

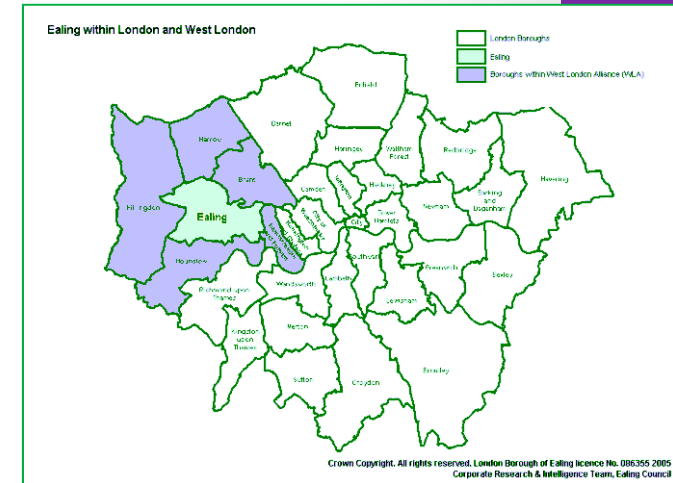
The logo features the word "simiart" in a lowercase, rounded sans-serif font. The letters "s", "a", and "r" are purple, while "i", "m", and "i" are teal. Above the "i", "m", and "i" are three teal dots. Below the word is the tagline "your first safe step" in a smaller, black, lowercase sans-serif font.

simiart  
your first safe step

Milan 2015

# Ealing, West London

- **Large:** 340,700 people (12th in England & Wales if it was a city)
- **High international migration** (>London average).
- One of the most **ethnically diverse** communities –Ealing is ranked **3rd most diverse by community** and **6th most diverse** borough in terms of **faith** – out of 326 English and Welsh boroughs
- **Young population:** <19s make up 31% and a **rising birth rate:** 0-4s increased 27% (2001 – 11)
- **Just over half of Ealing Residents were born in the UK (51.8%)** compared to more than 63.3% for London as a whole
- **Nearly a quarter of Ealing residents (23.8%) arrived in the UK between 2001 – 2011** – it was 18% for London as a whole



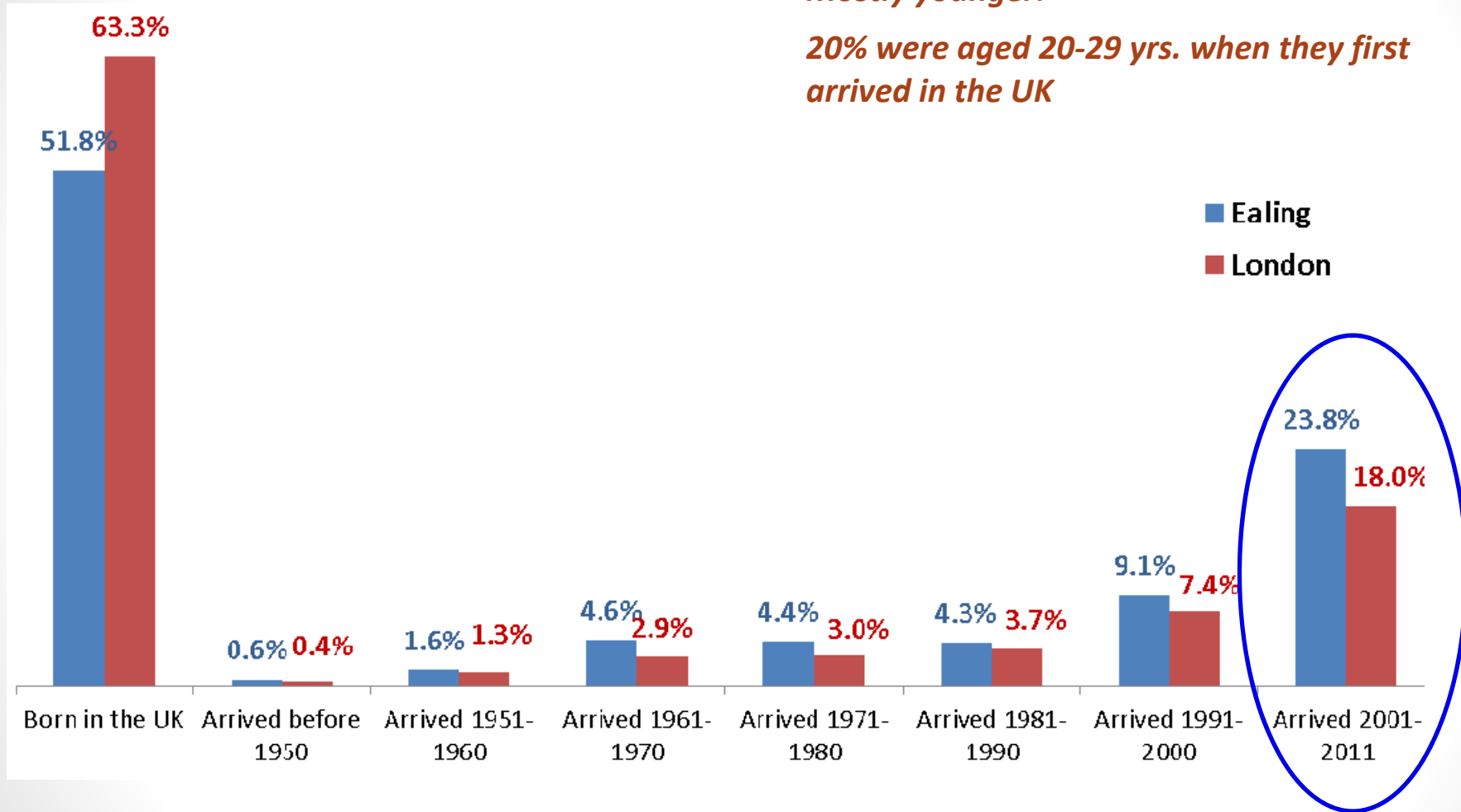
# Ethnicity (England & Wales Ranks)

