



Canadian
Bureau for
International
Education

Bureau
canadien de
l'éducation
internationale

ANNUAL CONFERENCE | CONGRÈS ANNUEL | OTTAWA 2016

Challenges and Opportunities: International Responses to Syrian Refugee Students

Concurrent Session
Monday November 16th
13:30 – 14:45

INTERNATIONALIZATION FOR ALL | L'INTERNATIONALISATION POUR TOUS

Introduction

- Leah Nord, Director, Corporate Affairs, CBIE (Chair)
- Vidar Pederson, Head of Department, Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education
- Tim Owen, Director, WED
- Katherine Miller, Global Education in Emergencies Coordinator,, Institute of International Education
- Alexandra Gerstner, Director, DAAD Information Centre Toronto, German Academic Exchange Service

Higher education in Norway and the response to the refugee crisis

Vidar Pedersen,
Head of Department,
CBIE, Ottawa
November 16, 2017





Fall 2015

- The Syrian refugee crisis and the influx of refugees into Europe made people aware of the “refugee situation”
- A mixture of commitment and anxiety
- Overwhelming support in the academic community to help refugees obtain/complete (higher) education
- Easier said than done...
 - Language requirements, e.g.



Academic “dugnad”

- A bottom-up initiative from HEIs, initiated by the University of Oslo
- Information days
 - The Norwegian HE system and admissions procedures
 - Book donations – free “book market”
 - Meetings with students
 - Mentor arrangements
 - Lecture series on the refugee situation

Qualifications passport for refugees

- Article VII of the Lisbon Recognition convention: All signatory states should establish recognition procedures for refugees and displaced persons
- Developed by NOKUT, the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in education, responsible, *inter alia*, for the recognition of foreign qualifications
- Based on experiences of recognition for persons without verifiable documentation
- Could become a Europe-wide initiative?
- Heritage of the Nansen passport



Financial support for refugees in education

- State Educational Loan Fund
- Support for up to three years to complete primary or secondary education
- For higher education: Support at the same level and on the same conditions as Norwegian students (part grant, part loan)



Erasmus+ projects

- Academic Refuge
 - Coordinated by the University of Oslo
 - Improve capacity of European HEIs to assist refugees and threatened academics and to promote greater respect for academic freedom
- RefuNEET
 - Coordinated by Oslo and Akershus University College
 - Career guidance for young refugees
 - Early mapping of skills and competences, develop education and training pathways



Canadian
Bureau for
International
Education

Bureau
canadien de
l'éducation
internationale

ANNUAL CONFERENCE | CONGRÈS ANNUEL | OTTAWA 2016

Challenges and opportunities: international responses to Syrian refugee students

November 16th, 2016



World Education Services

INTERNATIONALIZATION FOR ALL | L'INTERNATIONALISATION POUR TOUS

Overview



World Education Services

- Overview of the refugee situation globally and Canada's response to the Syrian crisis
- Issues and potential solutions to admitting refugees to institutions
- WES's pilot initiative
- Other issues and potential enhancements to services for refugees post-admission

Background

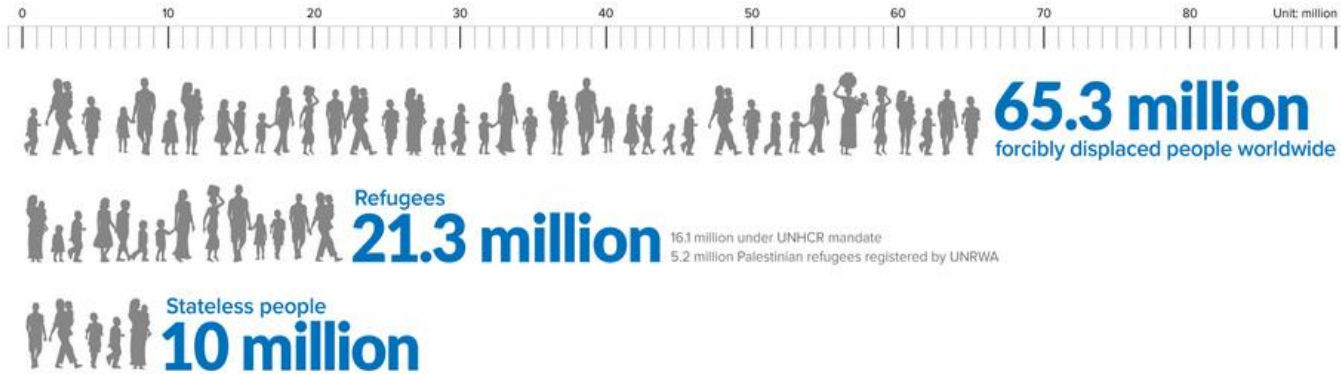


- Since 2015, an unprecedented number of refugees have been on the move, many leaving Syria, and arriving in Europe and Canada
- This migration has raised a number of issues regarding their integration
- The 1997 UNESCO convention on the Recognition of Qualifications established international standards for the recognition of refugees' qualifications

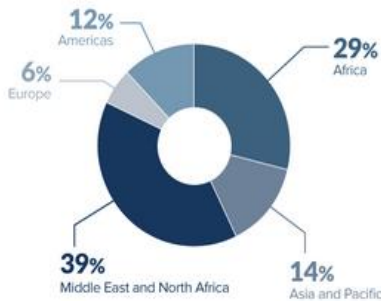
Background



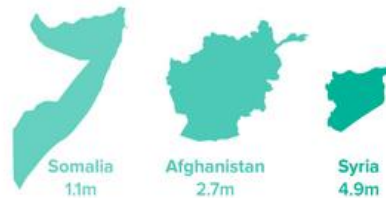
World Education Services
Share this page:



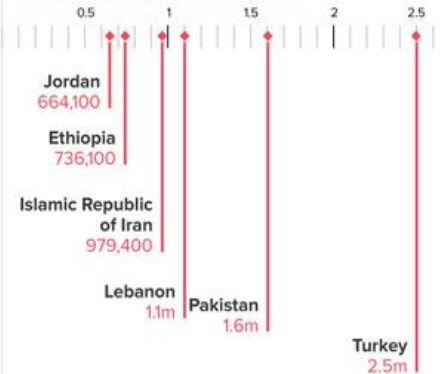
Where the world's displaced people are being hosted



54% of refugees worldwide came from three countries



Top hosting countries



Definitions

- **Convention refugee:** Any individual who meets the 1951 Refugee Convention definition of a refugee
- **Refugee claimant:** An individual who has come to the Canada via various means (e.g., as an international student or tourist) and claims refugee status and asks to stay
- They can also claim status at a port-of-entry (i.e., airport, seaport, border crossing)

Challenges for Refugees



World Education Services

- Like all immigrants, refugees often continue their higher education from the beginning, due to a lack of recognition of their qualifications
- For refugees, the problems are compounded because access to academic documents is more difficult
 - Institutions in conflict zones may be destroyed, or not functioning
 - Individuals may have legitimate personal concerns about contacting their institution before or after they leave
 - Individuals may have left their institutions abruptly

Barriers to Recognition of Refugees' Credentials



- Institutional policies and practices in Canada rely on official documents sent directly from the issuing institution for recognition of academic and professional credentials
- Working with partial documentation requires deep knowledge of country's education system, course syllabi, current institutional status, etc., which many institutions do not have
- Assessment may require extra resources to lead to conclusive results. Further steps may be necessary to corroborate findings

What Our Research Tells Us



World Education Services

Alternative methods are in use or being developed to support people coming from countries in crisis: institutions and countries are innovating, sharing best practices, reconsidering document policies and assessing risks and opportunities.

