

Reception in Belgium

Federal Agency for the reception of asylum seekers



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Reception in Belgium

▶ Fedasil: key figures

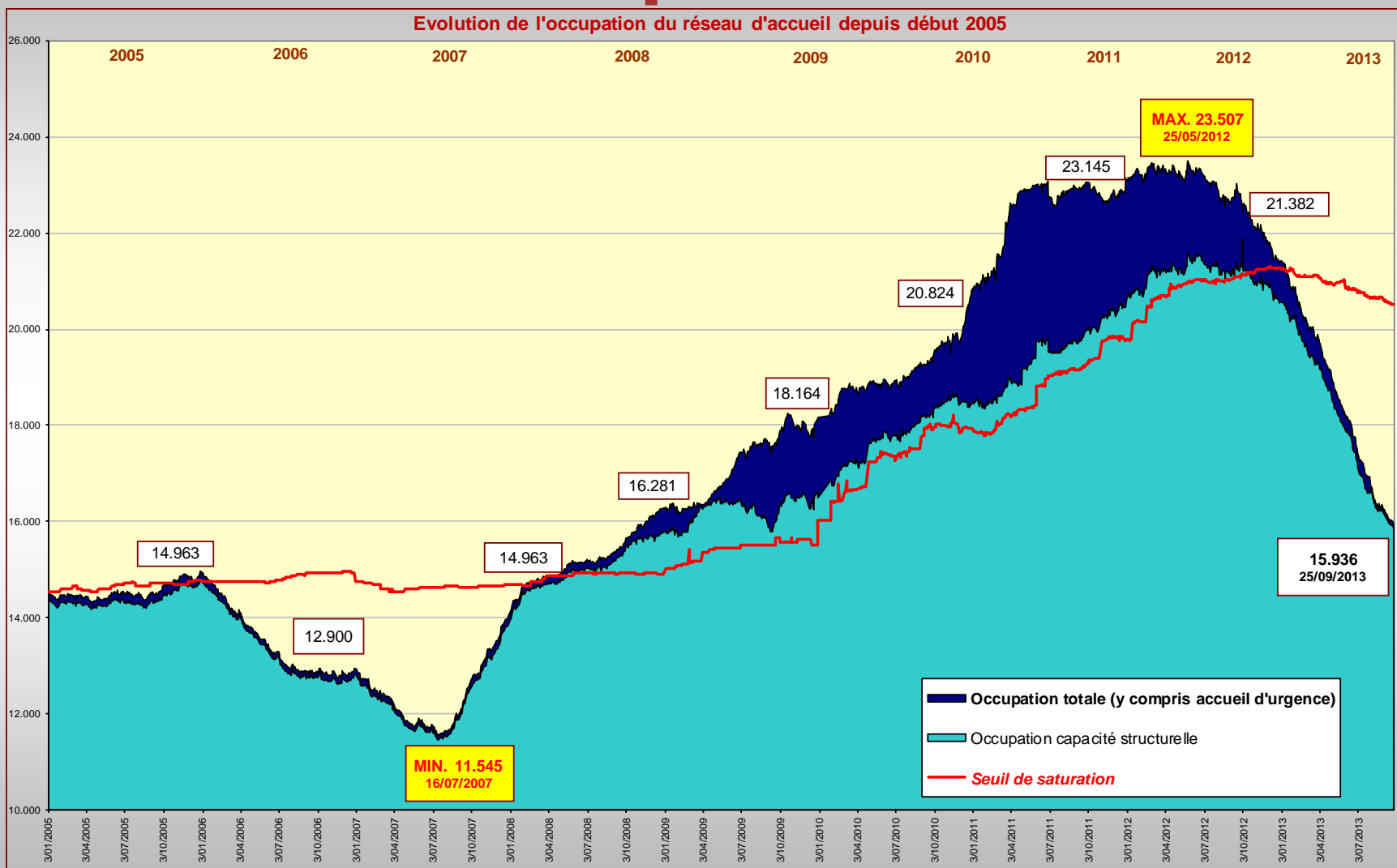
- ▶ Agency created in May 2002
- ▶ 1,200 workers
- ▶ Expenditure in 2013= 320 Mi €
- ▶ current number of reception facilities: 21,400

The reception crisis

2008 - 2011

- ▶ Increase of asylum applicants (mostly Balkan countries)
- ▶ Occupancy rate exceeding 100%
- ▶ Opening of emergency reception facilities
- ▶ Reception in hotels (meant as short-term solution)
 - ⇒ *From May 2009 till December 2012*
 - ⇒ *Around 1,000 people have been accommodated in hotels in Brussels*

