



Citizen Hosting in Lyon Metropolitan Area and the Rhône Region

A long-term mobilisation

Overview 2024

April 2026

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> Key points

■ **323 households**,
representing **756 persons**,
hosted by **49 associations**
in **2024**

■ **After the welcoming of
displaced people from
Ukraine, the mobilisation
continues for migrant
persons from other region
of origin**

■ **Concerns regarding the
needs of women and
children**

Introduction

Many citizens in France are mobilising to welcome homeless migrant persons. This form of engagement has grown significantly since 2015, and again in 2022 with the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, to provide concrete accommodation solutions for people fleeing conflict and seeking protection in Europe, and also to facilitate connections with the host society.

In the Rhône Region, a Citizen hosting observatory¹ brings together several local organisations² that provides rooms in shared appartements, as well as independent housing. Alongside the accommodation solutions offered, these organisations make a significant contribution to the social inclusion in France of the people they host.

This observatory aims, in particular, to better understand the contribution of citizens to providing accommodation and supporting migrant persons, and to raise awareness of this action. A preliminary quantitative study provided a detailed overview of citizen hosting in the Lyon metropolitan area and the Rhône Region in 2022³. The aim of this report is to offer a brief overview of its evolution in 2024.

The data was collected using a questionnaire developed collaboratively with the six organisations participating in the Citizen hosting observatory, who then completed it. This data concerns 49 associations offering citizen hosting⁴ in the Lyon metropolitan area and the Rhône Department.

The target audience for this study consists of migrant persons, regardless of their legal status or country of origin. Two of the participating organisations, however, have a specific admission criterion linked to the individual's status: the Lyon section of JRS Welcome hosts asylum seekers, and J'accueille-Rhône focuses on beneficiaries of international protection.

¹ See Synergies migrations website at: [Citizen hosting Observatory in the Rhône](#).

² In 2024, six organisations took part in this observatory : [l'Aclaam](#) (network of 57 associations, 27 of them based in Lyon metropolitan area), [Forum réfugiés](#), [J'accueille - Rhône](#), [JRS Welcome](#) - Lyon, [L'Ouvre Porte](#), [Terre d'ancrages](#).

³ Nadine Camp, « Highlighting Hospitality: The Role of Citizen Hosting in the Reception of Migrants, an Overview of the Situation in Lyon and the Rhone Region », Synergies migrations, November 2023. Available at: [Synergies migrations.org](#).

⁴ Data communicated by Aclaam includes their network member organisations.

Key figures

Lyon metropolitan area and the Rhône Region:

49 organisations surveyed

- ✓ 323 households hosted, comprising 756 people
- ✓ 41% children
- ✓ 186,708 overnight stays
- ✓ 352 citizen-led accommodations mobilised

Focus Lyon metropolitan area:

32 organisations surveyed

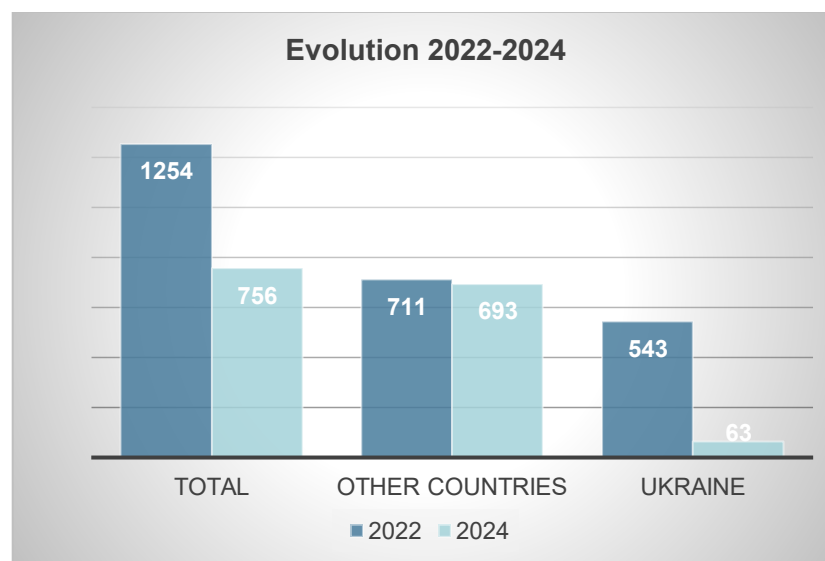
- ✓ 234 households hosted, comprising 526 people
- ✓ 43% children
- ✓ 124,370 overnight stays
- ✓ 285 citizen-led accommodations mobilised

