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IO 3: Supporting Refugee Scholars

Lead: VU Amsterdam

Thessaloniki, 14 November 2016

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2. Plans for achieving IO 3

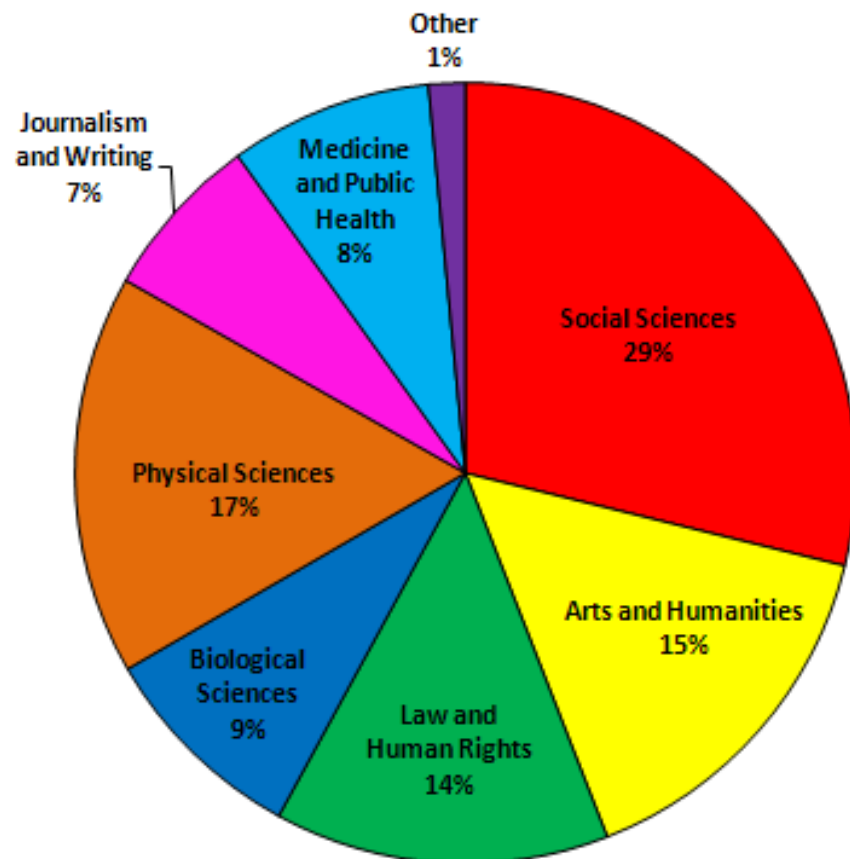
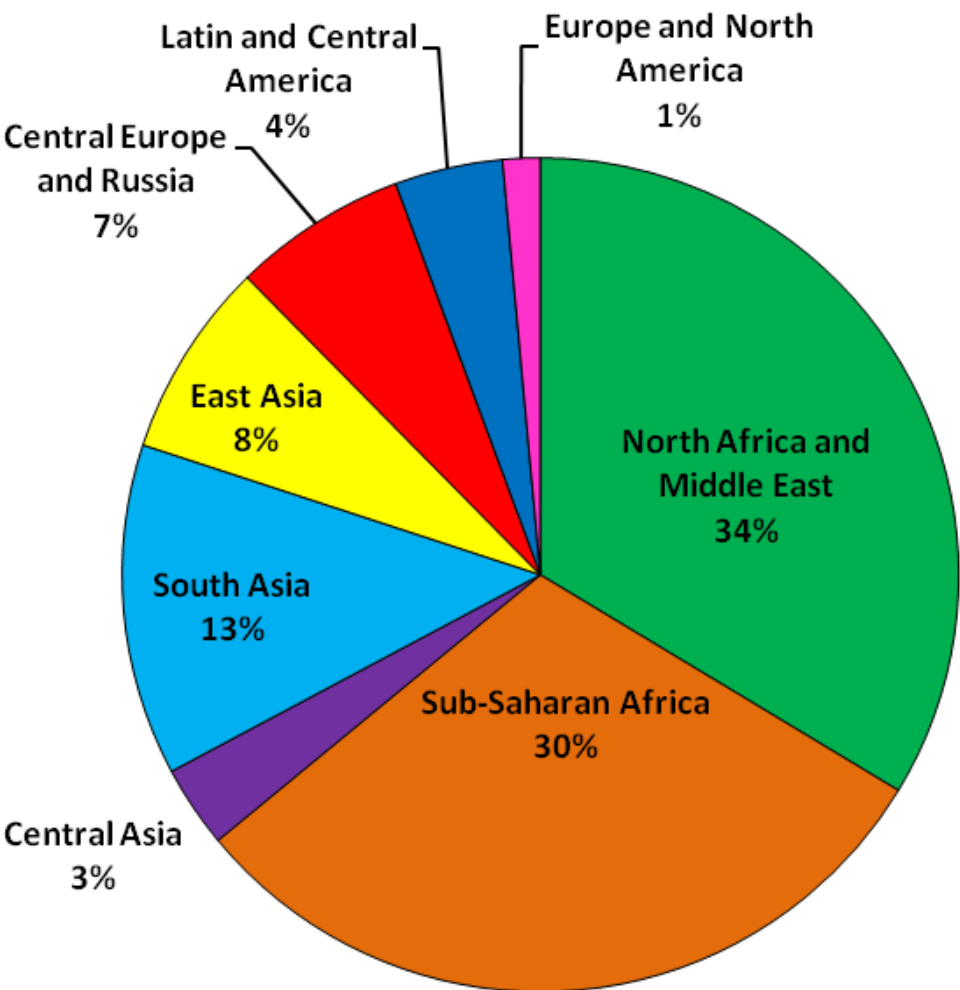
Global:

