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Summary of Kommunelederundersøkelsen 2011

What are municipal leaders' opinion about the settlement and integration of refugees?

For the fourth time, The Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi) conducted a survey of municipal leaders in Norway. The survey has gone out to all mayors, councilors, staff managers and CFOs, as well as other selected leaders responsible for settlement and integration. The purpose of the survey is to identify attitudes towards settlement and integration of refugees.

IMDi has determined that it will be necessary to settle and integrate 6,892 refugees in Norway in 2012. Of these, 400 will be unaccompanied minors, and in addition, there will be a significant proportion of single adults.

It is essential that local authorities make decisions that are consistent with IMDi requests. The feedback that we get from this survey provides IMDi the opportunity to better understand and respond to the municipals needs related to settlement and integration of refugees.

The main findings of the 2011 survey are:

- 43 percent of the municipal leaders who were interviewed have been asked to settle refugees in 2012.
- 54 percent of the municipal leaders believe that the request level is at the right amount. This is a slight decrease from 2010 (57%).
- 1 out of 3 leaders from municipalities that have *not* been asked to settle refugees in 2012, believes that their municipality has the capacity to settle refugees.
- The most important preconditions for local authorities with respect to settle unaccompanied minors is access to housing, the capacity of the municipal services and the size of government schemes.
- 41 percent believe the state reimbursement of child care expenses and the overall size of the governments' grant is less than

adequate. This is a slight increase since 2010 (39%), but a significant improvement since 2009 (51%).

- About 70 percent of the local leaders say they have good or very good knowledge about the schemes for settlement and integration of refugees.
- Access to housing is the factor most likely to complicate the settlement of more refugees. Experience with the integration of previously settled refugees is the factor most likely to make this work easier.
- 3 of 10 municipal leaders say they have goals regarding the introduction program. This is a similar proportion as in the 2010 survey.
- 53 percent report that the cooperation with IMDi is good. It should here be noted that 16 percent said they did not have a collaboration with IMDi.

Good attendance despite election

905 people answered the survey, distributed among 417 municipalities. Response rates in the survey were as follows: 51 % of mayors, 60 % of councilors, and 66 % for staff, CFOs and others. This represents an overall response rate for the survey of 60 %. Leaders from 97 % of Norwegian municipalities participated in the survey.

The data collection was conducted between the 16th of September and the 6th of November 2011. Thereby the survey took place very close to the county council elections. Taking into account that the survey was conducted so close to the elections, we are very pleased with the number of responses from the local leaders.