Summary of best practices:

- Create an academic profile from available documents and claimed history
- Assess based on portfolio of evidence, fill in gaps based on knowledge and interviews
- Conduct further assessments to corroborate findings

Syrian Refugees in Canada



Government Assisted

- 53% of approved cases had 5-8 people on application
- 56% are 14 years old or younger, 33% 25-64
- 67% spoke neither French nor English
- 6% had completed some post secondary education

Privately Sponsored

- 52% of approved cases had 1 person on application
- 27% were 14 years or younger, 52% 25-64
- 60% spoke English or French
- 37% had completed some post secondary education

Source: Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

WES Pilot Project

- WES recognized that due to the circumstances faced by many Syrians, the usual requirements for a WES assessment (documents sent directly from the issuing institution) could not be met
- We have created an alternative approach that addresses this situation, and can facilitate the recognition of an individual's qualifications even without full documentation
- We are currently in a pilot phase, with plans to expand to people from other countries in crisis in 2017
- INTACT insurance has provided funds, through a partner organization, TRIEC, to support the cost of translating Arabic language documents into English
- There is no charge for the assessment during this pilot phase



World Education Services

WES Pilot Project

- WES is collaborating with a number of organizations involved with the sponsorship and resettlement of Syrian refugees
- The organizations assist in pre-screening the individuals to ensure they meet the criteria for the pilot project, and assist the individuals in preparing an application
- At least one piece of documentary evidence is required to proceed with the assessment
- Depending on the evidence presented, WES may be able to prepare a detailed assessment based on transcripts, or a reconstruction of the program of studies based on our knowledge of the curriculum
- Assessments sent to third party recipients will include practical tips for obtaining information to support the conclusions of the assessment

Post admission issues

- Refugees are sometimes compared to international students, but in Canada are permanent residents, with all the rights that that status entails
- They face different challenges from many other immigrants, due to their experiences, e.g.:
 - Many refugees have limited resources to pay for higher education, and they face additional barriers in finding employment
 - Language ability in English or French is limited
 - Their academic performance may be affected by their experience of leaving their country, and the fact they may have loved ones still in danger
 - Many suffer from trauma and other effects of prolonged conflict and dislocation, impacting on their social and cultural adjustment process



World Education Services

For consideration

- What policies do you currently have in place, if any, to help admit qualified refugee applicants who cannot meet basic document requirements?
- What steps do you think you and your institution can take to improve the admissions process for qualified refugee applicants?
- What support services do you currently have in place to help refugee student populations?
- What special supports could be added/improved?



Canadian
Bureau for
International
Education

Bureau
canadien de
l'éducation
internationale

ANNUAL CONFERENCE | CONGRÈS ANNUEL | OTTAWA 2016

IIE Emergency Assistance for Syrian Students

Katherine Miller

Global Education in Emergencies Coordinator, IIE

kamiller@iie.org

INTERNATIONALIZATION FOR ALL | L'INTERNATIONALISATION POUR TOUS

Syria: A Massive Crisis for Higher Education

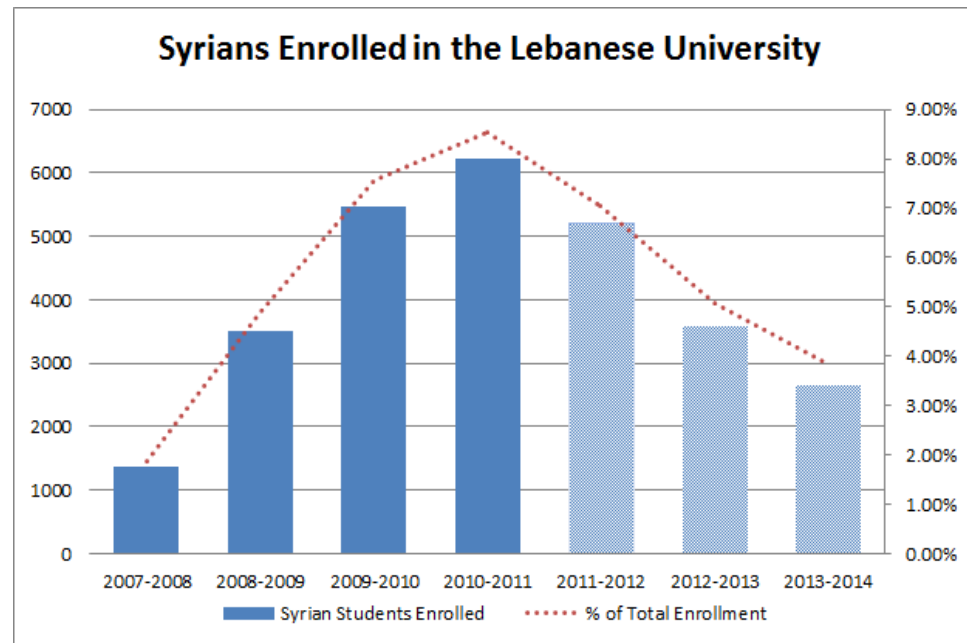
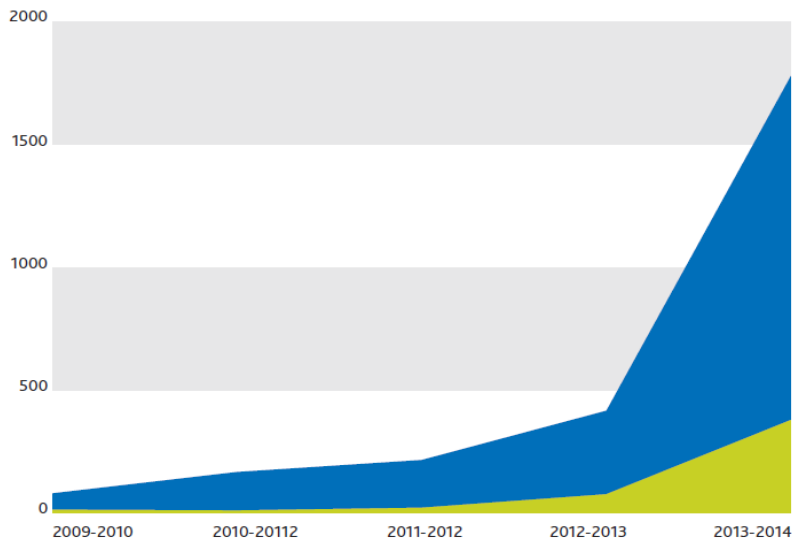
- Humanitarian crisis *and* higher education emergency
- Prior to war, $\frac{1}{4}$ of young people in higher education
- Up to $\frac{1}{3}$ of Syrian professors and more than 150,000 university students have fled
- Scholars and university-age students within all refugee populations, urban and camp-based

A “lost generation”: tens of thousands of university students and faculty without academic opportunities

Syrian enrollment is....

