



SUCRE KA2 Project Supporting University Community pathways for REfugees-migrants

Alexandros Triantafyllidis
*Assoc. Prof. School of Biology-AUTH, ECTS Coordinator,
Member of AUTH European Educational Programmes Committee*



ARISTOTLE
UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALONIKI



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
AMSTERDAM



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



AUTh Committee for the Coordination of Actions for the Refugees

A quick and necessary response to the refugee crisis taking into account that Greece, and in particular Northern Greece, has been one of the first and main points of arrival of refugees

Some of the actions that the particular Committee is putting into effect are the following:

- 1) medical and nursing services of the following specializations: general medicine, pathology, pediatrics, gynecology and dentistry
- 2) support of refugees in regard to administrative issues, use of PCs, filling in documents, and the organization of temporary facilities to accommodate administrative support for the above purposes,
- 3) Greek language instruction and/or instruction of other languages
- 4) facilitation of high quality interpretation services in English, French, Arabic and Farsi
- 5) children's engagement in artistic activities, theatrical play and music
- 6) sport activities for teenagers and adults
- 7) psychological support to refugees and other vulnerable groups.

AUTh's Committee for the Coordination of Actions for the Refugees is working towards the development of:

- (1) a database of volunteers from AUTh's university community
- (2) a platform that will inform all interested parties on actions for the refugees
- (3) a platform that will inform refugees on the studies that they could undertake at AUTh



SUCRE: Supporting University Community pathways for REfugees-migrants



Overall: SUCRE Programme focuses on

- The processes that are required for the proper integration of refugees / migrants in Higher Education, as well as
- For the support of their academic needs after their integration
- The psychosocial integration / support of refugees / migrants and
- The proper information provided to them on legal and medical issues

This program aims to create educational material that will be used properly by trainers for the above purposes

Relevant topics addressed by SUCRE:
(as chosen on the application form)

1. Integration of refugees
2. Migrant's issues
3. Intercultural/intergenerational education and (lifelong) learning

General Academic Support
of the Project

Vice-Rector of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Ariadni Stogiannidou,
Prof. at the School of Psychology.

SUCRE Consortium

Coordinator: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, **Greece**

Partners: Greek Council for Refugees, **Greece**

VU Amsterdam, **The Netherlands**

University of Cologne, **Germany**

- ✓ Complementary activities
- ✓ Unique expertise
- ✓ Combination of HEIs with/and without Refugee experience
- ✓ Instituting with direct access to Refugees, etc



ARISTOTLE
UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALONIKI



Formation of the SUCRE Consortium

- Formed for the first time based on the needs of expertise, exchange of good practices and knowledge and the geographical competitive advantage that brings together northern and southern European countries
- The partners were chosen for their awareness of the project's theme in relation to refugee-immigrant issues and for their complementary specialisms
- There has been an appropriate allocation of tasks, taking into account the complementary competences, the nature of the activities and the countries involved

AUTh has a leading role due to the following facts

- a) its geographical position as an Institution in close distance with the pathways followed by the refugees and the borders of the Balkan routes chosen on their way to Central Europe
- b) the expertise of the Institution on working with migrant, refugees and "minority groups" and
- c) the initiatives already formed in several schools of the university in order to alleviate the refugees.

Additionally three of its departments have played a significant role in working with foreign students:

- the Department of European Educational Programmes is at the forefront of activities related to International Students
- the School of Modern Greek Language of AUTh.
- the IT Center of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki providing modern, cutting-edge electronic services to the academic community of AUTh.



