



SUPPORTING UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PATHWAY FOR REFUGEE-MIGRANTS

Intellectual Output 1

Accessing Higher Education in Europe: Challenges for Refugee Students and Strategies to Overcome Them

Description

This output will critically analyze and further develop admissions criteria established by European universities, it will look into preparatory programs for higher education that can serve as intermediary solutions for refugees on the road to integration in university degree programs. The main interest group is refugee applicants looking to be admitted to an institution of higher education or seeking support from such an institution.

Objectives

- Participating higher education institutions are better prepared to provide a humane and realistic path for integration in higher education.
- To support university administrations at a European level by discussing and addressing commonly faced issues.
- To level the playing field and chances of successfully integrating into higher education, regardless of the country of residence.

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Activity: Desk Study



Supporting University Community Pathways for Refugee Migrants
S.U.C.RE

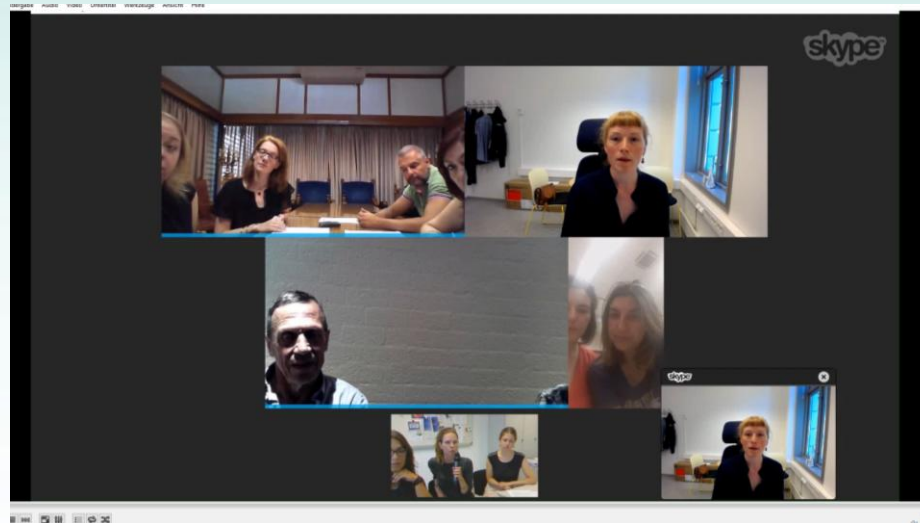
University of Cologne- Desk Study January 2017-April 2017

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IO.1 – Higher Education Qualifications and Application Procedures for Refugee Applicants
IO.2 - Institutional Support for Refugee Students in Higher Education

A desk-study was developed where over 120 universities were researched based on their refugee related activities. The output of the desk study was a 46-page report detailing the refugee-initiatives of 39 European institutions. This desk study served as the groundwork for IO1.

Activity: Round Table Discussion



A round table discussion took place via-Skype, participating institutions were the University of Bergen, the VU Amsterdam, the University of Cologne, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Piraeus University. The round table discussion was filmed and challenges surrounding, application procedures, language courses, and preparatory programs were discussed.

Activity: Online Survey for Universities

An online survey for universities was designed, where they were asked to provide information on contact they have had with refugee students, and any initiatives they may have, universities spoke about challenges and best practices in areas like admissions procedures, language courses, and financial aid and alternatives to traditional enrollment.



Dear Colleagues,

The following survey is within the framework of the S.U.C.RE project (Supporting University Community pathways for REFugee-migrants). S.U.C.RE is funded by Erasmus+ and carried out by the University of Cologne, the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Greek Council for Refugees and is coordinated by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

This project analyzes the current refugee situation in the context of Higher Education institutions and will produce educational material on five main topics:

- Admissions Procedures and Preparatory Programs
- Institutional Support for Refugee Students
- Institutional Support for Refugee Scholars
- Psychosocial Support
- Health and Legal Support

This particular survey focuses on the topic "Admissions Procedures and Preparatory Programs".

Your Experience is Needed

We kindly ask you to fill out the survey in order to obtain a better overview of the current initiatives at Higher Education Institutions that allow prospective refugee students access to universities. We are particularly interested in the challenges in admissions and in preparatory programs that might be in place at your institution in order to ensure the successful integration of refugee-migrant students as well as the successful completion of their studies. Please take the time to share your experience with us!

