



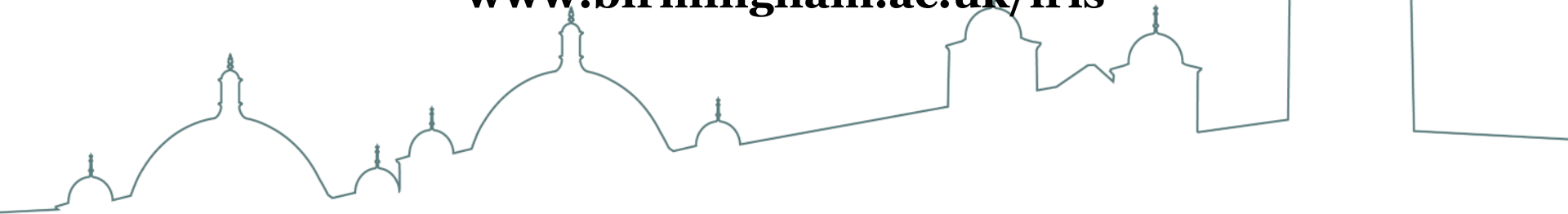
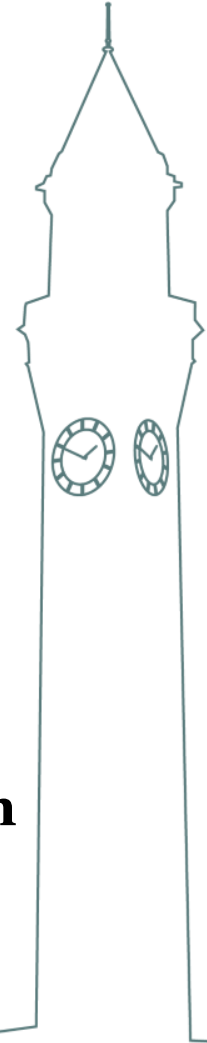
UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

COLLEGE OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES

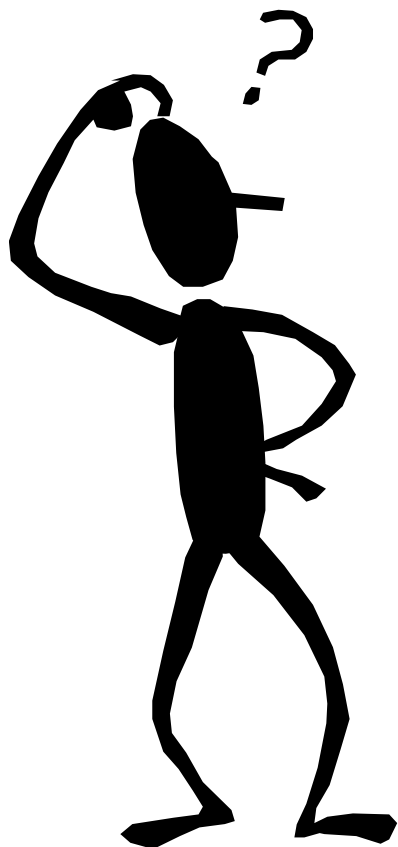


Refugee integration in times of crisis

- **Prof Dr Jenny Phillimore**
- **Follow IRiS on Twitter @IRiS_Birmingham**
www.birmingham.ac.uk/iris



Integration and the crisis



- ❑ The crisis
- ❑ Reactivity or proactivity
- ❑ Migration and integration
- ❑ When does/should integration begin?
- ❑ Integration for who?
- ❑ Towards a European integration policy