A relative decrease in the level of citizen hosting between 2022 and 2024

In 2022, 446 households, representing 1,254 people, were hosted in the Lyon metropolitan area and the Rhône Region by the surveyed associations. Data collected in 2024 shows a decrease, with 323 households, or 756 people, accommodated.

This decrease in the number of people hosted should, however, be put into perspective: in 2022, 43% of those counted were refugees from Ukraine. The study showed that the network for hosting Ukrainian refugees had developed alongside pre-existing citizen hosting initiatives, which welcome migrant persons regardless of their nationality. By 2024, citizen hosting for displaced persons from Ukraine represented only a very small share of this type of hosting, approximately 8%. The number of other groups hosted by citizen initiatives remained relatively stable in the Lyon metropolitan area and the Rhône Region, with 693 people accommodated in 2024 compared to 711 in 2022.

Graph 1: Evolution of the number of people hosted between 2022 and 2024, including displaced persons from Ukraine (Lyon metropolitan area and the Rhône Region)

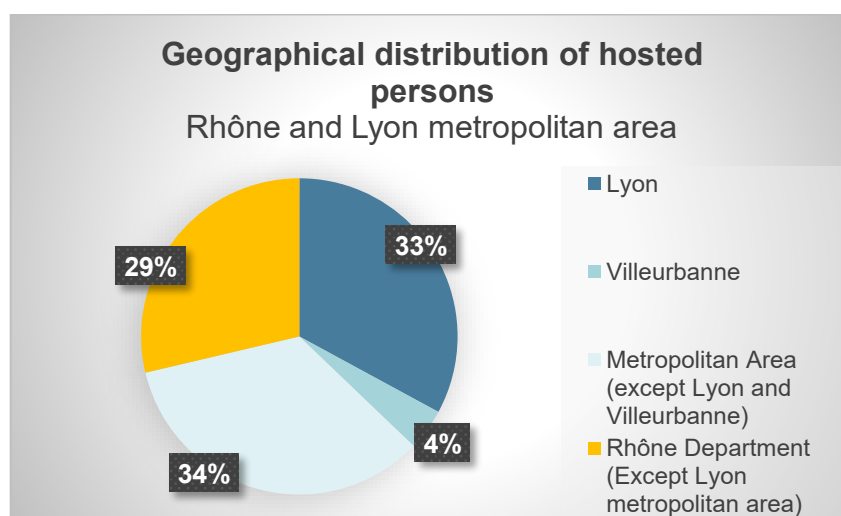


Hosting solutions remain important in number in the centre of the urban area, despite housing-related tensions

One-third of the people hosted by citizen initiatives in 2024 were accommodated in the city of Lyon. This proportion rises to 37% when the nearby suburb city of Villeurbanne is included (see graph no. 2). The concerns expressed in 2024 by some organisations regarding a decrease in accommodation options in these most sought-after areas of the metropolitan area have therefore not materialised. These municipalities are also among those most affected by homelessness and housing exclusion in the metropolitan area⁵.

While 71% of people were hosted within the Lyon metropolitan area, accommodation in other municipalities of the Rhône remains significant (see graph no. 2). Despite the challenges that can arise in terms of mobility, as these municipalities are often less well-served by public transport than those in the metropolitan area, citizen hosting organisations emphasize their ability, in these areas, to more easily mobilise the social environment to facilitate the integration of individuals, including in the professional sphere.

