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Refugees and the role of higher education

2018-05-25

UNHCR: Global trends: Forced displacement 2016

- 65,6 million people dispersed 2016, (UNHR; Global Trends)
  - **22.5 million** persons were refugees
    - **17.2 million** under UNHCR's mandate
    - **5.3 million** Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA
  - **40.3 million** internally displaced persos
  - Most refugee flows do not affect Europe
  - **Developing regions** hosted 84 per cent of the world's refugees
  - Today's situation
  - Syria, Afghanistan, Irak, stateless, Eritrea

- Less than one per cent of world's refugees attend higher education; compared to 34 per cent total global (UNHCR)
- Education basic human right
- Education SDG 2030

Syria

- Prior to the conflict, 25% of Syrians enrolled at university.
- Higher education in Syria was expanding on the eve of the conflict in 2011, with some 350,000 full-time undergraduates and more than 8,000 lecturers and professors.
- Among the Syrian refugees in the Middle East, there are approximately 100,000 qualified students who cannot access university courses.
- In Europe, approximately 50,000
- Also approximately 2000 scholars, professors, scholars, teachers.
- Many more are lost among the millions of internally displaced Syrians.
- universities were often deliberately targeted and destroyed. (Functions in government-controlled areas)
- (All estimations from 2015)

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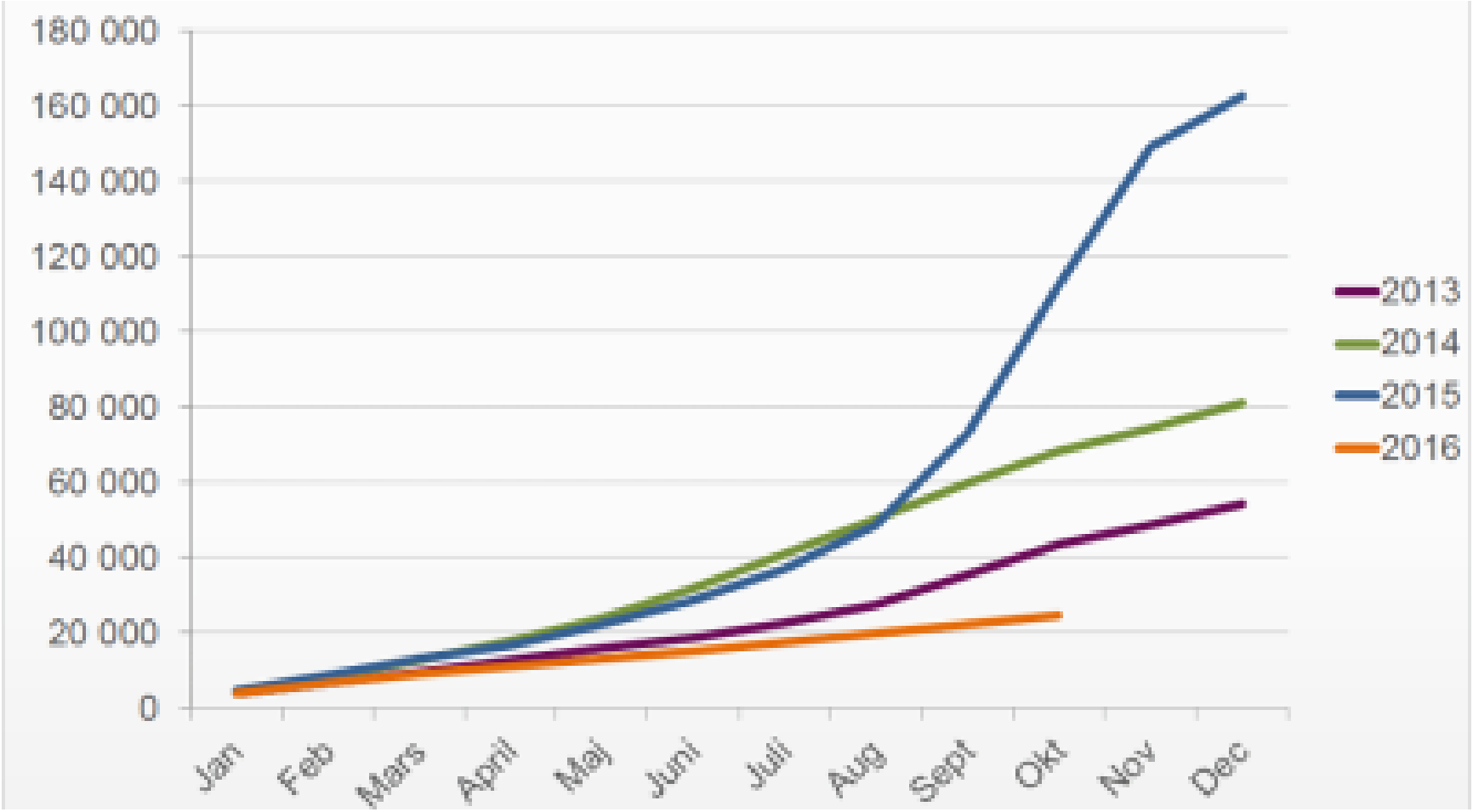
Asylum seekers Sweden 2013–oct 2016 (MB)



