

S.U.C.RE.

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”,

We are happy to share with you S.U.C.RE.’s newsletter. Our project is now finished and highly evaluated by the Greek National Agency. The numerous Intellectual outputs (three extensive free online publications and four open digital courses) produced by S.U.C.RE. are all free online in the project’s website. We believe that, through the persistent work of S.U.C.RE. partners, University staff and field practitioners can now find practical advice in the form of dedicated manuals of good practices, filling a gap in organized training material on supporting refugees.

We firmly believe that the S.U.C.RE. project has pushed the theoretical and conceptual boundaries of academic learning and knowledge in the field of migration/refugee studies. It has encouraged critical reflexive dialogue and practice by opening new and inclusive spaces for questioning and challenging established ways of teaching, learning and thinking about the migration/refugee "crisis". In so doing, it has created opportunities for increased policy dialogue and academic collaboration between the case study countries – and across the EU more generally – around the evidence gathered.

So much more needs to be done, however. We are therefore happy to announce that Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is partner in the newly funded initiative — InSPIREurope — which is a ten-partner project funded under the European Commission’s Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and coordinated by Scholars at Risk Europe at Maynooth University, Ireland.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the work of S.U.C.RE. Europe and its universities have a significant role to uphold in the coming years – and it reflects on their willingness to help those who are most in need as well as the society at large, issues at the heart of democracy.

With Best regards

Alexandros Triantafyllidis,
Scientific Responsible, Associate Professor
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki



Final Multiplier Event
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
October 2018

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Intellectual Outputs of the Project

Intellectual Output 1:

Higher Education Qualification and Application Procedures for Refugee Applicants

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

IO1's main interest group was refugee applicants looking to be admitted to an institution of higher education or seeking support from such an institution. This Output critically analyzed and further developed admissions criteria established by European universities, looked into preparatory programs for higher education that can serve as intermediary solutions for refugees on the road to integration in university degree programs. Lessons learned from this analysis can help other institutions in building up or evaluating existing programs for application procedures. IO1 elaborates on the challenges and the best practices for refugee students' inclusion in HE institutions. Furthermore, it contributes to the students' wellbeing in the sense that dissonances between perceived treatment and the reasons for it are now better understood. A detailed overview of both-challenges and best practices-, is presented in an analytical 41 page freely available online publication titled [Accessing Higher Education in Europe: Challenges for Refugee Students & Strategies to Overcome Them](https://www.portal.uni-koeln.de/sites/international/aaa/92/92pdf/SUCRE-IO1-Publication180118.pdf), which also includes links to Initiatives around European HEIs:

at <http://sucre.auth.gr/en/outputs> and at

<https://www.portal.uni-koeln.de/sites/international/aaa/92/92pdf/SUCRE-IO1-Publication180118.pdf>

Intellectual Output 2:

Institutional Support for Refugee Students in Higher Education

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

IO2 was concerned with refugee students that have successfully been admitted to a university program but may face various challenges in navigating the European university structure be it because of language challenges, financial hurdles, cultural differences and the newness of the actual university structure. IO2's objectives were to prepare participating higher education institutions to provide continued support for refugee students, to curb potential drop-out rates, to build bridges between communities and to provide a visible and simple network that refugee students can turn to when in need of support. The research contributed to recent efforts by European HEIs to provide better support for all students during their studies, but especially for international and refugee students who usually need more information than their local peers. This transparency can help the students to achieve their goals and guide European HEIs for construction of courses tailor made to the needs of refugee students. Based on the pattern of IO1, a framework of challenges and best practices was developed in order to better provide continued support for refugee students through their academic journey.

A detailed **handbook** titled [Beyond Access: Supporting Refugee Students for Academic Success in HEIs in Europe](http://sucre.auth.gr/en/outputs) is freely available online at <http://sucre.auth.gr/en/outputs> This publication includes recommendations, plans for universities on how to establish a support system and to improve upon existing structures, evaluations for programs as well as ideas and inspirations from university staff and refugee students alike.

Intellectual Output 3:

Institutional Support for Refugee Scholars in Higher Education

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

IO3 was concerned with refugee scholars hosted at a university department and the additional challenges they may have compared to students such as bringing families, having already begun an academic career and being engaged in academic research and teaching. The overall aim of IO3 was to improve support structures and integrative capacities of science and research institutions – and, ultimately, to improve the academic career paths of Refugee Academics in Europe. The IO3 Deliverable includes the findings, background, analysis, recommendations and examples of best

Dissemination Activities

During the two years of implementation the members of the consortium have presented and disseminated the project's activities in more than 70 different events relevant to refugee integration, such as conferences, seminars, meetings, workshops and interviews including the important presentation of the project to UN Representatives & stakeholders from Universities worldwide at the UN summit/Universities #JoinTogether Conference by the Vice-Rector of AUTH Ariadini Stogiannidou and the Scientific Responsible Alexandros Triantafyllidis on June 7, 2018.



