

Experiences across Europe: Integrating refugees into higher education



SUCRE Programme Multiplier Event
VU Amsterdam, 5 July 2018

The European University Association

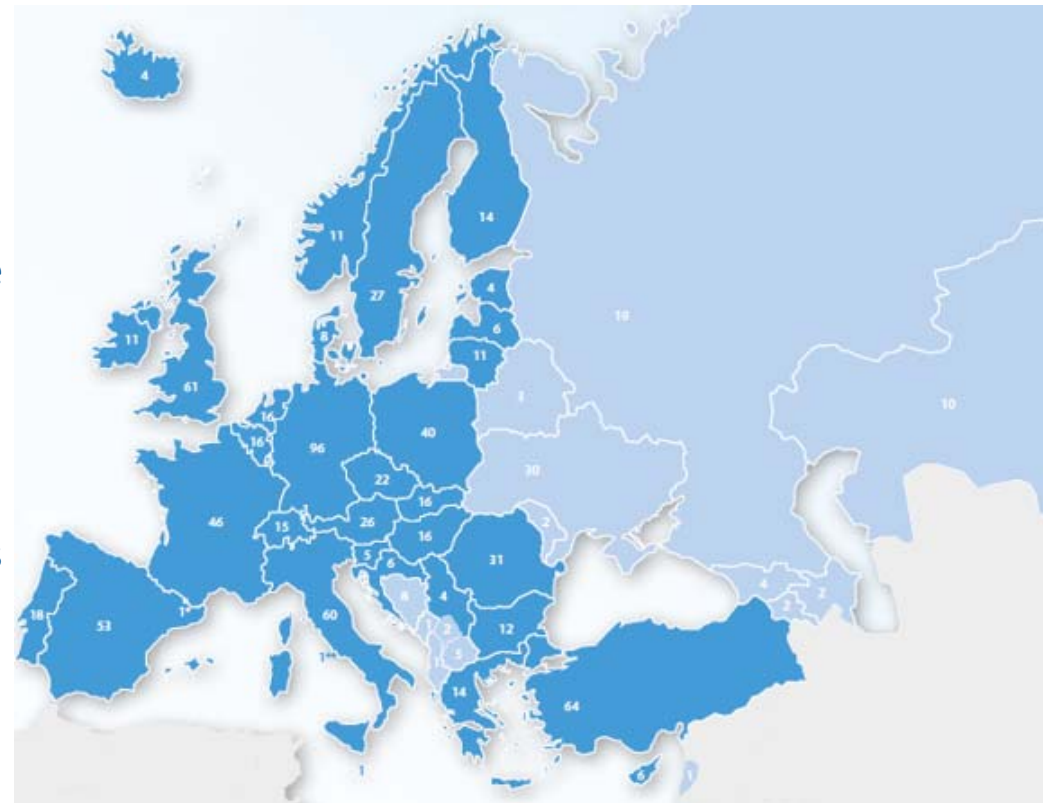
EUA has about 850 member universities based in 47 countries

Facilitates dialogue on higher education and research

Represents the interests of the higher education sector

Ensures the voice of universities is heard in EU policy making and in the EHEA

Offers a range of services for our members, including access to the largest and most comprehensive network of European universities, and unique expertise in higher education & research

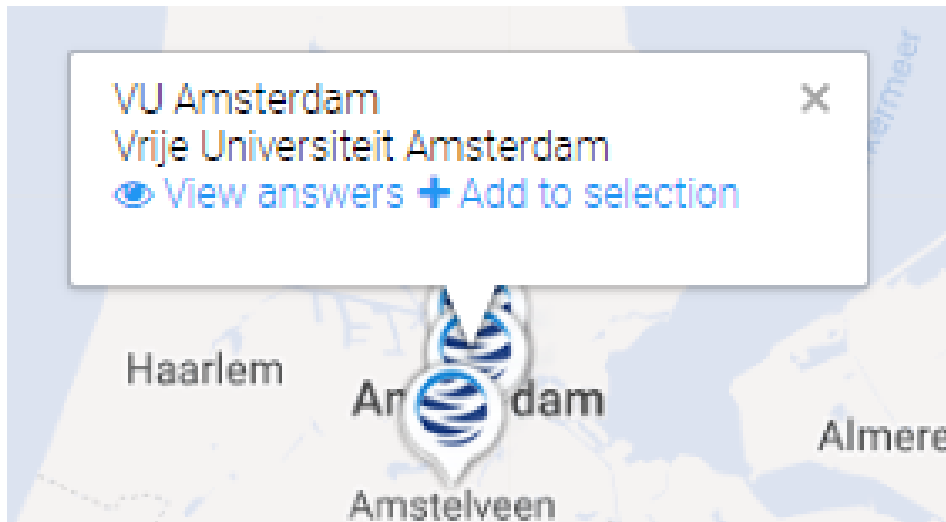


European Higher Education Institutions Welcoming Refugees



- Clear commitment of the HE sector to refugee integration
- 350 initiatives from 32 countries
- Continuously open for submissions via survey
- Tool for inspiration, peer-learning and collaboration
- Interactive search function