If you would like more information about the S.U.C.RE project, visit our website:
<http://sucr.auth.gr/>

For more information about this particular survey and its results please contact:

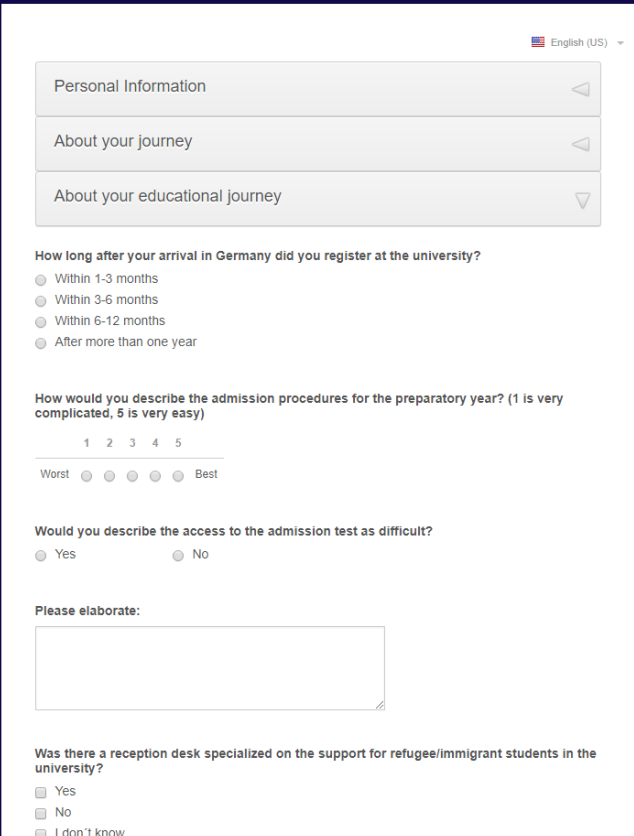
Mrs. Mariana Arjona Soberón: m.arjona-soberon@verw.uni-koeln.de

Thank you for your support!

The S.U.C.RE Team

Activity: Online Survey for Students

An online survey for students was designed, where they were asked to provide information on their experiences at the university and their challenges with their current educational journey.



English (US) ▾

Personal Information ▹

About your journey ▹

About your educational journey ▾

How long after your arrival in Germany did you register at the university?

Within 1-3 months

Within 3-6 months

Within 6-12 months

After more than one year

How would you describe the admission procedures for the preparatory year? (1 is very complicated, 5 is very easy)

1 2 3 4 5

Worst Best

Would you describe the access to the admission test as difficult?

Yes No

Please elaborate:

Was there a reception desk specialized on the support for refugee/immigrant students in the university?

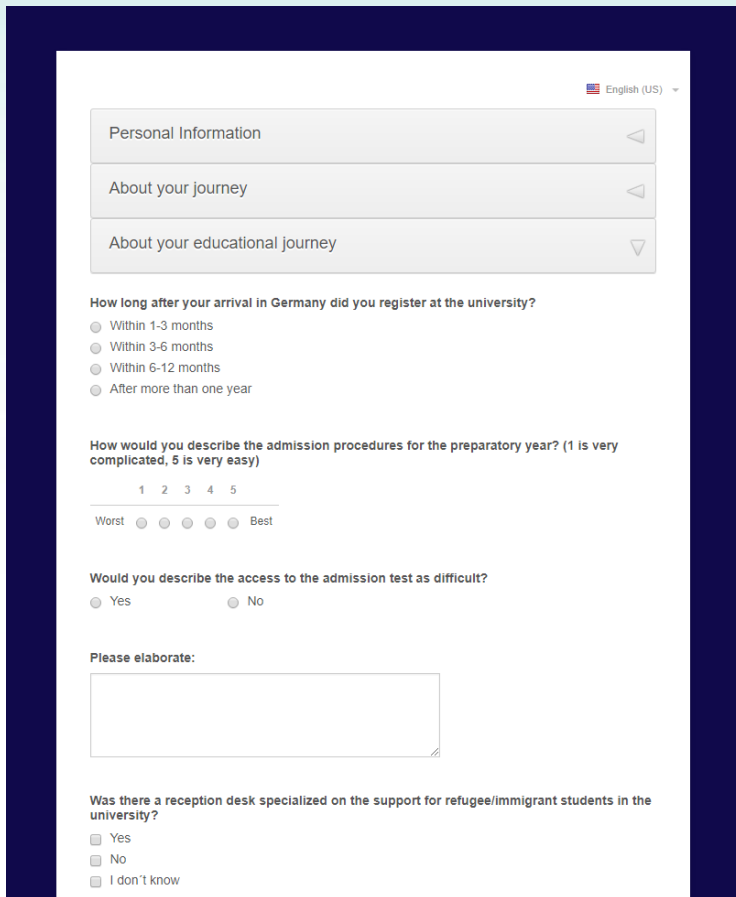
Yes

No

I don't know

Activity: Student Interviews

An online survey for students was designed, where they were asked to provide information on their experiences at the university and their challenges with their current educational journey.