AUTH Vice-Rector for Academic & Student Affairs, Prof. Ariadini Stogiannidou

Dissemination activities during the last semester of the Project included:

Johannes Müller & Heike Berner from UoC presented S.U.C.RE. and preliminary results to stakeholders from various educational institutions at the Rhein-Rhur-Sieg Regional SAR Meeting in Berlin (26th April 2018).

Ioanna Georgiadou from AUTH presented S.U.C.RE. to participants from countries worldwide, EU representatives, Universities' Erasmus Staff at the ERACON Congress and Exhibition 2018 in Murcia, Spain (8-12 May 2018).

Mariana Arjona Soberón & Lena Reuter from UoC presented S.U.C.RE.'s activities to a delegation from Anáhuac University, Mexico (Cologne, 24th May 2018).

practices. It formulates suggestions and recommendations in a number of domains: such as 1) Placement period of scholars 2) Guidance and counselling of scholars 3) Language support 4) Acculturation into new academic environments 5) Family concerns for Scholars 6) Support in Practical issues such as socio-economic and administrative issues, accommodation, 7) Psycho-social support 8) Enhancement of Employability. The results and findings are transferable to other institutions, international networks and national organizations that support refugee scholars. IO3 Publication titled [Institutional Support for Refugee Scholars in Higher Education](http://sucre.auth.gr/en/outputs) is freely available online at <http://sucre.auth.gr/en/outputs>

Intellectual Output 4:

Psychosocial Support through Communities' Engagement & Mobilization

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

IO4 aimed to facilitate young refugees' educational integration and in particular integration into Higher Education through the construction of educational material on refugee psychosocial support. Its general rationale/objective was a) to take into account the perspective of both refugees and the NGO professionals and b) to move away both from a narrow policy-driven focus and from a problem focused perspective. The promotion of refugees' social integration through Cooperative Movement Games was also amongst the aims of IO4.

The educational material produced comprises of three sections:

Section 1 includes the main thematic categories that emerged by the analysis of needs survey data (e.g. Refugees' reception by the local communities, Groups with specific needs and difficulties, Psychological problems, etc.) Section 2 reviews debates over a) Securitization and Border politics b) Legal/administrative definitions of refugee population and category fluidity and c) The homogeneity of refugee experience and emphasizes the relevance of constructs such as racialization and transnationalism. Section 3 includes good practices and cites widely used examples for the psychosocial support of refugees. Furthermore, the educational model concerned with the role of Sport in refugees' social integration is also based on survey results and includes a variety of good practices.

IO4 Deliverables are freely available on the Project's webpage:

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

as well as on the Open Courses Platform of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki:

<https://opencourses.auth.gr/courses/SUCRE101103/>

<https://opencourses.auth.gr/courses/SUCRE101104/>

Intellectual Output 5:

Supporting refugees on Health and Law issues

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

The objectives of IO5 were: a) to provide legal training on the current EU and national legal framework on immigration and asylum addressed to persons and organizations (governmental, NGOS, local) involved in the reception of migrants/asylum seekers; b) To train trainers involved in providing health care services/support to refugees/immigrants in the reception country; c) to train trainers on health insurance and social protection of refugees/immigrants in the reception country.

For the IO5 part concerned with Health the educational material produced includes a **First Aid course**, an extensive and descriptive **booklet**, a **presentation** on the structure and function of the Greek Health System and **pamphlets** on personal hygiene and personal protection in emergency situations

The material regarding IO5 activity on legal issues and issues of social security consists of 1. Useful Definitions on Asylum Law; 2. The Refugee Status Determination; 3. Asylum Procedures; 4.Reception Conditions; 5. Administrative Detention of Asylum seekers; 6. Access to Health; 7. Pension for Uninsured Adults; 8. Recognized Refugee Rights; 9. Benefits and Allowances for Refugees.

IO5 Deliverables are freely available on the Project's webpage:

<http://sucre.auth.gr/en/outputs/results/IO5>, as well as on the Open Courses

Platform of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki:

<https://opencourses.auth.gr/courses/SUCRE101101> and

<https://opencourses.auth.gr/courses/SUCRE101102>

Lena Reuter from UoC presented S.U.C.R.E. to Students, Professors and Scholars from Oriental Sciences in Cologne (19th June 2018).

