



Inspiring practices – January 2016: Higher Education helping newly arrived refugees Meet basic needs and ease social integration of refugees

This list is the result of responses to an EU Survey launched by the European Commission on 24 September 2015 among universities and student organisations. It has been further completed following a workshop organised on 6 October 2015 with 25 representatives of Erasmus+ National Agencies, universities and student organisations. The aim is not to be exhaustive, but to share some practices taking place in different parts of the EU.

Challenges	Inspiring practices (<i>examples italicised</i>)
<p>Develop initiatives to meet basic needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation of refugees in gyms/emergency sleeping place (<i>Universität Leipzig; the University of Helsinki; Luleå University of Technology; Although the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki hasn't encountered student refugees, it has already taken steps to accommodate and support them; Humak University of Applied Sciences looks into the possibility to open a reception center for young asylum seekers within one of its campuses</i>). • Support for refugees' basic needs, including food, health services, cloths, beverages (<i>the University of Coimbra; Pädagogische Hochschule Kärnten / University College of Teacher Education Carinthia; MF Norwegian School of Theology; Laurea University of Applied Sciences; Vienna's University of Applied Sciences; the University of Turku</i>). • Setting up of informal student/staff networks to support refugees (Malmö university web platform for Refugees; Social projects run by local Erasmus Student Network (ESN) sections, notably in Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) • Nomination of a contact person for refugees at HEIs (<i>Nuertingen-Geislingen University; Universität Mannheim; University of Applied Sciences Emden/Leer; the University of Coimbra appointed the International Relations Unit as the body in charge of coordination of the refugees issue at the university; the HUMLOG Institute co-ordinates the refugee response of the Hanken School of Economics; Université Catholique de Louvain set up a working group whose mission was to identify working areas around which the actions of the university community could be organized</i>). • MOOCs on humanitarian logistics at HEIs (six week course from "Class Central" in collaboration with the University of Manchester, covering global health, humanitarian response and how to protect the vulnerable; Hanken School of Economics offering a newsletter with research in the area of humanitarian logistics in disaster preparedness, response and recovery).



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund raising activities (<i>Hasselt University is raising funds for the refugee centres which are then allocated by the regional platform for refugees, entitled "Limburgs platform vluchtelingen"; the University of Thessaloniki carried out a concert during which it collected essential goods to be sent to refugees; University of Applied Sciences Ludwigshafen).</i>
<p>Ease social integration and strengthen knowledge of the host country</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation between universities and NGOs (<i>Åbo Akademi University; Lahti University of Applied Sciences has been cooperating with the Immigration Office and students have assisted in receiving refugees in local centers for refugees; cooperation between the University of Tampere, Tampere University of Applied Sciences, and the Red Cross; cooperation between Masaryk University and public administration; University Colleges Leuven-Limburg (UCLL) got in touch with the asylum centres in Limburg province; the Hanken School of Economics currently cooperates with other PRME members in the Nordic chapter to address the refugee crisis; The University of Augsburg cooperates with Augsburg's university of Applied Sciences to identify adequate measures to support refugees; Article 26 project encompassing a network of UK HEIs; A transnational consortium of universities, institutes and NGOs (including Österreich Institut GmbH, WBS Training, Inter-kulturo d.o.o., the Foreign Language Centre of the Masaryk University, the Novinka Foundation) set up Deutsch.info, a free multilingual website to learn German with migrant-specific issues; the University of Passau maintains intense contact with local humanitarian organisations, i.e. Evangelische Studierendengemeinde, and with local public authorities, i.e. city of Passau; DHBW Villingen-Schwenningen plans a cooperation with partner companies and local authorities to prepare refugees to study at university and find a work placement; ROC of Twente, Saxion University of Applied Sciences and University of Twente joint forces contribution to support refugees staying in their region).</i> • Cross-faculty approaches (<i>Universität Giessen's faculty of law provides legal advice through its students who can be recognised for their volunteer work, health faculty offers medical services to NGOs, language faculty trains volunteers to give language classes, education students help children, and psychology faculty supports traumatised refugees; Konstanz University; Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin).</i> • Offer language courses to the refugees (<i>Åbo Akademi University; University of Turku; the University for Foreigners of</i>



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Siena; University of Coimbra; Dresden's University of Applied Sciences; University of Augsburg; Pädagogische Hochschule Kärnten / University College of Teacher Education Carinthia; Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia; University of Vechta; FH Münster University of Applied Sciences; University of Helsinki; Universiteit Hasselt asked the help of Arabic speaking students/doctorandi to develop an Arabic-Dutch module at disposal of refugees for free).