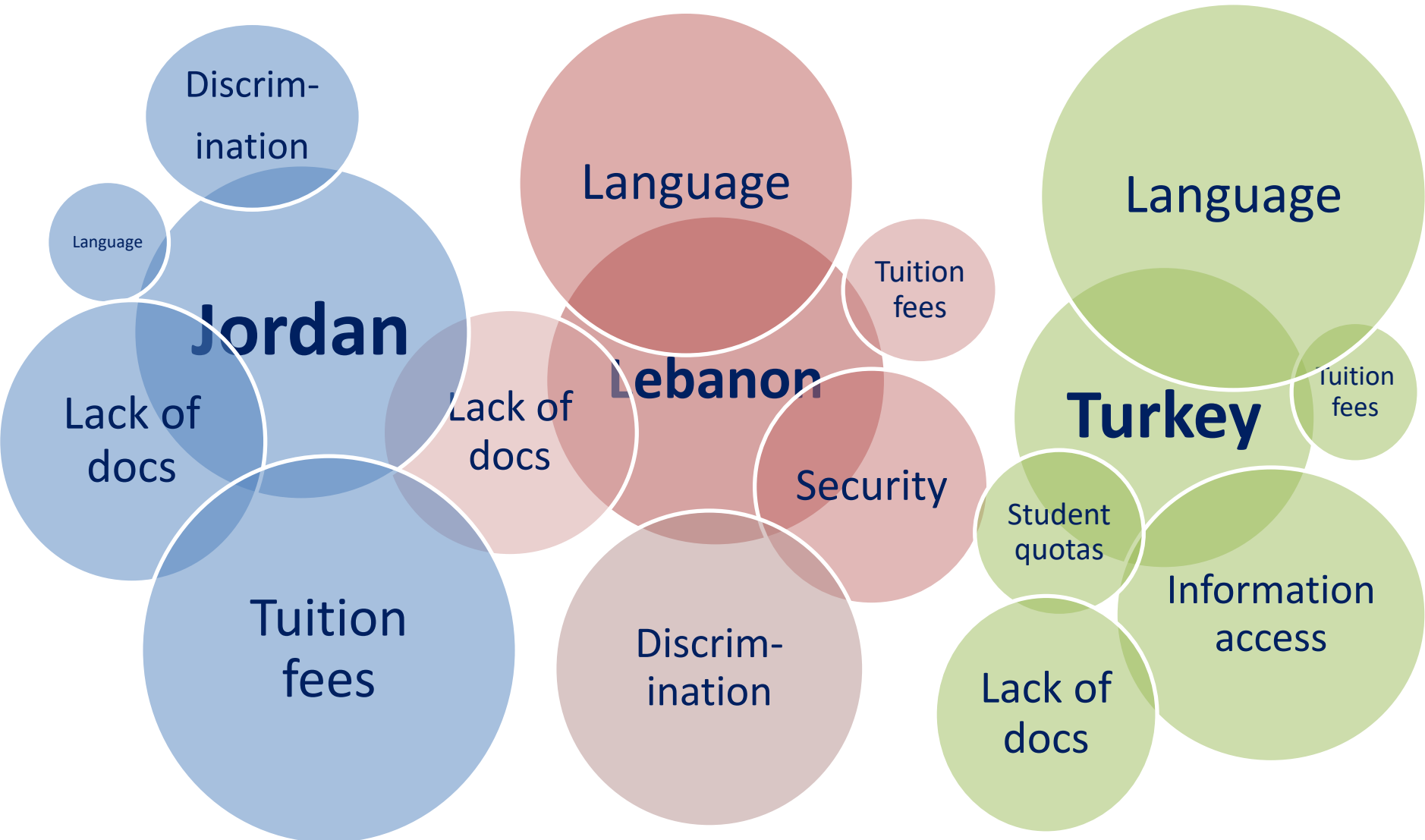
- Declining at many Lebanese institutions
- Increasing gradually in Jordan
- Increasing rapidly in Turkey

SYRIANS ENROLLED AT TURKISH UNIVERSITIES
(2009-2014)



