EURAXESS Services for Refugee Researchers, EURAXESS Germany, Bonn 27.11.2018, Eleni Andrianopulu
Main Responsibilities of the Welcome Centre/EURAXESS Service Centre

- Service for international professors, PostDocs, doctoral students and their families

- Supported more than 2000 researchers from 100 countries since 2009-2010
Germany’s universities and refugees at a glance

418 universities; 2,85 millions students; 358,895 international students from China, India, Russia, Austria, Italy, 24,206 international doctoral students; international researchers from USA, UK, Switzerland, France, Austria. Germany is in the TOP 3-5 in all host country parameters of internationals.

35% of the refugees entered Germany 2013-2016 have a secondary school certificate (Germany average 51%); 13% have a degree in the tertiary education (17% average Germany). Sources: destatis 2017/18, 2016/17, Wissenschaft weltoffen 2017, IAB-BAMF-SOEP 2017
Internationalisation Strategy 2016-2019

• 4 fields of action for the internationalisation measures
  • Visibility and reputation of the institution
  • Research
  • Studies and Teaching
  • Culture → Proactive provision of space and frame for critical thinking
    • Magna Charta signatory since August 2017
Diversity Concept towards a Diversity Policy 2016-2010

- Field of action: Refugees
  - Refugee students and applicants
  - Refugee scholars and scholars at risk → fully implemented
    - Concept in 2016 adopted
    - Scholars at Risk Network member since July 2016
    - Founding member Germany Section
Projects at Bielefeld University

- **Campus OWL International** Regional cooperation in Eastern Westphalia (5 public universities) -- Agreement(s) in vigor
- **Homepage refugees**
- **Clearing Office for refugees**
  - Mercator Foundation 160,000 euros
  - Immatriculation regulations changed
  - Guidance
- **Language courses and integration preparation programme**
  German Test to Admission – DSH: DAAD Integra, DAAD NRWege ins Studium, DAAD Welcome, Bertelsmann Foundation, Mercator Foundation 1,500,000 euros
  New regulation adopted for certified DSH-courses and tests
  300 applicants/100 seats per semester; 45% test success rate
- **Support and supervision during studies**
  - Guidance
  - Academic and scientific writing tutoring
- **Orientation course for Sciences** Qualitätsakt Lehre, DAAD Welcome, DAAD Integra
- **Kiron-Open Higher Education** Cooperation Agreement in vigor
  - BA Business Administration and Economics
  - BA Computer Science
Integration of Scholars at Risk and Refugee Researchers

October 2015 – ongoing
Lehrkräfte Plus – Teacher’s Restart Programme

- Qualification programme for teachers
  270 applicants/25 seats
- Afghanistan, Armenia, Guinea, Iraq, Pakistan and Syria
- Cooperation Ministry for Education North Rhine-Westphalia, Municipal Integration Centres
- Funded by the Bertelsmann Foundation
Full Services for app. 70 Researchers at Risk

• Guiding
• Matching
• Mentoring
• Access to all services of Uni Bielefeld on the spot, such as
  • Welcome Services (full portfolio, individual services)
  • German classes, seminars, library etc.
Countries of Origin

Turkey
Syria
Iran
Iraq
Azerbaijan
Libya
others
Current Career Stage

- 70% PostDocs
- 21% Doctoral Students
- 9% n.k.
Network Services for app. 130 Researchers at Risk and Network Hosts

- Guiding
- Matching
- Mentoring
- Mailing-List: scholarsatrisk@uni-bielefeld.de Send calls, information, invitations to colleagues and researchers across Europe
- 1st International Network meeting ca. 30 participants (RR and hosts), March 2017
- 2nd International Network meeting ca. 50 participants, May 2018
Science with and for society

- Call identifier: H2020-SWAFS-2016-17
- **TOPIC : Science4Refugees - Support to highly skilled refugee scientists**
- Provide financial and employability support to initiatives that support the integration of refugees into their new employment setting and culture, and to prepare refugees for the highly competitive and highly skilled job market. The visibility of these financially supported initiatives will be increased by making use of the EURAXESS Portal for dissemination, giving them high EU visibility & offering EU coordination support. In the medium term, the action aims at supporting research jobs and growth; it will increase the number of highly skilled workers who are sufficiently prepared to access the European labour market by using their newly gained skills and experience through the supported actions.
Europe’s Refugees at a glance

