

S.U.C.R.E.

Supporting University Community pathways for REfugees-migrants

(Erasmus+ Two-year KA2 Strategic Partnership)

Dear supporter of our project “Supporting University Community Pathways for REfugee-Migrants”, dear partner,

In 2016 the refugee crisis has affected 65 million people worldwide, of which – according to the UN Refugee Agency - only half a million could return to their homeland. Those, who try to escape to Europe, are more than ever in danger to strand on borders or to failure on legal regulations. We, the University of Cologne, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the Greek Council for Refugees, have a longstanding commitment to openness, excellence, diversity, and social responsibility, and it is in the context of this commitment that we strive to make opportunities at our universities possible and institutions accessible for refugees. We are convinced that those who flee before war and persecution deserve our full empathy and support.

We naturally consider education as a most important tool to bridge social and cultural gaps and to bring diverse individuals in a strong community together. Thus, education in general, and higher education in particular, is of significant value for the individual and societal development and therefore the latter must be accessible to all those who bring the requirements. We are fully aware, that our contribution to the huge problems of migration may be small. But in times like these our activities unfold not only practical consequences but also an important symbolic radiance.

Through our project, we bring together different stakeholders from various European countries and diverse professional backgrounds with the common aim to support refugee students, teachers and scientists on their way to our different higher education systems. We hope to trigger new ideas, partnerships, and to shed a new perspective on our day-to-day topics.

Warm Greetings,
Manuela Günter
Vice-Rector for Gender Equality and Diversity at the University of Cologne

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Upcoming Events

March 2018

- ▶ **Training Event**
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

April 2018

- ▶ **SAR 2018 Global Congress**
Berlin, Scholars at Risk Network

July 2018

- ▶ **Final Meeting, 4th of July 2018**
VU Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- ▶ **2nd Multiplier Event, 5th of July 2018**
VU Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Interim Meeting

On the **26th of September 2017**, the **University of Cologne**, hosted the **Interim Meeting** of the project. All Partners:

- **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki**
- **VU Amsterdam**,
- **University of Cologne**
- **& the Greek Council for Refugees**

participated with their representatives in a very productive meeting where the outcomes and results of the first year were presented and evaluated.

On the **27th of September 2017** the **1st Multiplier Event** took place in Cologne. All partners, Universities undertaking similar projects, stakeholders from NGOs and Refugee Programs have participated enhancing, in this way, further the beneficial results of S.U.C.R.E.

For more information:

<http://sucre.auth.gr/en/media>



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News on the Intellectual Outputs of the Project

Intellectual Output 1:

Higher Education Qualification and Application Procedures for Refugee Applicants

Description: <http://sucra.auth.gr/en/outputs>

Intellectual Output 2:

Institutional Support for Refugee Students in Higher Education

Description: <http://sucra.auth.gr/en/outputs>

Activities realized so far:

The project's team on IO1 created a guide presenting a methodological framework that can be used to assess and improve upon current strategies and to plan future interventions. The publication "**Challenges for Refugee Students & Strategies to Overcome them**" presents critical lessons learned and experiences and recommendations from European universities and the consortium. The publication takes the perspective of a central university administration, and addresses language issues from this point of view. Linguistic issues are constantly addressed throughout the publication as are language courses themselves. Remedial courses or preparatory courses are also one of the main points of discussion throughout the publication.

Furthermore the publication discusses current initiatives across Europe and builds upon their experiences to remedy the pitfalls that have been revealed by the current initiatives. The general framework for analysis is presented in a detailed fashion in the publication as a holistic and wide-array of best practices that target the challenges presented. IO1 material will soon be available with an open access on S.U.C.RE.'s website.

The initial project activities and objectives of the IO2 are now beginning; the bulk of work for IO2 is set to take place during the second project year. Intensive work on IO2 has begun after the multiplier event in Cologne, Germany, Sept. 2017.

