

BRiDGE and BRiDGE II projects for Researchers in Danger Going to Europe -- Results --



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Labor Market for Refugees in Europe

- Comparative study migrants in the EU:
- 50% of humanitarian migrants need
 - between five and six years more to integrate into the workplace and
 - as much as 15 years to reach a 70% employment rate
- converging towards the outcomes for labour migrants in the European Union (EU).
- Percentage of highly educated refugees is almost the same, as in the native-born population.

• "Labour market performance of refugees in the EU" (Working paper 1/2017: Analytical support to the Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2016 Review (ESDE 2016) Chapter 3: The Labour Market and Social Integration of Refugees in the EU, European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Unit A.4



Access to the Labor Market for Refugees in Europe

- **Main reasons** for weaker employment prospects for refugees
 - parents' education
 - origin
 - long-residency effects
 - non-observable factors such as legal obstacles,
 - a low recognition of skills and education
 - or discrimination
- **High education and skills**, betters the employment outcome
- The beneficial **impact of education** is still moderate.
 - *“Higher education is hence a necessary, [but] not a sufficient condition for improving the [refugees’] labour market performance”. “[A]dditional skills, especially as the one of **host language knowledge**, but also **supplementary occupational skills** [are suggested] to remove intangible obstacles to labour market access [for refugees]: discrimination and low esteem on existing qualifications”*
- It is also not as high as the **gender effect** should imply, with men chances on employment double as high as for women and an overrepresentation of men in the refugee population.

• “Labour market performance of refugees in the EU” (Working paper 1/2017: Analytical support to the Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2016 Review (ESDE 2016) Chapter 3: The Labour Market

and Social Integration of Refugees in the EU, European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Unit A.4



Access to the Labor Market for Refugees in Germany

- 35% of asylum seekers in Germany have an employment.
- 13% of asylum seekers in Germany mentioned to have an academic degree.
- 6% of the refugees in Germany used to be civil servants and
- 13% used to have a leading position as an employee.
- Only 2% have reached a leading position in Germany,
- 0% is working for the state.

• IAB-BAMF-SOEP Befragung von Geflüchteten 2017 and 2019



BRIDGE - „Bridge for Researchers in Danger Going to Europe“

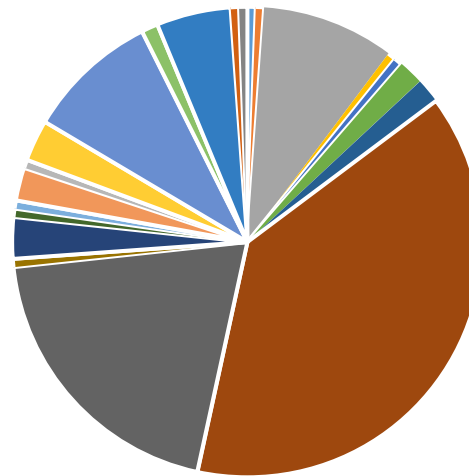
- TOPIC: **Science4Refugees** - Support to highly skilled refugee scientists, Topic identifier: H2020, SwafS-26-2017
- 2 year project, 15/15 score
- April 2018-March 2020
- 7 participants
 - **Bielefeld University, Germany (coordinator):**
 - Welcome Centre, EURAXESS Contact Point (coordinator)
 - Vice Rector for International Affairs and Diversity
 - Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence
 - Media Pedagogy Laboratory
 - Refugees Clearing Office
 - Lehrkräfte Plus Program for Refugee Teachers
 - Research College on Refugee Health, FlüGE
 - ETH Zürich, Switzerland
 - Sofia University, Bulgaria
 - The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey in Ankara
 - Centre for Research and Technology Hellas, Greece
 - National Center of Social Research, Greece
 - Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy, Greece



BRiDGE Results

More than 250 highly skilled refugee researchers located in 21 countries in Europe and the Middle East benefited directly from the project, through mentoring or training.