The screenshot shows a survey interface with a language dropdown set to 'English (US)'. It features three expandable sections: 'Personal Information', 'About your journey', and 'About your educational journey'. The 'About your educational journey' section is active, displaying the following questions:

How long after your arrival in Germany did you register at the university?

- Within 1-3 months
- Within 3-6 months
- Within 6-12 months
- After more than one year

How would you describe the admission procedures for the preparatory year? (1 is very complicated, 5 is very easy)

1 2 3 4 5

Worst Best

Would you describe the access to the admission test as difficult?

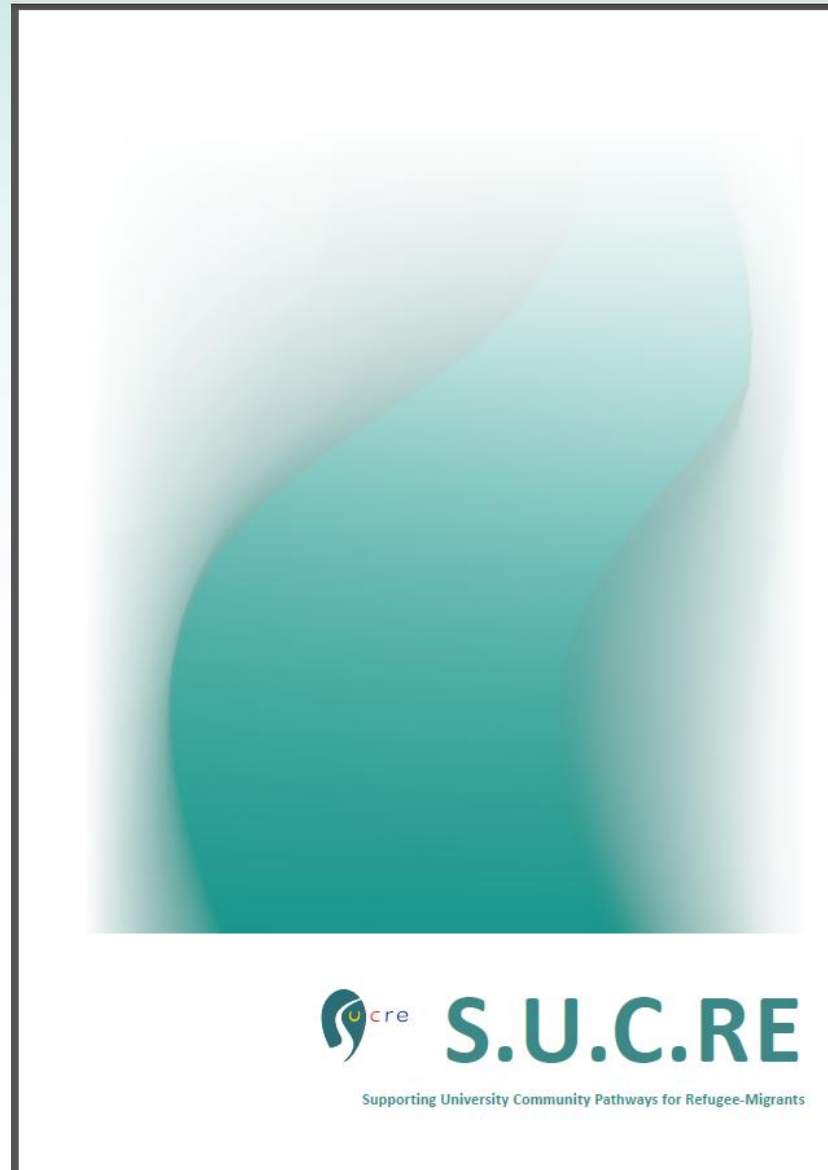
- Yes
- No

Please elaborate:

Was there a reception desk specialized on the support for refugee/immigrant students in the university?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Output





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Intellectual Output 2

University Support for Refugee Students

Description

This output is concerned with refugee students that have successfully been admitted to a university program. All new students have a learning curve when adjusting to higher education. It is understood, however, that this student group may have additional 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. This output will look into the university structure and student support systems, to be able to identify and improve upon the needs of this particular student population.

Objectives

- Participating higher education institutions are better prepared to provide continued support for refugee students through their academic journey.
- To curb potential drop-out rates due to lack of institutional support.
- To build bridges between communities by including European peers in the social integration efforts of refugee students.
- To provide a visible and simple network that refugee students can turn to when in need of support.