

# What is needed from the policy level to support HEI's actions?



inHERE Policy Dialogue, Paris, 22 May 2018

## The European University Association

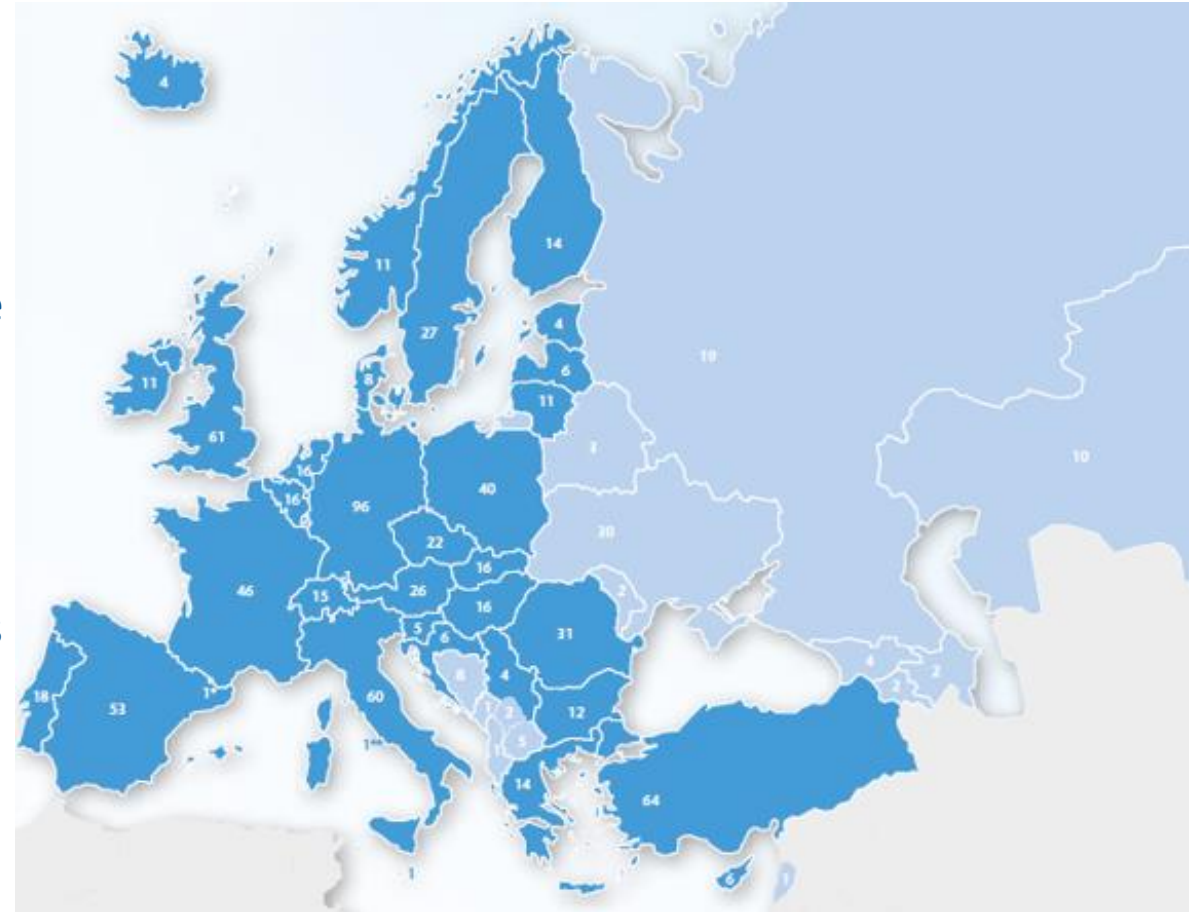
**EUA has about 850 member universities based in 47 countries**

Facilitates dialogue on higher education and research

Represents the interests of the higher education sector

Ensures the voice of universities is heard in EU policy making and in the EHEA

Offers a range of services for our members, including access to the largest and most comprehensive network of European universities, and unique expertise in higher education & research



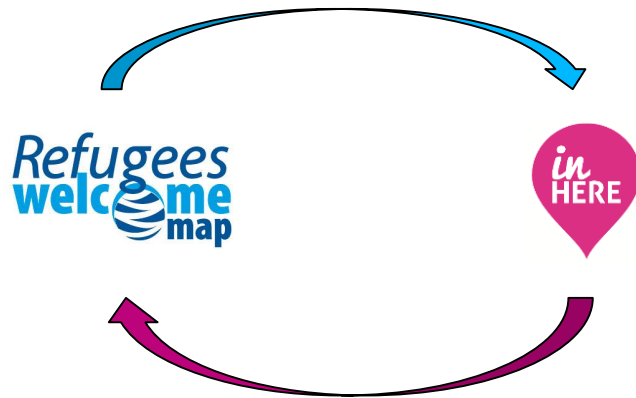
## European Higher Education Institutions Welcoming Refugees



- Clear commitment of the HE sector to refugee integration
- 350 initiatives from 32 countries
- Continuously open for submissions via survey
- Tool for inspiration, peer-learning and collaboration
- Interactive search function



## Good practices



- ✓ Evidence based
- ✓ Practice tested
- ✓ Sustainable
- ✓ Collaborative
- ✓ Transferable
- ✓ Strategic and linked to the university mission