Graph 2: Geographical distribution of people in citizen-led accommodation in the Lyon metropolitan area and the Rhône Region in 2024

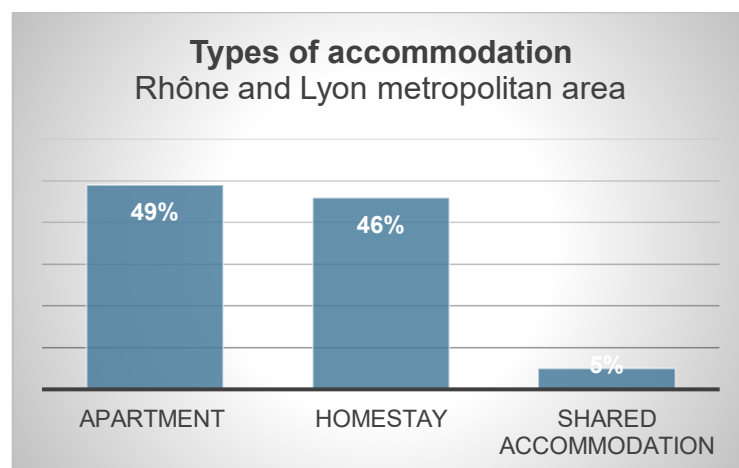


⁵ See « Le sans-domicilisme en 2024. Rapport annuel du sans-abrisme et de l'exclusion liée au logement dans la métropole de Lyon », November 2025. Available at: [Urbalyon.fr](https://urbalyon.fr).

A significant proportion of accommodations is provided in apartments

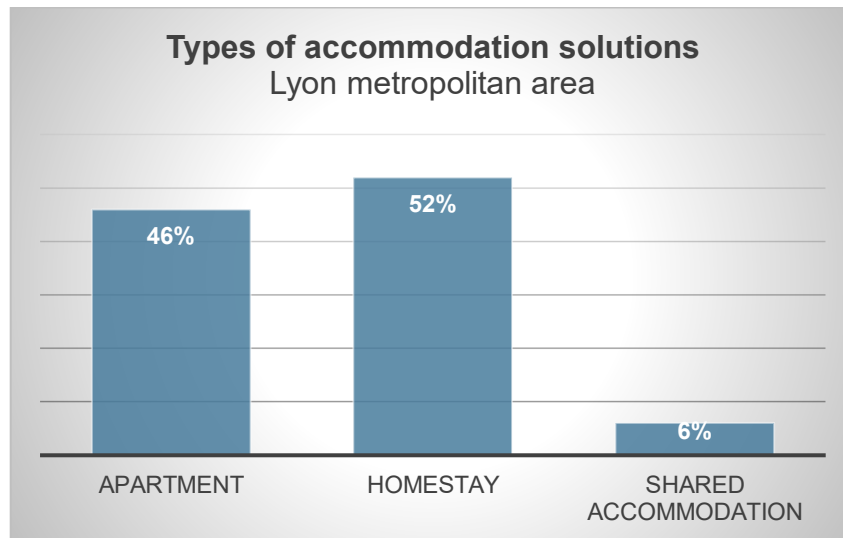
Of the 352 accommodations mobilised across all the areas covered by this study, nearly half are independent apartments (see graph no. 3). The gradual cessation of the reception of displaced persons from Ukraine, who were generally accommodated in homestays with local residents both in the metropolitan area and in other municipalities of the Rhône Region, has reduced the proportion of this type of accommodation. This does not, therefore, translate into an increase in the number of available accommodations possibilities in apartments.

Graph 3: Distribution by type of accommodation offered in the Lyon metropolitan area and the Rhône Region



It is interesting to note that this significant proportion of accommodations in independent apartments is not limited to the areas of the department furthest from the urban centre. This proportion remains high in the Lyon metropolitan area, representing 46% of citizen-led accommodation, despite the high cost of housing (see graph no. 4).