The reception crisis



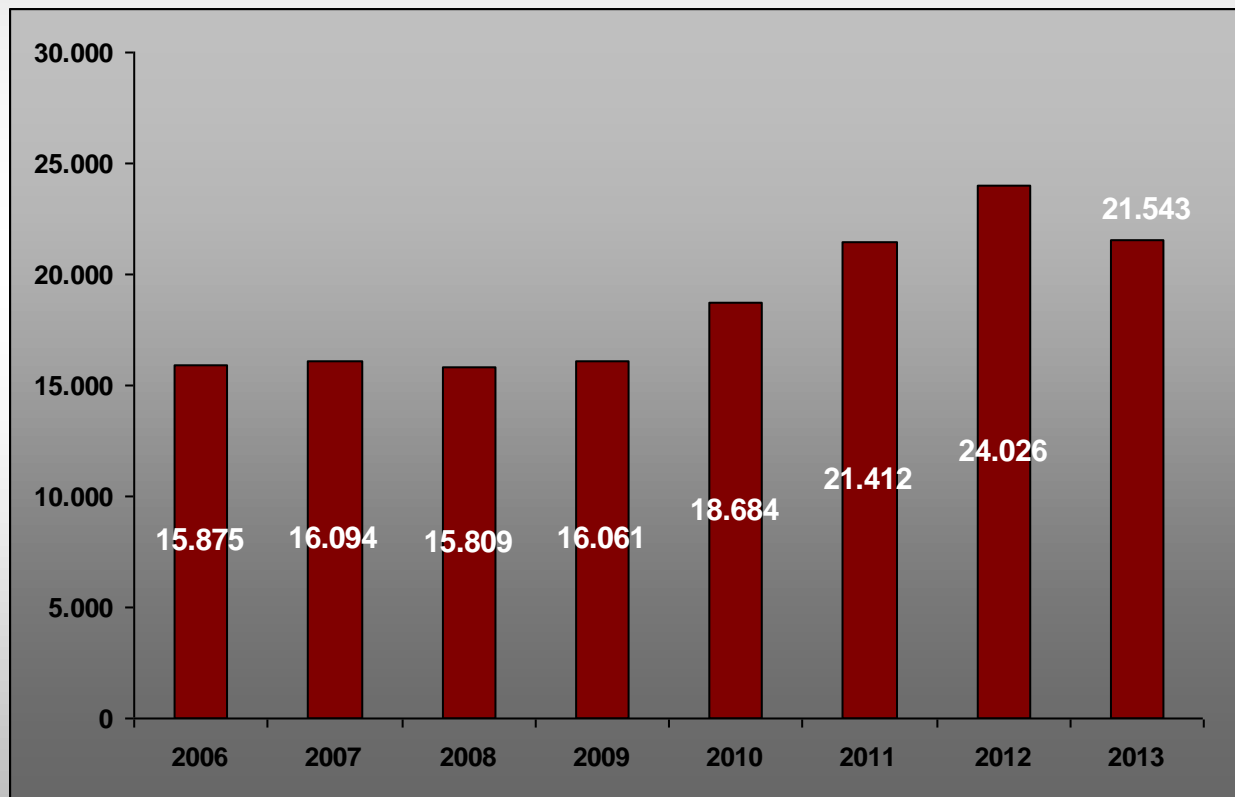
The reception crisis

▶ Consequences/ repercussions

- ▶ More than 12,000 people without a reception place
- ▶ Fedasil has been repeatedly condemned by the Labour court
- ▶ Fedasil had to pay a fine to asylum seekers who were not taken care of

Out of the crisis

► expanding the reception capacity



Out of the crisis

▶ Integrated asylum and reception policy

- ▶ 1 Minister for Asylum, Migration and Social Integration (since December 2011)
- ▶ Chain management
- ▶ Harmonisation of asylum and reception activities
 - ⇒ accelerating the handling of the asylum applications
 - ⇒ turning down asylum application backlog

