

Team Europe for Higher Education in Emergencies: A student perspective

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst

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Russo-Ukrainian War of 2022 (Pre-War)

- **Pre-War points -**
- Digitalisation of processes and information
- Staff basic medical training, perfecting evacuation instructions
- Cyberprotection of online learning platforms
- Maintenance on emergency shelters in HEIs and dormitories

Russo-Ukrainian War of 2022 (First stage)

- Evacuation and relocation of students and, sometimes, staff
- Relocation of materiel and HEIs infrastructure
- Organisation of study process
- Relocation of records
- HEIs readiness to accept students from other institutions

Russo-Ukrainian War of 2022 (Present day)

- Quality of education
- Support for HEIs, staff and students
- Organising the enrollment campaign
- Organising a strategy of communication between the state and institutions

2020-2021: the Belarusian and Afghan crises

- 2020: After the Belarusian presidential elections, at least 600 students received some form of penalty due to their activism (including arrests);
- 2021: Taliban takeover in Afghanistan led many people to flee the country, including students;
- EU4Belarus-SALT: programme of scholarships to study in Latvia, Lithuania, Czechia or Poland;
- Global Campus on Human Rights: scholarships for Afghan scholars and students at risk for the academic year 2021/2022;
- Not a prompt response, and disfunctions in size, funding certainty and bureaucratic procedures.

A European coordination point for HE in emergencies

- A holistic approach is needed: **coordination framework** with national authorities, NGOs, stakeholders, UN agencies, organised by the EU institutions;
- **HE is not compulsory education**, risks otherwise to be overlooked;
- Tension: **we cannot 're-invent the wheel'** at each emergency, but an organisational structure in stand-by for long periods is inefficient and might prove ineffective

The proposal for an EU 'Students at Risk' scheme

- Several stakeholders organisations (including ESU, SAR, EUA, DAAD, NAWA, HK-dir) calling for the **establishment of an EU 'Students at Risk' scheme**;
- Based on the experience of the **Norwegian** '[Students At Risk](#)' programme and the **German** '[Hilde Domin](#)' programme for students facing political repression in their countries;
- **EU programme**: single entry point and coordination for the national schemes, co-funding of the scholarships;
- Nominations from Higher Education Institutions and student unions;
- '**Student track**' and '**refugee track**'

Combining the two proposals

- Create a **sub-unit** within the administration of the possible **Students At Risk programme**, e.g. under the 'refugee track';
- The sub-unit would be activated in cases of humanitarian crises, and would **coordinate a pre-established network of actors**, including UNHCR, UNESCO, Member States, NGOs, stakeholders;
- Coordination with the EU Emergency Response Coordination Centre (**EU Civil Protection Mechanism**);
- A global Europe approach: **global actors to be included as a contact point** to reach to the actors in the affected region (e.g. the Global Student Forum);
- Promote the creation of **similar structures at the national level**.

Thank you for your attention!

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