Some thoughts and experiences. UB Refugee Support Programme

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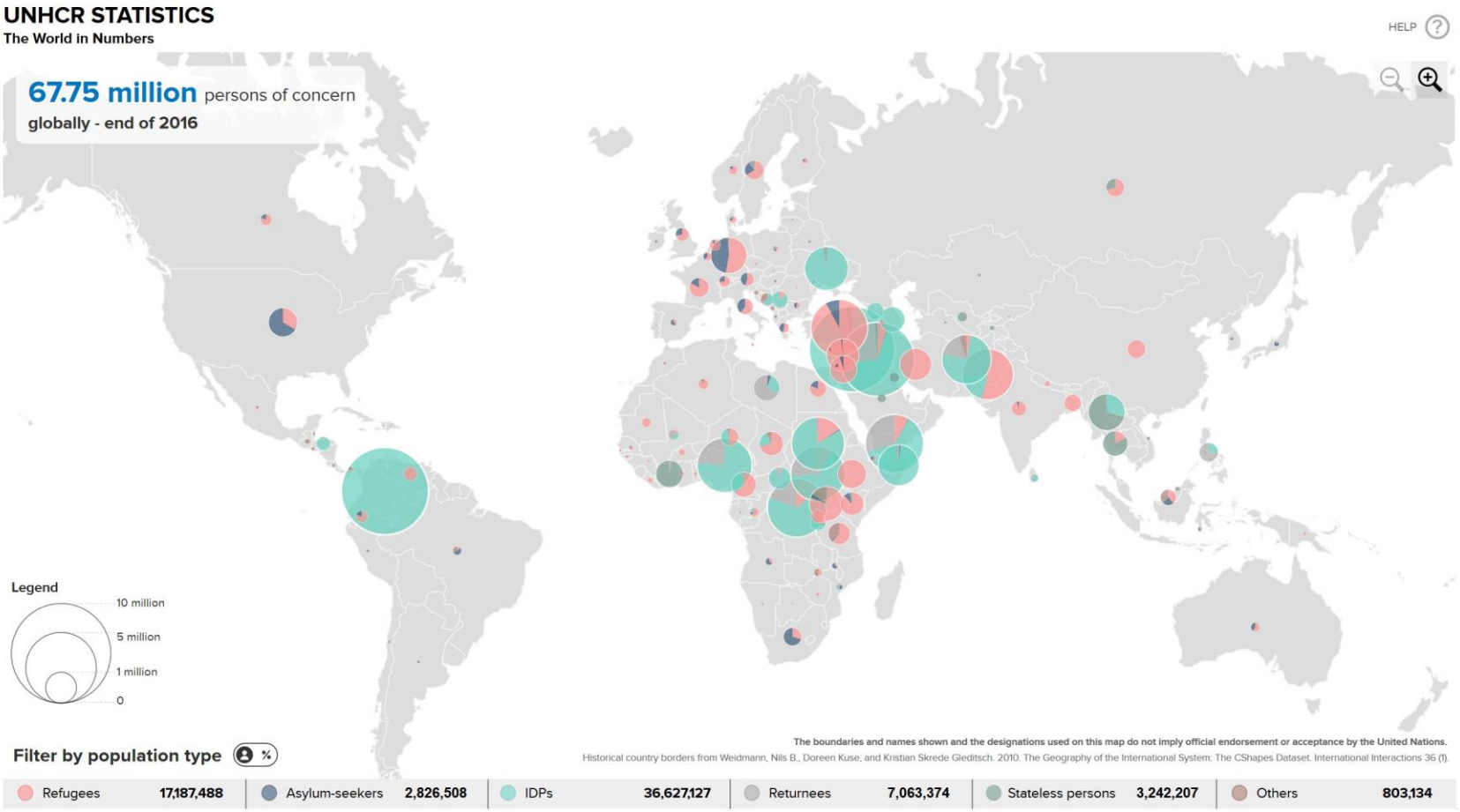
Cati Jerez. InHere UB Technical Director