**(-) NOT quantity per sé**



## Continuous challenges

### I. Bridging into HE

## Information gap & outreach

- Opportunities vs. expectations
- Access to HE and student support vs. protection status
- Consultation, counselling and guidance

## Admission requirements

- Language skills
- Study skills
- International student quotas and national exams

## Continuous challenges

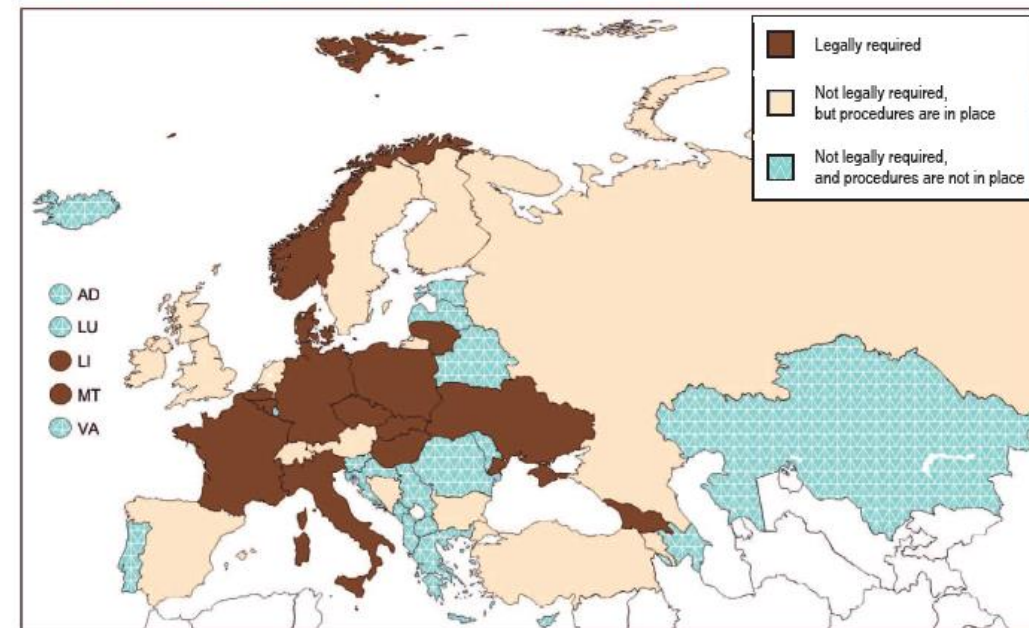
## II. Recognition – Lisbon Recognition Convention

- 2015 EUA survey: number 1 challenge
- 2016 LRC Committee survey: 1/3 of LRC signatories implemented Article VII
- 2017 CoE recommendation as addendum to LRC
- 2018 EHEA Implementation Report: implementation increase

But:

- Cost and waiting times?
- Support to HEI admissions offices?
- New projects and tools – focus on labour market integration?

Figure 4.18: Implementation of Article VII of the LRC at national level, 2016/17



Source: BFUG data collection.



## Continuous challenges

### III. Sustainability of HEI initiatives

#### Institutional level

- Ad-hoc, bottom up initiatives
- Limited links to university mission, strategy, diversity management

#### National/European level

- Project based support with time limitations
  - Limited links to the social dimension of HE
- Funding uncertainty, limitations to scope and long-term planning

## Continious challenges

### IV. Direct support to international talent with refugee status

- Refugees – priority group of E+ since 2015
- Funding largely to projects, no direct support
- EU grant programme to welcome international talent with legal protection status
  - Full degree scholarship/grant programme (Mundus/Marie Curie style)
  - Overheads for HEI to run additional bridging, integration etc. services and activities
  - Pilot with HEI that already host refugee students/researchers



## Summary

### – what is needed?

#### I. Bridging the information gap

Support regional collaboration with municipalities, NGOs, HEIs that foster personalised guidance about HE opportunities (e.g. training of first contact points, buddy systems).

Remove undue barriers (e.g. quotas), enable more flexibility in admissions.

#### II. Recognition

Ensure that the commitments and legal obligations of the LRC are fully met, incl. Art VII.

Foster stronger collaboration between HEI admission offices and the ENIC NARICS. Ensure that new tools do not exclusively focus on labour market integration, but are useful also for admission purposes.

## Summary

– what is needed?

*(continued)*

### III. Sustainability of HEI initiatives

Policymakers should support established HEI initiatives for refugees with long term funding for sustainable upscaling. Linkages to the HEI mission, and overarching diversity strategies should be encouraged.

“Making our systems more inclusive” (Yerevan) and related EHEA commitments should include a focus on refugees and overall be met with policy actions.

### IV. Direct support to international talent with refugee status

A part of the EU funding that is provided for refugee integration should directly support students and researchers, through a dedicated grant/scholarship programme for full degree studies. Overheads for additional HEI services that ensure access and success for refugee students/researchers should be included.

## Links and further information

**Final Conference: 19 September, Brussels.**

**Browse initiatives on EUA's Refugees Welcome Map & submit your own initiative :**

- <http://refugeeswelcomemap.eua.be>

**inHERE Good Practice Catalogue:**

- <https://www.inhereproject.eu/outputs/good-practice-catalogue>

**CoE RECOMMENDATION ON THE RECOGNITION OF REFUGEES' QUALIFICATIONS UNDER THE LRC**

- <https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-on-recognition-of-qualifications-held-by-refugees-displ/16807688a8>

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