

Studienstart International UoC

- Orientation semester that prepares for desired degree programme by offering basic courses in the respective field of study, subject-specific German courses, seminars on intercultural awareness and study skills
- Rewarded with 12 credit points, which will be credited to the Studium Integrale (obligatory part of Bachelor's degree programme)
- Orientation events and intensive supervision
- After successfully completing Studienstart International plus, the student transfers directly to the first semester without having to apply again

— **STUDIEN** —
 — **START** —
 — **INTER** —
 — **NATIONAL**
 — *plus*

General Background

Primary education

Only **50 percent** of refugee children have access to primary education, in contrast to a global average of 90 percent.

Secondary education

The gap becomes wider: Only **22 percent** of refugee adolescents attend secondary school compared to a global average of 84 percent.

Tertiary education

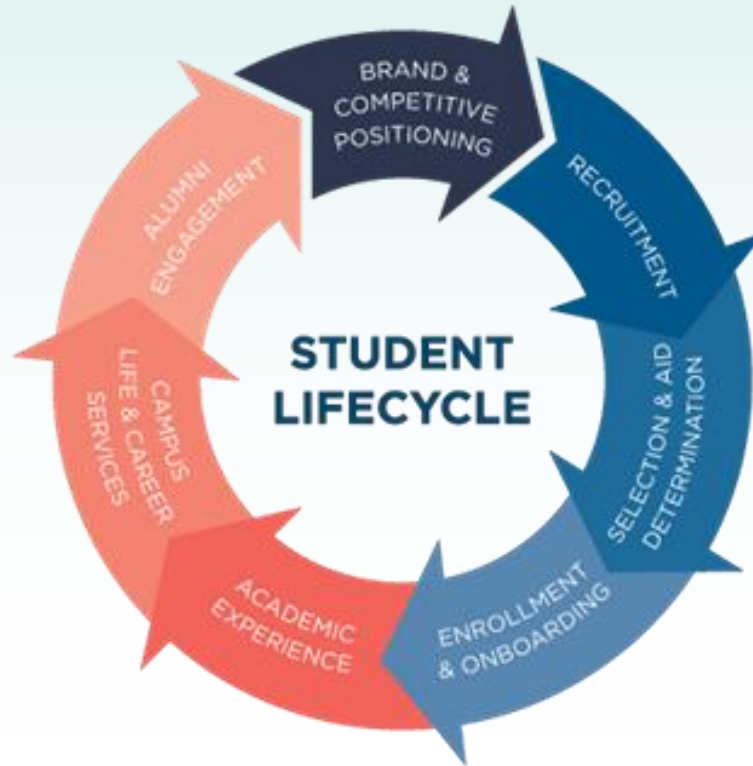
At the higher education level, we observe that **one percent** of refugees attend university when 34 percent of youth around the world do so.

