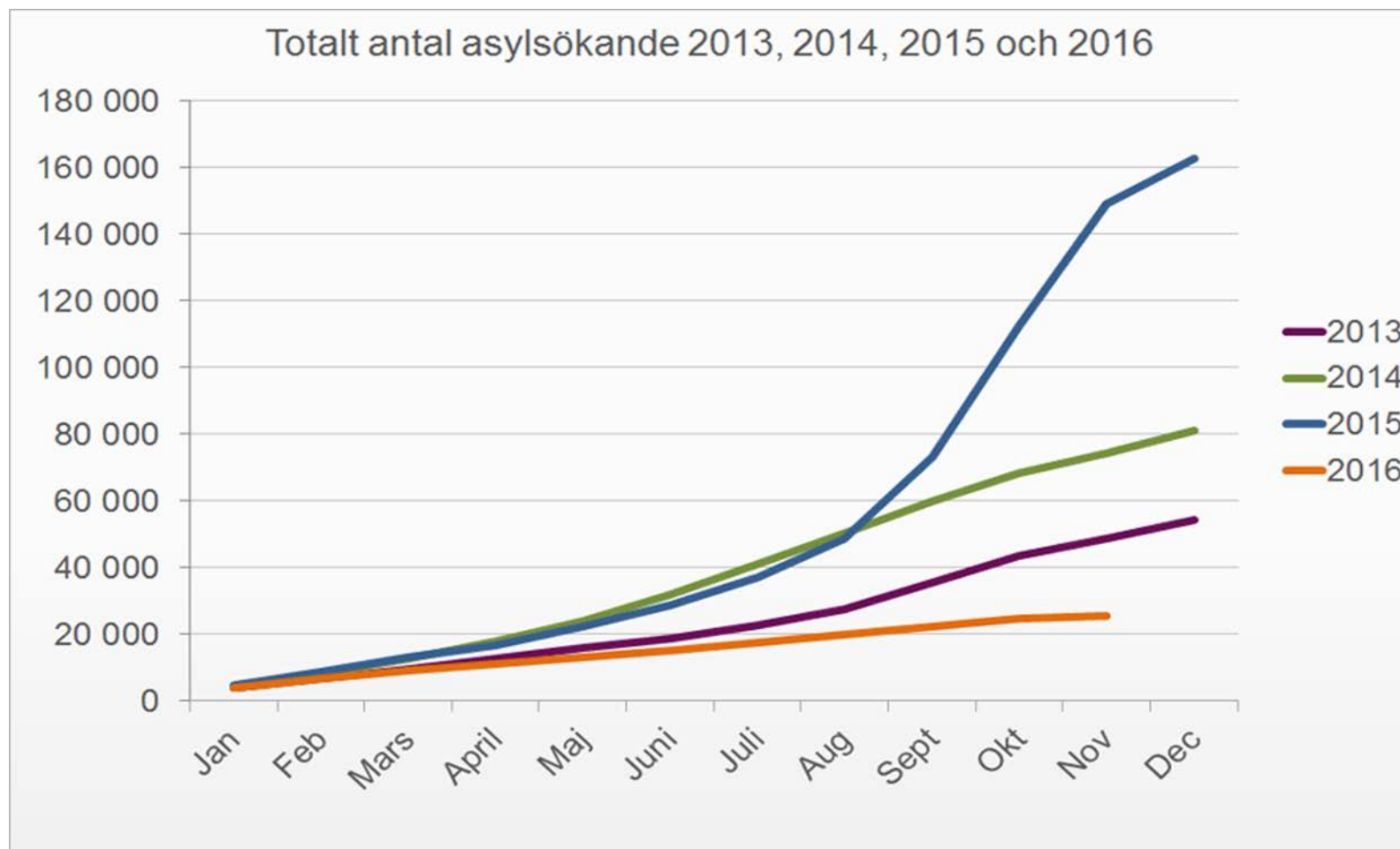




Migration crisis and integration in Sweden

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Total number of asylumseekers