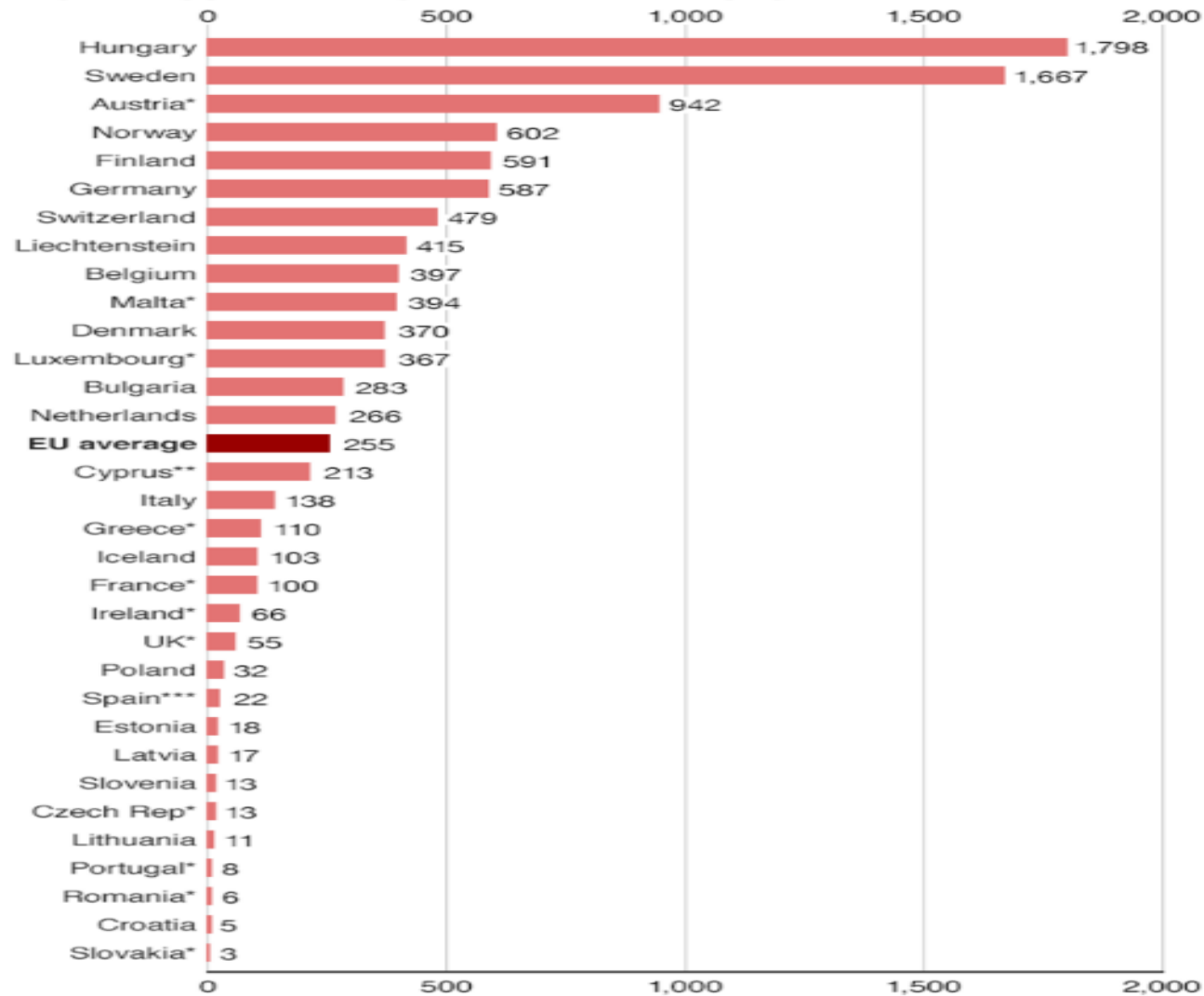


The crisis

- ❑ A humanitarian, refugee or migrant crisis?
- ❑ The greatest refugee crisis in Europe since WWII (Urban 2015)
- ❑ Over 1.8m arrivals in 2015 (Frontex)
- ❑ Over 80,000 by sea in 2016
- ❑ Over 4,000 have drowned, more have died or been injured en route (IOM/MSF)
- ❑ Originating from over 100 countries
- ❑ Germany, Sweden, Hungary and Austria largest numbers but varies by population size