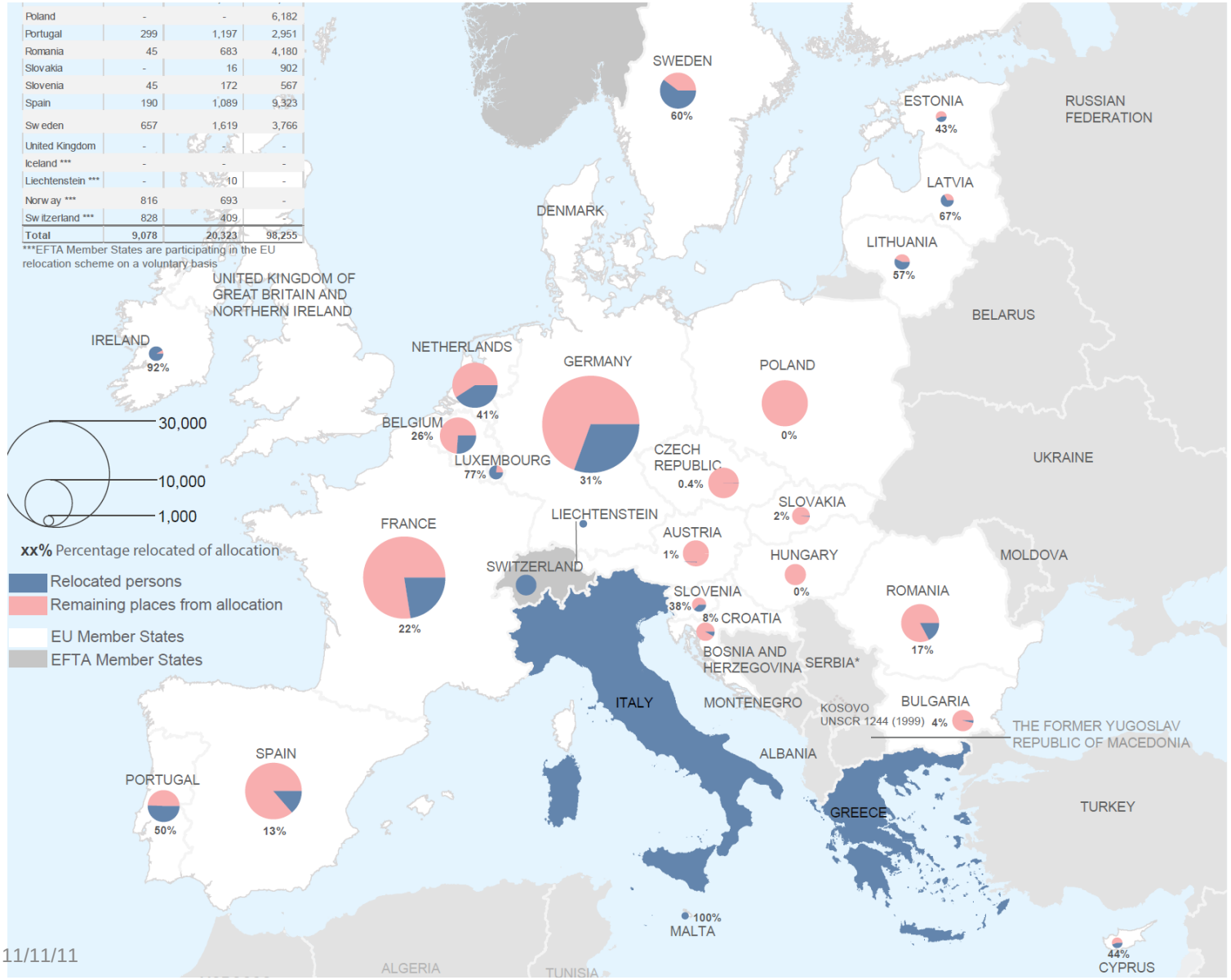
Policy Dialogue Conference
May 2018


UNHCR STATISTICS
The World in Numbers
67.75 million persons of concern
globally - end of 2016
HELP
Legend
10 million
5 million
1 million
0
Filter by population type
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Historical country borders from Weidmann, Nils B., Doreen Kuse, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2010. The Geography of the International System: The CShapes Dataset. International Interactions 36 (1).
Refugees 17,187,488
Asylum-seekers 2,826,508
IDPs 36,627,127
Returnees 7,063,374
Stateless persons 3,242,207
Others 803,134

First challenge. Political will

Poland	-	-	6,182
Portugal	299	1,197	2,951
Romania	45	683	4,180
Slovakia	-	16	902
Slovenia	45	172	567
Spain	190	1,089	9,323
Sweden	657	1,619	3,766
United Kingdom	-	-	-
Iceland ***	-	-	-
Liechtenstein ***	-	10	-
Norway ***	816	693	-
Switzerland ***	828	409	-
Total	9,078	20,323	98,255

***EFTA Member States are participating in the EU relocation scheme on a voluntary basis



Second challenge. Higher Education, Young People and the Present (and the Future as well)

Third challenge. Political (in)stability, limited labour and economic resources

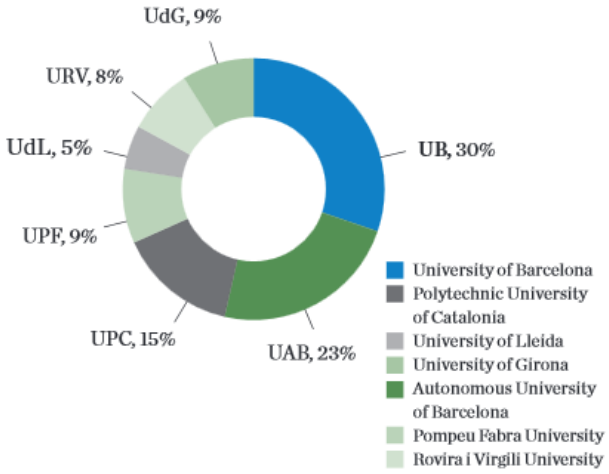
Fourth challenge. Social support to welcome movements and political opportunities

UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

University of Barcelona Refugee Support Programme

University of Barcelona: Facts and figures