Intellectual Output 3:

Institutional Support for Refugee Scholars in Higher Education

Description: <http://sucra.auth.gr/en/outputs>

Activities realized so far:

The planned project activities have been carried out according to plan. VU Amsterdam has sent out an on-line questionnaire to host institutions in Germany; The Netherlands; Belgium/ Flanders, France and Iceland, and to country coordinators / representatives in UK, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Canada, USA, Ireland and Switzerland (potential number of target institutions is at least 150). The team of the IO3 has already received 60 responses and 48 institutions are currently hosting 87 scholars. The University of Cologne is drafting a questionnaire on scholars at risk and refugee scholars.

Intellectual Output 4:

Psychosocial Support through Communities' Engagement & Mobilization

Description: <http://sucra.auth.gr/en/outputs>

Activities realized so far:

The IO4 team identified potential participants: NGOs' professionals working in the field, Refugee Education Coordinators (REC) from the Greek Ministry of Education, young refugees, etc. The IO4 team has also visited the camp of Diavata and has attended and/or actively participated in conferences and meetings regarding refugee education, protection and integration issues organized by NGOs. The team composed a focus group interview guide for NGO workers and another for refugees along with respective consent forms. These forms were sent to all partners. Six focus groups have been organized so far as well as a number of interviews with professionals from 10 NGOs. Also, 2 more focus groups were conducted with REC. The total sample consisted of 31 participants, 25 women and 6 men. Preliminary (thematic) analysis of the data has been also implemented. The IO4 team is now conducting desk research

Dissemination Activities

During the World Refugee Day (20th of June), Assoc. Prof. A. Triantafyllidis, Scientific Responsible of the S.U.C.RE. project was interviewed by local radio stations. The interviews are available here: <http://sucra.auth.gr/en/node/67>

Lena Reuter and Matteo Casco have presented the project during language classes for Refugees at the University of Cologne (26th of June).

Stefan Bildhauer from the University of Cologne presented S.U.C.RE. at Staff Members during the Dezernatstreffen where attendees expressed significant interest for the activities of the project (30th of June).

Lena Reuter, Mariana Arjona Soberon, and Matteo Casco from the University of Cologne talked about the project at the Begleitprogramm UZK (3rd of July).

Ioanna Georgiadou talked about the activities of S.U.C.RE. at the 20th Conference of Erasmus, International and Public Relations offices of HEI held in Greece (15th to 16th of June).

Theofanis Vavilis presented S.U.C.RE. and especially the open access online training course on Refugee Health Support at the Final meeting of Erasmus Mundus MEDEA at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (6th of June).

Alexandros Triantafyllidis presented the project at the Utrecht Network – Annual General Meeting where important networking was achieved with co-operating European Universities (27th of April).

Eleni Koutsouraki from the Greek Council for Refugees presented the activities of S.U.C.RE. during the Dimensions of the "refugee issue and of the humanitarian crisis" Conference (3rd of April).

on: a) elaborating the theoretical points of departure, b) interpreting the policies and conflicting tasks of the professionals working in the field, c) delineating the personal and social resources of adaptation and support from both target groups and discourse related to the refugee “crisis”.

Intellectual Output 5:

Supporting refugees on Health and Law issues

Description: <http://sucr.auth.gr/en/outputs>

Activities realized so far:

The resulting course material on legal, medical and social security support has been completed, alongside with the relevant notes. The material regarding legal issues consists of five parts. The first part gives definitions, whereas the second part focuses on the refugee status determination. The third part stresses the importance of the normal and special asylum procedures, the fourth part deals with the minimum standards of reception conditions; finally the fifth part talks about the administrative detention of asylum seekers. The bibliography and useful educational material, such as relevant case-law and legislative texts are also available. Regarding medical support, the educational material is divided into the following topics: aim of first aid, stages of action, resuscitation position, and handling as well as how to deal with fainting, electrocution, bleeding, burn and choking. Information on personal hygiene up-keeping and disease prevention measures for people in close quarters is also included. Furthermore, IO5 deals with the social security issues like the conditions of access to health in AIDA (Asylum Information Database) countries. Other topics include issues of pension of uninsured adults, the recognized social rights of refugees, issues of social benefits and allowance, etc. IO5 training material will soon be available in AUTH's e-learning platform and will be also available with an open access on S.U.C.RE.'s website.

