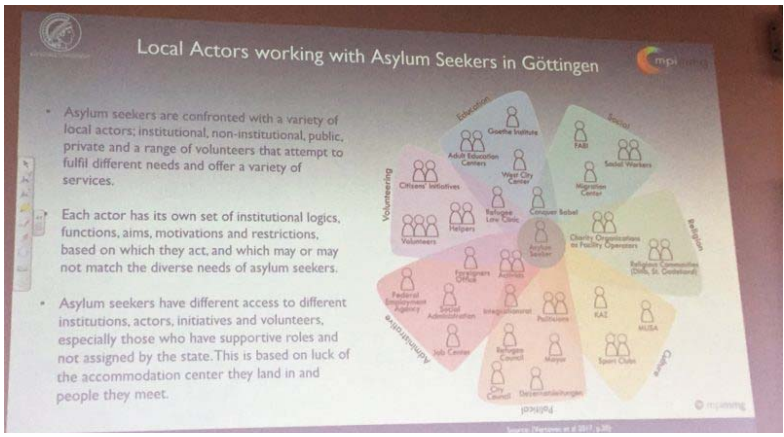
Germany: The speaker from Germany was Dr. Shahd Wari from the Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity. Her presence was missed but a recorded powerpoint presentation with her voice was played.

In response to the SCRs, main steps of the asylum procedure in Germany has been outlined and identified. Upon asylum seeker's arrival, they get registered, followed by an initial distribution among the federal states. They then have to report to the reception of their designated accommodation. The state and type of accommodation designated to individuals may vary from shared accommodation to a house. The individual is then assisted to process his or her personal application to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugee (BAMF) at the arrival centre in the reception facility. Applications are assessed against the Dublin procedure followed by a personal interview at the BAMF, then the decision. Once a refugee is recognised, a three year residency permit is awarded. Article 16a of Germany's Basic law gives entitlement to asylum seekers once their status is recognised, and Section 3 of the Asylum Act awards refugee protection. The number of refugees recognised in Germany has tripled from 2013 to 2014, and reached over 150,000 by 2015 and over 250,000 by 2016.

Pre-Recognition Criteria and Status: Within BAMF practitioners they categorized five nationalities every 6 months as a good *Bleibeperspektive* or those with high prospects of being recognised. In 2017, Syrians are number one in the list, followed by Iraqis, Iranians, Eritreans and Somalians. Because of the high prospects of being recognised, certain nationalities receive rights before the recognition by virtue of their *Bleibeperspektive* categorization. Syrians have faster access to residency permits and immediately receive German courses, integration courses, donations from volunteers and citizens.

Key policies in accommodation and integration prohibits refugees from leaving their assigned community before three years, unless job and education demands that they to move to other states. All recognised refugees are obliged to take German and Integration courses until Level B1. Only after the completion of this level are refugees allowed to find job or vocational training. Those who have high or low *Bleibeperspektive* and want to learn the language can get courses through differently qualified volunteers without certification. Access to employment and self-employment is available to every asylum seeker who is in Germany for 3 months. However due to lack of stable residency permit, employers and academic institutions are reluctant to take on asylum seekers.

Another aspect of German system is the numerous local actors working with asylum seekers from education, volunteering, administrative, political/organisations, cultural, religious, and social sectors that assist in their settlement journey.



Local Actors working with Asylum Seekers illustration