Asylum applications per 100,000 local population, 2015



*Data only covers Jan to Nov, **Jan to Oct, ***Jan to Sep

Source: Eurostat

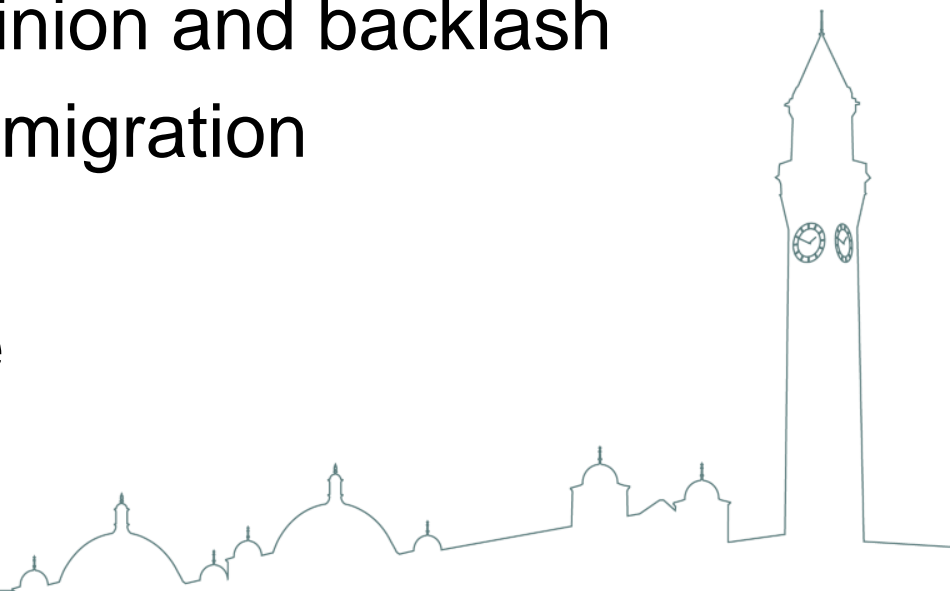
Responses to the crisis

- Evolving but....
- From threat to opportunity to problem
- Refugees welcome “Wir schaffen das” a “golden opportunity for Germany” (Dr Dieter Zetsche, Chairman Daimler AG 2015) – overcoming age and skills shortages
- Viktor Orban – the end of “Christian” Europe
- Open then closed borders
- Blaming and shaming states on the front-line
- Outsourcing with aid and assistance
- Disagreement and panic