#refugees #challenges
 #highereducation
 #bestpractices #health
 #support #systemicbarriers
 #linguisticbarriers
 #financialbarriers
 #lackofadministrative-harmonization
 #interculturalgap
 #socialdiscrimination
 #legal #futureperspective

#S.U.C.RE

Supporting University Community Pathways for Refugee-Migrants
 MULTIPLIER EVENT | 27.09.2017
 COPZentrum, H230, Luxemburger Strasse 30, 50939 Cologne
 University of Cologne

<http://sucr.auth.gr> | <https://www.facebook.com/SUCRE.programme/>

Interim Meeting

University of Cologne, 26th September 2017

The Interim Meeting of the S.U.C.RE. project took place at the University of Cologne. During the meeting the consortium reviewed and evaluated the first year of the project's implementation not only in terms of administrative responsibilities but also in terms of quality management and deliverables. The team set the tasks and the time schedule for its final meeting at the VU Amsterdam in the 4th of July 2018 where the rest of the deliverables will be presented and evaluated. The consortium discussed also the organization of the second multiplier event in The Netherlands in the 5th of July 2018.



OTHER NEWS

Supporting Integration of Migrant Learners, Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SIMILAR):

The project SIMILAR aims at fostering integration of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers through a multi-dimensional approach which includes multicultural approach and empowering measures in the areas of integration and social welfare.

For more information: <http://www.similarproject.eu/home>

InfoMigrants is a news and information site for migrants to counter misinformation at every point of their journey: in their country of origin, along the route, or in the places where they hope to start a new life. InfoMigrants is available in three languages: French, Arabic and English. Where to start if you're a refugee seeking advice in Sweden, Germany, Italy or Greece? What is a great first stop if you're a refugee seeking help in Sweden, Germany, Italy or Greece? InfoMigrants collected information on organizations that might be helpful. There are dozens, if not hundreds of organizations, that offer help to refugees in the EU. But many charities are highly specialized or only active in some regions. InfoMigrants looked at what nationwide refugee charities could be a helpful jumping-off point for refugees seeking help. We looked at four countries with a high refugee population - Germany, Greece, Italy, and Sweden.

For more information: <http://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/4037/where-to-start-if-you-re-a-refugee-seeking-advice-in-sweden-germany-italy-or-greece>

Council of Europe: First European Qualifications Passports for Refugees issued in Greece:

The first European Qualifications Passports for Refugees were issued in Athens. This certificate will help refugees who had to flee their countries to continue with their studies or work. Nineteen candidate refugees went through individual interviews with experienced evaluators to ascertain their qualifications in the absence of supporting documentation. Fourteen were issued the European Qualifications Passport.

For more information: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/education/-/first-european-qualifications-passports-for-refugees-issued-in-greece>

EUA's Refugees Welcome Map

S.U.C.R.E. Project and its Consortium on the EUA's Refugees Welcome Map:

The **European University Association** with the Refugees Welcome Map aims to showcase and document the commitment of higher education institutions and organisations in supporting refugees. For more information you can visit the website:

http://www.eua.be/activities-services/eua_campaigns/refugees-welcome-map

S.U.C.R.E. on the Refugees Welcome Map:

<http://refugeeswelcomemap.eua.be/Editor/Visualizer/Index/48>



1st Multiplier Event

University of Cologne, 27th September 2017

The first Multiplier Event took place at the University of Cologne. Apart from the representatives of the consortium a number of stakeholders participated bringing new insights and sharing good practices. NOKUT, University of Cologne Law Clinic, Open Society Foundations, Co-operating Universities carrying out similar projects and representatives from NGOs as well as Academics, participated in a very successful and with a strong impact dialogue. The first deliverables of the S.U.C.R.E. project were presented and discussed demonstrating the absolute need of integrating and creating an inclusive environment for both student and scholars refugees.