SCHOLARS AT RISK N E T W O R K

- .. is based in USA at New York University
- .. has > 400 member institutions in 40 countries; 9 partner networks / SAR sections
- ... places \approx 100 scholars & provides advice, counselling & other services to \approx 170 candidates per year
- ... monitors attacks in 50+ countries
- ... had > 1.000 scholars participating in workshops, training, conferences
- ... notes a sharp increase in requests for support in 2016 from Turkey and Syria

www.scholarsatrisk.org

Refugee scholars: source regions & disciplines (2015)



In the Netherlands:



- Academic Freedom network launched in June 2009
- Netherlands and Belgium: now 21 HEIs
- 107 placements > 2009; 56 individuals
- in 2016, 21 placements, \approx 20% of worldwide numbers
- > 50% scholarly scholars is Human Rights related
- awareness-raising activities: plays, short movies, exhibitions, lectures, debates

www.uaf.nl

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM

- Founded in 1880 as private university with 4 (!!)
- **Free** from state and church interference, and free from ideology or dogma
- Appreciation of diversity
- Active social engagement
- In 2016:
 - 10 faculties
 - 22.000 students
 - 3.000 academic staff
 - # 5 (out of 13) in NL qua size



Intermezzo: logos in Amsterdam



City of Amsterdam

Intermezzo: logos in Amsterdam



City of Amsterdam

VU University & Academic Freedom

- Our program started in 2007
- Since 2009: 13 scholars hosted
- Since 2011: aligned with UAF and SAR programme: [Academic Freedom – Scholars at Risk \(AF - SaR\)](#)