- Germany: 30% of all first time asylum applicants in the EU, highest total first decisions of granting asylum
- Greece: 10% of all asylum applicants and second highest rate compared to population
- Sweden and Switzerland: highest chance for refugees to find employment

- **between five and six years to integrate more than 50% of humanitarian migrants into the workplace and as much as 15 years to reach a 70% employment rate** converging towards the outcomes for labour migrants

- not only a matter of formal education, as “Higher education is hence a necessary, [but] not a sufficient condition for improving the [refugees’] labour market performance”, but of additional skills, especially as the one of host-country language knowledge, **but also supplementary occupational skills “to remove intangible obstacles to labour market access [for refugees]: discrimination and low esteem on existing qualifications”,**

- The main reasons for weaker employment prospects for refugees are not in their hands, as the parents’ education and origin and the long-residency effects are very strong, in other words: “It implies that non-observable factors such as legal obstacles, a low recognition of skills and education or discrimination damage the employment prospects of refugees to an extent that they reduce the value to refugees of acquiring better skills and education”

- Sources: Eurostat: Asylum quarterly report, 19.03.2018; IP/A/EMPL/2016-08
BRiDGE – Bridge for Researchers in Danger Going to Europe

- Duration April 2018 – March 2020
- Co-Funding: European Commission, Horizon2020
- Coordinator: Bielefeld University
- Partners: ETH Zürich, Sofia University (Lead Beneficiary Trainings), CERTH, ELIAMEP, EKKE, TÜBITAK
- Experts/Advisers: wide network of NGOs, projects, institutions, such as Scholars at Risk Network, Adopt an Academic, SCIREA, German Syrian Research Society, TWAS, MCAA, OeAD, Universities of the Sanctuary, IIE-Scholars Rescue Fund, SUCRE and others
- Very high synergy effects and network enhancement
BRiDGE Aim

BRiDGE – Bridge for Researchers in Danger Going to Europe enhances the support of 220 refugee researchers (RR) during the 24 project months, with special attention paid to early and late stage post doc researchers and professors of all ages, especially those displaced in Germany, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey. The case-to-case support focuses on career development advisory services, training, and academic and non-academic mentoring for the RRs. The project transfers the given knowledge and experience to the EURAXESS network, the largest relevant network in Europe.
BRiDGE Eligibility

- Horizon2020 Science4Refugees Call Criteria: “Refugee Researchers” defined as “asylum granted researchers in Europe and Horizon2020 eligible countries”
- This means for BRiDGE:
  - All asylum granted researchers in Europe and Horizon2020 eligible countries are eligible to participate in the project, and profit especially from the matching with academic and non-academic mentors, the trainings, the career development measures and the networks.
  - All other researchers who are involuntary immigrants with a refugee background or researchers at risk, which refers to researchers who are either at risk in their origin countries (due to discrimination, persecution, suffering or violence), or are seeking refuge out of these reasons or have recently found refuge in Europe are eligible too, if project capacity is given.
  - All career stages (R1-R4) of refugee researchers are eligible, priority though will be given to R3-R4 refugee researchers.
BRiDGE Capacity

• Mentoring for 220 Refugee Researchers
• Involving of 200 mentors
• Training of 90 Refugee Researchers and
• 30 mentors
• Activating 500 institutions (universities and research institutes across 40 countries) = EURAXESS Network
BRiDGE for EURAXESS

• Support of refugee researchers (RRs), with special attention paid to early and late stage post doc researchers and professors of all ages, especially those displaced in Germany, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey.

• The case-to-case support focuses on career development advisory services, training, and academic and non-academic mentoring for the RRs. Identify and utilize the potential of RRs across Europe.