Male
Female

Primary barriers to higher education access by country



IIE's History of Student and Scholar Rescue

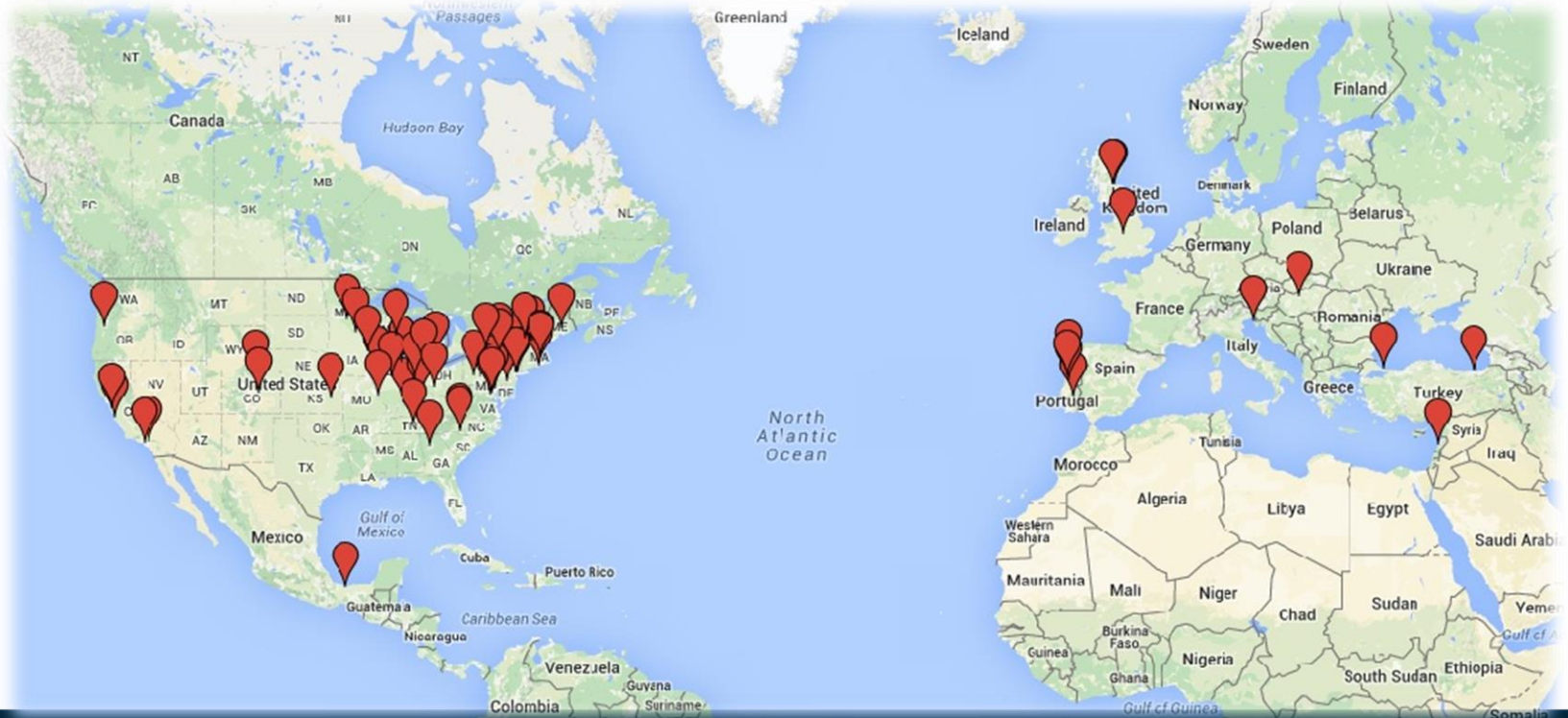
- The Russian Student Fund, 1921 – 1949
- Rescue of Scholars from the Spanish Civil War, 1936 – 1939
- Emergency Program to Aid Hungarian University Students, 1956 – 1958
- The South African Education Program (SAEP), 1979 – 2001

Current IIE Syria Initiatives at a Glance

- **Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis**
- **Emergency Student Fund**
- **From Camps to Campus**
- **Coursera for Refugees**
- **100 Syrian Women, 10,000 Syrian Lives Scholarship**

Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis

In 2012, IIE established a consortium of colleges and universities providing scholarships for Syrian students whose education has been disrupted by the conflict. The Consortium has over **60 member institutions in eight countries** and provided support to **333 Syrian students**.



100 Syrian Women, 10,000 Syrian Lives Scholarship

This scholarship is open to **Syrian women** who have demonstrated exemplary social service and academic excellence.

The program is lead by Jusoor and administered as part of the *Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis*. Students receive up to **\$50,000** to cover living expenses and tuition.

Jusoor funded 11 students to begin their studies in the U.S. in fall 2016 with additional cohorts arriving in 2017 and 2018.

From Camps to Campus

- In September 2015, IIE launched the first round of **“FROM CAMPS TO CAMPUS”** initiative.
- This pragmatic model leverages IIE's experience in implementing the Emergency Student Fund (ESF) program by supporting students who have already enrolled at Jordanian universities and remain in good academic standing but are at risk of dropping out for financial reasons.
- Each student received an emergency grant of approximately \$5,000 to help pay for tuition and living expenses.

Coursera for Refugees

- Coursera cooperates with **145 partners in 28 countries** and offers access to 1,916 online courses. Coursera provides access to high quality online education by partnering with renowned higher education institutions worldwide.
- IIE is one of five partners for the **COURSERA FOR REFUGEES** pilot initiative which was announced on June 20 in commemoration of the World Refugee Day.
- Students have access to **1000+ courses** and receive a certificate of completion at the end of each class.
- The goal has been to reach **100+ refugee students in Jordan** and provide them with access to Coursera for at least one year.
- IIE will collaborate with the **Jesuit Refugee Service** in Jordan to identify refugee students and provide access to computer labs.

IIE Scholar Rescue Fund

Legacy of Rescue. Beacon of Hope.

“Living in peace is not something you can appreciate until you live without it.”

- Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Iraq



IIE Scholar Rescue Fund: Who We Help

Professors, senior researchers, and public intellectuals from any country or field who face threats to their personal security or academic careers.

*Since its founding in 2002, IIE-SRF has assisted
667 scholars from 56 countries.*

IIE Scholar Rescue Fund: Who We Help

Scholars suffering abuse of their fundamental human rights:

- Censorship
- Wrongful dismissal
- Denial of right to travel
- Surveillance / harassment
- Death threats
- Interrogations / detention
- Imprisonment
- Physical harm /risk of violence

IIE Scholar Rescue Fund: How We Help

Provide fellowship grant of up to \$25,000 and arrange a visiting academic position outside the scholar's home country.

Scholars and Students

- Future programming
- Mentoring

Building on Existing Initiatives

- Earlier this year the **Catalyst Foundation for Universal Education and IIE** teamed up to create the Platform for Education in Emergencies Response otherwise known as **PEER**.

Platform for Education in Emergencies Response (PEER)

More than **57 million children worldwide don't have access to school**, and only one percent of university-aged, displaced students worldwide have access to tertiary education.

In response to the world's global education emergencies the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the Catalyst Foundation for Universal Education are developing the **Platform for Education in Emergencies Response (PEER)**

Platform for Education in Emergencies Response (PEER)

PEER will be an **online clearinghouse** that will allow refugee and internally displaced students to connect with educational opportunities from a computer or laptop or on-the-go via smartphones or tablets.

Due to the devastating impact the Syria crisis has on Syrian students, PEER will initially focus on the educational needs of Syrian students at the university level. At full scale, **PEER will be a global resource for refugee and IDP students at all educational levels**, connecting students with funding opportunities, virtual learning, online resources, and in-person advising.

PEER 5 Year Plan

- **Year One:** PEER will catalogue resources for Syrian students at the higher education level through a user-friendly, fully searchable, mobile-ready website available in both Arabic and English.
- **Year Two:** PEER will offer capacity building workshops to universities, partner organizations, and student adviser groups.
- **Year Three:** IIE and the Catalyst Foundation for Universal Education will host a Best Practices conference. Opportunities for primary and secondary education will be added to the Platform.
- **Year Four:** PEER will conduct in-depth research to address the gaps in higher education in emergencies. This research will inform policy recommendations.
- **Year Five:** PEER will include educational opportunities for refugee and IDP students from all educational levels and backgrounds. PEER will become a sustainable resource that is positioned to respond to future crises.

