Match'In

Pilotprojekt zur Verteilung von Schutzsuchenden mit Hilfe eines algorithmengestützten Matching-Verfahrens

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

Universität Hildesheim

Funded by:

RheinlandPfalz Ministerium des Innern, für Integration und Verkehr

HESSEN Hessisches Ministerium für Arbeit, Integration, Jugend und Soziales

What is the idea behind Match'In?

Local conditions in their new place of residence determine the opportunities available to refugees. However, the federal states rarely assign asylum seekers to the different municipalities systematically based on their needs. They usually use quotas, only considering the individual circumstances of those seeking asylum and the conditions of the hosting municipalities on rare occasions.

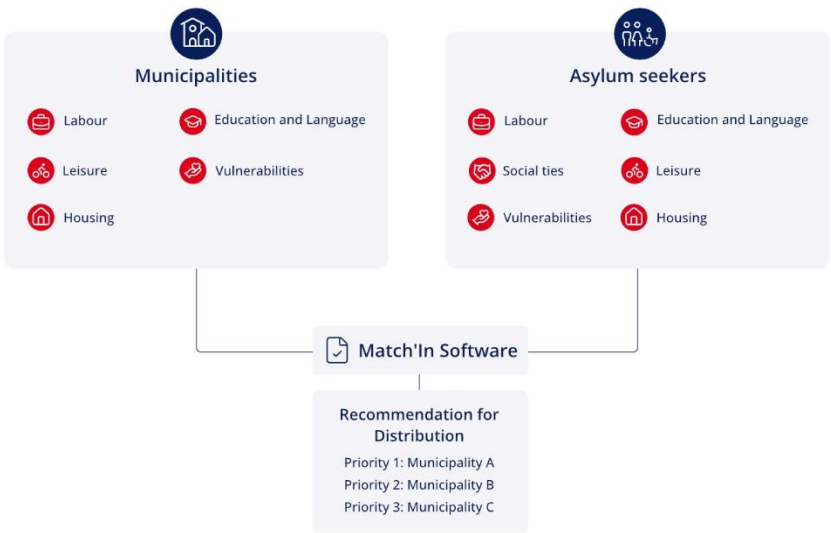
Match'In intends to change this. Together with four of the federal states, the universities of Hildesheim and Erlangen-Nuremberg developed an algorithm during the first funding phase from 2021 to 2025 (so-called **Match'In 1.0**). The algorithm compiles relevant information on asylum seekers and examines which municipality can best meet their needs (Matching). This leads to evidence-based administrative decisions and an efficient use of integration measures. Above all, it ensures the best possible initial conditions for refugees as they begin their new life in Germany.

Results Match'In 1.0:

The pilot project is currently in its second funding phase, **Match'In 2.0** (see below).

How does the algorithm work?

Integration processes are complex and depend on a variety of factors. The algorithm has to reduce this complexity without creating blind spots. Theoretical and empirical findings from migration research and an encompassing fieldwork help to identify the most important criteria and prepare them for informational processing. From the refugees' points of view, examples include health needs, vulnerabilities, available resources (such as educational qualifications, language proficiency, work experience), family relations, as well as preferences (such as hobbies or the desire for accommodation close to nature). The municipalities contribute structural data (e.g. relating to the housing and labour markets) and existing support structures to the equation. Once all the data has been collected from both parties, the software creates a ranking of the municipalities according to how well they match the individual needs and preferences of the person concerned. This serves as a placement proposal for the referring authorities.



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Match'In 2.0: What is new?

Building on **Match'In 1.0,** the collaboration with the Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration of Rhineland-Palatinate continues, as the target group is being expanded from adult asylum seekers travelling alone to family units and the algorithm is being adjusted accordingly. This requires finding a procedure which considers the characteristics and needs of all family members and excludes the discrimination of individual people, for example due to their age, gender, or special needs, as best as possible. This includes, among other things, expanding the criteria by such specifically relevant for children and teenagers (e.g. availability of child care or child and youth-specific health care and leisure activities, to name but a few) as well as adapting the data collection to be age-appropriate and low-barrier.

With support from the Hessian Ministry for Labour, Integration, Youth and Social Affairs, an app using the algorithm is also being developed. It aims to enable asylum seekers to enter their data and needs themselves, making the data collection more efficient and relieving the currently responsible social workers in the facilities for data entry. During the planned app development, a non-discriminatory and low-barrier environment is going to be taken into consideration as well.

Our project website:

Both the broadening of the target group to family units as well as the app development for independent data entry are important steps in working towards the long-term goal of implementing the algorithm-based data collection into the standard operational procedures.

Match'In in good company

The idea of using computer-assisted procedures to assign asylum seekers based on their needs preoccupies numerous teams all around the world. Each project employs a slightly different approach and utilises different technologies. In addition, there are projects that remain in an academic context only for the time being; they do not claim to test and establish new procedures in practice (e.g. Hertie School of Governance, University of Potsdam). Additional information regarding these projects and the way Match'In differs from them can be found on our project website.

You would like to know more about our project? Then contact our team:

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Additional information: www.matchin-projekt.de