Incoming bachelor's degree students in the Catalan public university system (2013-2014)



Students 2013-2014

45,318 bachelor's degree and **pre-EHEA degree/ diploma** students
4,791 university master's degree students
5,387 trainee researchers
9,323 postgraduate students (provisional data)

10,100 bachelor's degree, pre-EHEA degree and university master's degree graduates in 2012-2013 and **675 doctoral theses** read

18 faculties and **1 university school**
106 departments
676,153 m² constructed area
18 libraries
6 affiliated centres (7 during 2014-2015)

5,190 teachers and researchers
254 contracted research doctors
2,352 administrative and service staff

UB Solidarity Foundation

UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

- It is the **cooperation & solidarity organization** of the UB.
- It was **created in 1996** by the UB & Món-3 Foundation.
- It **focuses its work** on:
  - social action and volunteerism,
  - development cooperation,
  - the promotion of peace culture, human rights & democratic memory.
- Its work **consists in**:
  - providing advisory and evaluation services,
  - launching its own projects,
  - collaborating with projects of other institutions and organizations, which involve the mobilization of university community members.
- It exercises UB's social responsibility in the **different environments** in which it is located:
  A. The university community.
  B. Local and national levels (social action).
  C. Internationally (development cooperation).
- Since September 2015, it's **coordinating the UB Refugee support program**.