The programme Academic Freedom at Vrije Universiteit was aligned with the global Scholars at Risk (SAR) initiative in 2009. We work close with SAR and the Dutch UAF - Foundation for Refugees. Annually, we host one or two scholars mostly from the Middle-East up to 13 till date. Most scholars are hosted by Social Sciences but other faculties participate as well. Financial support is provided by the university, the staff and the VU Association.



Website of your initiative

www.vu.nl/academischevrijheid (in Dutch)

Yes, feel free to contact us.



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Higher education initiatives across Europe –

Top 3 types



1. Language & bridging courses

- Admission requirements & academic culture

2. Facilitating access

- Outreach, recruitment, information sharing

3. Integration measures

- Mentoring, buddy systems, joint research projects

Higher education initiatives across Europe –

Main challenges



1. Sustainability of HEI initiatives at institutional level

- Long term planning – retention & study success
- Ad-hoc, bottom up, limited links to mission/strategy

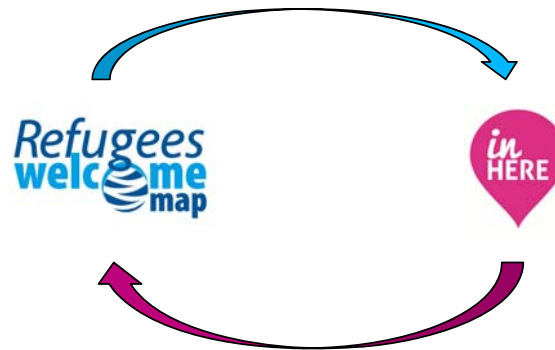
2. Funding

- Project cycle based
- mostly not directly to refugee students/researchers

3. Recognition

- New projects and tools – focus on labour market integration
- Lack of support to HEI admissions offices
- Cost, waiting times, status question

inHERE project



- Good practices
- Staff training, webinars & guidelines for HEI
- Policy dialogue & recommendations
- **Final event: 19 September, Brussels**
“Synergies all around”



The GOOD in *good practice*



Quality over quantity!

Evidence based

- ✓ Addressing the needs of the target group
- ✓ Contextual

Collaborative

- ✓ Multitude of actors within and outside of the institution
- ✓ Municipalities – NGOs – students & staff – local refugee population (!)

Practice tested

- ✓ Not to re-invent the wheel
- ✓ Refugee students – disadvantaged learners – international students

Sustainable

- ✓ Long-term planning & funding models (projects)
- ✓ Long-term planning -> access & study success!
- ✓ Possible upscaling and broadening to other target groups

Strategic & linked to university mission

- ✓ Third mission of higher education
- ✓ Diversity management
- ✓ Central planning: Targets – planning – monitoring

Examples of good practice Refugee Scholars



- Peer to peer mentoring
- Networking
- Skills for the European research market
- Joint research publications
- Counteract “de-qualification”
- Not depending on protection status



European policy interventions

- Integration and/via higher education:
 - DG EAC – Erasmus+
 - **DG Research: Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions, Science 4 Refugees**
 - DG NEAR: Madad Fund
 - DG HOME: AMIF Fund
- Refugees – priority group of E+ since 2015, but funding largely to projects, no direct support
- EUA proposal: EU grant programme to welcome international talent with legal protection status
 - Full degree scholarship/long term grant programme (Mundus/ Marie Curie style)
 - Overheads for HEI to run additional bridging, integration etc. services and activities
 - Pilot with HEI that already host refugee students/researchers
- Post 2020 Erasmus proposal (June 2018): synergies with e.g. H2020 & AMIF...

Links and further information

EUA's Refugees Welcome Map & submit your own initiative

- <http://refugeeswelcomemap.eua.be>

inHERE Good Practice Catalogue

- <https://www.inhereproject.eu/outputs/good-practice-catalogue>

inHERE final event registration

- <https://goo.gl/forms/naVWjRIRKOp2DP712>

TandEM project (full website life June 2018)

<https://malta.iom.int/tandem>

Draft recommendations E+ for refugees

http://www.eua.be/Libraries/default-document-library/erasmus-for-refugees---draft-proposal_eua-_web.pdf

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