



SUPPORTING UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PATHWAY FOR REFUGEE-MIGRANTS

Intellectual Output 3: Supporting Refugee Scholars

1. Present State of Affairs and Results
2. Planning for achieving IO 3

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 5 other European HE institutions in the social integration efforts of refugee scholars

SUCRE – IO 3

Institutional Support for Refugee Scholars in HE

Deliverable D6 ... will consist of:

- online and written 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.

Timing: Month 23 presentation at 2nd Multiplier Event in Amsterdam

Revised input for IO 3

Institution	Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 3	Total
VU (lead)	32	12	10	54
U Köln	24	10	10	44
AUTH	8	3	3	14
SAR Network	p.m.	-		p.m.
UAF	p.m.	-		p.m.
Total	52 days	14 days	14 days	112 days

Activities since January 2017

- Develop, pilot and digitalize **hosting** questionnaire
- Establish contacts with stakeholders, host institutions & (inter)national networks on refugee scholars.
- Sent the on-line questionnaire to ..
 - institutions in Germany; Netherlands; Belgium and Iceland
 - country coordinators / representatives in UK, Norway, Sweden, Finland, France, Canada, USA, Ireland and Switzerland (potential number of target institutions at least 150)
 - secretariat of the Compostela Group of Universities; replies from Spain (3) and Mexico (1)

Activities since January 2017

- Draft the questionnaire for refugee **scholars**
- Participate in (inter)national meetings in Oslo; Brussels; Utrecht
- Contributions to S.U.C.RE reporting and newsletters
- Dissemination of S.U.C.RE to identified stakeholders
- Frequent discussions between Cologne and Amsterdam

Results from Questionnaire

- Till date, 60 responses (target was 15-20).
- Analyzed so far: 54 responding institutions – of which 42 are hosting now 75 scholars
- And they were hosting 50 scholars in the previous 3-4 years: includes repeated placements!!
- They come from 21 countries + “Africa, ??, ..” (7 scholars)
- Sample is not representative

Results: responses from institutions

Country	Responses	Scholars now	Scholars past
Belgium	1	1	4
Germany	20	43	4
Netherlands	7	8	18
Iceland	1	0	0
Norway	4	6	8
Sweden	3	3	2
UK	4	8	5
Scotland	1	0	0
USA	2	1	0
Switzerland	3	3	3
Canada	3	2	6
Spain	3	0	0
Mexico	1	0	0

Countries, regions, academic areas

Countries /regions	Scholars	Academic areas	Number
Syria	42	Natural science	18
Turkey	17	Social science	30
Iraq / Iran / Yemen	21	Life sciences	5
Rest of Africa	8	Arts	25
South-America	2	Law & Governance	15
Europe	2	Economics	7
Central - South Asia	9	Engineering	9
Undisclosed	7	Various	1
Total	108	Total	110

Qualitative questions

... address:

- reasons, benefits, problems for hosting institutions
- benefits, problems, needs for scholars
- support offered
- funding sources
- suggestions

Main **benefits** hosting institutions

Twelve sets of answers, a.o.,

- expose our staff and students to aspects of academic freedom, contribute to the awareness of students and teachers on the importance of academic freedom (20 x)
- increases our teaching and research capacity by recruitment of excellent researchers and appointing motivated scholars, partly financed with outside sources (19 x)
- increased networks and international partnerships (11 x)
- widening our windows on the world and developing internationalization at home (8 x)
- showing social commitment and responsibility (8 x): *It is also a way to focus on values and promoting SAR-work*

Main needs of scholars (host perspective)

Social, integration and inclusion aspects

- Language training ; Adequate administrative, legal, logistical and organizational support structures; Safe and welcoming environment and place of work; Family safety; reuniting family; job for partner; Social contacts and network; Financial support
- Cultural and societal adaptation support; Easy access to a contact person (mentor, buddy) that follows up on both practical, private and emotional sides of the stay; low-threshold psychological consultancy and moral support; a one-stop-service philosophy that not always can be offered due to staff constraints
- Time to settle down, process all that has happened, deal with loss of a stable position and prestige

Academic aspects

- Support from, and good connections with colleagues, mentor, host professor and/or institute
- Personal career planning development support, mentoring, job market knowledge)
- Adaptation to, and getting to know prevailing academic standards, conventions and environment in hosts
- Being recognized and not feeling a tolerated scholar; reconstructing professional perspective; Long-term and future perspectives
- Stable and supportive research environment; chances to restart the academic career by doing research; knowledge on funding programs and getting help with publications; to be able to work academically

Respondents' quotes

- scholars are professional, highly motivated and engaged post-docs / research students
- ... scholars start with a stronger skill set.
- Academic freedom and higher education values should not be taken for granted!
- Our staff and students benefit from interaction with scholars who have experience in another academic community and opportunities for collaboration in research work in areas of mutual interest.

Respondents' quotes

- Thank you for providing and working through this valuable data collection and questionnaire. Good luck with the project and greetings. Please let us know if you need further support.
- Long term appointments would offer more certainty (and rest), but will be difficult to realize within the institution
- As structures are not set yet, we try to find out what they need most and try to start from there. In this attempt we do try, however, to separate the merely personal support needs and those of family members from the professional work environment on campus.

Respondents' quotes

- Ideally, scholars will benefit from an international perspective to their practice and influence their practical abilities when they return to their home country.
- The scheme aims to offer the scholar stability / safety during a period of instability ..., but the opportunity to study or work on a placement is limited to the period covered by their visa, so it is possible that the situation in their home country may not be resolved when the period of study ends

Suggestions?

- For further analysis?
- How to deal with the qualitative outcomes for IO 3 Deliverable D6?

Next 3 – 4 months

- Validate results questionnaire 1 (virtual Round Table) conducted with Hosting Institutions
- Finalize analysis results and prepare draft Deliverable D6
- Interview and write on a limited number of best practices at host institutions
- Finalize and distribute questionnaire to refugee **scholars**
- Interview a number of refugee **scholars**
- Prepare a S.U.C.RE IO3 - session at the Scholars at Risk Conference (Berlin, Humboldt University, 26-28 April 2018)