Challenges in 2015

Strongly increasing refugee flows to Europe

Collapse of Schengen and Dublin rules

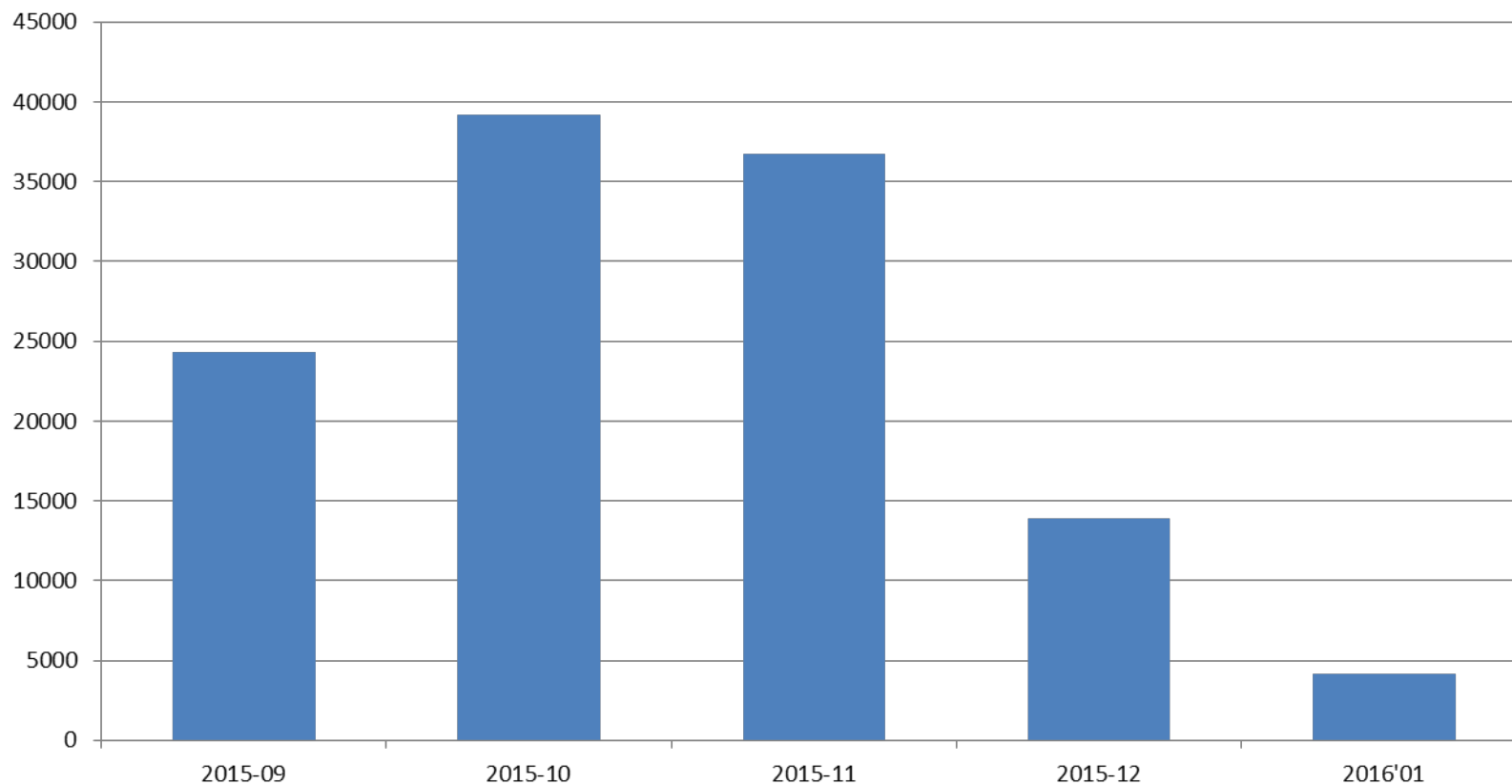
Unbalanced distribution of asylum seekers across the EU

Sweden took a very high share

No common EU solution to the challenges

October/November: Extreme shortage of accommodation for asylum seekers in Sweden, asylum processing times increased, central authorities and municipalities could no longer fulfill their duties in accordance with the law

Asylum seekers to Sweden 1 September 2015 to 31 January 2016



Source: Swedish Migration Agency – Monthly data

New policy measures (proposed 24 Nov 2015)

- **Overall goal of the government:** “Dramatic reduction in the number of people who seek asylum and are granted a residence permit in Sweden”
- In order to achieve this the following principal policy measures entered into force during the second quarter of 2016 for a three year period:
 - Swedish asylum legislation in line with EU minimum standards
 - Temporary residence permits (instead of permanent) for all beneficiaries of protection except resettled refugees – three years for refugees and one year for subsidiary protection.
 - No family reunification for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection
 - Some national humanitarian statuses ceased to exist

Other policy measures

- (Schengen) internal border controls since 14 November 2015 – renewed regularly
- ID checks on all public transport to Sweden from Denmark (ferries, buses, trains) from 4 January 2016
- All municipalities must accommodate asylum seekers
- For beneficiaries of protection: Improved integration, measures to facilitate access to the labour market, improved validation of foreign qualifications