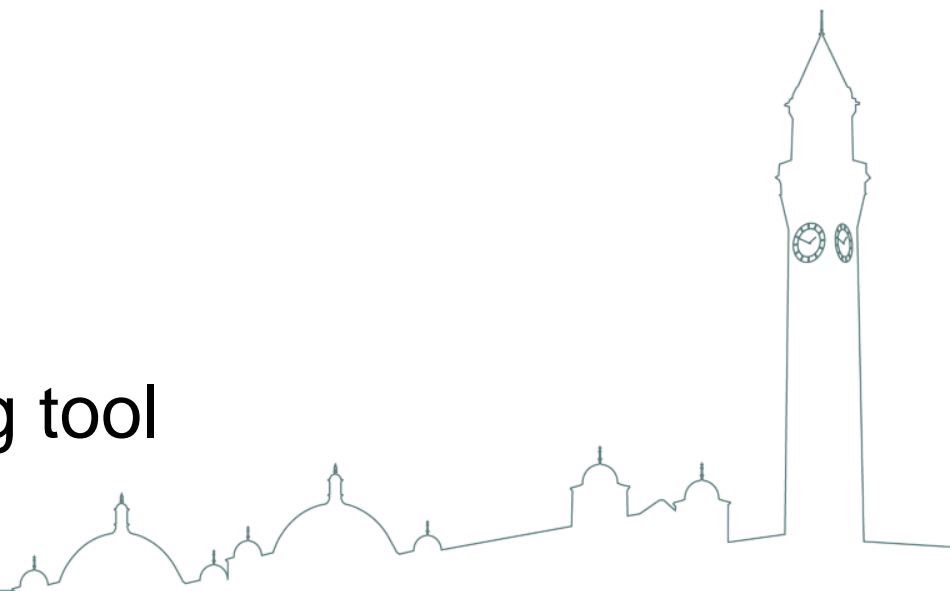
Public opinion

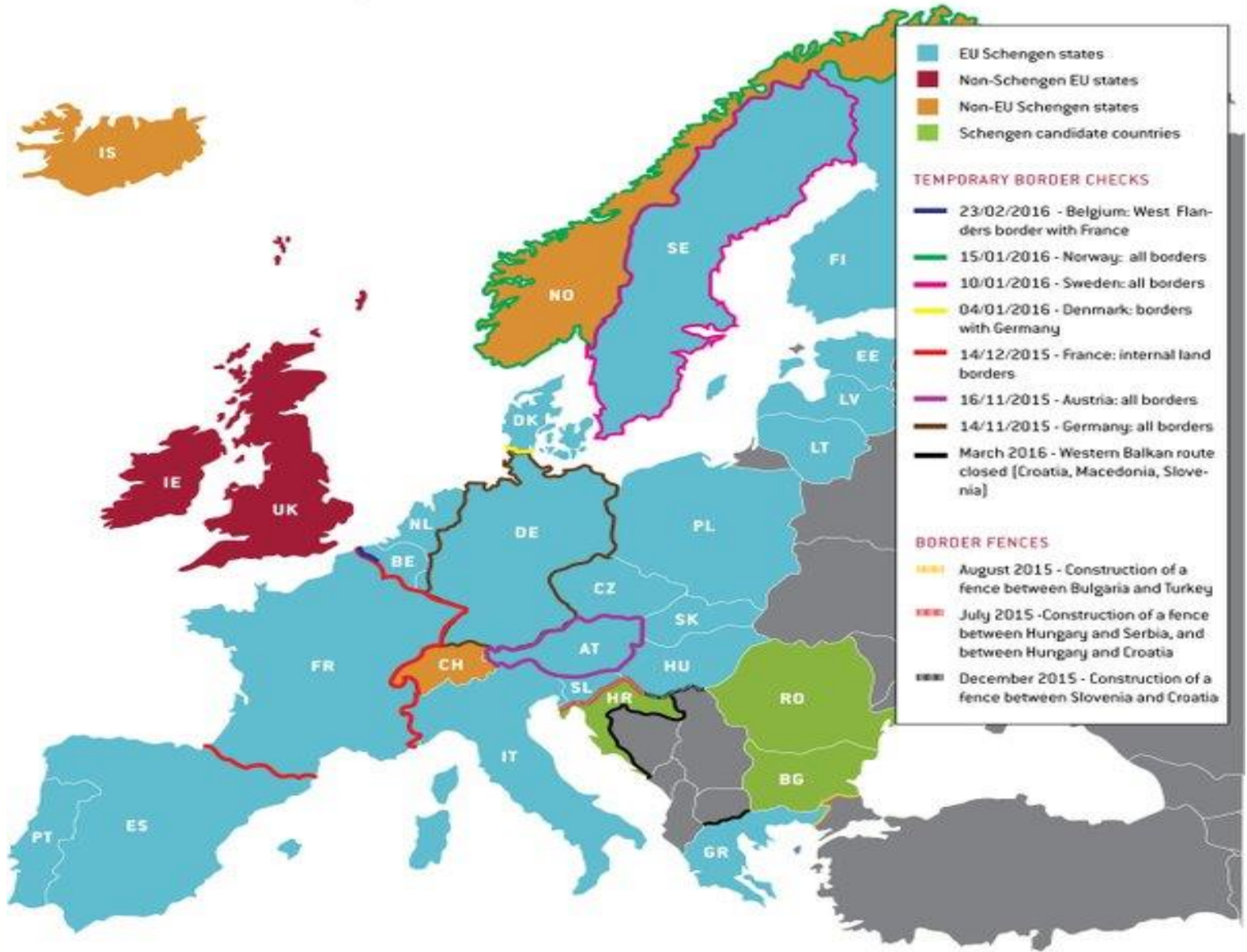
- ❑ Public reported to feel the crisis is out of control
- ❑ Panic after Paris, Brussels and Cologne
- ❑ Media and public opinion
- ❑ Anti-refugee public opinion and backlash
- ❑ Hyper-politicisation of migration
- ❑ Rise of new right
- ❑ Assimilation discourse



Policy approach

- EU in crisis – increased Euroscepticism, souverainisme, north vs south, east vs west
- Reactive attempt at reassurance – control numbers
 - Quotas
 - Schengen
 - Dublin
 - Restrictionism
- Refugees a bargaining tool





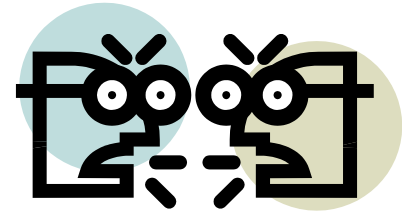
Where is integration?

- Focus on reaction not proactive integration policy
- There is no EU policy – just CBPs
- Many states argue that integration can only begin after some kind of leave to remain
- Nearly 2m migrants recently arrived and beginning to settle
- Regardless of the rhetoric most will remain in Europe and many will move around Europe



What is integration?

