

Higher Education for refugees: A necessity, not a luxury!

side-event to the Brussels Conference: “Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region”

When? Thursday, 28 April 2022, 15:00 – 16:30 CEST Where? Online (Zoom)

Background: Conflicts worldwide and especially the war in Syria are becoming more protracted. Therefore, every humanitarian relief effort for refugees should include a higher education component. Early intervention on higher education provides youth with a concrete pathway for their personal and professional development and prevents a ‘lost generation’. Subsequently they can contribute to the societies and economies of the host country. The side-event, divided in two parts, will seek to underline this importance of higher education during and post conflict. The first part will provide an opportunity to listen to beneficiaries of programmes on higher (vocational) education. For this, a student life-cycle approach will be used: from pupils studying in a refugee camp, to current refugee and host community scholarship holders enrolled in higher education institutions and finally to recent graduates, who are giving back to the host community through their establishment of small businesses. In the second part, stakeholders including EU representatives, representatives of governments / universities from Middle East, EU member states representatives and international organisations will reflect upon the key messages of the beneficiaries and outline possible next steps for higher education support programmes in the Syrian crisis. This event aims to share lessons learned in different hosting communities to support refugees in their education pathway.

Agenda

15:00-15:10	Setting the scene – higher education support for refugees from Syria
15:10-15:40	The voice of the beneficiaries: Syrian youth’s journey
Part 1	Video presentation depicting refugee high school students in Jordan Ms Salwa Moslem – Syrian refugee student who studied in Lebanon Ms Nowar Rahmouni – Alumna from EU funded programme in Lebanon who started her own business
15:40-16:25	Panel discussion with key decision makers
Part 2	Prof Wajih Owais – Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research of Jordan Mr Axel Leisenberg – Policy Officer EU and International Cooperation from the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation Mr Stefan Delfs – Head of the Division for International Science Policy in the German Federal Foreign Office Ms Corinne André – Head of Cooperation in Delegation of the European Union to Jordan
16:25-16:30	Closing remarks