Country of residence



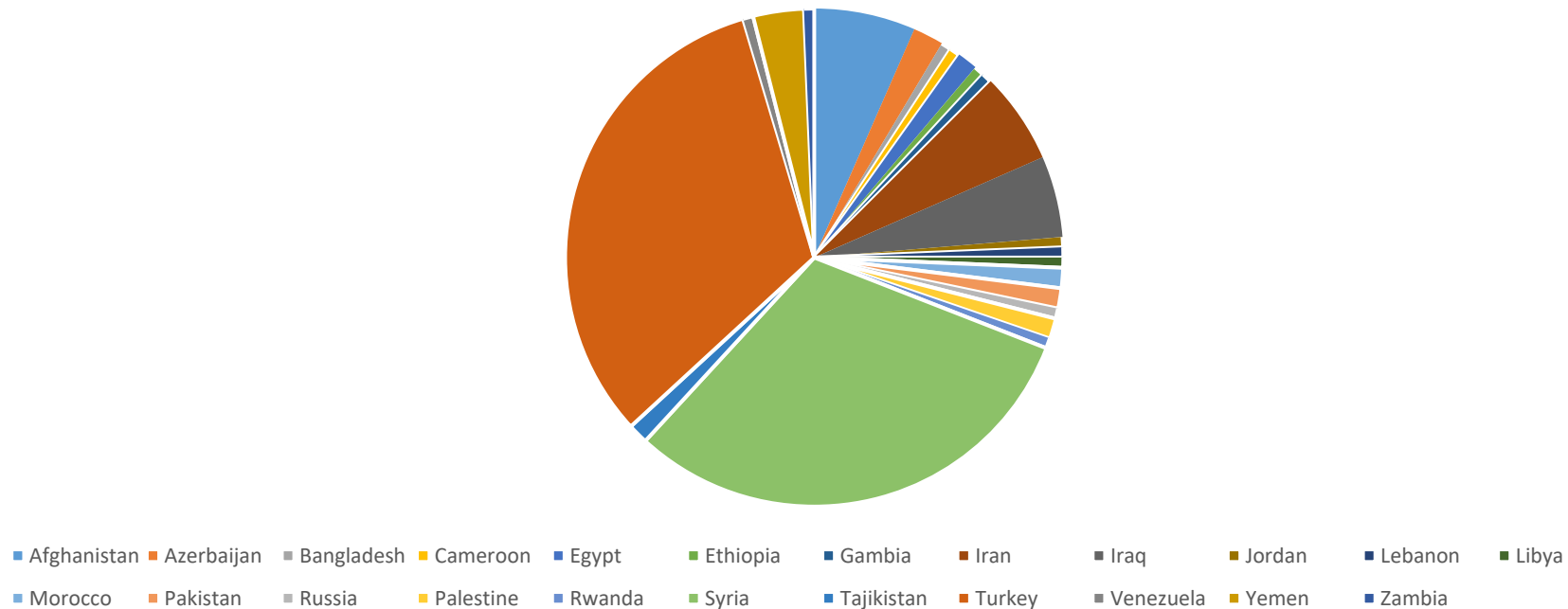
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Ireland
- Italy
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Netherlands/Sweden
- Norway
- Spain
- Sweden
- Syria
- Turkey
- Malta
- Poland



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Country of origin



BRiDGE Results

The project attracted highest training rates of 104 RRs and 33 non-academic mentors throughout the two project years.

80 academic mentors throughout Europe were involved in several actions.

High synergy and cooperation was developed in more than 50 knowledge exchange occasions with stakeholders across Europe and the Middle East.



BRIDGE Survey March 2020

224 refugee researchers across Europe shed light to their circumstances and needs.

They have predominantly studied engineering / technology, mathematics and natural sciences, or are graduates of business and economic schools. Their educational level is deemed high, since four out of ten have PhD diplomas, and one in three holds a Master's degree. Seven out of ten can speak the language of the host society, while almost half are proficient in the use of English. Six out of ten are employed, and are, in their majority, satisfied with their present job. Additionally, six out of ten state that their present job corresponds to their qualifications. They argue that the main issue that hinders their chances in the labour market is their command of the host society's language; they argue that they need training in language skills, in order to increase their career chances. They have used the services of employment / career advisory centres more than educational advisory centres, in order to inform themselves or to get access to education or the job market. Finally, more than half state that they have a senior researcher or professor acting as an academic mentor, to guide them in their career. The most important things they can learn from their mentor are planning for research proposals, searching for funding opportunities, and understanding the working culture, rules and regulations of the host academic job market.