Lines of action

1. Support to Refugee Students oro students coming from conflict zones

A

- 15 beds per year in universitary residence and 2 flats (CEAR and ACCEM agreement: it represents 12 beds)

- 100 free tuition fees to study degrees, postgraduates, masters. Social Conseil exemption of tuition.
- Access to Spanish courses for foreigners

- Psychosocial care

- Legal advice (CITE and in a short term with the legal clínic of the UB)

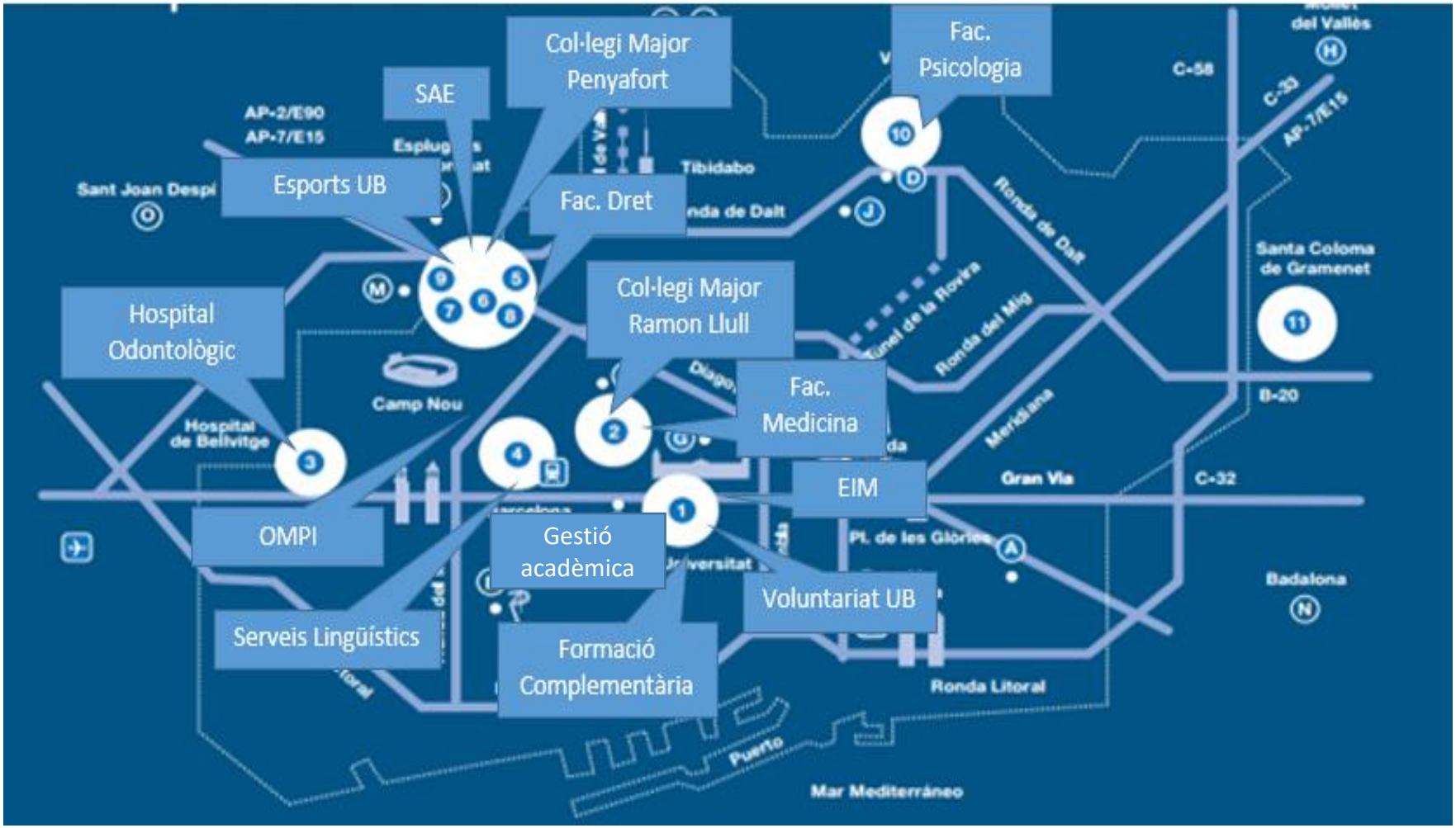
- Health care

2. Transition course to the University

- Main objective: to promote the access to the university . Network
- Official course recognized as university extension course. UB Students