Graph 4: Distribution by type of accommodation offered in the Lyon metropolitan area



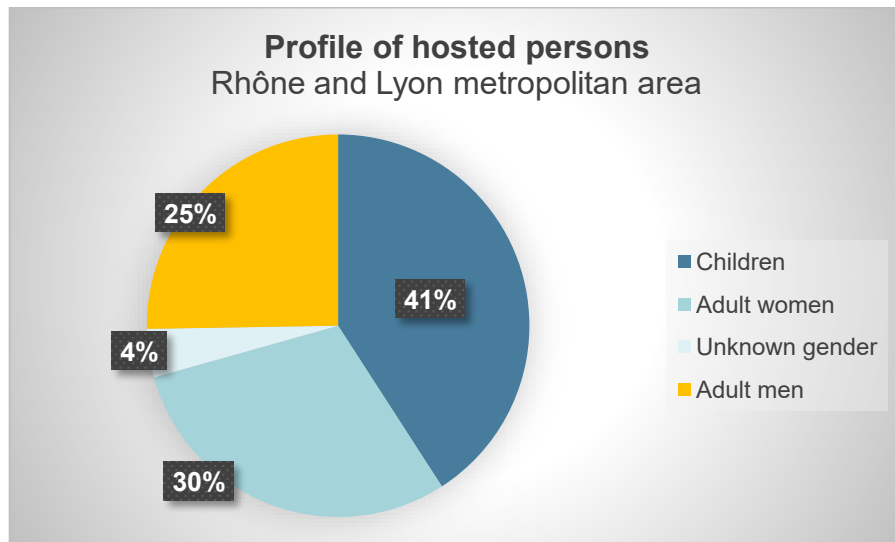
A majority of those being hosted are women and children

Data collected from surveyed organisations shows that 71% of people in citizen-led accommodation in the Lyon metropolitan area and the Rhône Region in 2024 were women and children (see graph 5).

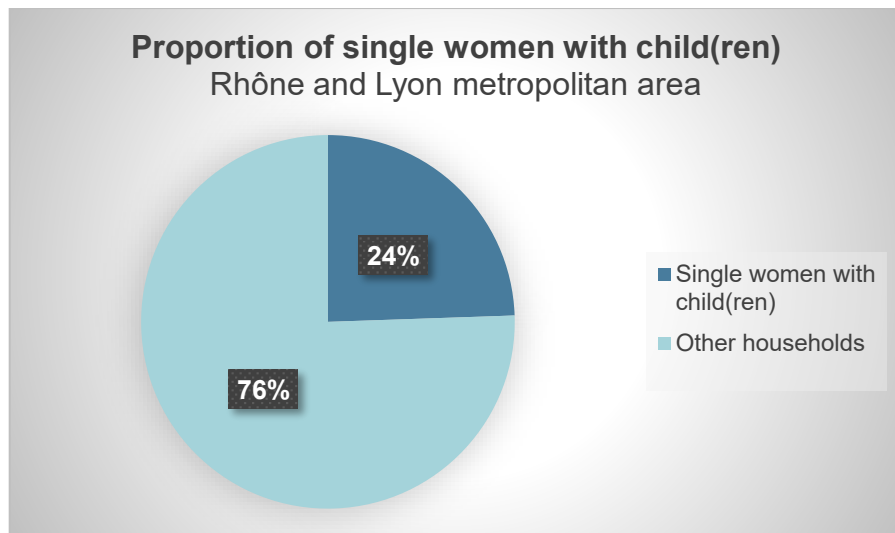
Half of the adults hosted were women, and a quarter of the households consisted of single women with children (see graph 6).

These figures may raise questions, given that single women, with or without children, are generally considered a priority group based on vulnerability criteria for allocating accommodation in institutional settings. According to this approach, they should therefore need to resort to citizen hosting less frequently. Nevertheless, several organisations reported an increase in requests from women during 2025.

