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INAUGURAL NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE

Higher Education & Refugees from Syria
Exploring Dialogue Opportunities

Thursday, April 6, 2017

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NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUES

Six years into the Syrian crisis, millions of Syrians have fled their country finding refuge in the neighbouring countries. Amongst them, only a small number of post-secondary age students are currently enrolled in a university program, and the majority of those are struggling to adapt to the academic system of the host countries.

One of the various measures taken by local and international stakeholders in the countries affected by the crisis has been the identification of challenges faced by the students from Syria, which include language barriers, missing or invalid documentation of previous academic achievements, lack of legal residency and limited academic and employment prospects.

Within this context, what are the opportunities to be explored and the approaches to be developed in order to better meet the needs of these students and of the hosting higher education institutions?

HOPES Inaugural National Stakeholders Dialogues

The project **HOPES (Higher and Further Education Opportunities and Perspectives for Syrians)** is launching a series of National Stakeholders Dialogues across Egypt, Northern Iraq (KRI), Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, bringing together representatives from ministries and higher education institutions as well as key institutional stakeholders involved in tertiary education and the Syria crisis.

HOPES is a €12 million project funded by the European Union's Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis, the 'Madad Fund'. It is being implemented by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the British Council, Campus France and EP-Nuffic across Egypt, Northern Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

It aims at significantly improving the situation of refugees of post-secondary age from Syria and young people in host communities affected by the high influx of refugees by directly addressing their educational needs. (For more information on the project please visit www.hopes-madad.org; for specific country information please write to lebanon@hopes-madad.org)

The National Stakeholders Dialogues seek to provide a platform to discuss various issues relating to: recognition of prior learning, language proficiency, facilitated administrative procedures for Syrian students, employability and prospects for a better-trained youth and the impact of the Syria crisis on the host societies.

Information exchange and discussion will allow for the development and expansion of sustainable solutions for higher education challenges and a greater coordination of national education initiatives for hosting Syrian students.

The inaugural National Stakeholder Dialogue, taking place on April 6, 2017 in Lebanon, shall be dedicated to needs analysis. It will explore which actors should join the dialogue, which subjects should be tackled and which mechanisms should be developed to guarantee the greatest possible impact and sustainability.

PROGRAMME

April 6, 2017

- 9:30 - 10:00 Registration
- 10:00 - 10:30 Welcome Addresses
Introduction to HOPES and to the National Stakeholder Dialogue
- 10:30 - 11:45 **1.Higher Education and Refugees from Syria: Overview of the situation, challenges and various responses – mapping of results**
Presentation from
- a) Governmental perspective
 - b) International response
 - c) Higher education institutions
 - d) Representative from Tertiary Coordination Committee
- 11:45 - 12:15 Coffee break and networking
- 12:15 - 13:30 **2. Higher Education and Refugees from Syria: exploring dialogue opportunities on a national level**
Identification of potential measures towards sustainable solutions
Needs assessment and requisites for a standing exchange
Initial roadmap for further development
Follow up and closing remarks
- 13:30 - 14:00 Lunch