- Duration: 500 hours
- 15 places addressed to students, mainly Syrian, that are leaving in Syria, Lebanon,... That are in a vulnerable situation
- Full scholarship: accommodation, pocket money, free tuition for the course and after (degree, master)
- Cofunded by University of Barcelona and Barcelona City Council
- Buddy program: linguistic exchange and social relations
  - Perspective of Human Rights

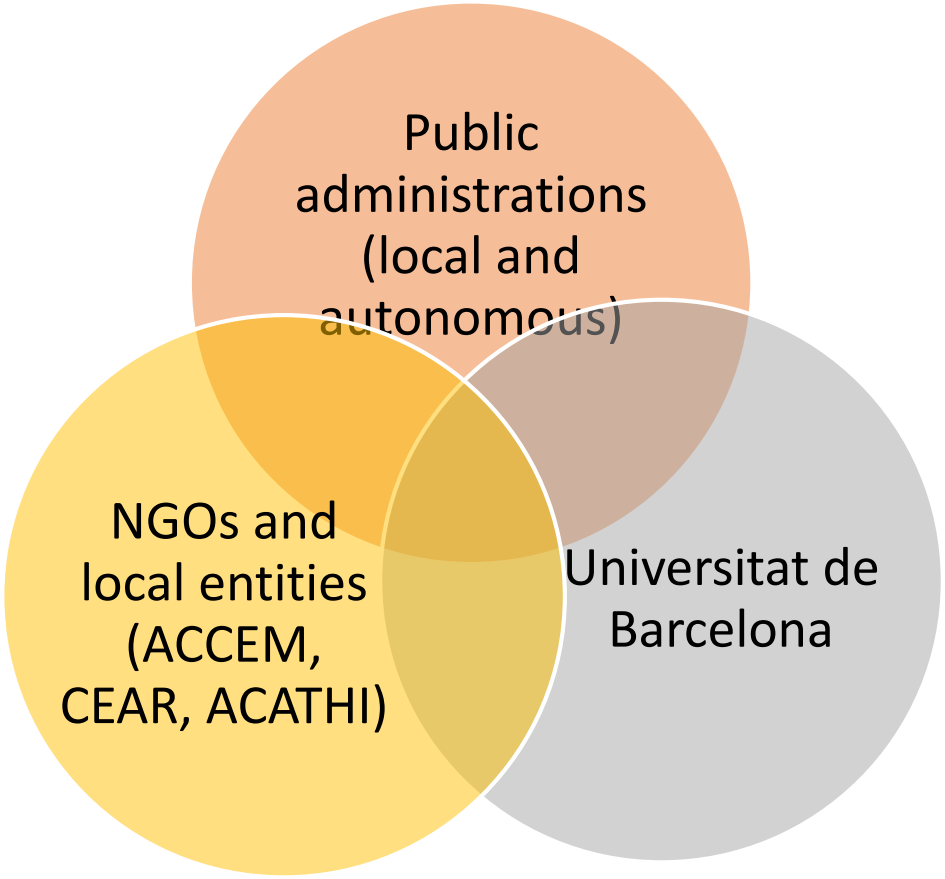
Main characteristics of the UB Refugee Support Program:

- Top – bottom process. Rector's mandate
- Budget
- Resources: Own accommodation
- Professors and Administrative staff are very receptive and collaborative


