

Press release

Attention: news desks/science and education correspondents

For immediate release

Brussels, 29 February 2016

EUA presents Refugees Welcome Map

As Europe struggles with the question of how to deal with the refugee crisis, the European University Association (EUA) has launched the [Refugees Welcome Map](#). The purpose is to demonstrate in an interactive way how the higher education sector is supporting refugee students, academics and university staff.

The Welcome Map, presented on 29 February 2016, currently contains data on more than 100 initiatives, ranging from universities' efforts in supporting refugees at local reception centres, to the organisation of cultural and integration activities. It also shows how universities are offering bridging and language courses and access to information on employment and study opportunities.

"This immediate response to an emergency situation proves that Europe's universities are able to rise to the challenge with solutions that matter," says Michael Gaebel, EUA Higher Education Policy Unit Director. "Access to higher education can be key in integrating refugees who had to leave their home institutions. Staff can continue to work and, by gaining qualifications, students and prospective students will find better jobs and build a better future for themselves. Furthermore, a qualified person enjoys more social mobility, and would also be in a much better position to return back home one day."

Higher education institutions in almost every European country are responding. By showcasing the initiatives, EUA hopes they might serve as examples to others and that the Welcome Map might facilitate partnerships, as it is designed to put users in direct exchange with the institutions and organisations.

Even though the map has been launched, EUA will continuously update it with new data as the survey will remain open for input from institutions and organisations in Europe, and also from other countries.

EUA will also host a webinar on 23 March 2016 at 14.00 with some of the contributors to discuss the initial findings of the map. In addition, the Third Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education will be held on 25-27 May 2016. Further information can be found on [EUA's events webpage](#).

Notes:

To browse the EUA Refugees Welcome Map, [please click here](#).

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The European University Association (EUA) is the representative organisation of more than 800 universities in 47 European countries and 36 national rectors' conferences (NRCs). The Council of EUA is comprised of the President, the members of the Board, and of the presidents of all of Europe's NRCs. EUA works closely with its members to ensure that the voice of European universities is heard.