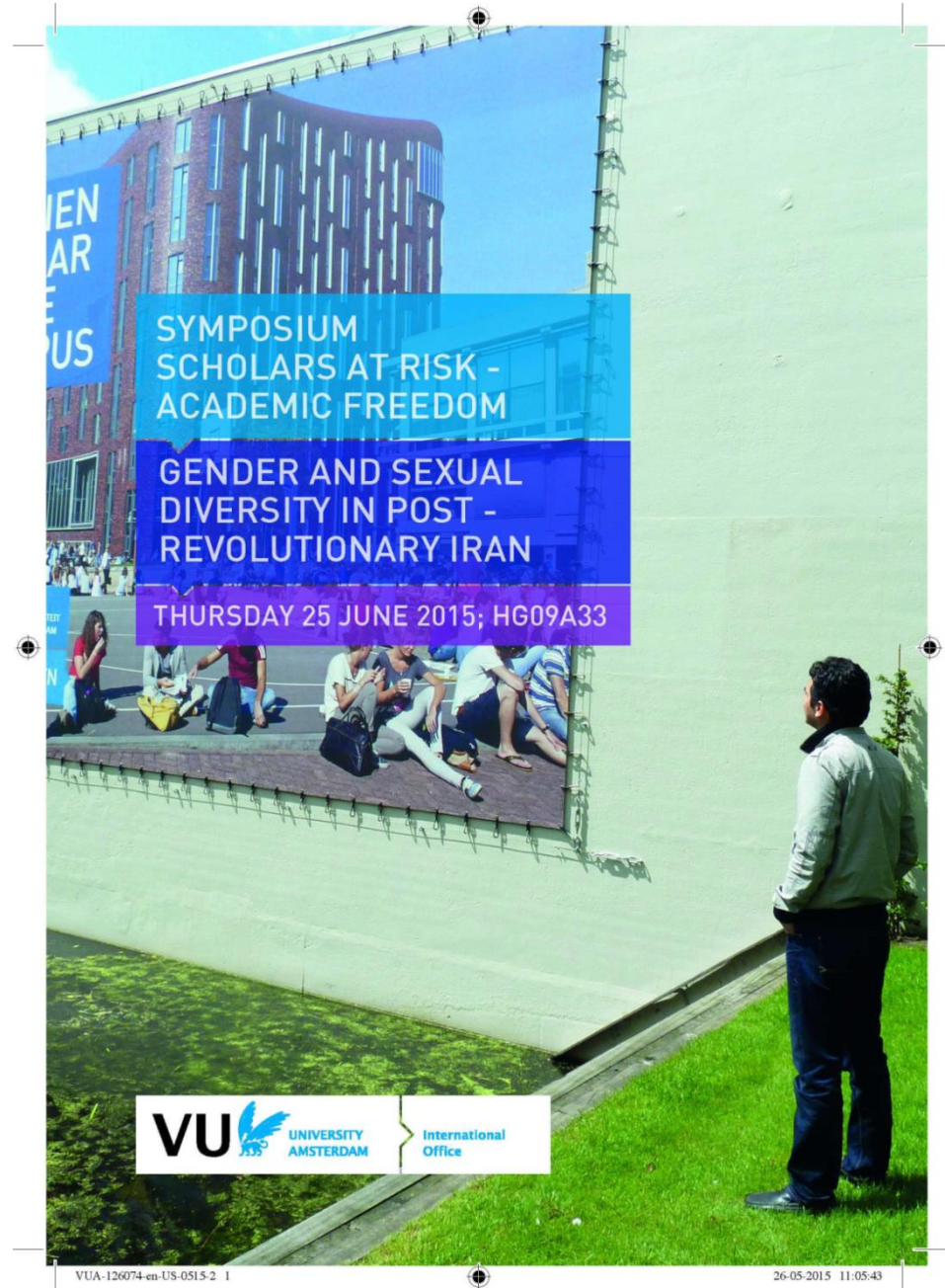
Scholars at Faculties

Faculties	Iran	Iraq	Ethiopia
Social Sciences	5	1	
Exact, Earth & Life Sciences		1	1
Humanities	1	1	
Philosophy	1		
Religious Science	1		
Law		1	
Total	8	4	1

Scholars

engage in:

- research
- teaching
- symposia
- awareness raising



Experiences, concerns and challenges

- Always a positive responses from academic staff
- Language is (sometimes) an issue
- Employment and labour contracts
- Elaborating Academic Freedom as a research and / or teaching topic is not easy
- Feasibility to return home after 1, 2, .. years
- Accommodation after 12 months
- Funding and Fundraising

SUCRE – IO 3

Institutional Support for Refugee Scholars in HE

Objectives:

1. Participating institutions in Thessaloniki, Cologne and Amsterdam are better prepared to provide support for refugee scholars during their academic stay
2. Project partners are equipped for building bridges with **XX** other European HE institutions in the social integration efforts of refugee scholars

SUCRE – IO 3

Institutional Support for Refugee Scholars in HE

Activity A1: Desk Study.

Develop an inventory of recent initiatives for supporting refugee scholars in Europe.

- Collect and evaluate **XX** experiences, best practices and support that have recently emerged within European universities with the explicit purpose of supporting refugee scholars.
- Assess the needs that refugee scholars currently have or in the near future might have in relation to a successful stay in an academic department.

SUCRE – IO 3

Institutional Support for Refugee Scholars in HE

Activity A1: Desk Study.

Develop an inventory of recent initiatives for supporting refugee scholars in Europe.

Sources of information Internet search; Consortium's network; on-line questionnaire with a limited number of questions for identified institutions (**XX**) and scholars (**XX**); actively involve SAR, UAF, ...

Deliverable D6.1 Draft Inventory (\approx 20 - 25 pages) with recent initiatives and needs of scholars.

Timing: Months 3 - 9

SUCRE – IO 3

Institutional Support for Refugee Scholars in HE

Activity A2: Academic and Social Integration Discussion

- Discuss and validate D6.1
- Refine a blue-print for involving refugee scholars in university integration efforts.
- Partner with national and European organisations seeking to complement academic integration with social activities and interventions.
- Collaborate with government organizations to improve existing strategies for the integration of refugee scholars.

SUCRE – IO 3

Institutional Support for Refugee Scholars in HE

Activity A2: Academic and Social Integration Discussion

Duration: Round Table. 2 - 3 days; 25 participants. Funds available for F2F? Otherwise: via on-line system (Moodle, Google groups,)

Deliverable D6.2 (i) Report of the Academic and Social Integration Discussion; (ii) Validated Inventory from D6.1

Timing: Months 10 - 15

SUCRE – IO 3

Institutional Support for Refugee Scholars in HE

Activity A3. Finalizing Deliverable D6.

D6 will consist of:

- online and written ~~and video~~ guide that shares the experiences and recommendations collected and assessed by consortium under the title of “Best-practices” ;
- methodological framework used to assess and improve upon current strategies and to plan future interventions.

This approach to the development and publication of best practices will be pan-European, ~~multimedia~~ and open to the public.

Duration: 15 days

Timing: Month 23 presentation at 2nd Multiplier Event