• Instructive and motivating materials to academic and non-academic mentors

• Trainings for academic and non-academic mentors and refugee researchers

• Promotion of best practices in the EURAXESS network through trainings and activities, and forms a network and pool of experts visible on the EURAXESS Science4Refugees site.
BRiDGE Next Deliverables

- Services’ map: Gap analysis and map of career advice services for refugee researchers
- Video Handbook (Vlog): Description of the target process for refugee researchers and advisers
- **Publication of pool of experts per country – Contributions are needed!**
- TODAY! Test training for Refugee Researchers in Sofia, Bulgaria – full 17 participants from Bulgaria, Germany, Malta, France, Norway and 7 trainers from Bulgaria, USA, Germany and UK.
- Nominate participants for the next training in Thessaloniki, February 13.
- Webinar for Refugee Researchers
BRiDGE Next Tasks

- Mid-term Meeting 26-28 March in Athens
- Survey Career Perspectives of Refugee Researchers – please provide data, results or questionnaires
- Newsletter for EURAXESS – input possible
- Newsletter for Refugee Researchers – input possible, please disseminate
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Bridge-Project-1783094548405692/ -- input possible, please disseminate
Science with and for society

- Call identifier: H2020-SWAFS-06-2018
- **TOPIC : Science4Refugees - Support to highly skilled refugee scientists**
- This action is addressed to legal entities such as universities, NGOs, the EURAXESS Service Centres to bring involuntary immigrants with a refugee background into the European research labour market in the new host country.

- Collaboration or coupling with national labour market initiatives are welcome, however the involvement of an accredited EURAXESS Centre would be beneficial for their experience in welcoming international researchers. These initiatives will give refugees researchers/scientists the opportunity to develop their knowledge and careers by improving their skills and employability.

- Provide support for the career development of refugee researchers, both women and men, to support their integration into their new employment settings and culture, and to prepare female and male refugees for the highly competitive and highly skilled job market.
BRiDGE Step II – Bridge for Researchers in Danger Going to Europe Step II

• Duration January 2019 – December 2021 (tentative)
• Co-Funding: European Commission, Horizon2020
• Coordinator: Bielefeld University
• Partners: University of Gothenburg, ETH Zürich, OeAD Austria, MEF Serbia, Sofia University, CERTH, University of the Aegean
• Third parties: ELIAMEP, MCAA, German Syrian Research Society
• Network Partners: Universities of the Sanctuary and others
• Advisory Board: Researchers on Migration issues, Community members, NGOs
• Very high synergy effects and network enhancement
BRiDGE Step II Aim

Bridge for Researchers Going to Europe – Step II (BRiDGE II) is a EURAXESS project to support the career and identify the individual career planning and development needs of 300 highly skilled refugee researchers (RR) in the 24 project months to a long-term integration in the labour market of the European Union member states and its associated countries. It focusses especially on early and late stage post doc researchers and professors of all ages, who are affiliated with a research institution in the European Research Area or a Research and Development department of a company and especially those displaced for the last two years in Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece and meets their needs, by providing 300 career case plans.

The case-to-case support places a focus on high quality guiding and career development services, training and academic and industrial mentoring for the RRs. The project aims further at transferring the given knowledge and experience to the EURAXESS network.
BRiDGE Step II Capacity

- Case plans of 300 Refugee Researchers
- Activating and supporting of 190 academic mentors and 90 industrial mentors
- Establishing 4 peer groups
- Supporting 45 internships/months for refugee researchers
- Piloting a Dual career study
- Training of 120 Refugee Researchers and 30 academic, 30 industrial and 30 EURAXESS mentors
- Activating 500 institutions (universities and research institutes across 40 countries) = EURAXESS Network
Coordinator Trainings BRiDGE and BRiDGE II: Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (SU), Bulgaria
url: www.unisofia.bg
e-mail: svetlana@fmi.uni-sofia.bg
EURAXESS TOP IV

- Task 3.4 Refugee Initiatives
- Deliverable: A modular structured training programme for the labor integration of refugees researchers
- Workshops in Greece, Cyprus, Austria, Turkey
- Survey, Recommendations
- Bi-annual Conference
Contact

Coordinator BRiDGE and BRiDGE II: Bielefeld University (UNIBI), Germany
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Thank you for your attention!