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Youth & Families Wellbeing matters in the context of Migration**

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**OFFERING A QUALITY RECEPTION COURSE TO THE NEWCOMERS**



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Since the beginning of the migrant crisis in Europe in 2015, Brussels has been affirming itself as an asylum destination. Their reception and accommodation thus represent a major challenge for the Region and its 19 municipalities. The Francophone Parliament of Brussels adopted in July 2003 a decree relating to the reception pathway for newcomers (newly arrived persons), and to the creation of the Bureaux d'Accueil pour les Primo-Arrivants (Reception Office for newcomers "BAPA").

BAPA BXL asbl is a Reception office for newcomers in The Brussels Capital Region, founded by the City of Brussels and its CPAS (Public social Action Centre).

The office focuses on a social policy aimed at helping newcomers to lead an autonomous life and increasing their social, economic and cultural participation into Belgium and in the Brussels society in particular.

**Keywords:**

Welcoming newcomer – reception pathway - Equality of opportunity – citizenship - living together

**About the author**

Christelle Sermon, director of BAPA BXL, the reception Office for newcomers in the Brussels Capital Region since 2016, is a jurist with more than 15 years of professional experience in immigration. She has a Master's degree in Law (ULB) and an Advanced Master's degree in Human Rights (FUSL). She has started her career as lawyer in immigration law and has supported different vulnerable population (asylum seekers, immigrants without any legal status, ...). She has also worked for FEDASIL (Federal Agency for the reception of asylum seekers) and a Public Social Action Centre in Brussel.