Col·legi Major Penyafort
SAE
Fac. Psicologia
AP-2/E90
AP-7/E15
Esports UB
Fac. Dret
Tibidabo
Sant Joan Despí
Ronda de Dalt
Hospital Odontològic
Col·legi Major Ramon Llull
Santa Coloma de Gramenet
Camp Nou
Fac. Medicina
Hospital de Bellvitge
Meridiana
Gran Via
EIM
C-32
OMPI
Gestió acadèmica
Pl. de les Glòries
Voluntariat UB
Badalona
Serveis Lingüístics
Formació Complementària
Ronda Litoral
Mar Mediterráneo

Some keys of the work

External network



(1)

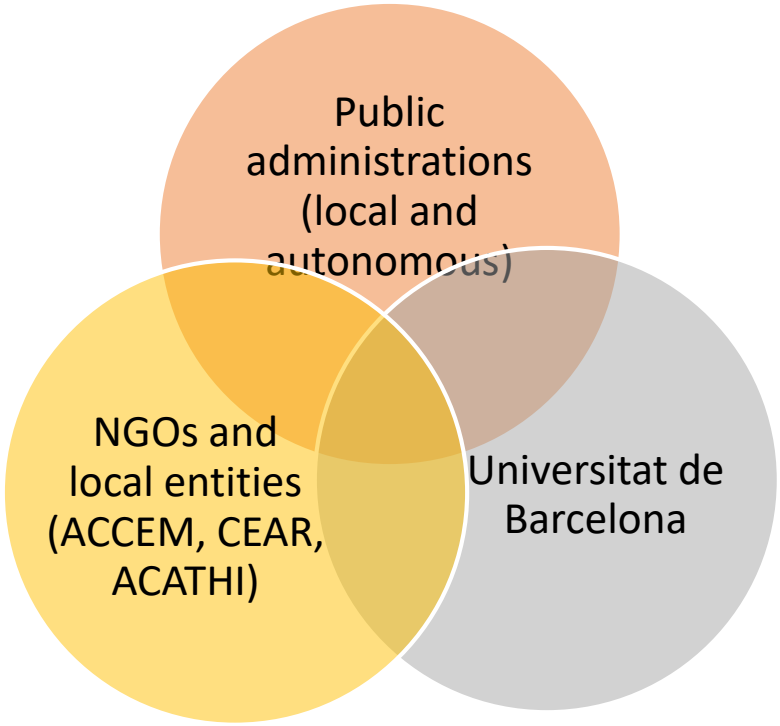
- Challenges (not exhaustive):
  - Visa approvals
  - Renewal of identification cards
  - Emotional and social adaptation
  - Expectations and educational Systems
  - Recognition of studies (PROTOCOL)
  - Changes at the University levels
  - Labour integration

- Recognition and integration measures
  - Protocol approved by the Social Conseil and with the support and engagement of Academic Affairs
  - Holistic approach (during the Transition course and after):
    - Psychosocial support
    - Linguistic support
    - Implementation of the Tutorial Action plan
    - Buddy program
    - Economic support (accommodation+pocket money)
  - Integration in existing programs with specific considerations. We don't want to discover the wheel!

- Institutional support
  - Deep involvement of the vicerectorates and key areas
  - Specific mandate that the UB Solidarity Foundation is developing and coordinating
- Third mission. The UB support program is considered part of the UB third mission
- *Role and responsibilities of the European HEIs:*

  Libertas Perfundet Omnia Luce: Liberty illuminates everything. Liberty means(critic thought and kwnoledge
  - *Classical role: Education, Research*
  - *Modern role: University is a Social agent*
  - *2030 agenda. Objective 4.*

Political and social influence on local authorities, governments and EU bodies



- There is room for discussion and action at local and national levels
- Challenges and sustainability
  - Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development.
    Kofi Annan

Xarxa Vives d'Universitats. Coordinació grup de treball sobre cooperació al desenvolupament
ACUP. Participació en la campanya #UniversitatRefugi
CRUE (Conferència de Rectors de les Universitats Espanyoles)
Espai Social de Ciutat Refugi. Ajuntament de Barcelona
Grup de Coimbra

Thank you!

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