- ❑ Debated, contested and enduring
- ❑ Integration policy – CBP1



Integration is a dynamic, two-way process of mutual accommodation by all immigrants and residents of Member States

- ❑ Focus on respect for EU basic values, economic contribution, basic host society knowledge, language, education, social interaction.
- ❑ Understanding and respect for migrant cultures and education
- ❑ In academe emphasis on interactions, values and identity (i.e. Bhatia & Ram 2010)



When does integration begin?

- ❑ On arrival (Malloch & Stanley 2005; Refugee Council 2006) or with determination?
- ❑ Support with integration said to build false hope
- ❑ Asylum experiences – racism, enforced unemployment, dispersal and poor accommodation effects health and employability (Baker, Cheung & Phillimore 2016)
- ❑ Long waits with nothing to do impact on mental health (Murray 2016; Phillimore 2011)
- ❑ Asylum seekers and local people have to mix
- ❑ Attacks on asylum seekers and refugees
- ❑ Immediate action is needed – why wait?
- ❑ Who should integration be for?



Integration for ASRs

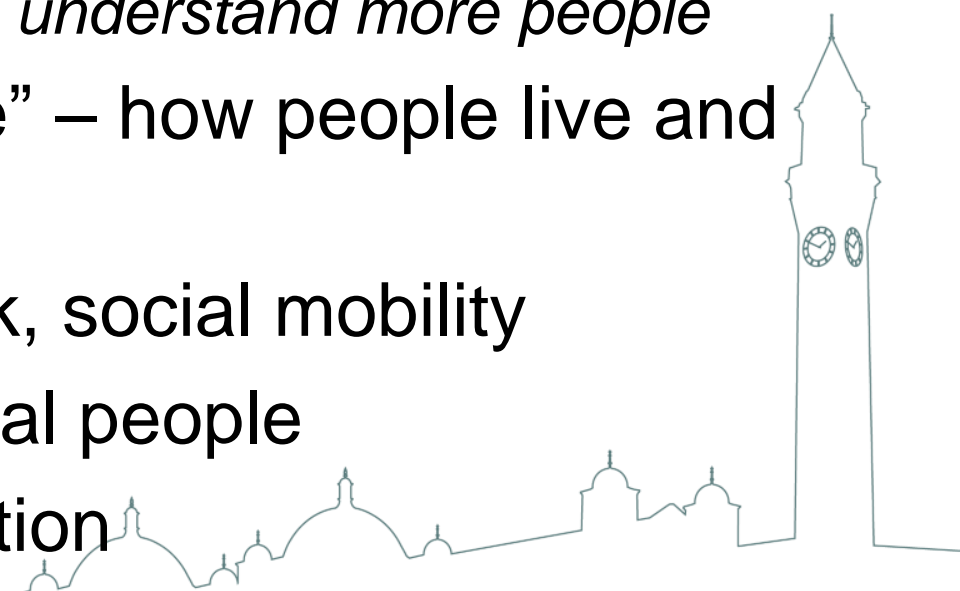
- ❑ Adaptation accepted and sought, integration desirable, a goal rather than assimilative (Cheung & Phillimore 2014; Phillimore et al. 2015)



- ❑ Language – demonstrable impact on outcomes

I would love to learn English language so that as soon as I can learn this language people will understand me and I can understand more people