Structure

- Simple design
- Students, Universities and Partners
- **The holistic approach to education**
 - University Scholarships
 - Psychosocial support
 - Online learning
 - Language training
 - Vocational training
 - Credential evaluation

Blended Student Assistance

- PEER's hybrid approach to the online platform
- Blended assistance
- Global Education in Emergency Coordinators
- Team of student advisors

Student Advising

- Host and disseminate online trainings for student advisors
- Deploy Global Education in Emergencies Coordinators
- Will work with existing IIE networks
 - Fulbright program and other IIE networks
 - Student networks
 - Community based organizations
 - Interested individuals

Conclusion

- Research
- Catalyze and amplify existing efforts
- Connecting partners
- Meeting the needs of displaced students
- Partnerships
- Access to the future

Thank you.



Please contact us:

Nele Feldmann
Senior Program Officer
nfeldmann@iie.org

Katherine Miller
*Global Education in
Emergencies Coordinator*
kamiller@iie.org



Canadian
Bureau for
International
Education

Bureau
canadien de
l'éducation
internationale

ANNUAL CONFERENCE | CONGRÈS ANNUEL | OTTAWA 2016

Higher Education Programs Supporting Refugees in Germany

Dr. Alexandra Gerstner

Director

DAAD Information Centre Toronto

INTERNATIONALIZATION FOR ALL | L'INTERNATIONALISATION POUR TOUS



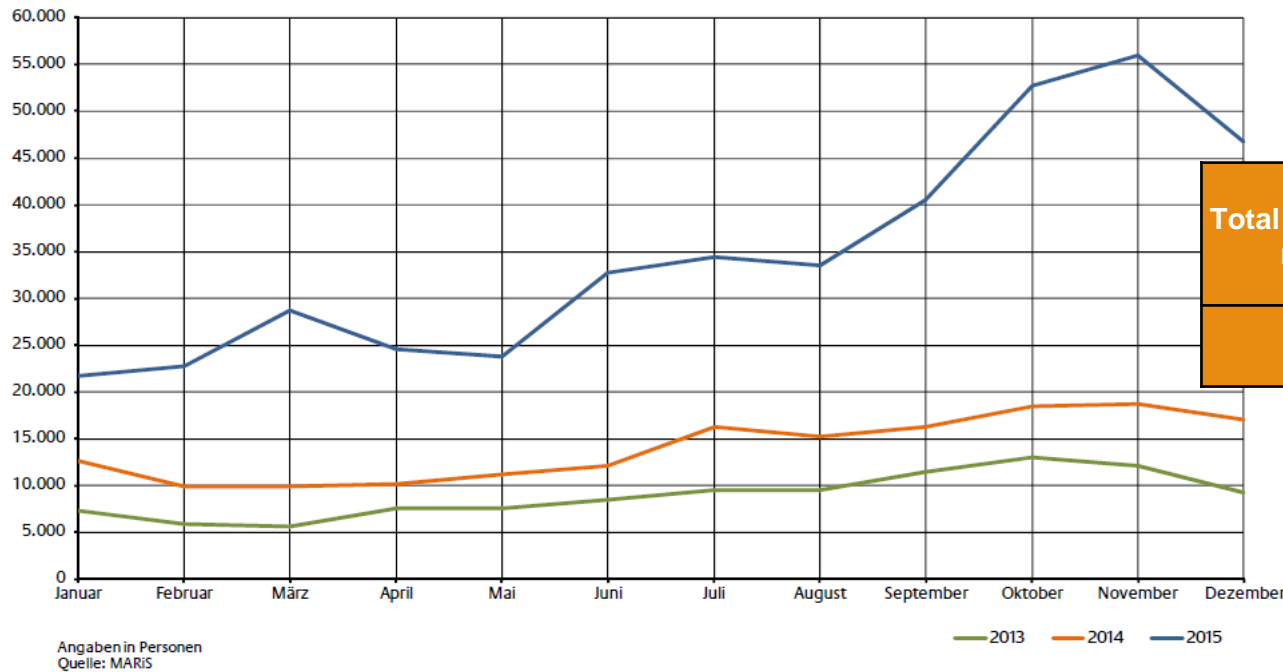
Higher Education Programs Supporting Refugees in Germany

Agenda

- 1. Facts & Figures**
- 2. Challenges integrating refugees into Higher Education**
- 3. DAAD's measures to respond to the challenges**

Facts & Figures – The Situation in Germany

Development of the number of asylum applications (2013-2015)



Total number of registered refugees in 2015

1,1 million

Total number of applications for asylum in 2015

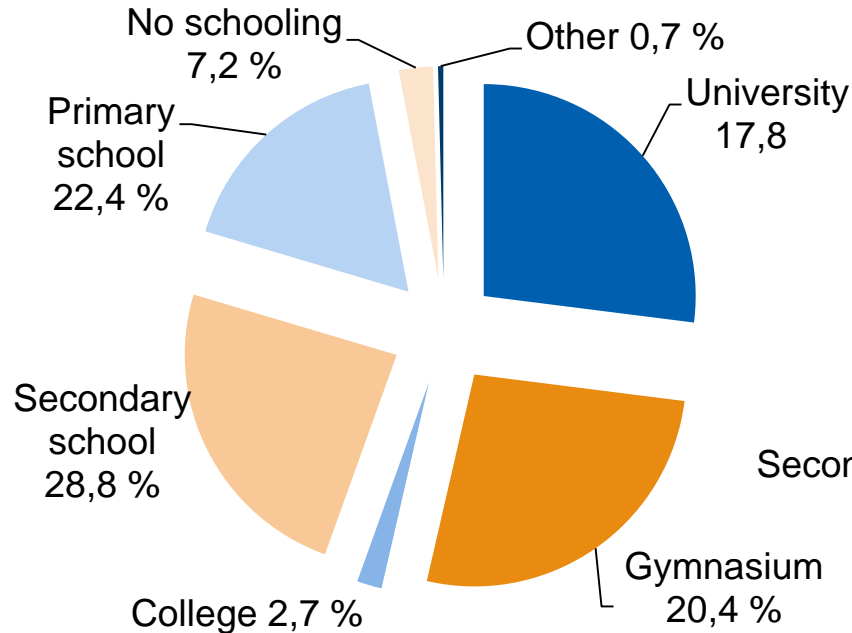
477.000

Germany continues to be the largest single recipient of new asylum claims among the group of industrialized countries.