Graph 5: Distribution of people hosted by profile in the Lyon metropolitan area and the Rhône Region



Graph 6: Proportion of households accommodated consisting of single women with child(ren), in the Lyon metropolitan area and the Rhône Region

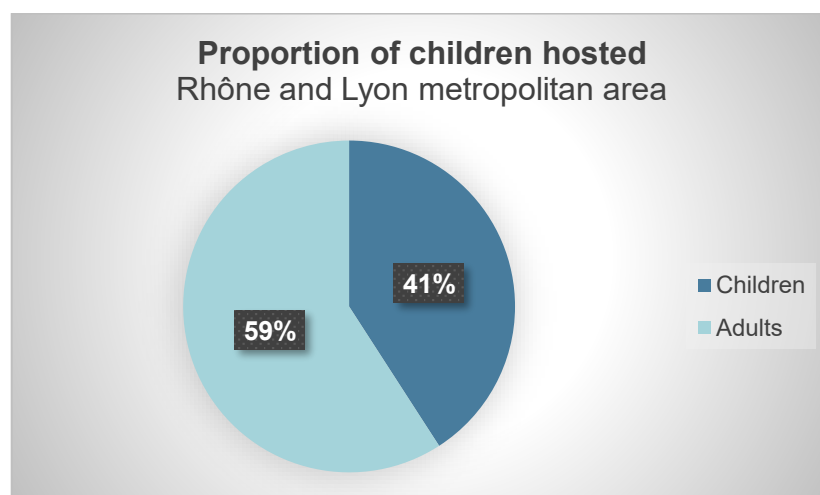


In 2024, 309 children were accommodated by citizen hosting in the Lyon metropolitan area and the Rhône. This represents a very slight increase compared to 2022, with 41% children and 59% adults in 2024 (see graph no. 7) versus 39% in 2022. Within the Lyon metropolitan area alone, the proportion is even slightly higher, at 43% children (see graph no. 8).

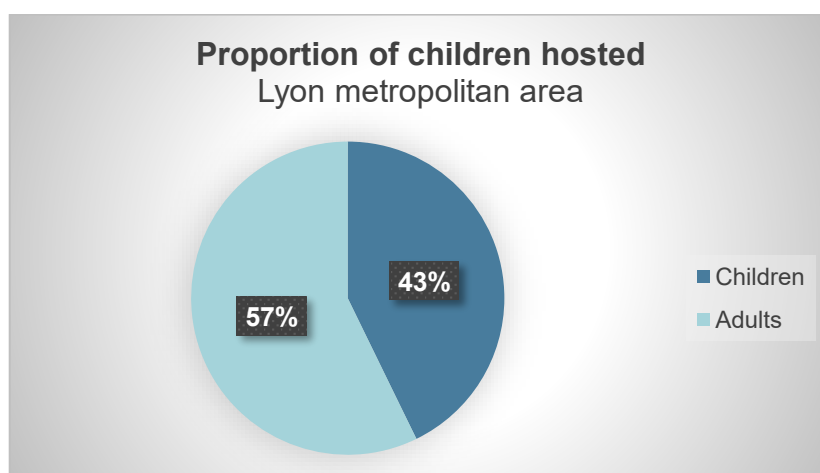
These figures are extremely worrying given the particular vulnerability of children and the precarious situation in which they find themselves. In 2024, 8,000 minors experiencing housing exclusion were identified in the Lyon

metropolitan area⁶. Providing childcare in the context of citizen hosting helps to partially mitigate the risk of homelessness and can offer a reassuring social environment through the connection with the host community. However, it does not remove the element of uncertainty linked to the future of the hosted household, and results in a specific issue with regard to parenthood, the parents themselves depending on other adults for accommodation and support.

Graph 7: Proportion of children among those hosted in the Lyon metropolitan area and the Rhône Region



Graph 8: Proportion of children among those hosted in the Lyon metropolitan area



⁶ *Ibidem.*

Leaving the citizen hosting system, what are the solutions?

