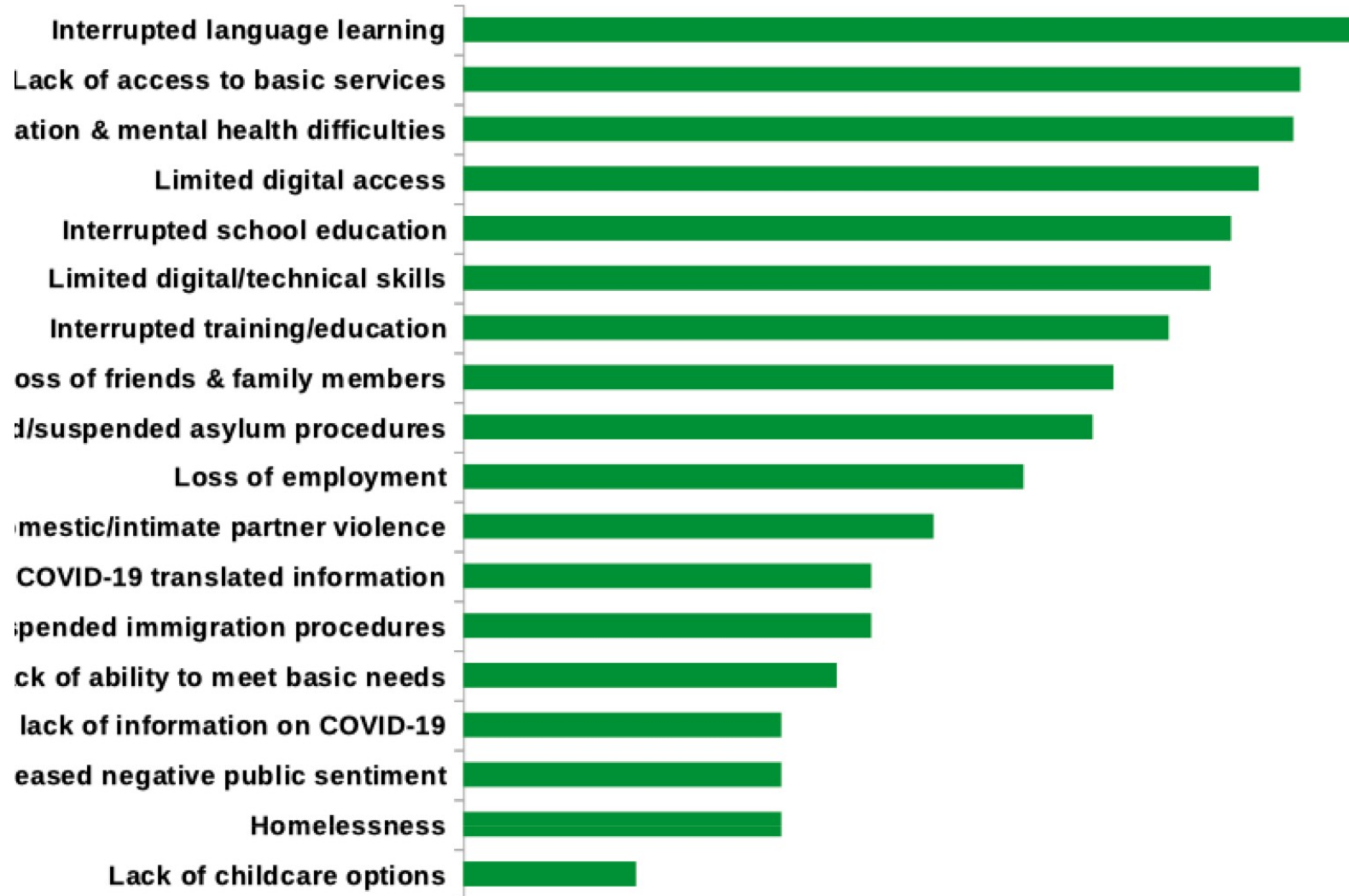
TYPE OF ORGANISATION:



LEVEL OF WORK:

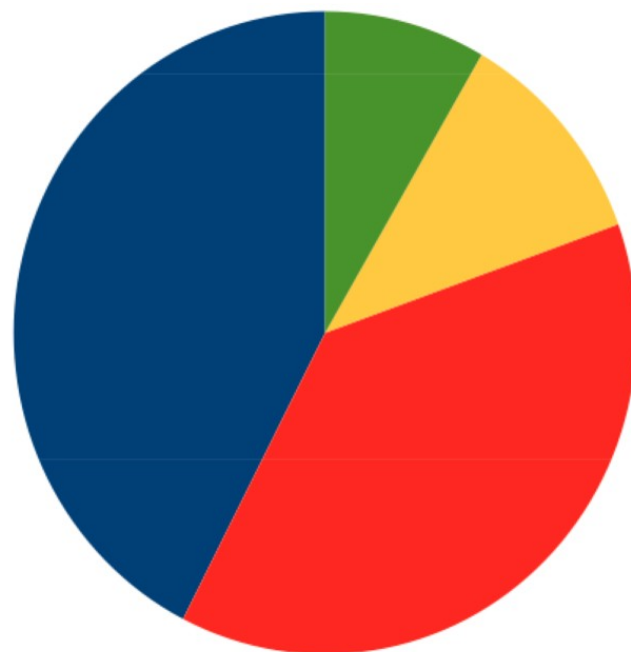


Impact of COVID-19 for refugees and migrants



- **23% interruptions to education and training** - language learning (8.8%), school education (7.5%), adult education and training (7%).
- **Limited digital access:** lack of equipment or internet connection (8.2%) and digital/technical skills (7.3%).
- Lockdowns exacerbated **isolation and mental health difficulties** (8%).
- Increased vulnerability of refugee/migrant women to **domestic violence** (4%).

Responses to COVID-19



- COVID-19 information
- Digital services & information
- Volunteering
- Advocacy & campaigning

Practices and partnerships prompted by COVID-19

- **New practices**
 - Provision of technologic devices to tackle the digital divide affecting refugees;
 - Creation of activities specifically targeting mental health;
 - Translation and dissemination of useful information in different languages via different outputs.
- **New formats**
 - Use of online tools such as Skype, Zoom, Jitsi Meet and WhatsApp to ensure activities continue;
 - New role of cultural mediators, collecting inputs to implement more targeted responses and activities.
- **New partnerships**
 - With local authorities, to ensure beneficiaries are included in local assistance measures for COVID-19;
 - With healthcare professionals, to enter squats and monitor the health of those living there;
 - With other civil society organisation, to fill the existing gaps.



Example: new practice

- To enable a group of 150 Syrian refugees in Lebanon to travel to the Netherlands in the framework the Dutch resettlement programme and fulfil the 10-day quarantine requirement for all international arrivals, the Dutch Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) organised quarantine accommodation at a large youth hostel facility in Heeg, a small village in the province of Friesland in The Netherlands.
- Before arrivals:
 - The municipality and COA sent a letter to all neighbours explaining the planned resettlement quarantine scheme.
 - The mayor of the village to which refugees would arrive prepared a short welcome video for the group, and the COA funded Arabic video subtitling (view the video below).



Example: new format



In Turin, the refugee-led organisation MOSAICO Actions for Refugees obtained from Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo (one of the funders of MOSAICO projects) to divert project funds to provide immediate pandemic assistance. With these funds, Mosaico could provide:

- Translated COVID-19 healthcare information (paper and online; website and app);
- Hygiene products and medicines;
- School supplies, books and computers;
- Food delivered to squats, mainly fruits and vegetables produced by local farmers.;

Example: new partnership

To tackle the digital divide exacerbated by the pandemic, in France *JRS Limoges* started a collaboration with the association *Emmaüs Connect* to provide some refugees and asylum seekers with technological devices and access to the internet, allowing them to take part in the online activities and maintain social contact.



“Opportunities” presented by COVID-19

- **New opportunities for asylum seekers and migrants to temporarily regularise or amend their status**, especially via temporary schemes to enable asylum seekers to work in essential sectors that have been implemented at local or regional level;
- **Additional evidence for existing campaigns** as well as new opportunities to carry out targeted political advocacy initiatives for refugees, for instance concerning access to health and the digital divide;
- **Increased public awareness and understanding** on the role of essential migrant workers, their working conditions and rights;
- **New opportunities for refugees and migrants to volunteer**, particularly in the context of new forms of community solidarity and mutual aid arising at local level as a response to lockdown.



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Follow us on Twitter at [@ShareNetwork3](https://twitter.com/ShareNetwork3)

Thank you!



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