- **Provide "support packages" to refugee students**, including personalized guidance and a full tuition fee bursary and funding to meet some of the additional costs associated with studying at an HEI (*Karlsruhe University of Education; Universität Siegen; the Erasmus University of Rotterdam; [OLive weekend courses](#) organized by the Central European University that comprise courses taught by more than 30 student, faculty and staff volunteers from across the CEU community; welcome plan designed and implemented by the University of Coimbra; TU Dortmund Universities; Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences launched the initiative "Integration of political refugees with higher education backgrounds, respectively ambitions" as a comprehensive approach that enables qualified people who are willing to study to fulfil the requirements for a higher education entrance in Germany, including the following steps: orientation sessions with interview, examination of qualification, integration components, language course, Application for study programme; Potsdam's University of Applied Sciences designed a pilot project to provide specific information and counselling to refugees interested in Higher Education", jointly with partners in the city of Potsdam and refugee networks in the region of Brandenburg and Berlin).*
- **Training of NGO volunteers to provide advice and counselling in the areas of study possibilities and employment;** (*FH Münster University of Applied Sciences [two-day training course](#); Helsinki's Law faculty plans a pop-up desk that would provide asylum seekers with legal advice).*
- **Social integration by student and staff volunteers through welcome programme or orientation/international week** (*Deggendorf Institute of Technology; the University of Coimbra; Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt holds a series of opening lectures during the winter term for refugees and other interested people about topics of the university's faculties; Students of the field of "German as a foreign language" in TU Dortmund Universities are encouraged to do their mandatory internship in refugee homes in order to foster their integration into the community; University of*



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Oslo; Kahramanmaras Sutcu Imam University; St.Pölten University of Applied Sciences; Friedrich Schiller University Jena offers free of charge guest access to courses, Info days for refugees and migrants “Ways to study in Jena” and individual counselling and evaluation of documents/certificates).

- **Buddy programmes to couple students with refugees**, providing administrative guidance and language courses (*University of Applied Sciences Emden/Leer; Evangelische Hochschule Dresden; Vienna's University of Applied Sciences; Justus Liebig University Giessen; University of Passau; [University of Bremen](#); University of Groningen; Landelijke Studentenvakbond; Deggendorf Institute of Technology; [the University of Coimbra](#); Dalarna University; Haute école Francisco Ferrer; Stiftung Universität Hildesheim; University of Vechta; Universität Mannheim).*
- **Intercultural training for adaptation to the local culture**, including MOOCs and other e-learning products made available for free (*[University of Bremen MOOCs](#); University of Groningen; [Dalarna University's MOOC](#); University of Oslo; Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences; A transnational consortium of universities, institutes and NGOs (including Österreich Institut GmbH, WBS Training, Inter-kulturo d.o.o., the the Foreign Language Centre of the Masaryk University, the Novinka Foundation, set up Deutsch.info, a free multilingual website to learn German with migrant-specific issues; Scuola Superiore per Mediatori Linguistici of Milan holds intercultural courses in already existing courses of linguistic mediation).*
- **Organize regular meetings** between the refugees, students, representatives of the university and civil society actors (*Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule Sankt Georgen; University of Applied Sciences Emden/Leer holds regular meetings with local community, church, NGOs, volunteer management).*
- **Academic and individual counselling to choose the right courses** that fit into the academic career of refugees (*[Deggendorf Institute of Technology](#); University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences of Vienna; Hafencity Universität of Hamburg).*
- **Preparation of school material and preparatory courses for children/students from refugee families, including via MOOCs** (*Kirchlich Pädagogische Hochschule Wien/krems; [Ready4Study MOOC consortium](#); Philipps-Universität*



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Marburg set up an [online platform](#) for refugees with information on possibilities for enrolment and support services on site provided by students and staff).

- **Arabic lessons for students in the host HEI** (*Kirchlich Pädagogische Hochschule Wien/krems*).
- **Phased courses**, including language, cultural and specialised components (*Kohtaamisia-project led by the [University of Turku](#)*).

Have you implemented other types of activities that are not listed above and that could be interesting to share?
Please share them with us via [ErasmusplusRefugees2015](#). We will regularly update the above list.