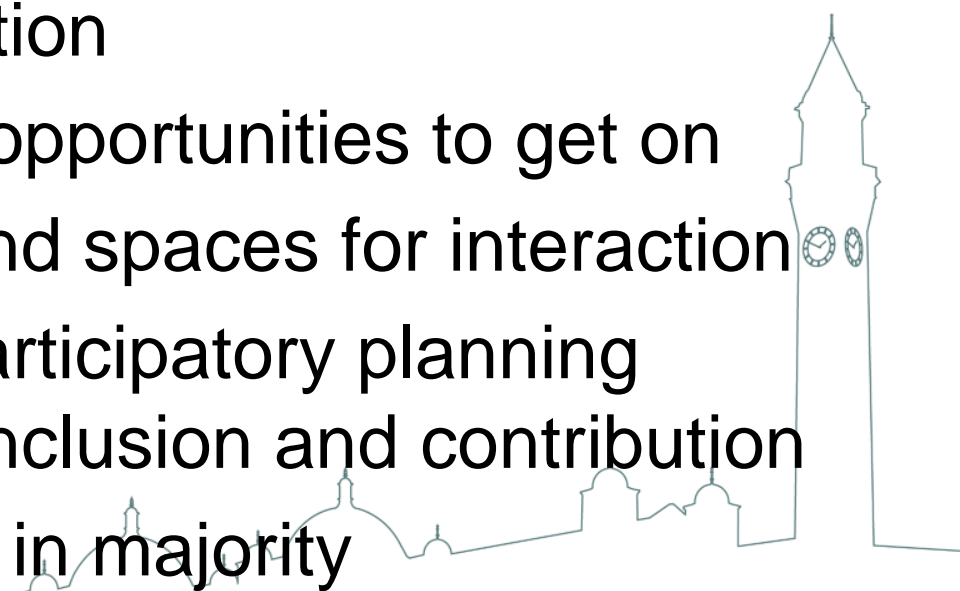
- ❑ Understanding of “culture” – how people live and systems operate
- ❑ Jobs and help to get work, social mobility
- ❑ Opportunities to meet local people
- ❑ Acceptance and contribution





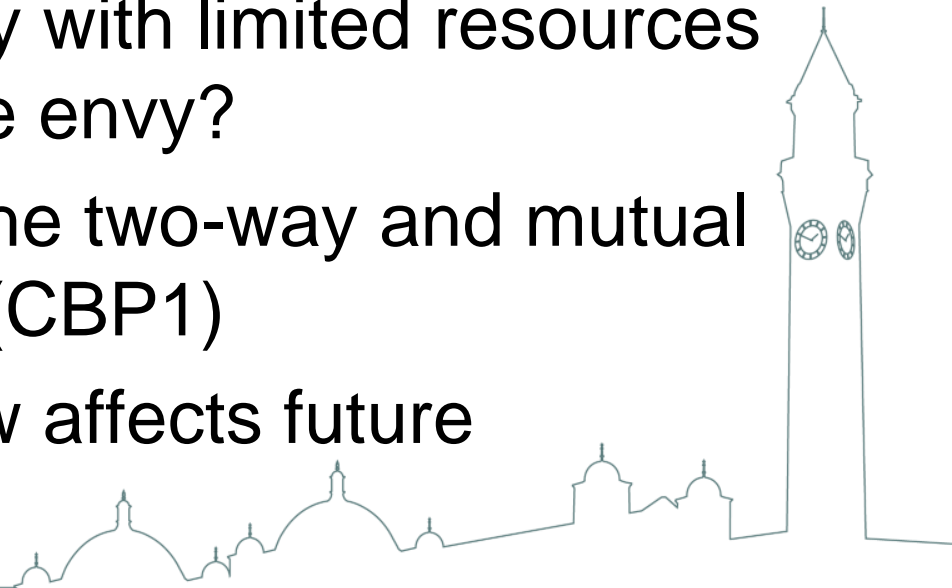
What is effective?

- ❑ Discrimination prevents adaptation (Berry et al. 2010) and impacts on outcomes (Cheung & Phillimore 2013)
- ❑ Poor quality/ no work impacts on functional and social aspects of integration (Pemberton et al. 2014)
- ❑ Language and re-orientation
- ❑ Stable employment with opportunities to get on
- ❑ Enduring opportunities and spaces for interaction
- ❑ Forums, networks and participatory planning processes – supporting inclusion and contribution
- ❑ Encouraging acceptance in majority