Source: UNHCR

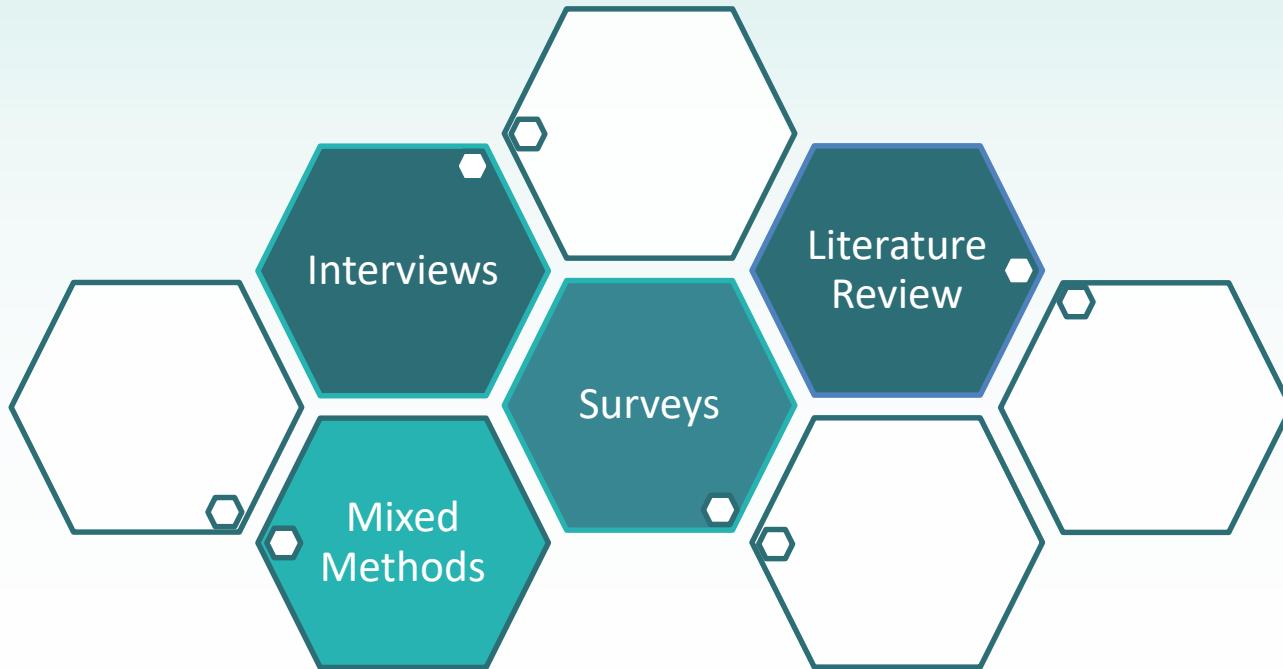
General Background

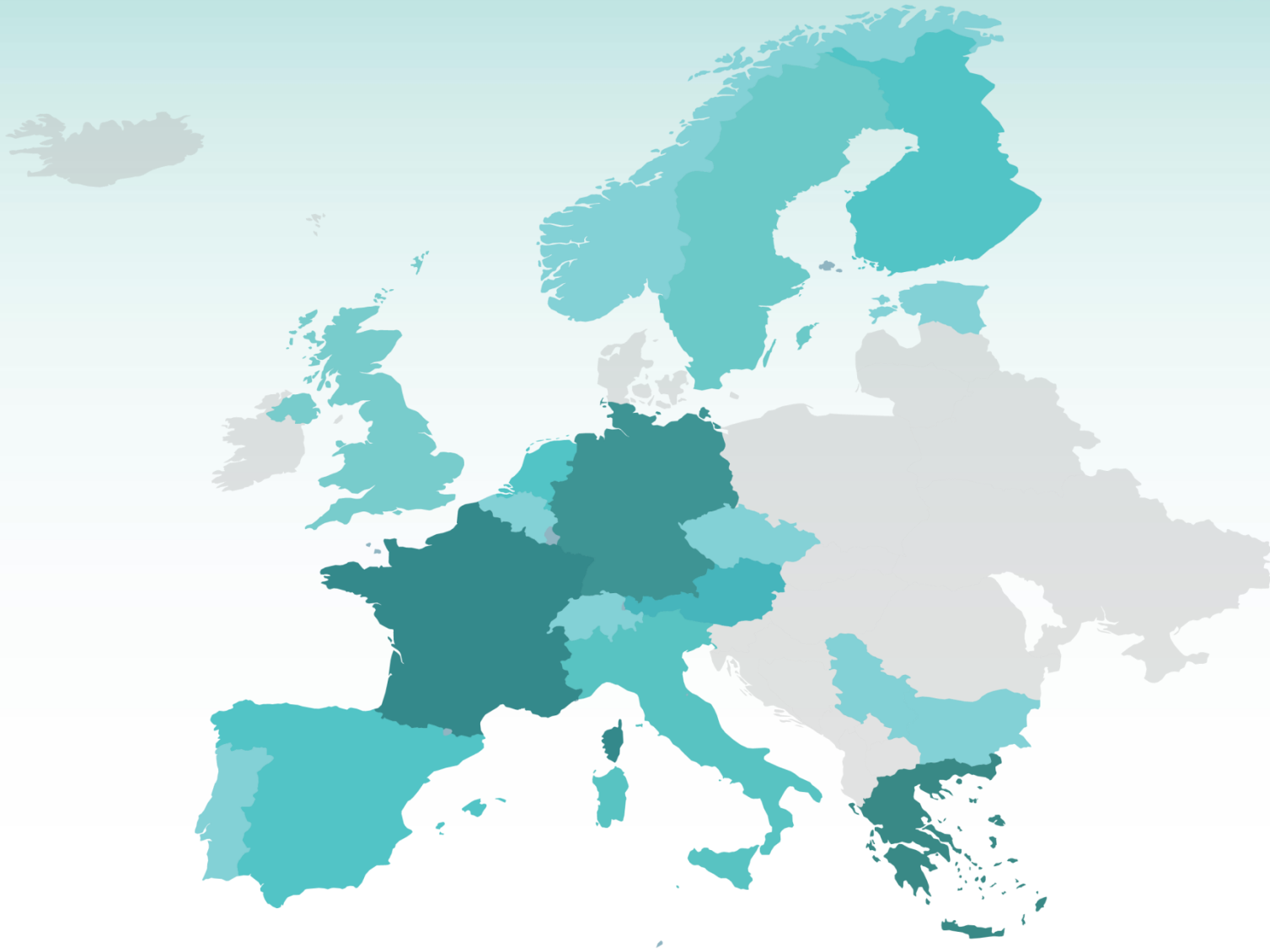


General Background



Study Objective & Method





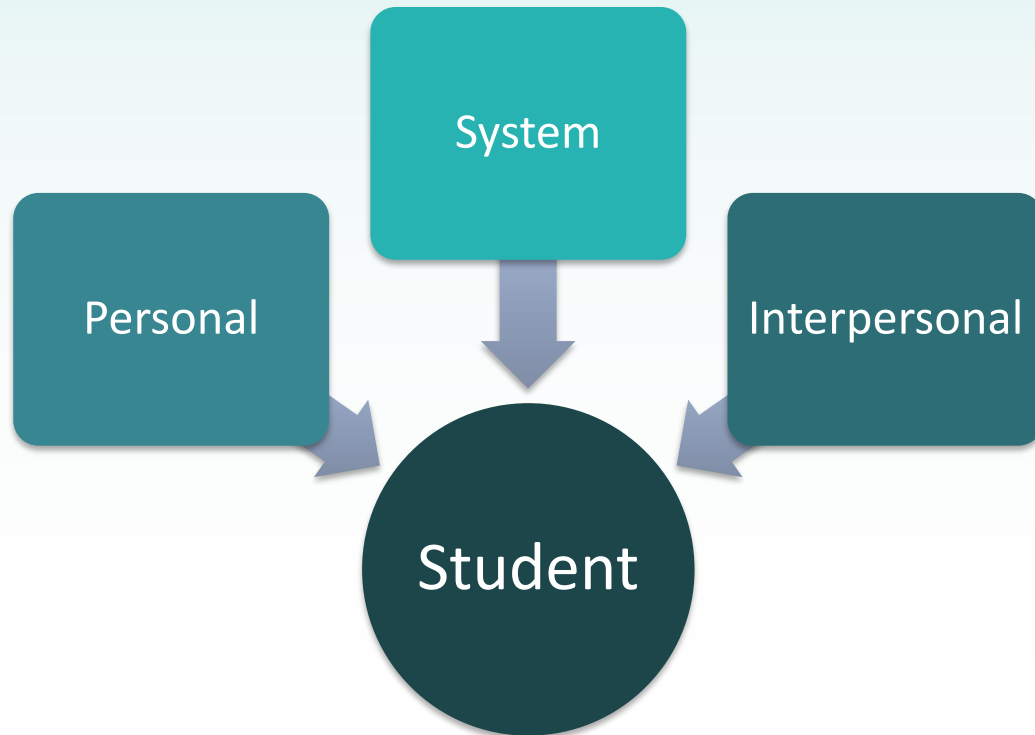
Geographic Profile: Universities



Geographic Profile: Students

Challenges and Best Practices

PERSPECTIVE



Challenges and Best Practices

FRAMEWORK

SITUATION

CHALLENGES

BEST PRACTICES

IMPACT

Challenges

CHALLENGES & BEST PRACTICES

**Transition Into
Adulthood**

**Shifting Support
Structures**

**Information
Barriers**

**Non-recognition
of „foreign“
Education**

**Linguistic
Barriers**

**Financial
Barriers**

**Lack of
Administrative
Harmonization**

**Intercultural
Gap**

**Social
Discrimination**

Transition Into Adulthood

CHALLENGES & BEST PRACTICES

Suddenly Adult

Best Practices:

- Comprehensive “all encompassing” Advising
- Psychosocially Sensitive Advising
- Staff Training
- Human Perspective

Shifting Support Structures

CHALLENGES & BEST PRACTICES

“Each refugee student was supported by two students who helped to integrate into campus life and society as a whole.”

“In Syria, we get money from our parents, no student is working, you focus on your studies. Here, you only rely on yourself.”

Best Practices:

- Structured Buddy Programs
- Long-term Advising
- i.e. “Study-Buddy” at Siegen University

Non-Recognition of “foreign” Education

CHALLENGES & BEST PRACTICES

“The main challenges are clearly the language, and the official documents needed for admission. They are often missing.”

