



CONFERENCE

18TH – 19TH JUNE 2019
BERLIN



CONCEPT NOTE

PROJECTS FOR THE SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES INTO HIGHER EDUCATION - SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

19 June 2019, 15h45 to 17h00

Format

At each one of six tables one of the **six framing topics** (see below) will be discussed with an expert. The experts will give a **5-minute introduction** to the topic, based on their work and experience. Thereafter, the participants can share their knowledge, ask questions and discuss the matter. (see explanation World-Café for details)

In brief

Universities and funding organisations in many countries have set up various measures to support refugees, who are interested in and qualified for university study, to prepare them for a degree course in the respective receiving country.

The measures range from university organised preparatory language courses, subject-related courses, mentoring and guidance to student initiatives with buddy-programmes, guest lectures or refugee law clinics.

In the last years, higher education institutions have developed an impressive expertise in setting up fundamental support for refugee and international students. Though, the prerequisites differ from country to country or from institution to institution. Financial funding is not always available or institutional structures do not always allow certain changes. Therefore, this workshop aims to exchange knowledge on six crucial topics that HEIs come across when implementing support measures for refugee students.

Framing topics

- (1) **Implementation** – How initiatives and measures can be set up and integrated in the universities' existing structures
- (2) **Multiplying** – How students, volunteers and other stakeholders can be reached, interested and kept in the initiatives and how knowledge can be passed on to the next generation
- (3) **Best practice** – Outstanding measures and initiatives that can serve as an example for other HEIs and how they may be communicated to the wider public
- (4) **Challenges** – Which challenges HEIs can prepare for and how they can be solved successfully together with relevant external institutions
- (5) **Empowerment** – How refugee students themselves can become an active part of the measures and how they can be empowered to pass on their own knowledge
- (6) **Financing** – Which financial sources can be found and how, to finance initiatives and measures and what kind of measures (support of individuals and/or of institutions) deem most promising



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Focal points

In the presentation carried out by the speakers, focal points of action could be set as:

- Brief presentation of the initiative / work of the HEI
- How the initiative is integrated into the HEI's framework
- Major challenges
- Solutions and best practices
- Future tasks

Moderator

Mr. Bernd Fischer, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

Speakers

Khaola Al Rifai, Programme Coordinator InCampus programme & Scholars at Risk at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Sadiki Bamperineza, Refugee College Guidance Counsellor with the organization Kepler, Rwanda

Helena Barroco, Secretary general of Global Platform for Syrian Students (GPSS), Portugal

Christian Gerhus, Project Manager STARTING (Welcome Award Winner 2017), University Siegen, Germany

Britta Schlüter de Castro, Head of Unit "Studienstart International" at the International Office of the University of Cologne, Germany

Dr. Christina van Behr, Managing Director HERE AHEAD, Academy for Higher Education Access Development, University of Applied Science Bremen, Germany

Rapporteur

Julia Kracht Araújo, Senior Desk Officer „Higher Education Programmes for Refugees“ DAAD, Germany

Background Reading

(1) Study “Integration of refugees at German institutions of higher education”

The study provides information on refugees' access to higher education in Germany.

Part 1: https://www.daad.de/medien/downloads/studie_hochschulzugang_fluechtlinge_engl.pdf

Part 2: https://www.daad.de/medien/der-daad/p15_geflu%CC%88chtete_en_rz_web.pdf

(2) Publication “Paths to the Future – Successes and Challenges in German Higher Education”



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The publication sheds light on the success that were already achieved in the integration of refugees into higher education in Germany, but also on the continuing needs from three different perspectives: those of the programs and measures, the universities and the perspective of the refugees themselves. The result is a brochure that gives an overview of what has been achieved so far and where challenges continue to exist.

https://www.daad.de/medien/der-daad/pdf_paths_to_the_future_.pdf

(3) Handout for universities and student unions

The handout is a guidance for HEIs and provides information on asylum and residency issues, important steps for integration into higher education as well as higher education, employment and social legislation.

https://www.daad.de/medien/der-daad/handreichung_hochschulzugang_gefl%C3%BChtete.pdf
(in German only)

(4) Eurydice report on integrating asylum seekers and refugees into higher education

The report is divided into two main parts. The first presents a selection of indicators on migratory flows which provide the context for the report. Building on this, the second part offers an overview of policies, strategies and measures that exist across European countries for the integration of asylum seekers and refugees in higher education.

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/news/integrating-asylum-seekers-and-refugees-into-higher-education_en

(5) Higher Education Challenges for Migrant and Refugee Students in a Global World

<https://www.peterlang.com/view/title/65873>

(6) Access for Refugees Into Higher Education: A Review of Interventions in North America and Europe

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1028315318813201>