Obstacles

- Language /Swedish *and* English
  - Turkish
- Livelihood responsibilities; logistics; discrimination
- Level of education
- Interrupted studies
- Lack of documentation
- Requirement of competence/qualifications
- Attitudes:
  - Newcomers seen in terms of ‘‘deficiencies’’/lack in competence
  - A problem to be ‘solved’/‘managed’

The role of higher education

Worth and value of higher education

- Labour/employment/establishment
  - Complementary education
  - Fast tracks
- Integration in its own right
- Continue interrupted tertiary education or initiate
- Social sciences and humanities: Learning, reflection, independent, analytical, critical thinking
- Democratic global citizens
  - More important than ever!
- Reconstruction
- Hope/social mobility
- Dignity/empowerment

Information/guidance
Language/preparatory courses
Small-scale activities
Eg. attend lectures, Summer School
Collaboration (eg. Employment Agency)
SAR
Integrative internationalisation
Communication in refugee languages
Listen to refugees
Acknowledge competence, resourcefulness and agency
Increase with strategies of euality, inclusion in general terms

Sweden and UGOT

New commissions/tasks

- Validation/recognition of previous education and competence
- Assessment of ‘real competence
  - ”Knowledge that can have been achieved in *other* ways than formal merits’’
- Complementary education (to meet certain requuirements for certain professions)
  - In health care (doctors, nurses, dentists)
  - New ones; biomedical scientists; social workers, economists, psychologists
- Fast tracks
  - Teachers training

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Fast tracks

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Teacher training

- Teachers and preschool teachers
- Employment measure
- Around 30 started in November 2016
- Target group newcomers within establishment process .
- 26 weeks experience and knowledge about how Swedish school system works, training, professional Swedish
- Partly in Arabic

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Information/guidance
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Information meetings

- Twice each semester: information meetings with newly arrived in establishment programmes
- Also asylum seekers
- Interrupted university studies or simply interested
- Together with Employment Agency and Göteborg
- Interpreters
- About higher education (access, eligibility, programs and courses) at UGOT and Chalmers
- Individual guidance offered
- Use different communication channels

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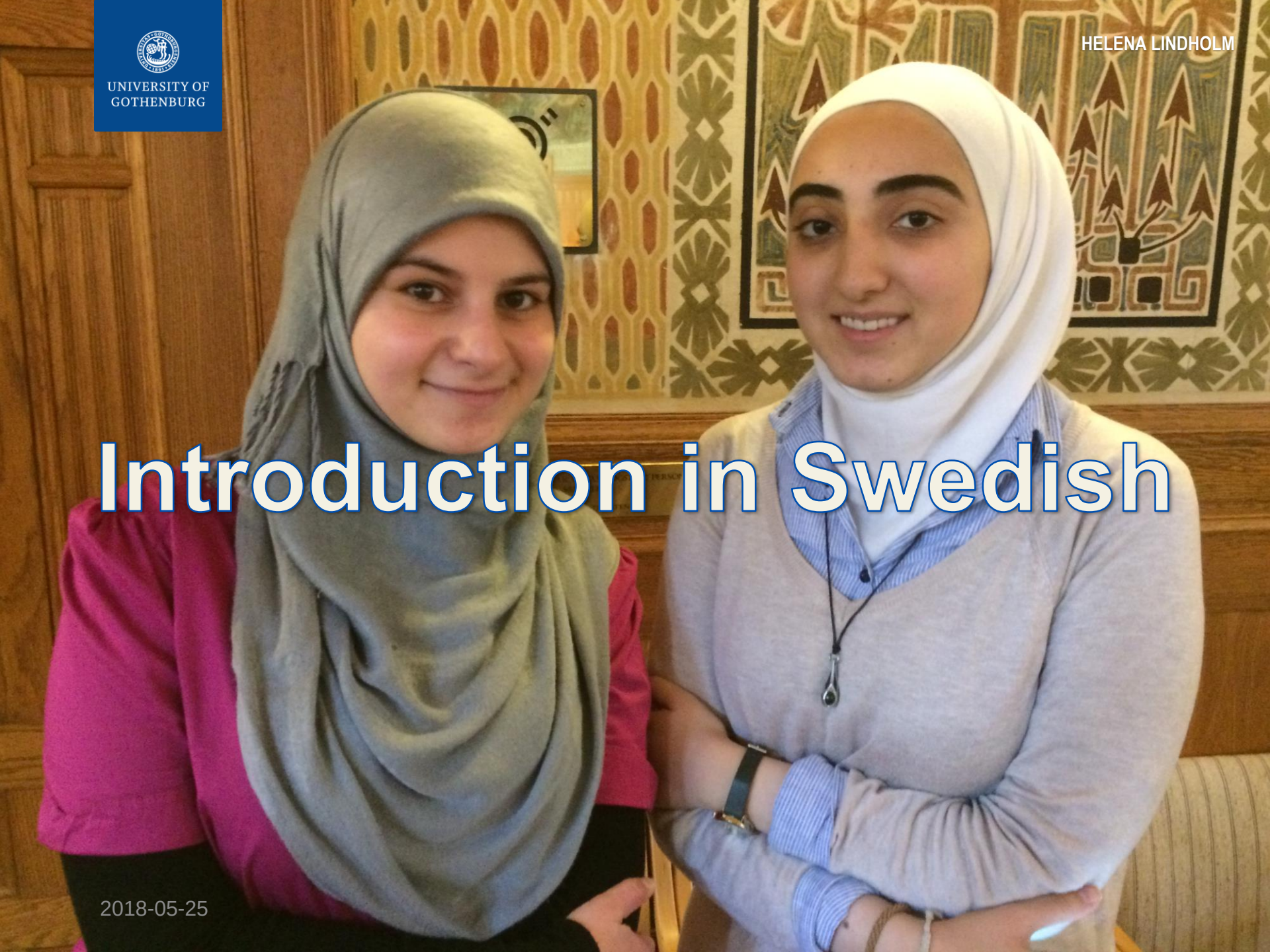
بالجامعة في بلده ولم يستطع
/älkommen
اهلا وسهلا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Introduction in Swedish
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“Behörighetsgivande”