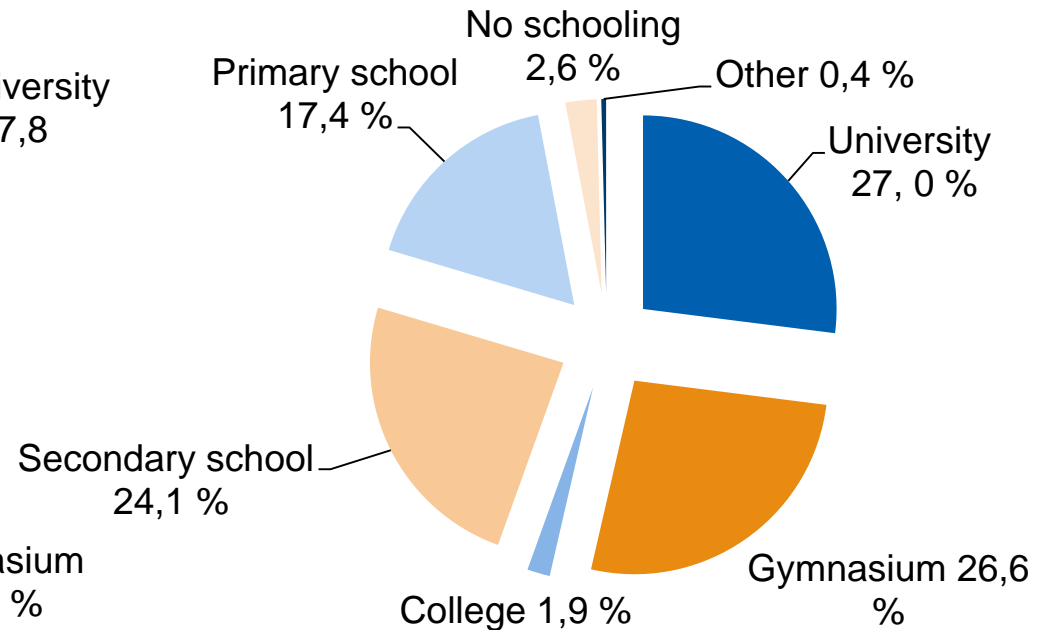
Facts & Figures – The Situation in Germany

Educational Background

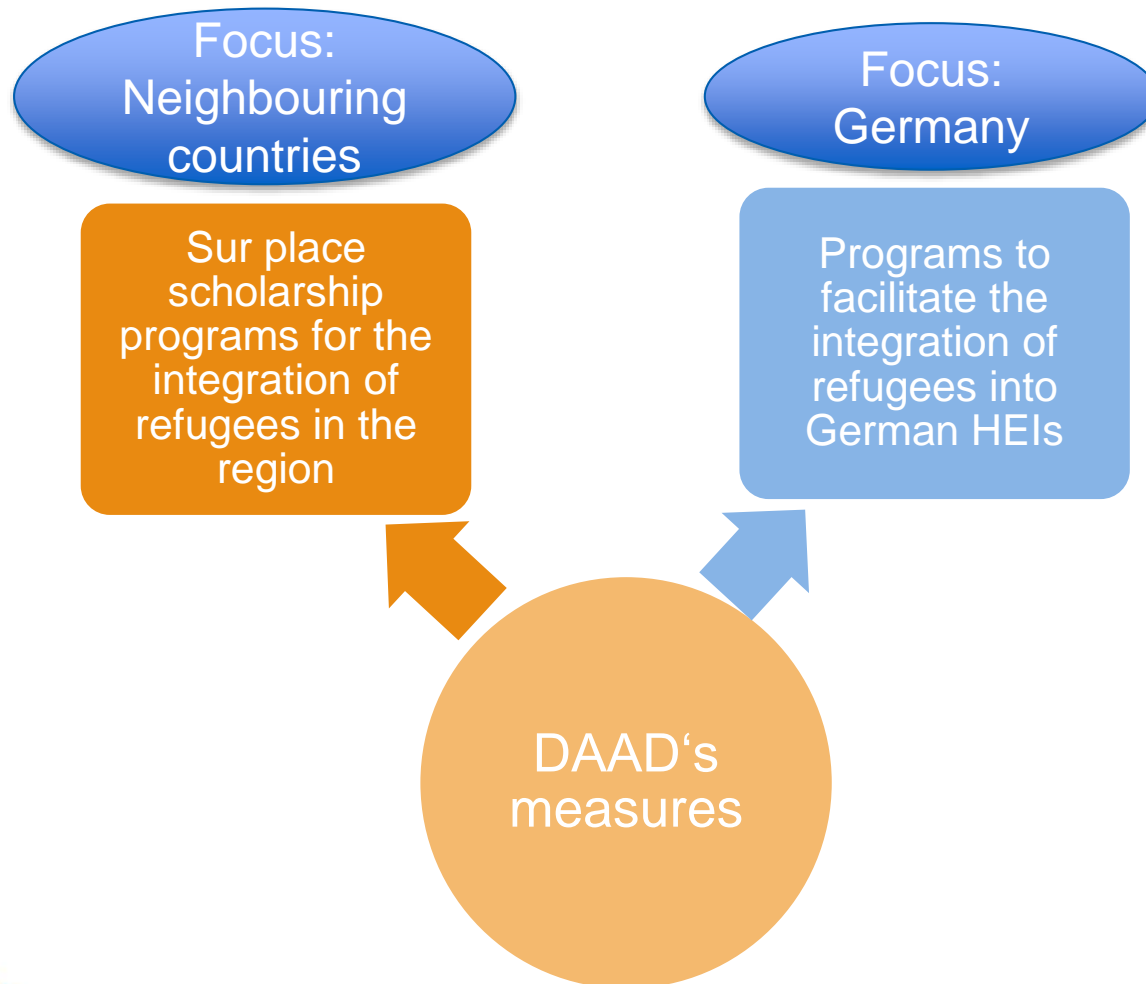
a) Asylum seekers from all countries of origin, > 18 years old



b) Asylum seekers from Syria, > 18 years old



DAAD's measures to respond to the refugee crisis in Germany and in neighbouring countries



Third-Country Programs

New Perspectives for Young Syrians and Jordanians at Jordan Universities

- **Goal:** 80 Scholarships for Syrians (50%) and Jordanians (50%)
- **Time Frame:** 2015-2019
- **Budget:** 8,5 Mio. EUR (BMZ), DAAD and giz

HOPES

- **Goal:** Regional tools for the academic education and training for refugees from Syria (in the main host countries)
- **Consortium** DAAD, Campus France, EP Nuffic, British Council (Madad Fund)
- **Time Frame:** 2016-2019, **Budget:** 12 Mio. EUR (Madad Fund)

DAAD's measures to respond to the refugee crisis in Germany

More than 1 million refugees in Germany –
estimated 30.000-50.000 eligible for admission to a HE programme