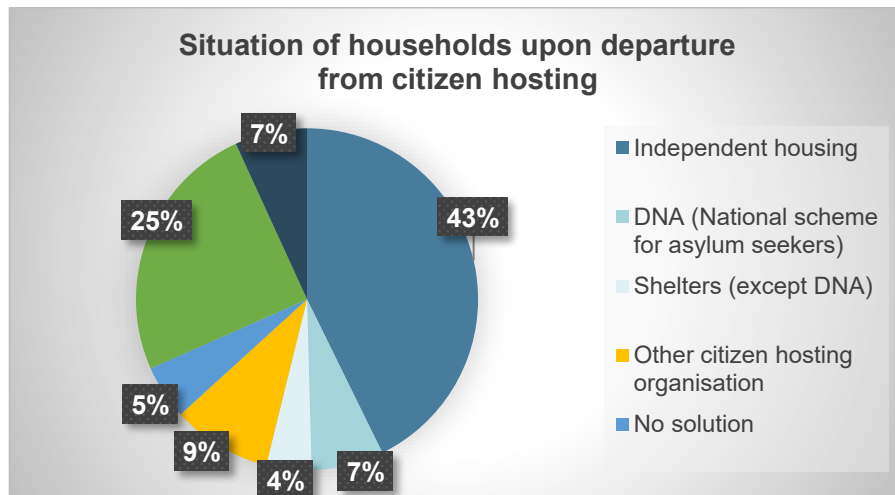
During 2024, 117 households received emergency accommodation through citizen hosting programs. Of the 49 organisations surveyed, only two offered a predetermined duration of stay—between 9 and 12 months. Even for these organisations, exceptions are made, and accommodation can continue if the individual's situation prevents them from finding alternative housing. This can be the case, for example, when the issuance of a permit to remain in France, although certain, has been delayed.

Only 5% of households find themselves without a solution at the end of their stay in citizen hosting (see graph no. 9). This figure demonstrates the importance of this type of accommodation in people's housing journeys: it is not simply a temporary solution, but also, often thanks to the support provided and/or the network it provides access to, a transition to other accommodation or housing. It should be noted, however, that in 9% of cases, the transition is to another citizen hosting accommodation organisation that takes over (see graph no. 9). If we add to this figure the data concerning accommodation by private individuals, without specifying whether or not this accommodation is provided by a citizen hosting organisation, the proportion rises to a total of 34% of households⁷.

Only 13% of households access institutional accommodation centre, either through the national reception system for asylum seekers and refugees (DNA) or in an emergency shelter (see graph no. 9).

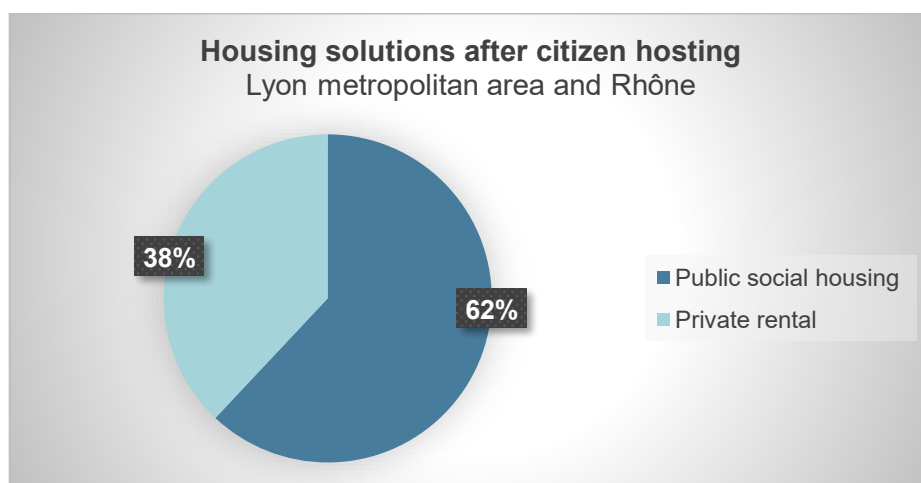
⁷ Regarding people hosted by private individuals, see the report published by Fondation pour le logement « L'état du mal logement en France. Rapport annuel 2026 ». Available at: [Fondation pour le logement.fr](https://www.fondationpourlelogement.fr/).