Integration

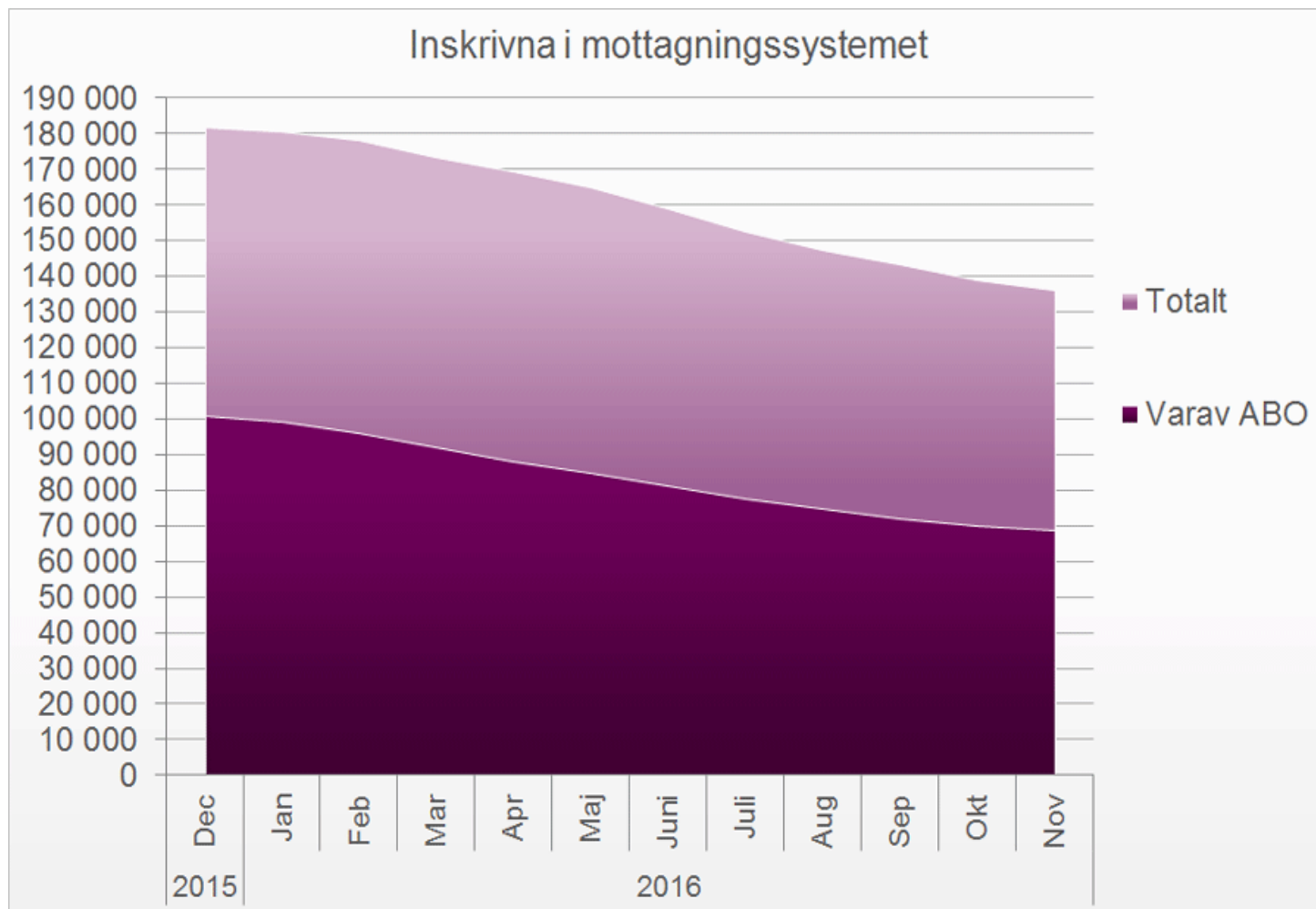
When the person has been granted a residence permit!

In practice: when he/she leaves the reception system.

But:

Asylum seekers are allowed to work

Can have "organised activities" on a voluntary basis



Persons in the reception system

Responsibilities regarding integration of beneficiaries of protection

Actor/organisation	Responsibilities
Municipalities	Organisation and provision of housing, education, counselling and social services.
Swedish Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen)	Introduction plan, including language courses and assistance with the search for employment
County councils	Health- and medical care
County Administrative Boards	Follow up and planning for reception and integration capacity in the municipalities

Special integration measures for recognised beneficiaries of protection (and their family members)

Settlement in one of the 290 Swedish municipalities, according to a new distribution/allocation mechanism (since March 2016)

Beneficiaries of protection may also **find accommodation by themselves**

Individual “integration plan” (normal duration: two years), including:

Language course “Swedish for Immigrants”: Normally 15-20 hours per week, day-time (there are also evening classes and special courses for persons with specific skills)

Shorter **orientation courses**

Internships, apprenticeships or on-the-job training

Other components of the integration plan

Translation of foreign diplomas

Guidance regarding the **validation of formal degrees** / education

New: short, **complementary education programmes** for people with incomplete qualifications

Financial allowances (daily):

231:- to 308:- SEK per day (Monday-Friday), dependent on the degree of participation in the activities foreseen by the integration plan

Extra allowances in certain cases for children and housing

Reduced allowances when beneficiary starts working or does not fully participate, e.g. 50 % work or absence → allowances reduced by 50 %

But: More restrictive approach to asylum and family reunification since autumn 2015

- clashes with ambition to facilitate and promote integration!

Thank you!



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