SUCRE Consortium's Added Value – University of Cologne



- Studienstart International: **Students from Non-EU** countries have the opportunity to start their studies with a one-semester preparatory programme
- Institute of International Education (IIE): has a database of scholars and scientists from crisis regions that can be used to check if they can **integrate a potential candidate**
- **Support for Scholars:** The International Office's department "International Science" helps refugee scholars find an occupation at the University of Cologne and it helps institutes, chairs and working groups who host refugee scholars find suitable candidates and apply for funding
- PROMT: Independent of school form or subject, aspiring **teachers** studying at the UoC teach children and adolescents from refugee families as well as unaccompanied minor refugees in the framework of a practical internship
- **Refugee Law Clinic: a project that supports immigrants**, particularly refugees and asylum seekers. The project offers legal consultations free of charge and other support

SUCRE Consortium's Added Value – VU Amsterdam



- VASVU (1980), **Foundation year for International Students**. Although not exclusively, in practice it is meant especially for refugee students. The objective of VASVU is to provide access to university education for students living in the Netherlands who have had schooling abroad but no direct entry into Dutch higher education.
- The Vrije Universiteit programme on Academic Freedom plays an active role in the Netherlands chapter of **Scholars at Risk**. They have started hosting scholars in 2009 and so far have accommodated scholars from Iran, Iraq and Ethiopia. We have extensive experience networking with other Dutch institutions, the Foundation for Refugee students UAF.
- There is an extensive array of partnerships with similar programs in the Netherlands and abroad and with organizations like the UAF and the EAN (European Access Network).

SUCRE Consortium's Added Value – Greek Council for Refugees



- The mission of the Greek Council for Refugees (GCR) is to promote the rights of asylum seekers and refugees through the **provision of legal and social services** and advocacy work.
- The Members of its Board are **experts** in the field of asylum, each covering different aspects of this multi-disciplinary field. The Board consists of lawyers, a political scientist professor, retired UN personnel members and a social anthropologist.
- GCR has extensive experience in conducting **training sessions** to members of civil society, staff of public sector bodies such as to members of the Asylum Service and the Appeals Committee, as well as judges, on combating racist violence, implementing alternatives to detention, on rehabilitation services for victims of torture, amongst other topics.



SUCRE's Intellectual Outputs (IOs)



IO 1: Higher Education Qualification and Application Procedures for Refugee Applicants

Overall:

IO 1 will analyze and develop admissions criteria established by European Universities with the following objectives:

- To provide a humane and realistic path for integration in higher education
- To support universities' administration at a European level and
- To assist the integration of refugees/migrants into higher education.

Activities:

- Desk Study: Inventory of Recent Initiatives
- Interviews
- Workshop: Strategies for Integration in HE Through Language and Remedial Courses
- Round Table Discussion

Deliverables:

- D1: "A guide for best practices that highlight and discuss successful strategies for integration in HE through language and remedial courses."
- D2: Publication Part 1- "A summary handbook of critical lessons learned through not so successful strategies and ways to remedy and avoid these pitfalls in the future."
- D3: Publication Part 2- "Best Practices" as well as the methodological framework used to assess and improve upon current strategies and to plan future interventions."

SUCRE's Intellectual Outputs (IOs)



IO 2: Institutional Support for Refugee Students in Higher Education

Overall:

IO 2 is concerned with refugee students that have successfully been admitted to a University programme. Its objectives are:

- To provide continued support for refugee students through their academic journey
- To curb potential drop-out rates due to lack of institutional support
- To provide a visible and simple network that refugee students can turn to when in need of support

Activities:

- Desk Study: Inventory of Recent Initiatives
- Interviews
- Round Table Discussion

Deliverables:

- D4: Publication Part 1- "A general plan for sustainable and comprehensive refugee student services, including, a university-wide quality assurance system."
- D5: Publication Part 2- "A summary handbook of recommendations for the social integration of refugee students with their European peers."