Graph 9: Situation of households leaving citizen-led accommodation in the Lyon metropolitan area and the Rhône Region in 2024



For most organisations offering independent apartment-based citizen hosting, the move-out only occurs once the household is able to support itself and pay rent. This explains the high proportion of households who moved into independent housing upon leaving citizen-hosting in 2024, representing 43% of cases (see graph 9). The majority of these households obtain social housing, but 38% rent private apartments (see graph 10).

Graph 10: Distribution between access to social housing and private housing for people who obtained independent housing upon leaving citizen accommodation in 2024



Conclusion

The study carried out in 2022⁸, which outlined the emergence of two distinct spheres of solidarity—on the one hand, the hosting of migrants of all origins, largely initiated from 2015 onward, and on the other, the hosting of refugees from Ukraine—has been confirmed. The surge of solidarity in 2022 did not have the ripple effect that some had anticipated on citizen hospitality toward migrant persons. Pre-existing citizen hosting initiatives received few refugees from Ukraine at that time, and once this initial reception ended, this solidarity did not extend to other migrant persons.

Alongside this specific reception of displaced persons from Ukraine, citizen hosting in the Lyon metropolitan area and the Rhône Department maintained significant momentum in 2024, allowing for the reception of more than 750 people. The identified trend of a decrease in citizen hospitality in France is therefore not confirmed at the local level⁹. Citizen hosting initiatives in the territory studied, most of which have been undertaken since 2015, are therefore part of a long-term plan.

While this overview highlights significant solidarity with migrant persons, this mobilisation also reflects a very worrying situation regarding the lack of accommodation and housing in the region, particularly for women and children, who constitute a large proportion of those being welcomed.

Nor should it obscure the numerous challenges faced by those mobilized to offer this hospitality¹⁰.

⁸ Nadine Camp, « Highlighting Hospitality: The Role of Citizen Hosting in the Reception of Migrants, an Overview of the Situation in Lyon and the Rhone Region ». *Op. Cit.*

⁹ Nathalie Birchem, « Solidarité envers les migrants : dix ans après, que devient l'hébergement citoyen ? » In La Croix, 28 November 2025.

¹⁰ Nadine Camp, « Hospitality, a Private Matter? Citizen Hosting Confronting Kafkaesque Policies and Administrative Practices. » Synergies migrations, April 2026. Available at: synergies-migrations.org

AUTHOR

Nadine Camp is co-founder and co-director of Synergies Migrations. Her work with a human rights NGO and then a refugee aid organization led her to undertake numerous field missions in Africa and Eastern Europe. A specialist in migration and asylum issues, she has worked as an independent expert for associations, local authorities, and international organizations, supporting project leaders and conducting studies on policies and practices related to welcoming migrants. She has notably conducted several studies on citizen hosting for migrant persons.

The author thanks all the associations that actively participate in the work of the observatory on citizen hosting in the Rhône region, as well as all the individuals who dedicated their time to co-creating and responding to the questionnaire that served as the basis for this study. Thanks are also due to Suzanne Laroche, an intern at Synergies Migrations, who contributed to the data collection and analysis.

SYNERGIES MIGRATIONS

Synergies Migrations is a research centre based on dialogue and action, situated at the crossroads of expertise, decision support, and capacity building for stakeholders on issues of asylum, immigration, and inclusion. Synergies Migrations aims to contribute to the development of informed policies and practices that promote migrant persons' access to protection and dignity, as well as the emergence of an open and inclusive society.

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