Out of the crisis

▶ Restricting the inflow into the reception network

▶ Legal adaptations 2011

⇒ No (automatic) reception for multiple asylum applications

⇒ List of 'safe countries': fast-tracking asylum procedure

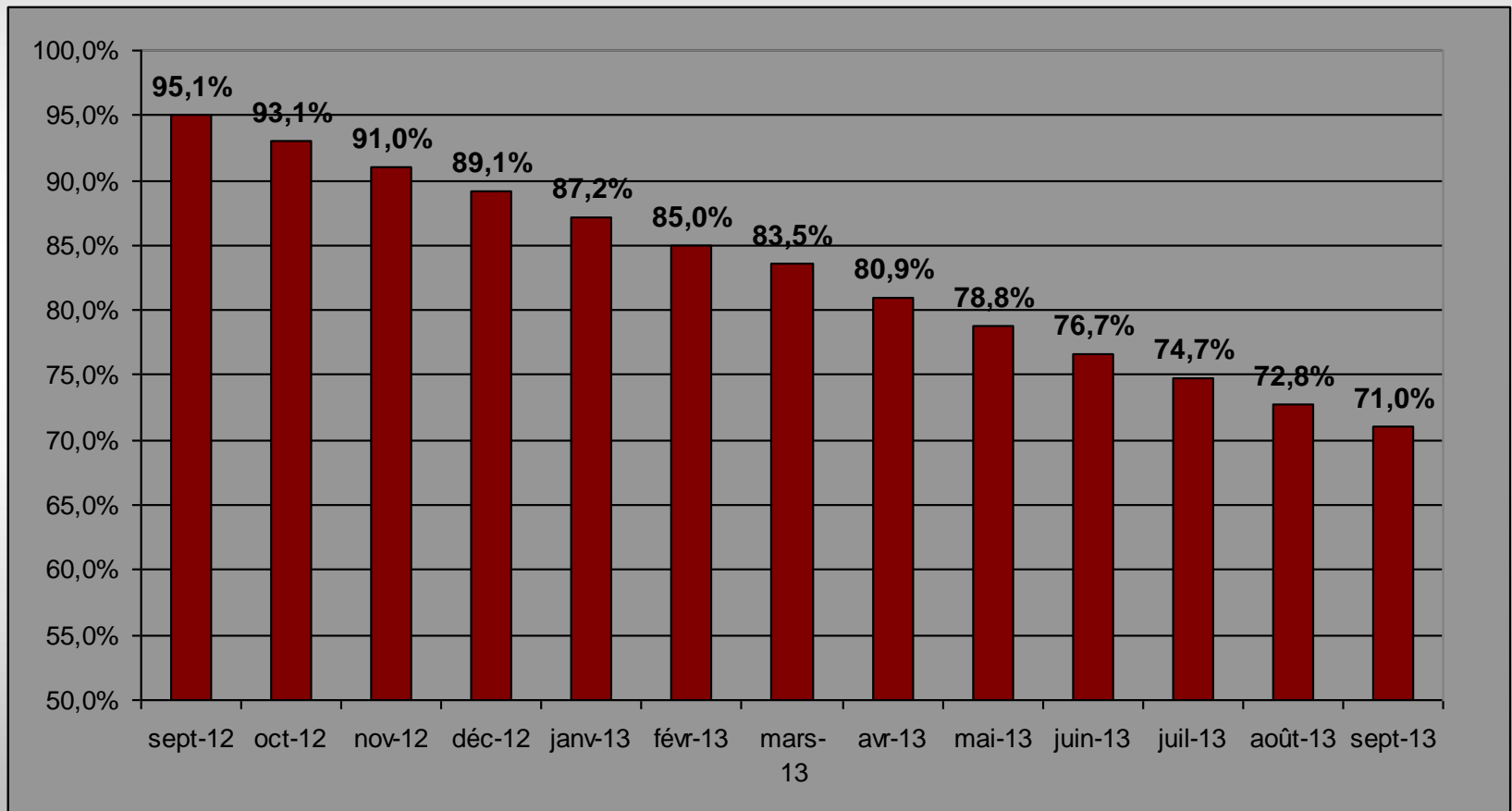
▶ Dissuasive campaigns in countries of origin

Out of the crisis

- ▶ Investing in a broader and better assistance for voluntary return
 - ▶ Third new step in the reception model: a 30 days stay in a reception centre for voluntary return
 - ▶ Staff member for voluntary return in each reception centre
 - ▶ Voluntary return counter at dispatching service (from the beginning of their stay)

