The Problem

Every year growing numbers of refugees must leave their homes and countries to escape violent conflict, human rights violations, and natural disasters. Globally, in 2016 over 23.3 million people were forcibly displaced as refugees (UNHCR, 2017). Germany, Hungary, Sweden, Italy, and France are among the primary countries opening borders to accept refugees (ESPON, 2016).

Current Situation

- The migratory journey is dangerous, even fatal.
- Living conditions of first and second generation refugees currently stressed populations.
- Refugees must endure long and inhospitable periods without work, education, and family reunification.
- Refugees in host countries perceive refugees as a threat to local employment and stability. Yet, research on refugee economic impacts shows they do not decrease employment opportunities and can play a useful economic role in countries (Kuyt, et al., 2018).

The Global Number of Refugees and Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) 2019-2020

The Thesis

The planning method being proposed here advances the concept of a 3-step phased placement of refugees which is comprised of:

1. Transit community - refugee, host, and safety.
2. Transitory community: education, job opportunities and health.
3. Integration community - becoming a productive and integrated part of local society or going back to rebuild the home country.

Framework of the Transitional Community

Spinal Structure

- Spatial connection
- Ecological process connection
- Urban function connection
- Cultural connection

Site for temporary camp in Sicily and transitional community in Naples, Italy.

The Test Case

Key planning strategies:

- Self-reliance: areas for sustainable industry, training, and education.
- Land use: mixed-use, mixed-use residential, and urban residential.
- Green infrastructure and sustainable environment: landscape-based water/energy recovery systems, waste recycling systems, renewable energy, and local food systems.
- Domestic life: efficient and livable residential environments.

Civic institutions: schools, hospitals, public markets, community/police center, sports and recreation facilities.

Cultural landscape: places for cultural transmision and evolution, spiritual independence and hearing, also for culture and art exchanges between refugees and local residents for better integration.

Connection to local society, economy and environment:

- Spatial connection: the new planned community should have building types and street patterns consistent with the existing local context for the new community blended seamlessly into the existing town.
- Urban function connection: infrastructure for water, sewage, and energy systems will be extended into the site and adapted for the pre-existing grid, green spaces, and highway systems to support the new community. The new community should be linked with the regional highway network.
- Cultural exchange: the exchange of dramatic culture and art is vital for social integration of refugees and can help improve understanding, cooperation and help.

Implementation considerations:

- Government funding: at the first stage of placement of refugees, this government would fund the construction of a transitional management center and a residential community for at least 1,000 refugees.
- Non-profit and private donations: these organizations and private investors can be used to build transitional management centers and fund the construction of the new community.
- Private investment: in later stages, private investment can be solicited to expand and continue to develop the new community.
- Private investment would need to be regulated to ensure that the new community is sustainable and meets all needs which leads to earning planning direction and local policy will be encouraged to coordinate this process and ensure their overall economic and living environment investment.

The Master Plan of Transition Community for Refugees and Local Residents

Conclusion:

- The planning method proposed here advances the concept of a 3-step phased placement of refugees.
- The planning method of transit community, transitory community, and integration community will help resolve current refugee problems and foster more harmonious multi-cultural communities.
- In the planning method, the need to address the needs of refugees is put into perspective.
- The diagram and methods can be adapted to other areas to help address the issue of current refugee problems and foster more harmonious multi-cultural communities.