SUCRE team from VU Amsterdam issued several announcements and press releases publicizing the Project's Amsterdam Multiplier Event (1st July 2018).

A. Baka, I. Bibou-Nakou, E. Figgou, M. Rapti & M. Sourvinou from AUTH presented S.U.C.R.E. and discussed the psychosocial role of NGOs in responding to refugees in Greece at the IASFM 17 Conference: Whither Refugees? Restrictionism, Crises and Precarity in Thessaloniki (27th July 2018).

Johannes Müller & Heike Berner from UoC accompanied Mayor Reker of the city of Cologne, E. Gunter, Rector of Univ. Cologne and Prof. Siegemund, TH Köln at an official meeting with P. Mitkas, Rector of AUTH, S. Pengas, Vice-Mayor of Thessaloniki, Ariadni Stogiannidou, Vice-Rector of AUTH & Alexandros Triantafyllidis. The meeting was held at the Rectorate of AUTH in order to exchange information and strengthen cooperation in the context of the Programme (3rd October 2018).

Dissemination activities continue even after the official end of the program.

Malamati Tsapoutzoglou from AUTH discussed SUCRE during the TCA "Social Inclusion Revisited: Role Modeling in Education" organized by the National Agency (IKY) in Nafplio (9-12 June 2019).

STAFF TRAINING WEEK Pathways of Institutional Support for Young Refugees' Access to Higher Education, Training and Employment



Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 18-21
June 2019

Alexandros Triantafyllidis from AUTH presented SUCRE and discussed future cooperation with other related projects during the "TCA - Fostering Erasmus+ cooperation projects impact and cross-fertilisation on social inclusion and civic engagement" Event in Bologna (25-27 June 2019).

3rd Multiplier Event Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam 5th July 2018

The third Multiplier Event entitled **HIGHER EDUCATION FOR REFUGEE STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS: ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES** took place at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Apart from the representatives of the consortium, more than 40 interested stakeholders (academics, staff working on refugee support, refugee scholars and students participated in the event with talks and discussions on:

- Access and Qualifications
- Supporting refugees
- Refugee scholars and scholars at risk



Final Multiplier Event Aristotle University of Thessaloniki 4th October 2018

The Final Multiplier Event entitled *Integrating Refugees in Higher Education and Europe: Challenges and Best Practices* took place at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and brought together more than a 100 participants (consortium members, National Agency representatives, academics, NGOs representatives, practitioners working in the field, EU/national representatives and refugee students/scholars). The Event apart from the presentation of the Project's results and final educational material included talks and discussions on effective ways for the facilitation of refugee/migrants' integration in Higher Education and society.

The FME was highly successful and received many positive comments on the good work done and useful suggestions for possible next steps.



OTHER NEWS

InSPIREurope: Ambitious EU-Funded Initiative to Support Researchers at Risk

SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK

protection advocacy learning

Ten European partner organizations announce an ambitious new initiative to be launched this September to support researchers at risk. The initiative—InSPIREurope—is a ten-partner project funded under the European Commission's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and coordinated by Scholars at Risk Europe at Maynooth University, Ireland. InSPIREurope will forge a coordinated, cross-sectoral, Europe-wide alliance for researchers at risk.

InSPIREurope project partners include: Scholars at Risk Europe, hosted at Maynooth University, Ireland (Project Coordinator) • Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, Germany • European University Association • Jagiellonian University, Poland • University of Oslo, Norway • University of Gothenburg, Sweden • PAUSE program, hosted by the Collège de France • Stichting voor Vluchteling-Studenten UAF, Netherlands • Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece • Scholz CTC GmbH, Germany

InSPIREurope begins from the view that excellence in research depends upon open scientific debate, and is driven by a multiplicity of ideas, cultures, people, and perspectives. When researchers are at risk and excluded from participating in the global research circuit, whether due to discrimination, persecution, suffering, or violence, not only are individual lives and careers at risk; the quality, the very future of research is also at stake. With record numbers of researchers at risk reaching out, there is no one country, government, NGO, or enterprise that can meet the scope of the challenge alone; an ambitious and concerted approach is required. Toward this goal, and in recognition of a shared commitment to excellence in research and to the principles of freedom of inquiry and academic freedom that are essential pre-conditions for world-class research, the InSPIREurope project will facilitate transnational cooperation between European and national initiatives and programs in support of researchers at risk. Further information, including project webpages, will be available when the project begins in September.



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