

# REFUGEE EDUCATION: SHARING EXPERIENCES

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*UNESCO Chair in Cultural Diplomacy, Governance and Education*

*UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Peace*



# UNESCO Chairs at Istanbul Aydın University

## UNESCO CHAIR IN CULTURAL DIPLOMACY, GOVERNANCE AND EDUCATION (2014)

- Supporting and enhancing intercultural relations to contribute global peace and stability
- Achieving sustainable development goals through research, capacity building and education

## UNESCO CHAIR ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE (2016)

- Contributing to peace at national, regional and international level
  - Peace education programs
  - Conflict resolution
  - Mediation training programs

# Education & Training Programs for Syrian Refugees at IAU

**WHY REFUGEE EDUCATION? --- UN Sustainable Development Goal 4**

## **Turkey**

- 2.7 million Syrians under temporary protection in Turkey
- ≈3.5 million registered and unregistered refugees in Turkey

## **Istanbul Aydın University**

- 4059 International students
- 417 Syrian students
- The main campus of Istanbul Aydın University is at Küçükçekmece District
  - One of the most refugee-populated district in Istanbul
  - 38.278 Syrian refugees / 540.000 Syrian refugees in Istanbul

# Education & Training Programs for Syrian Refugees at IAU

- **ASPIRE Refugee Project at Columbia University, School of Social Work**
  - Traumas of service givers to Syrian refugees
- **RESCUE Project**
  - Co-funded under Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education
  - Coordinated by UNIMED, 6 partners from Europe, 8 partners from Southern Mediterranean Countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq)
  - Creating ad hoc units (Refugee Student Operational Support Unit)
- **Turkish Language Training Projects**
  - Turkish Language Training for 600 Syrian youth under temporary protection between ages 15-18
  - Turkish language training for 100 young Syrians in Hatay and Osmaniye
  - Turkish language training to 50 Syrian housewives

# Education & Training Programs for Syrian Refugees at IAU

- **Vocational Trainings**

- Hairdressing training courses for 40 Syrian refugees
- Graphic design training for 25 Syrian refugees

- **Blended Vocational Certificate Program**

- Cooperation with KIRON Open Higher Education
- Blended certificate program with online-offline modules in Business Administration to improve vocational skills of Syrian refugees

# Education & Training Programs for Syrian Refugees at IAU

- **Syrian Teachers' In-service Training Project by IAU Faculty of Education**
  - to contribute Syrian teachers' professional development and help them to adapt to Turkish educational system
  - 82 percent of all Syrian teachers working in Istanbul
  - 52 hours theoretical and practical lessons from 7 modules to develop their pedagogical and content knowledge.
- **IAU Peer Mentoring Program**
  - Peer mentoring for supporting students academic and social development
  - Study Groups
  - English speaking club

# Challenges

- Legal status of refugees
  - Turkey: temporary protection status
- Prejudices/perceptions of local people + teachers, students, students' families
  - Sharing resources --- employability, amount of house rents, medical care, etc...
  - Cultural differences
- Language barrier
- Lack of academic and career counseling
  - Study what??? For what???
  - 86% of the world's refugees ----- in developing regions where the governments are already struggling to educate their own people

# THANK YOU



**ISTANBUL AYDIN  
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