

CAGE is a collaboration between leading research institutions in the Nordic area. CAGE brings together a pan-Nordic, multidisciplinary team of leading scholars and research students to shed light on some of our time's most pressing social challenges related to the societal incorporation of young refugees.

CAGE has been developed within the Nordic Network for Research Cooperation on Unaccompanied Refugee Minors and its sister network Nordic Network for Research on Refugee Children.

CAGE will provide analyses and insights to inform policy and practice related to work with young refugees arriving in the Nordics and beyond.



## CONTACT CAGE

Research Centre for Migration, Ethnicity and Health  
Department of Public Health  
University of Copenhagen  
Øster Farimagsgade 5  
PO Box 2099  
DK-1014 Copenhagen K  
Denmark  
E-mail: [CAGE@sund.ku.dk](mailto:CAGE@sund.ku.dk)

### Partners

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# COMING OF AGE IN EXILE (CAGE)

HEALTH AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUITIES IN YOUNG  
REFUGEES IN THE NORDIC WELFARE SOCIETIES



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## COMING

During the past few decades refugee immigration has changed the societal weave of the Nordic welfare states. Refugee immigration is a reality and the life prospects of these new Nordic citizens is a broad societal concern.

Meanwhile, there are many indications of a substantial inequality between young refugees and the majority populations in the Nordic countries, both in socioeconomic terms and in relation to good health.

*To what extent is this inequality driven by factors within the Nordic host countries? How much does it vary between these otherwise similar states? Can policies and practices be identified in the region that either improve or deteriorate the possibilities of refugees to build a good life for themselves in their new countries?*

CAGE's mission is to shed light on questions such as these. Each of the six studies included in CAGE puts a distinct but complimentary perspective on this complex issue.

### **How big are the inequalities between young refugees and their peers? Have they changed over time? Are there substantial differences across the region?**

Using quantitative data from the national registers in each of the four countries, this study will map the inequalities across the region, investigate patterns in the transitions from adolescence to young adult life, and analyse the effects of notable policy differences between the four countries with regard to the reception and settlement of young refugees. The analyses will tell us more about how national policies shape educational outcomes and labour market participation of young refugees, and how these outcomes interact with health problems in the transition from youth to young adulthood. It is pivotal to keep this big picture in mind when considering the fairness and appropriateness of systems and policies affecting young refugees.

## OF AGE



### **How do health reception policies and practices promote well-being, health and integration among young refugees in the Nordic countries?**

The coordination of health reception from the asylum-phase until resettlement is fraught with gaps, both in terms of policy and practice. To ensure that the health reception of young refugees contributes to their well-being and healthy integration, knowledge is needed about what constitutes 'good' practices. This study will further our understanding in this regard by examining and comparing health reception *policies, practices* and *experiences* regarding young refugees resettled in Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

### **Do education policies in Scandinavia promote refugee-competent schools?**

This study will focus on education policies in the Scandinavian context, by comparing to what extent and how education policies in Denmark, Norway and Sweden address the health and well-being of young refugees in schools, as a strategy

## IN EXILE

for tackling social determinants of health.

### **How do the Nordic countries assist labour market participation in young refugees?**

The integration of young refugees into the labour market is a key concern, both because the welfare state relies on near-universal labour market participation, and because meaningful employment is considered vital for the person's social identity. This study will provide a broad comparative overview of Nordic policies and how they impact labour market participation among young people in general, and young refugees in particular.

### **Which challenges do young refugees face during resettlement?**

This Norwegian study aims to enhance our understanding of the various educational and psychosocial transitions young refugees experience during resettlement and what they mean for their functioning in everyday life in general and in school in particular. Moreover, the study explores the role of schools, family and care arrangements in supporting resettling young refugees' psychosocial well-being, learning and development.

### **What are young refugees' experiences of transitioning from education into the labour market?**

Understanding the kinds of experiences refugees have regarding employment and unemployment helps us to initiate efforts to assist them in finding an active role in the labour market. This study investigates the experiences of young adults with a refugee background entering into the labour market after education. In addition, the study flips the perspective around and explores the experiences of employers. This study is based on the case of Finland.