- **Largest Polish population** (21,507)
- **Highest number of Afghans** (6,789)
- **Highest number of Serbians** (441)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of Japanese** residents (2,798), after Barnet
- **2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of Iranians** (2,981), after Barnet
- **3<sup>rd</sup> highest Somali population** (2,835), after Birmingham and Brent. A further 535 residents are Somalilanders
- **4<sup>th</sup> highest number of Arabs** (10,076), after Westminster, Brent, & Birmingham

# Year of Arrival in the UK

*Mostly younger:*

*20% were aged 20-29 yrs. when they first arrived in the UK*



## UNITED KINGDOM BORDER AGENCIES

UK VISAS & IMMIGRATION

IMMIGRATION & ENFORCEMENT  
(Power of force, arrest and detention)

UK BORDER FORCE (2012)

Deportation orders authorise removal and detention if;

- interests of the public
- spouse, civil partner or child of individual subject to deportation
- foreign national over 17 convicted and served a prison sentence

# Outline of project

- ‘Victimisation’ of migrants
- Voluntary returns
- More cost effective than enforcement
- Non-EU nationals peaked 2011-2015 in UK (Kings College, London)
- 25,000 asylum applications to UK last year (Kings College, London)

## Italy



Federazione Regionale del



Veneto Consiglio dei Comuni e delle Regioni d'Europa

- Undocumented migration a national issue
- Exacerbated by termination of Mare Nostrum
- Issues around employment



# Outhouses

- Origin of SMART project was the need to tackle outhouses issue (which were found to be housing large numbers of undocumented immigrants)
- ‘beds in sheds’ being used for untaxed rented living accommodation
- Outhouses project – 2011 multi-disciplinary team to use planning, environmental health and building control legislation to shut these down or ensure they are safe to live in (if couldn’t shut down)
- Help victims as result of this
- Large majority residents from South Asia
- People trafficked or assisted in their arrival under duress or debt
- Anecdotal evidence suggesting people would return to home countries with support and advice, if given opportunity



## Background of outhouses

- 2010 – Reports of an explosion of outbuildings being erected in rear gardens. Particularly in the Southall Ward areas.
- Landlords placing ‘beds in sheds’ and using them for living accommodation.
- Charging untaxed rent up to £600 per month.
- Being used for illegal activities – including prostitution, drugs and illegal gambling.



# Headline objectives

- **Explore the most effective process in which to meet the needs of third country nationals (those without a UK or European passport)**
- **Support their return to their home country**
- **Assisting them to overcome financial barriers and personal issues around migration and documentation**
- **Aims to better understand the immediate needs and concerns of those facing difficult decisions about returning home**

# Partners

- To develop latest thinking and trialling new ways of working:
- **Veneto Region local authority (AICCRE)**
- **Milan based innovative Social Enterprise (A&I)**
- These partners have experience of involvement with local returns schemes; from which we can share learning and practice.