SUCRE's Intellectual Outputs (IOs)



IO 3: Institutional Support for Refugee Scholars in Higher Education

Overall:

IO 3 is concerned with refugee scholars that will be hosted at a University department looking into the University structure and scholar support system in order to identify and improve the needs of the refugee scholars. Its objectives are the following:

- To provide support for refugee scholars during their academic stay
- To build bridges between academic communities by including European peers in the social integration efforts of refugee scholars

Activities:

- Desk Study. Develop an inventory of recent initiatives for supporting refugee scholars in Europe
- Academic and Social Integration Discussion

Deliverables:

- A digital/online guide of recommendations for refugee scholars integration

SUCRE's Intellectual Outputs (IOs)

IO 4: Psychosocial Support through Communities' engagement and mobilisation

Overall:

IO 4 aims at training key informants and assist the development and testing out of a Manual of Good Practices

Objectives:

- To equip the trainers with better resources and skills in delivering quality psychosocial support to refugee youth and families in host communities
- To identify and recruit refugee community workers
- To build a training programme for key informants and University members

Activities:

- Communities' engagement and mobilization
- Training of trainers programme methodology
- Integration and social cohesion
- Monitoring and evaluation of the psychosocial output

Deliverables:

- A digital/online educational module and monitoring/recommendations guidelines for trainers regarding the psychosocial support of refugees
- A digital/online educational module and monitoring/recommendations guidelines of lessons on refugee integration and social cohesion

SUCRE's Intellectual Outputs (IOs)

IO 5: Supporting refugees on Health and Law Issues

Overall:

IO 5 is concerned with the creation of a special module in relation to health and legal protection of refugee/migrants, based on Conventions and Directives on an International and European Level. Its objectives are as follows:

- To introduce/train trainees to the theoretical approaches that have been extensively used in the literature in order to understand the relevant legal framework at EU and national level
- To enable/train trainees to understand the existing health issues rights in regard to refugees and the available services at the reception country

Activities:

- Developing training modules on issues related to legal services
- Developing training modules on issues related to health care services
- Developing training modules on issues related to health care and legal services
- Monitoring and evaluation of the legal/health support

Deliverables:

- A digital/online module and monitoring/recommendations guidelines for trainers regarding health support of refugees
- A digital/online module and monitoring/recommendations guidelines for trainers regarding legal support of refugees

SUCRE & Innovation

- Offering strategic work across the Universities
- Supporting the formation of a path that will address the emerging needs within communities
- Reaching beyond the academic environment

SUCRE & Dissemination

Local level:

- Newsletters, social media, networking channels, conferences, seminars, workshops, etc

National level:

- Presentation of activities, scientific conferences, publication

Through a database of stakeholders, NGOs. Municipalities, Ministries, EU agencies, etc

SUCRE & Sustainability

- Construction of Digital Open courses material to be used by interested parties
- First Organised Effort of Greek University – Setting the path for other interested Universities
- Results will be used by other Universities and stakeholders
- Long term initiative to build upon future applications



SUCRE's Website & Facebook



facebook



ARISTOTLE
UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALONIKI

S.U.C.R.E.

Supporting University Community pathways for REfugees-migrants

- English
- Ελληνικά

Home

Consortium

Intellectual Outputs

Courses

Newsletters

Media

News

Contact

Home



The **S.U.C.R.E.** Project is granted by the Hellenic National Agency (IKY) via the European Commission. The Coordinator of the Project is Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the consortium is consisted of the University of Cologne (Universität zu Köln), VU Amsterdam (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) as well as the Greek Council for Refugees. **S.U.C.R.E.** is a two-year KA2 Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership in the field of Higher Education.

S.U.C.R.E. focuses on the response of the Universities to the academic needs of refugees/migrants students and scholars and to the formation of Manuals of Field Testing (Handbook of Good Practices), through the development of training modules addressed to voluntary sector working in the field with the specific population.

Specifically, it focuses on the processes (linguistic support, knowledge level, etc.) required for the proper integration of refugees/migrants (students and scholars) in higher education as well as on their academic support after their acceptance/entrance in a University. In addition, the programme focuses on the psychosocial integration/support of refugees/migrants and their proper information on legal and medical issues.

S.U.C.R.E. aims at creating educational/training material to be properly used by trainers for the above stated purposes.