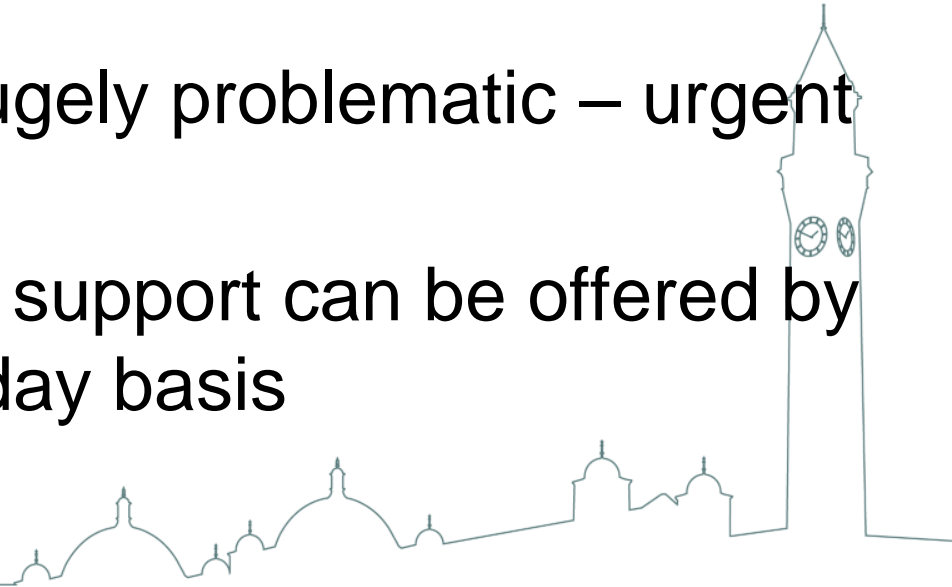
Integration in crisis

- What are the long-term consequences of traumatic journeys, reluctant reception and extended periods of waiting?
- What is practical and desirable given speed and scale of arrivals?
- What can we do quickly with limited resources and the risk of resource envy?
- Important to focus on the two-way and mutual accommodation by all (CBP1)
- Whatever happens now affects future opportunity



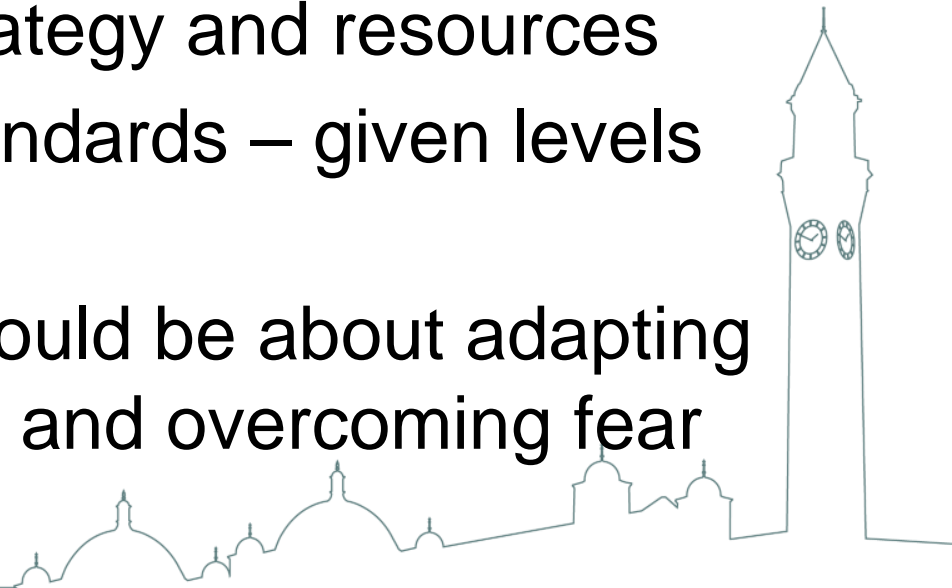
Integration now

- Asylum seekers and refugees want to integrate but need information and resources
- No time to establish/expand large scale programmes
- Yet those who are here need local knowledge and language
- Anti-migrant sentiment hugely problematic – urgent action needed
- Effective local integration support can be offered by local people on an everyday basis



Integration as shared responsibility

- Each individual whether “native” or migrant
- Organisations and institutions
- Local, state, national and EU wide responsibility to build capacity of everyone
- Pragmatism means we must all contribute
- But EU/state role for strategy and resources
- Minimum integration standards – given levels of mobility
- EU integration policy should be about adapting for change and diversity and overcoming fear of “other”



Integration for Europe

- ❑ Focus on everyone in Europe – an European integration policy
- ❑ Integration as investment – different values and language, vocational training can aid development etc – what have we to lose?
- ❑ Re-shape institutions for a changing and diverse, rather than fixed population
- ❑ Educate about reality of mobility as global feature with local impact that is irreversible
- ❑ Develop core skills to communicate with, and adapt to, diversity and change for “us” and “them”
- ❑ Reclaim integration as a concept that means taking responsibility for building a diverse society together