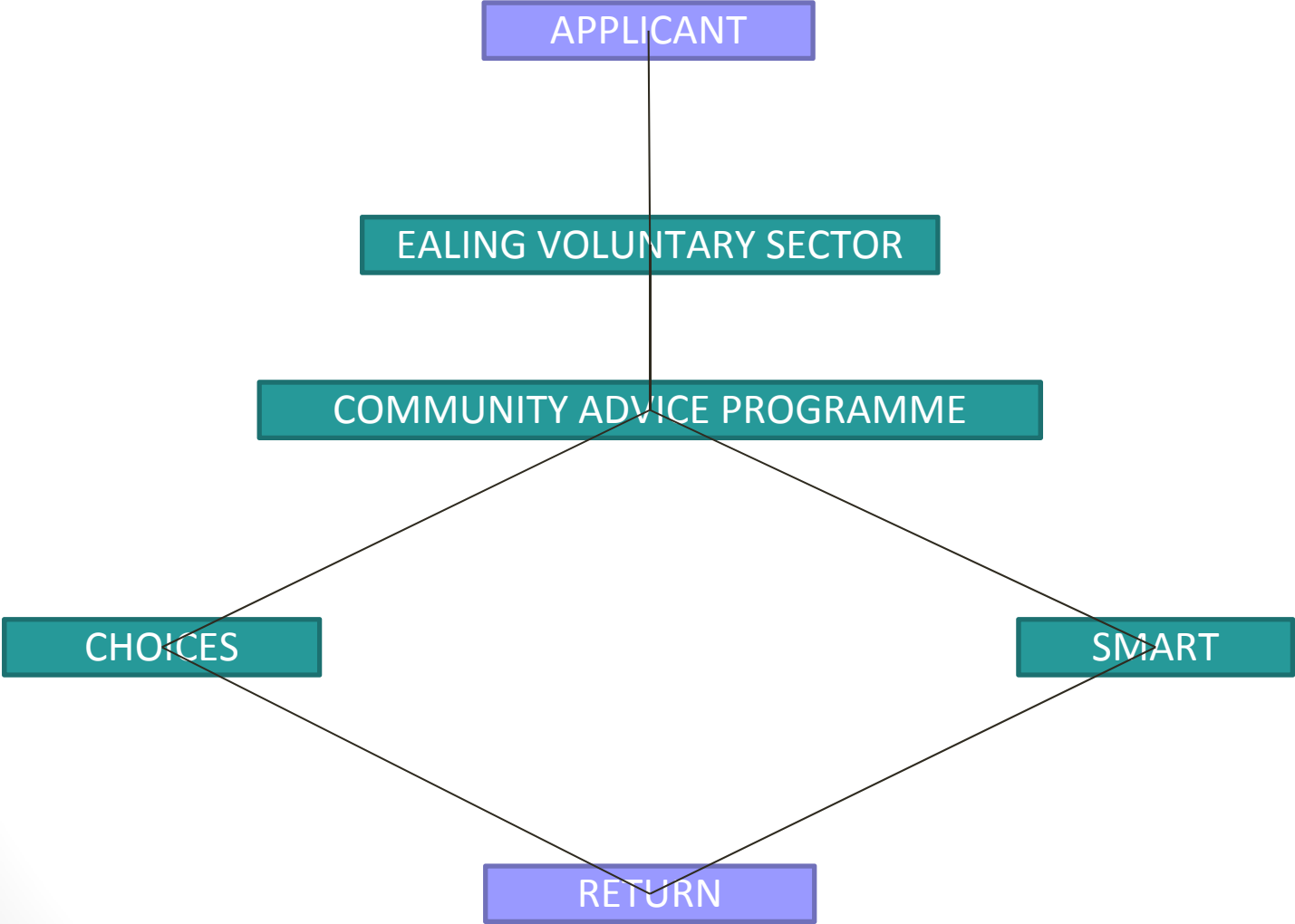


450 migrants abandoned on 'Ezadeen' off coast of Italy

# Progress so far

- 3 community profiles of areas from which a large proportion of undocumented immigrants in Ealing seeking to return are from – Indian Punjab, Kerala and Afghanistan.
- 10 client profiles have been made (one shown on next slide). In all probability, 5 of the case studies we have selected will be returned.
- 1<sup>st</sup> transnational meeting was held in Ealing in May 2014. 2<sup>nd</sup> in Milan in March. 3<sup>rd</sup> in Venice later in the year.
- Developed communication with Italian partners. Will explore progress in Milan.

