

Regional EU Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis - Further and higher education programme for vulnerable Syrian youth

HOPES - Higher and Further Education Opportunities and Perspectives for Syrians

Delivering Higher Education to Syrian Refugees in the MENA region and Turkey

Brussels, 12 May 2016

DAAD

 **BRITISH COUNCIL**

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Introduction

- 11 million displaced and 300,000 killed Syrians
- 4,835,909 registered refugees in the region (2 May 2016)
- 972,012 asylum seekers in Europe (between Apr 2011 and Feb 2016)
- Ca. 500,000 of university age (18-22)
- Very low ratio of enrollment (25% compared with pre-war Syria)
- “Future in the balance” (NRC)



Obstacles to Higher Education for Syrian refugees

- Information on university systems and available opportunities
- Acceptance of previous educational achievements
- Financial burden (tuition fees etc.)
- Legal aspects
- Lack of awareness/understanding and suitable academic and social offers
- Language barriers; lack of adequate academic preparation
- Trauma & mental stress

The logo for DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) features the letters 'DAAD' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. To the left of the text is a stylized orange graphic of a globe or a map.The logo for the British Council consists of four blue circles arranged in a 2x2 grid to the left of the words 'BRITISH COUNCIL' in a blue, sans-serif font.The logo for Campus France features the words 'CAMPUS FRANCE' in a black, sans-serif font above the website address 'campusfrance.org' in red. To the right is a blue and red geometric logo consisting of a triangle of smaller triangles.The logo for ep nuffic features a circular emblem with the letters 'ep' in white on a background of green, blue, and red. To the right of the emblem is the word 'nuffic' in white on an orange background. Below the logo is the text 'internationalising education' in a small, black, sans-serif font.

A European Response: HOPES - *Higher and Further Education Opportunities and Perspectives for Syrians*

4 partners, 4 work packages

***Education Counselling
and Scholarship Fund***

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***Calls for Proposals for
Short Projects***

EP-NUFFIC

***Higher Education
English Access
Programme (HEEAP)***

British Council

***Stakeholder Dialogue,
Networks and
Information Tools***

Campus France



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European Union

EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the 'Madad Fund'

WP 1: Education Counselling & Scholarship Fund

■ Syria Education Desks

- Individual counselling and personal advice in all five countries of the action

■ Establishment of Scholarship Fund

- Full scholarships (tuition fees & living allowance)
- Undergraduate & graduates studies; all disciplines eligible
- Ongoing assistance by Syria Education Desks
- Open to vulnerable youth from host communities

■ Strategic partnerships

- Coordination, if possible harmonization with existing initiatives; cooperation with experienced partners (UNHCR, YTB, GJU) in order to avoid irritation and competition and to optimize results



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WP 2: The Higher Education English Access Programme (HEEAP)

The need for English in Higher Education

- *Lebanon: Most Syrians lack English proficiency and this limits their choices and forces them to join faculties that only use Arabic*
- *Turkey: A lack of English is a major barrier to the refugee students with numerous university departments teaching exclusively in English*
- *Jordan: English proficiency is a requirement for entry into all Bachelors and Masters programmes*
- *Egypt: Egyptian students study English from grade 3 compared to Syrian students who start at grade 6 ... (For) many university subjects, English proficiency is used as selection criteria at enrolment*

(British Council research)



WP 2: The Higher Education English Access Programme (HEEAP)

HEEAP English Access Programme:

- Outreach 4,000 people over four years in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey
- English programmes to be set up with partner universities in each country
- English Access Programme Coordinator in each country - link between Education Officers, Universities and the British Council
- Courses tailored to the context of each country and education system



WP 2: The Higher Education English Access Programme (HEEAP)

Different groups needing academic English support to be identified in each country, e.g.

- Currently enrolled students needing English support
- Syrian academics needing enhanced English skills
- Potential HE students lacking necessary English skills

English programme components

- Assessment - the Aptis test
- Online course focusing on academic English of English for employability
- Teacher training for partner universities on blended learning



WP 3: Calls for Proposals for Short Projects

■ Call for Proposals (CfP)

- Design and manage CfP for local stakeholders in the whole target region to implement short projects.
- Focus on credit-based short courses as well as on flexible, creative learning interventions