Education
is the key to
successful
integration

Opportunities for

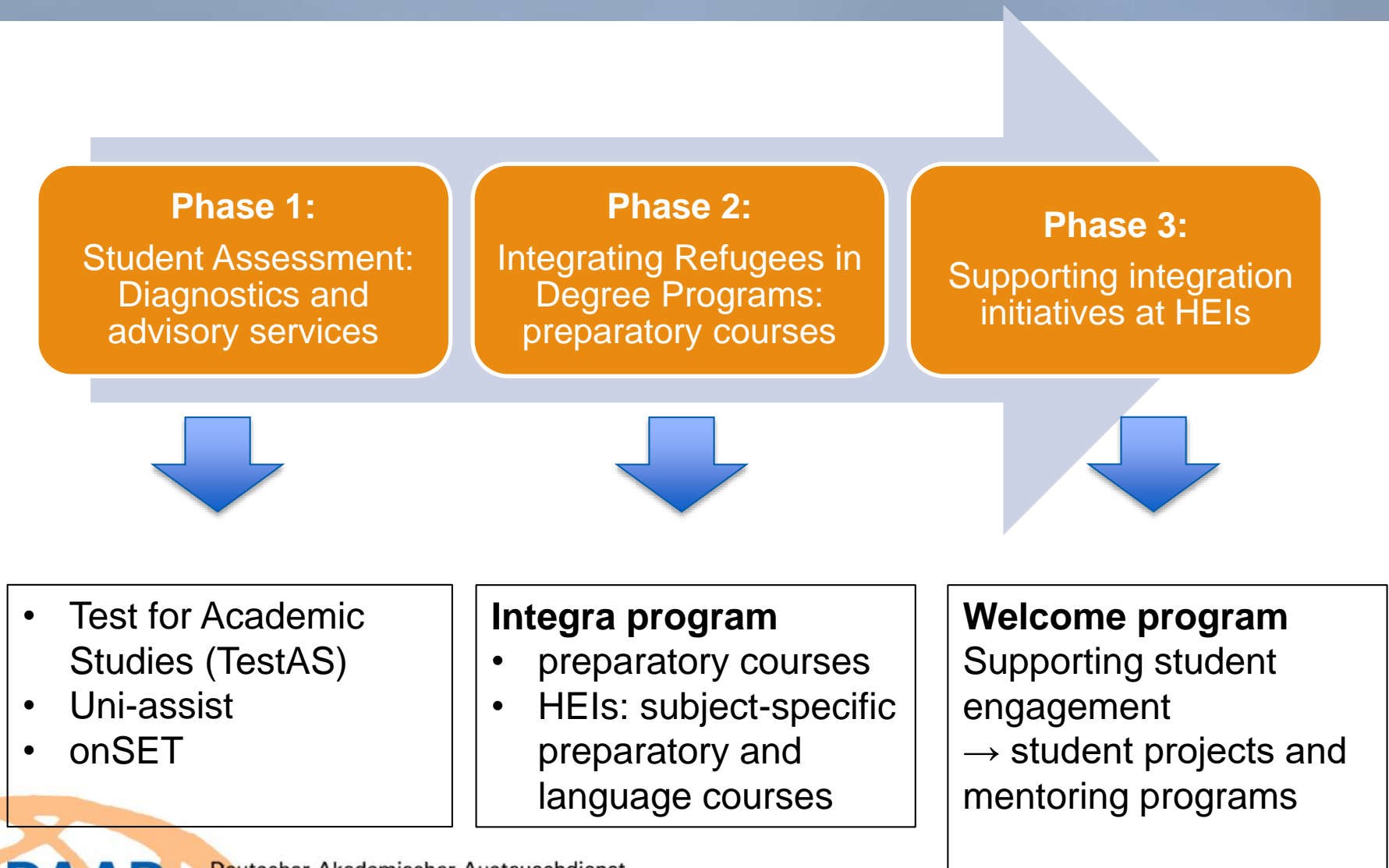
German
society

German
HEIs

German
labour
market

DAAD sees its responsibility in supporting the German universities
by providing programs to facilitate the integration of refugees into
German HEIs

DAAD's measures in Germany: overview of funding lines



Phase 1: Student Assessment – Diagnostics and Advisory Services



Phase 2: Integrating Refugees in Degree Programs - Integra Program



171 applications received

University Hannover: International Information Management

- **Language Courses**
- **Tandems**
- **Preparatory Courses in Informatics, Media Design, Academic Practices, etc.**



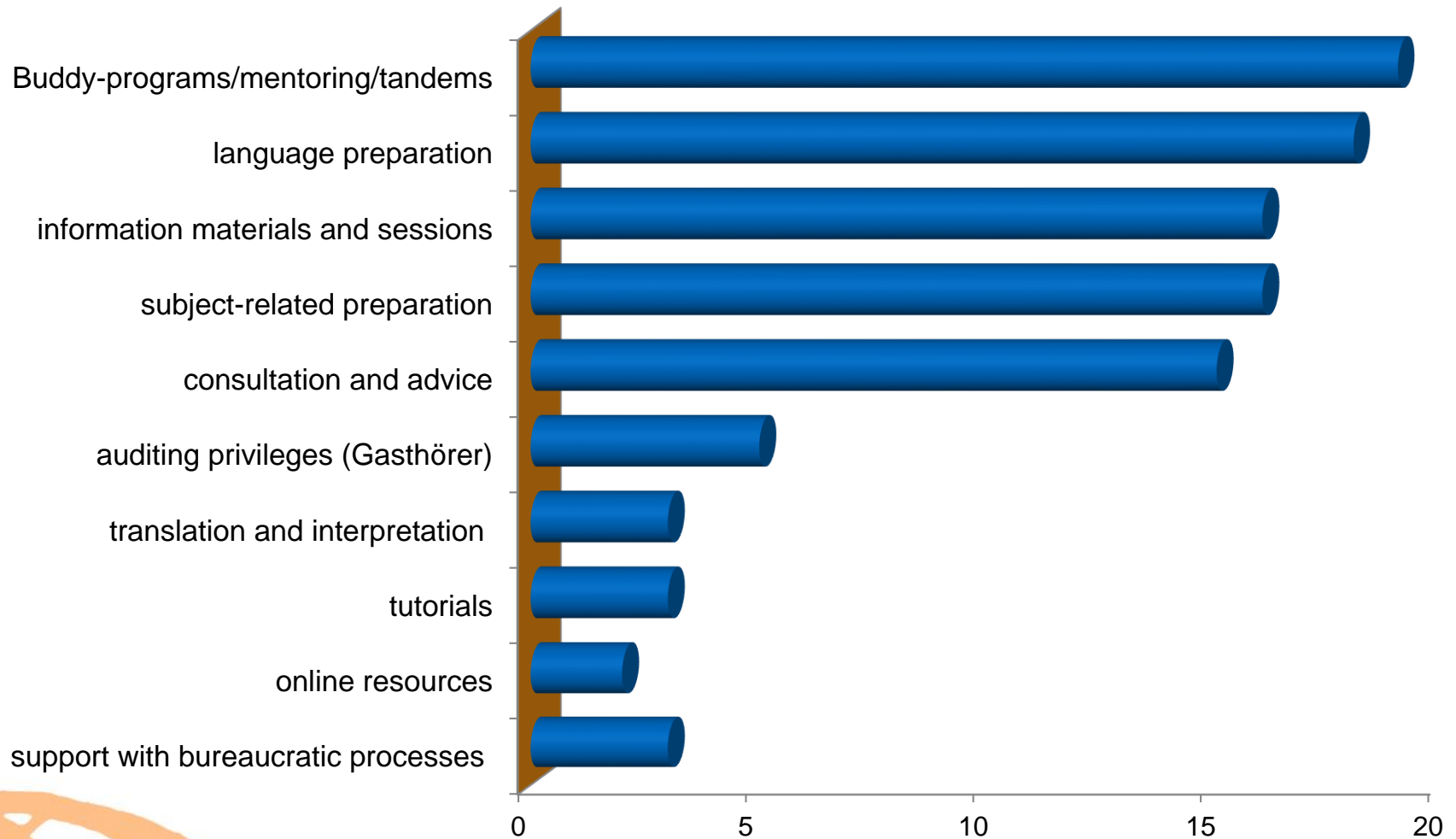
Phase 3: Supporting Integration Initiatives at HEIs

