



## **UNIVERSITY NETWORKS FOR REFUGEES – WORKSHOP AT EC ON 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016**

### **Challenges raised by university networks**

#### **Theme A: Integration in society**

- Lack of accommodation/clothes/catering/healthcare
- Lack of knowledge of the host country/university; need of integration activities
- Lack of knowledge of the host country language/instruction language for academic purposes
- Lack of coordination of initiatives and lack of data on the number and education level of refugees

#### **Theme B: Academic integration**

- Lack of documents justifying diplomas/credits/level of prior learning and competences
- Lack of official status to enrol at university/Lack of flexibility regarding when students can enrol
- Lengthy procedures for academic recognition of skills, prior learning and qualifications
- Financial inability of refugees to pay course fees, restrictions due to residency status
- Lack of provision of information on the range of educational opportunities available
- Need of specific integration courses in HEIs, with specific upskilling and bridging courses
- Need of individual guidance and advices in HEIs
- Lack of learning opportunities and resources in the camps in and outside Europe
- Necessity of funds for coordination of activities

#### **Theme C: Changing mentalities/opening minds**

- Face fear and racism/radicalisation: need for better knowledge
- General lack of knowledge of refugees' culture and their specific needs
- Need to better communicate on the chance for HEIs and enterprises to learn from refugees
- Integration of refugees from scholarly background into HEIs

### **Inspiring practices**

A document outlining inspiring practices shared during the workshop and via the EU Survey launched on 24 September (with examples through hyperlink wherever possible) has been compiled for wider distribution.



### **EU actions proposed by the participants in the workshop**

- Share at EU level inspiring practices taking place in different countries - collected via EU Survey and during the workshop (see '*inspiring practices*') – as well as EU funded projects addressing the issue. This can be done through EU web, HEI networks and through social media.
- Develop an EU interactive platform for networking and peer learning between HEIs on the integration of newly arrived refugees (or by adapting existing collaborative platforms)
- Publish a list of HEIs across EU offering fee waivers/specific support/scholarships to refugees
- Organise a conference for the launch of the 3 above proposals with all major stakeholders
- Open up Erasmus+ Online Linguistic Support (OLS) to refugees
- Facilitate policy learning exchanges between ministries of education, notably for encouraging HEIs to open up their study programmes to newly arrived refugees
- Reinforce the priorities in the Erasmus+ programme guide to mention specifically the objective of integrating newly arrived refugees
- Use Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships to:
  - Develop MOOCs and distance learning to integrate newly arrived refugees
  - Scale-up national best practices to more countries, including closer cooperation with civil society
  - Train teachers, develop targeted modules/courses with companies and NGOs for public officials
- Use Erasmus+ KA3 to:
  - Facilitate and quicken the recognition of refugees' qualifications and prior learning (via ENIC/NARICs for example)
  - Promote recognition of volunteering work in the HE curriculum
- Use Erasmus+ KA1 to:
  - Promote staff mobility in camps (in and outside Europe) or in HEIs in EU to share best practices on the integration of newly arrived refugees and for teacher training
  - Make the international credit mobility action more flexible to offer more opportunities to students and staff from the countries concerned (Syria, Iraq etc)
- Build capacity through Jean Monnet modules
- Explore with DG NEAR the possibility to provide specific scholarships for scholars at risk

These proposals are currently analysed by the European Commission.