- Swedish Level 3
- Individually adjusted
- Complement to SFI and other options
- Also “academic” and professional Swedish
- Introduction to university studies
- First round starts now 45 students

Internships

Internships

- 100 available
- Both academic and administrative staff
- Together with Employment Agency
- After UGOT: task from the government

‘Integrative internationalisaion’

- With a PhD
- Enrolled with Swedish Employment Agency
- ‘Support programs’
- Academic system in Sweden
- Funding for research
- Publication strategies and opportunities
- CV
- Mentorship

- Summer school
- Mentorship

Most important

- Validation
- Eligibility (preparatory courses/language training)
- Information
- Individual guidance
  - Heterogenous
  - Resourceful/Agency
- Mentorship/support

One way

- Office with guidance, information
- Languages
- Cooperation with National Employment Agencies

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Cooperation
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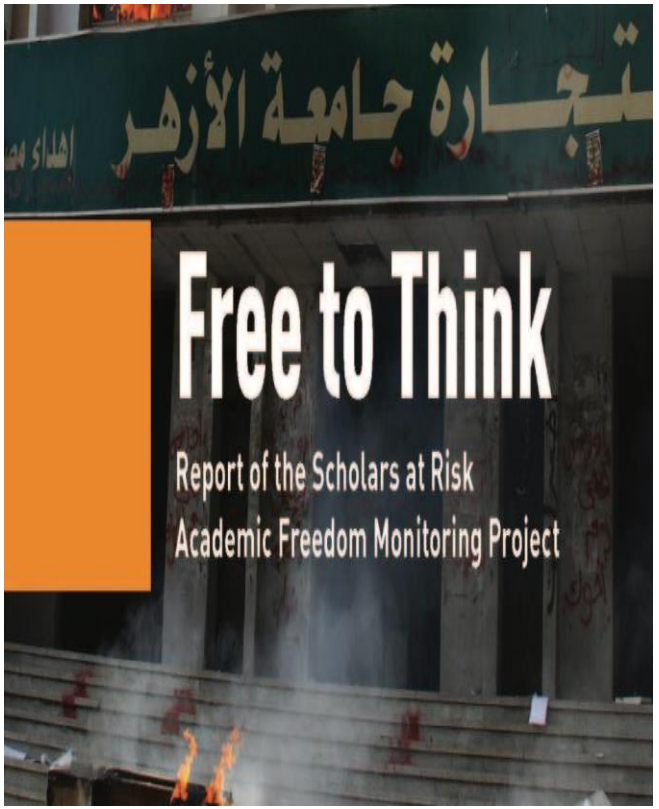
Integrated and strong cooperation

- Västra Götaland region
- Göteborg city
- Göteborgsregionens kommunalförbund
- County Government
- Ideational organisations
- Other universities/colleges in the region

Scholars at risk: international network of universities

- Globally; shrinking space for academic freedom and free speech
- General situations of war and conflict
- Individual threats and risks
- Swedish section: 15 universities
- UGOT National coordinator
- GU 2 +2



“ATTACKS ON UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES ARE OCCURRING WITH ALARMING FREQUENCY,” SAYS ROB QUINN, SAR'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

Jamiya

Needed!

- In Sweden; change of laws and requirements (eg. Temporary residence permits; tuition fees for asylum seekers, preparatory courses)
- Scholarship programs (Students at risk)
- More opportunities for flexible funding and international cooperation in providing educational opportunities at sites where refugees are

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Human history

2018-05-25

Historical process

- Graeme Hugo: ‘‘Migration is an age old pattern, not a crisis’’
- Redan Seneca: ‘‘‘‘Look at this mass of people whom the buildings of huge Rome can scarcely hold. … They have flocked together from their towns and colonies, in fact from the whole world’’
- Zygmunt Bauman: ‘‘We live in a globalising world. That means that all of us, consciously or not, depend on each other’’
- Migration increases with globalisation

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Thank you!

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