Welcome program



163 projects funded

Welcome: Initiatives (funded, in %)



Trier University: Refugee Law Clinic



Ruhr-University Bochum: „University without Borders“

■ Language café, Buddy-Program



Measures in Germany: Leadership for Syria, BaWü-Program, NRWege

Leadership for Syria

- **221 Scholarships**
- **Obligatory extra-curricular studies** in good governance, civil society and sustainable project management
- Budget: ~16 Mio. EUR
- Time Frame: 5 years (2015-2019)

Baden-Württemberg-Program

- **95 Scholarships**
- Budget ~5 Mio. EUR
- Time Frame: 7 years (2015-2021)



NRWege ins Studium

- **Support for Universities** in North-Rine Westphalia for **integrating refugees in degree programs**
- Budget ~30 Mio. EUR annually
- Time Frame: 2017 - ...

DAAD's measures in Germany: Communication and Digital learning

Study in
Germany
Land of Ideas

DAAD
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

GEFÖRDERT VON
Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

INFORMATION FOR
REFUGEES!

INFORMATION FOR REFUGEES

Our website is available in German and English. Additionally, you can find an overview of our content in Arabic, Dari, Pashto and Urdu.



MOOC: Ready for Study - Ready for Study

Bundesagentur für Arbeit LEUPHANA DIGITAL SCHOOL gast. English Register

Kursbeschreibung Kursformat Kursübersicht Partners Zertifizierung F.A.Q.

MOOC: Ready for Study

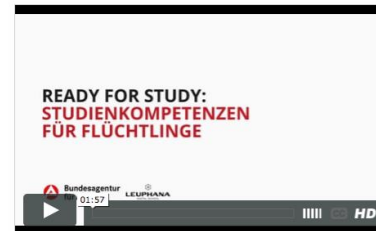
Dieser Kurs ist für Geflüchtete, die in Deutschland studieren wollen. Erfahre mehr über das deutsche Hochschulbildungssystem, verbessere Deine Deutschkenntnisse und erwirb Kompetenzen, um Dich auf Dein Studium in Deutschland vorzubereiten.

Kursstart: 7 Jan 2016
Kursende: 7 Apr 2016
Zertifikat: Ja
Aufwand: 12 Std/Woche

SIGN UP

COURSE HAS STARTED

Kursbeschreibung



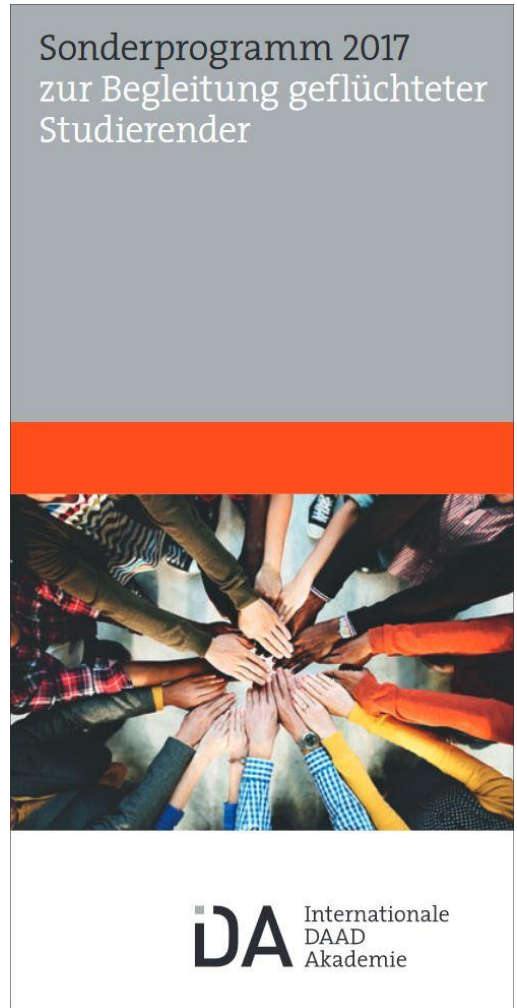
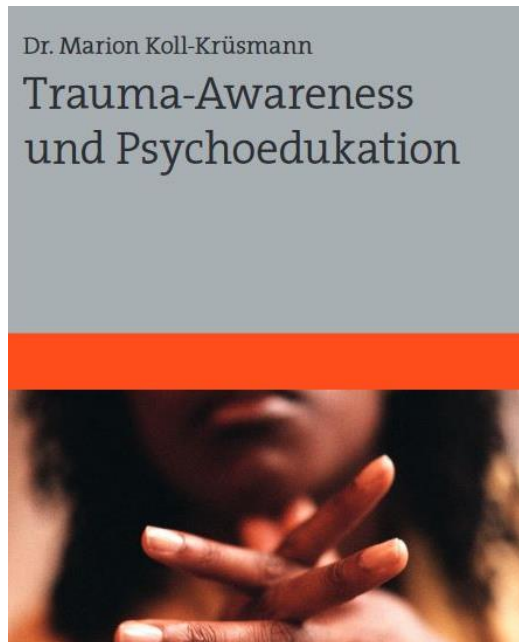
- Erwirb akademische Fähigkeiten und Kompetenzen für das Studium
- Übe und verbessere Deine Deutschkenntnisse
- Lerne Hochschulbildungsmöglichkeiten und Ausbildungswege in Deutschland kennen
- Verstehe formale Zulassungsvoraussetzungen für Geflüchtete
- Fange den Bewerbungsprozess für Dein Wunschstudium an
- Erfahre mehr über das Campus-Leben und interagiere mit Kommilitonen
- Erhalte Unterstützung und individuelles Feedback von

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

DAAD's measures in Germany: Training and support for university staff

- **Guidelines for universities on asylum law**
- **Training seminars for university staff and faculty (e.g. mental health, assessment of educational background)**





Thank you for your attention.

© Michael Jordan



DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Your feedback is important to us!

Please take a moment to submit the evaluation for this session.

Evaluations are found on CBIE's Conference app.

Thank you!