Out of the crisis

► occupancy rate today: 71%

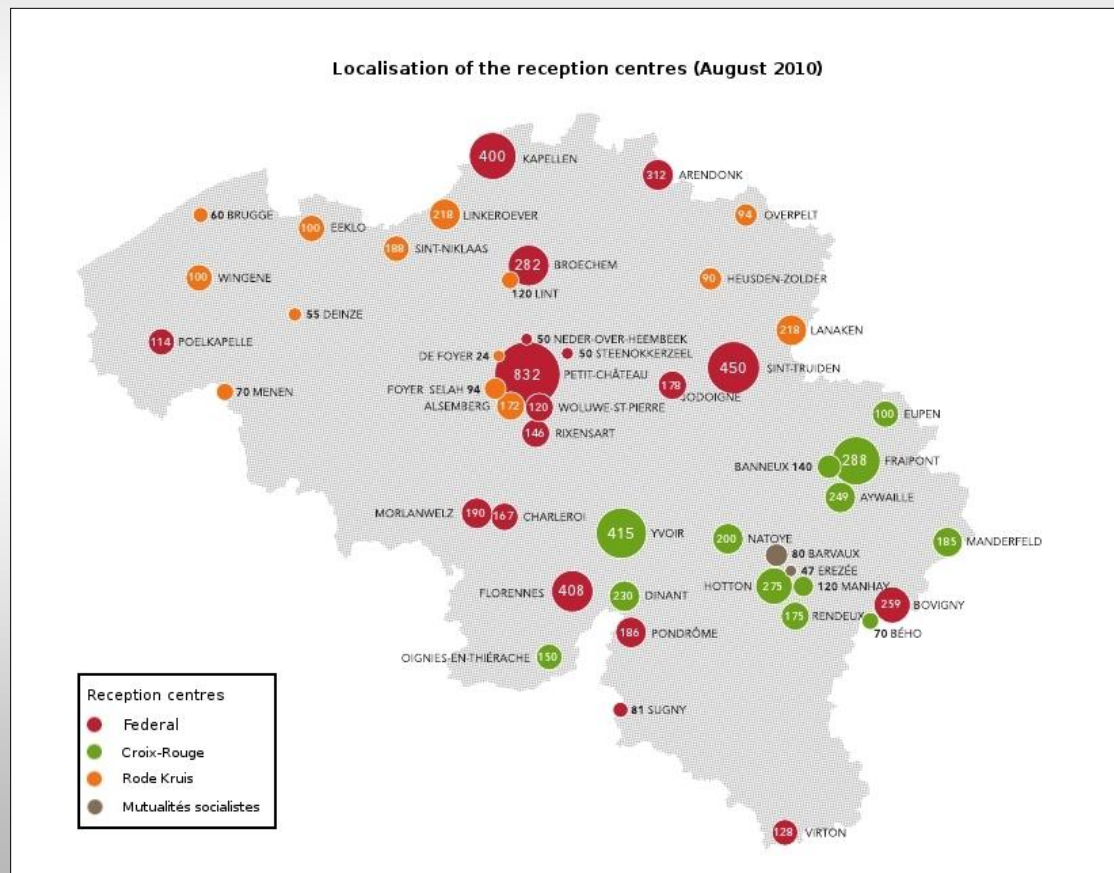


Reception in Belgium

- ▶ Reception in three steps
 - ▶ First step: stay in collective reception centre (during 4 months)
 - ▶ Second step: stay in individual reception facilities
 - ▶ Third **new** step: stay in a reception centre for voluntary return (during 30 days)

Reception in Belgium

► 48 reception centres: locations in Belgium



Reception in Belgium

▶ Individual housing (second step)

- ▶ Furnished private lodging
- ▶ Material aid
- ▶ Providing assistance



Reception in Belgium

Top 5 countries of origin:

Afghanistan (12,5%)

Guinea (10,5%)

Russia (9%)

Congo DR (7%)

Serbia (3,5%)

Reception model for UMA

► A three-step reception



1. Observation and orientation
2. Collective reception facilities
3. Individual housing, supervised autonomy

Who?

- ▶ Mainly asylum seekers
- ▶ Mostly boys (nearly 80%)

- ▶ Top 5 countries of origin:
 - Afghanistan
 - Guinea
 - DR of Congo
 - Iraq
 - Somalia

Step 1 : Observation and orientation

▶ Open centre

▶ Reception for all UMA:

- provides the 1st reception,
- offers an adaptation period
- permits to make a psychosocial analysis - orientation
- permits the Guardianship Service to identify the UMA and to assign a guardian.

▶ Period of 15 days renewable only once (max 1 month)

Step 2 : collective reception

- ▶ Open collective reception centre
- ▶ Supervision of the UMA 24/7
- ▶ Social and medical assistance,...
- ▶ Individual follow-up
- ▶ Schooling
- ▶ Together with the minor and the help of his guardian a follow-up project and his autonomy are prepared.
- ▶ Period : 4 months to 1 year

Step 3: individual reception

- ▶ If the UMA is still entitled to benefit material assistance : local reception facilities with supervised **autonomy**
- ▶ House, flat, separated rooms
- ▶ Easy access via public transport
- ▶ In the neighbourhood of collective reception centres

Step 3: individual reception

- ▶ Offers more individual assistance
- ▶ This stay is a transition period but offers the necessary tools to acquire full autonomy.
- ▶ Currently, we are in need of individual housing for UMA (waiting list)

Challenges 2014 - 2018

- ▶ Downsizing reception facilities (buffer capacity)
- ▶ More specific reception facilities (medical care, mental disorders,...) for persons with specific needs
- ▶ Quality standards for all reception facilities
- ▶ International /European platforms, studies, benchmark etc.