BRiDGE Videohandbook 2019

4 Refugee Researchers from 4 countries of Asia and 4 mentors from Germany and Greece talk about their perspectives and challenges in coming together in a mentor-mentee work relationship

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyEkQEJ3RERBhGz1HjZsodA>

Produced between 11.2018-10.2019 in Bielefeld and Lesvos, total ca. 2 hours



BRIDGE Policy Advice

Future projects are advised to focus more on suitable formats for sustainable involvement and training of academic mentors.

For a long term integration of RR in the job market is the knowledge of the host country language, as the feedback of the refugee researchers themselves in the project representative survey suggest. Therefore, policy makers are advised to intensify in the EU countries the possibilities and funding in this area of action.

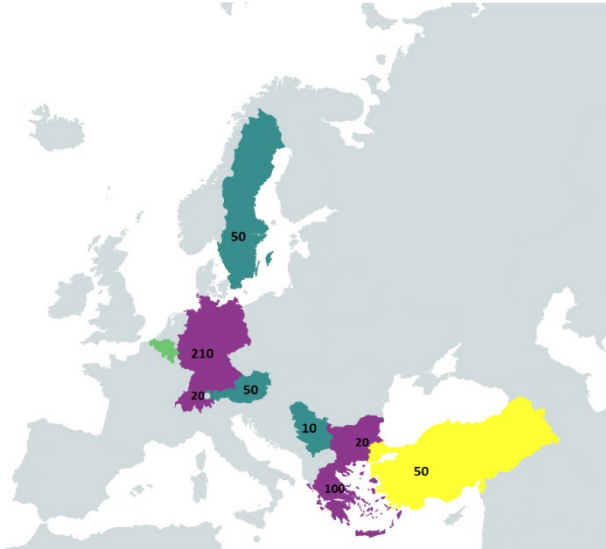
For the elaborated career services for refugee researchers follow up projects is needed, in order to train and educate professionals in academia, such as EURAXESS in order to undertake this work additionally to their existing portfolio. Fast changes in legal conditions and professional services and networks need constant attention, work and structural funding, in order to the career advisers be set up to date.



Bridge for Researchers in Danger Going to Europe Step II

- TOPIC: **Science4Refugees** - Support to highly skilled refugee scientists, Topic identifier: H2020, SwafS-06-2018
- 2 years project, 14,5/15 score
- Dec 2018 – November 2020
- 8 participants
 - Bielefeld University, Germany (coordinator)
 - University of Gothenburg, Sweden
 - ETH Zurich, Switzerland
 - Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research, Austria
 - Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Niš, Serbia
 - Sofia University, Bulgaria
 - Centre for Research & Technology, Hellas, Greece
 - University of the Aegean, Greece
- 2 third parties
 - Marie Curie Alumni Association
 - German Syrian Research Society





„Bridge“ baut geflüchteten Forschern Brücke nach Europa

Unsere Beholdung ist mit der Zeit zu Ende. Wir werden aufpassen, in welche Richtung der weitere Weg gehen werden. Ich würde aber lieber nicht wissen, was der nächste Schritt sein könnte. Die Idee ist, dass wir die nächsten Schritte mit den geflüchteten Forschern machen wollen. Das ist ein Prozess, der sich über einen längeren Zeitraum erstreckt. Wir werden sehen, wie es sich entwickelt. Die Idee ist, dass wir die nächsten Schritte mit den geflüchteten Forschern machen wollen. Das ist ein Prozess, der sich über einen längeren Zeitraum erstreckt. Wir werden sehen, wie es sich entwickelt.



Hintergrund

Die Abteilung „Bridge“ wird für „Bridges for Researchers in Europe“ gegründet. Das Projekt wird von der EU-Kommission mit 210 Millionen Euro gefördert und ist ein Schritt auf dem Weg zu einer europäischen Wissenschaftler-Plattform. Die Idee ist, dass wir die nächsten Schritte mit den geflüchteten Forschern machen wollen. Das ist ein Prozess, der sich über einen längeren Zeitraum erstreckt. Wir werden sehen, wie es sich entwickelt.



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Questions?



**Thank you for your
attention!**