# Structure chart of process in Ealing



# Assisted Voluntary Return



**REFUGEE  
ACTION**

**CHOICES SERVICE**

- Victim of trafficking
- Entered UK illegally
- Breach condition of leave to remain



**International Organization for Migration**

Supports returning migrants once arrived in home country

# Community profile: Afghanistan

- Population: 34.4 million (2010)
- GDP per capita (2010): 501 US\$
- Ongoing war and unrest
- Fragmented social structure
- Around 80% are dependent on agriculture and live in rural areas. However, only 12% of Afghanistan's 652,225 square kilometres of land are suitable for agriculture.
- The average yearly income and life expectancy rates are extremely low, and infant mortality rates and illiteracy, especially among females, are extraordinarily high.



# Community profile: Kerala

- 33.3 million people (in 2011)
- Kerala is home to 2.76% of India's people, and — at 859 persons per km<sup>2</sup>; [\[10\]](#) its land is three times as densely settled as the rest of India.
- [Malayalam](#) is Kerala's [official language](#) and is spoken by at least 96% of the people of Kerala; the next most common language is [Tamil](#)
- The major religions followed in Kerala are [Hinduism](#) (56.2% — [Hinduism of Kerala](#)), [Islam](#) (24.7%) and [Christianity](#) (19.0%).
- Kerala has a literacy rate of 93.91% (2011), the highest in India
- There are more women than men in Kerala, with a ratio of 1.084 compared to the national figure of 0.940.
- As of 2011, a total of 2,280,000 Keralites reside outside India



# Community profile: Punjab (India)

- The population of Punjab increased from 20 million in 1951, to 73 million in 1998, and 94 million in 2011 and is expected to reach 101 million in 2015.
- Approx 60% of the population practice the Sikh faith. [Hinduism](#) is practiced by 37% of the population.
- Adult literacy rates are 69% for males and 59% for females.
- Punjab is mainly dominated by the agricultural sector.
- Working abroad can bring greater prestige in the local community.
- Immigration businesses (often trading as travel agents) are prevalent all over the Punjab.





# Story of a case: 1

- Client 10
- Client from Punjab, India.
- 21 years old, female. Overstayed 6 month visa which expired in 2006. Arrived in UK as child.
- Subject to DV from father (who has returned to India), client tried to formalise status for LTR, but rejected in 2014.
- Lives in shared accommodation with mother and brother – tenancy now expired and faces homelessness.
- No right to work. Supported through Gurdwara.
- Client addressing possibility of return to India; waiting for decision to be made by Home Office in relation to appeal application.
- SMART now further exploring options on the next stage



# Story of a case: 2

- Client 5
- Client from Kerala, India.
- Arrived in the United Kingdom in 2012 India to undertake masters studies in hospitality.
- After completion of his studies the client met a French national through a matrimonial website. They were later married.
- Client then applied for stay in the UK through the exercise of his wife's European Treaty rights. Application was denied and his student visa expired, as a result he became undocumented and illegal in the UK.
- During transition period between application to remain the client was subjected to domestic violence and as a result the relationship broke down.
- Became street homeless and ate from the local Gurdwara.
- Supported by a domestic violence advocate however was unable to prove his status as his documents have been retained by his former partner.
- £3,500 debt due to education and could not return back to India without this money.
- Unable to lawfully work in the UK
- Met with Choices, SMART assisted his returning through a process of mediation and legal guidance.



# Story of a case: 3

- Client 6
- Client from Somalia
- Previously working in Somalia's diplomatic service for the president / former government. Given a multiple entry visa to the United Kingdom
- On returning to Somalia from UK hers and the life of her family was threatened by Al Shabab. In fear for her safety she returned back to the UK in 2011 on the multiple entry visa and claimed asylum on arrival in 2011
- Since claiming asylum her application has been rejected.
- Support payments she received from National Asylum Support Service ceased in March 2013
- Unable to work, has been engaging in voluntary work for local charity groups and Somali organisations
- Supported by friends and shares a room in their family home
- Client introduced to the Choice's programs and had a full briefing of the support available
- Learnt that client was unrepresented at the immigration tribunal where the decision was made to refuse her application for asylum - matter is now being assessed by legal representation in order to make a new claim for which she has been given the right to do so.