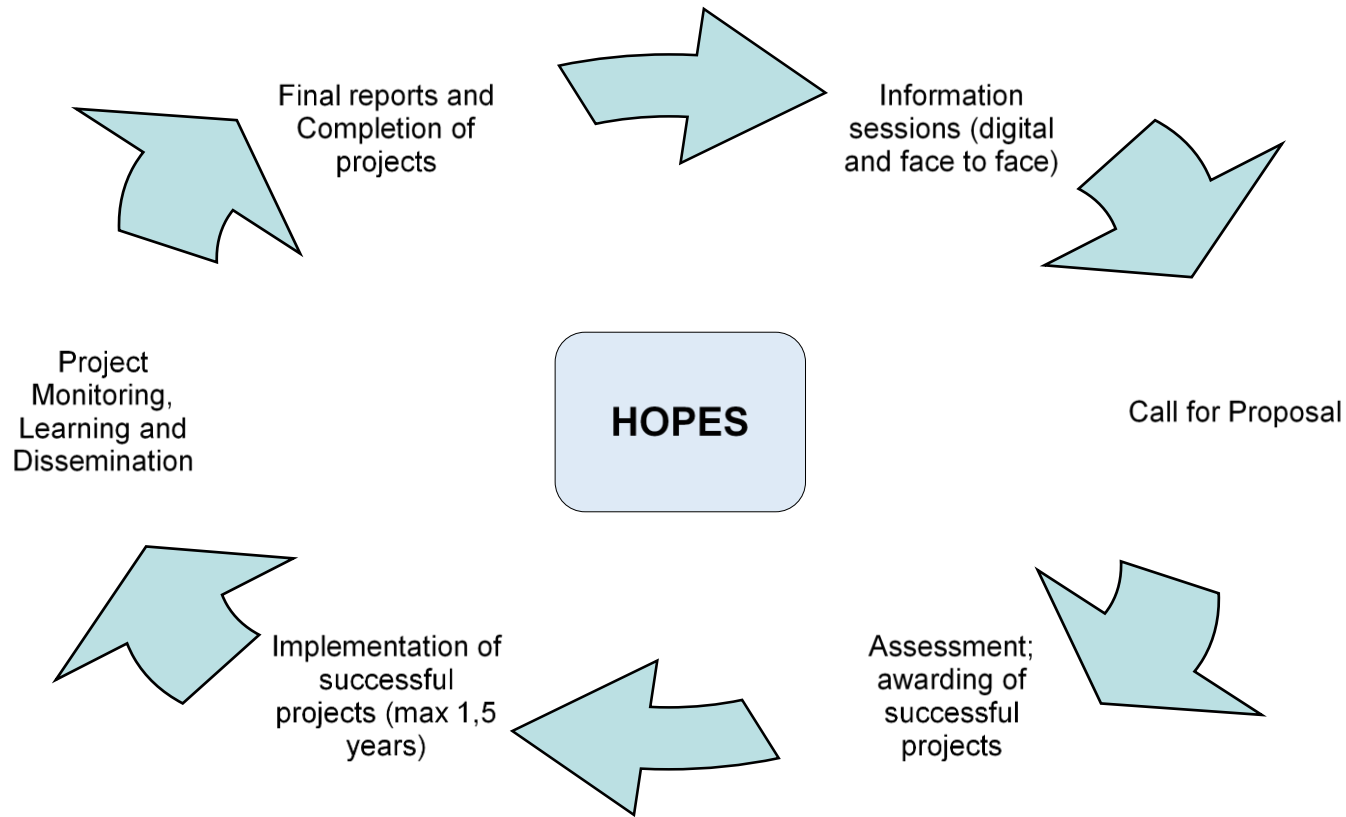
■ Establishment of Call for Proposals

- Financing to a maximum of 60,000 Euro
- 35-40 projects financed in both Call for Proposals
- Tailor made to benefit target group (*f.e. MOOCs in refugee camps, Trainings for lecturers on didactics and methodology, Summer or Winter school, Training of education staff in dealing with traumatized students etc.*)



WP 3: Calls for Proposals for Short Projects

Project Cycle of Calls for Proposal



WP 4: Stakeholder dialogue, Networks and Information Tools

- Transversal action, linking in to the other project activities
- Creation of a network of institutional stakeholders
- Support of local HEIs, Ministries and other stakeholders essential for the success of the Action
- WP4 team based in Lebanon but working with all HOPES colleagues



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WP 4: Stakeholder dialogue, Networks and Information Tools

■ Mapping and Analysis

- Development of an online catalogue of study programmes for Syrian students, linking in to existing initiatives

■ Policy Dialogue and Networking Events

- Organization of 2 regional conferences (Amman, 2017 and Beirut, 2018) and of national stakeholder meetings in all five target countries

■ Programme Website

- Will contain up-to-date information for students and stakeholders on all project activities

■ Promotion and Dissemination

- Student-focused promotional campaigns including social media and institutional communication



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Expected Results

- Better information about existing opportunities
- Better understanding of refugees' situation and specific needs
- Improved capacity of young Syrians to access higher education
- Better coordination of activities through stakeholder dialogue
- Improving the situation at host institutions
- More Syrian students enrolled in higher education

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