Best Practices:

- Transparent Evaluation Procedures
- Alternative Evaluation Pathways
- Respect and Appreciation for Applicants

Linguistic Barriers

CHALLENGES & BEST PRACTICES

*The **key challenge** in the educational journey of refugee students.*

“I don’t want to study for this (language) exam my whole life.”

Best Practices:

- Language Courses
- Translated Information
- Multi-lingual Advisors

Financial Barriers

CHALLENGES & BEST PRACTICES

“Based on our experience, many students faced difficulties to follow courses mainly because they were still struggling with their personal material condition”

Best Practices:

- Comprehensive Information About Funding Opportunities
- Creative Funds
- i.e “Stipend Counselling” at the UoC

Social Discrimination

CHALLENGES & BEST PRACTICES

Intersectional discrimination

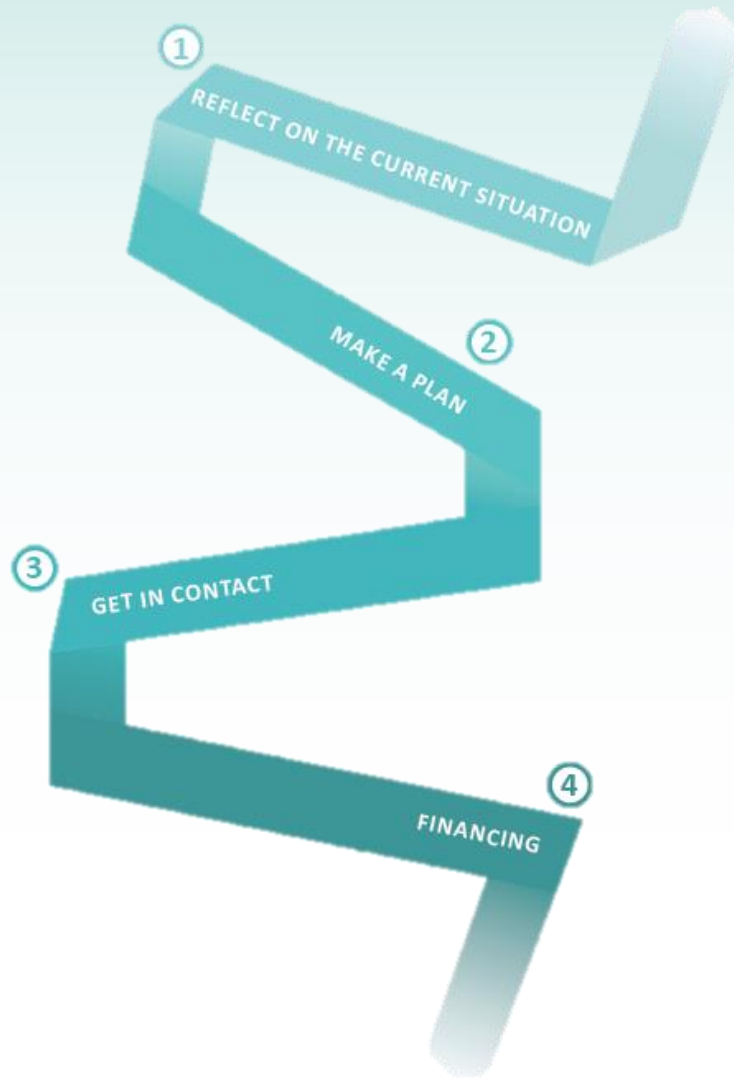
On the basis of “race” and ethnicity, faith, sexual orientation, gender expression and identity, political belief and socio-economic status

Best Practices:

- Openness and Acknowledgement
- Staff Training

Roadmap for Improvement

FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE



Advice from Around Europe

“Be prepared for several revisions of your initial research/education/implementation plan because the conditions of the target-population are extremely fluid and unforeseen cultural, linguistic and administrative barriers constantly appear. Also, base your actions on diverse teams of experts with different disciplinary and cultural backgrounds”

“Have all as 1-2 contact ll necessary e).”

lawy

Ask the refu person(s) th information

Key Questions Going Forward

- How do we better prepare as Institutions of Higher Education to provide continued support for refugee students through their academic journey?
- How do we help curb potential drop-out rates due to lack of institutional support?
- How do we build bridges between communities by including European peers in the social integration efforts of refugee students?
- Do our expectations and assessments of the current situation match those of our refugee students?



SUPPORTING UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PATHWAY FOR REFUGEE-MIGRANTS

Thank you!