



# Science 4 Refugees in Aegean Archipelago



## BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

The refugee's fluxes in the Mediterranean area that passed through Greece have shown high numbers particularly since 2015. The number of refugees and asylum seekers is estimated to be 58,000 (2018 data) with 22,500 of the migrants being children. Recent survey about the qualifications of the refugees incomers in Lesbos island showed that almost **7%** of the refugees have a university degree and **1%** of them a Master's or even a PhD degree.

SCIREA project (<http://scirea.aegean.gr/index.php>), with the **University of the Aegean** to act as main coordinator, focuses on highly skilled refugees, to re-integrate them in research and education.

## TARGET GROUP

Asylum seekers and Refugees scientists in Aegean Archipelagos

## LOCATION

Lesvos island, Mytilene

## DURATION

03/2018-03/2020

## Coordinator **Ourania Tzoraki**

Prof Uni of Aegan



IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION



PARTNERS



FUNDED BY



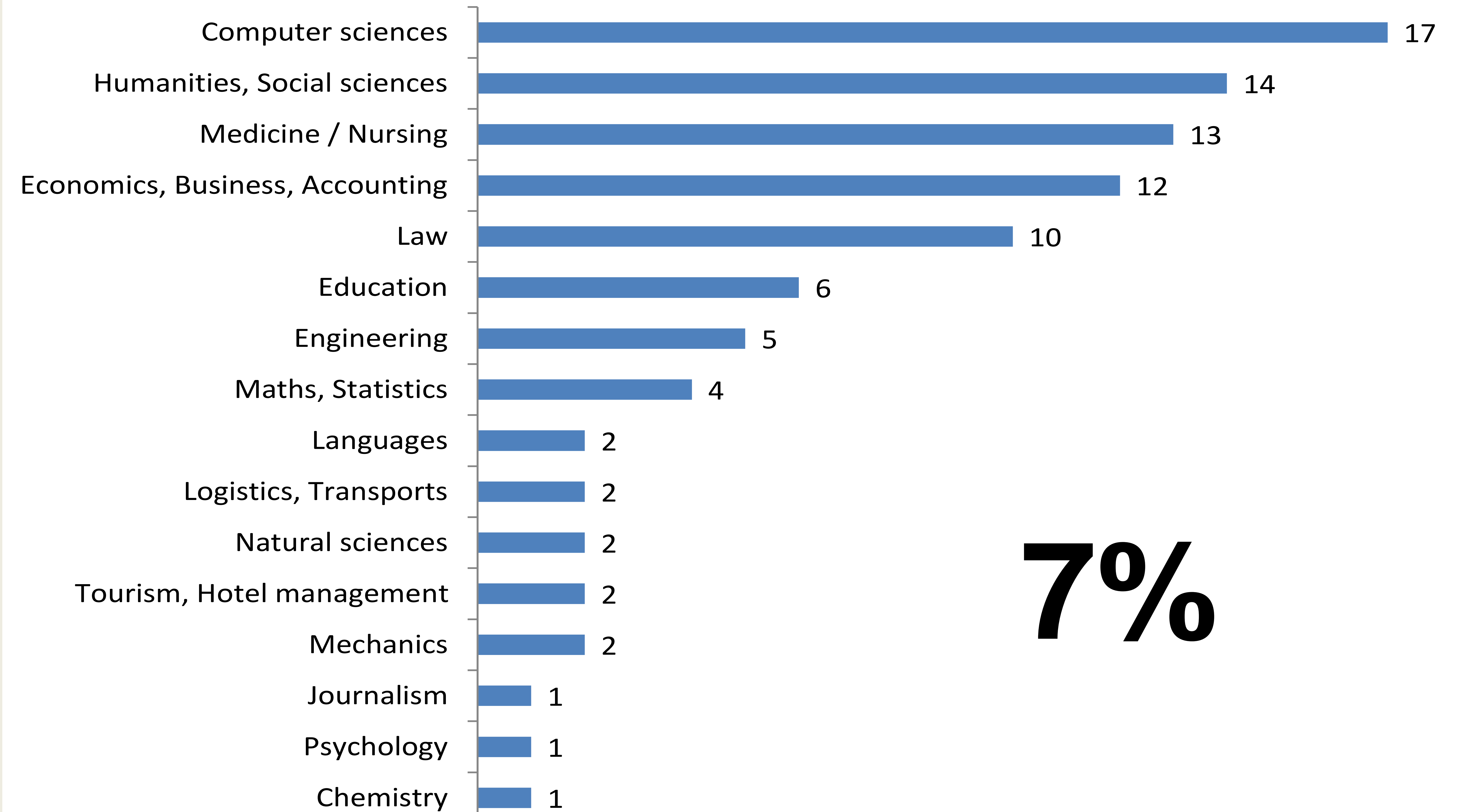
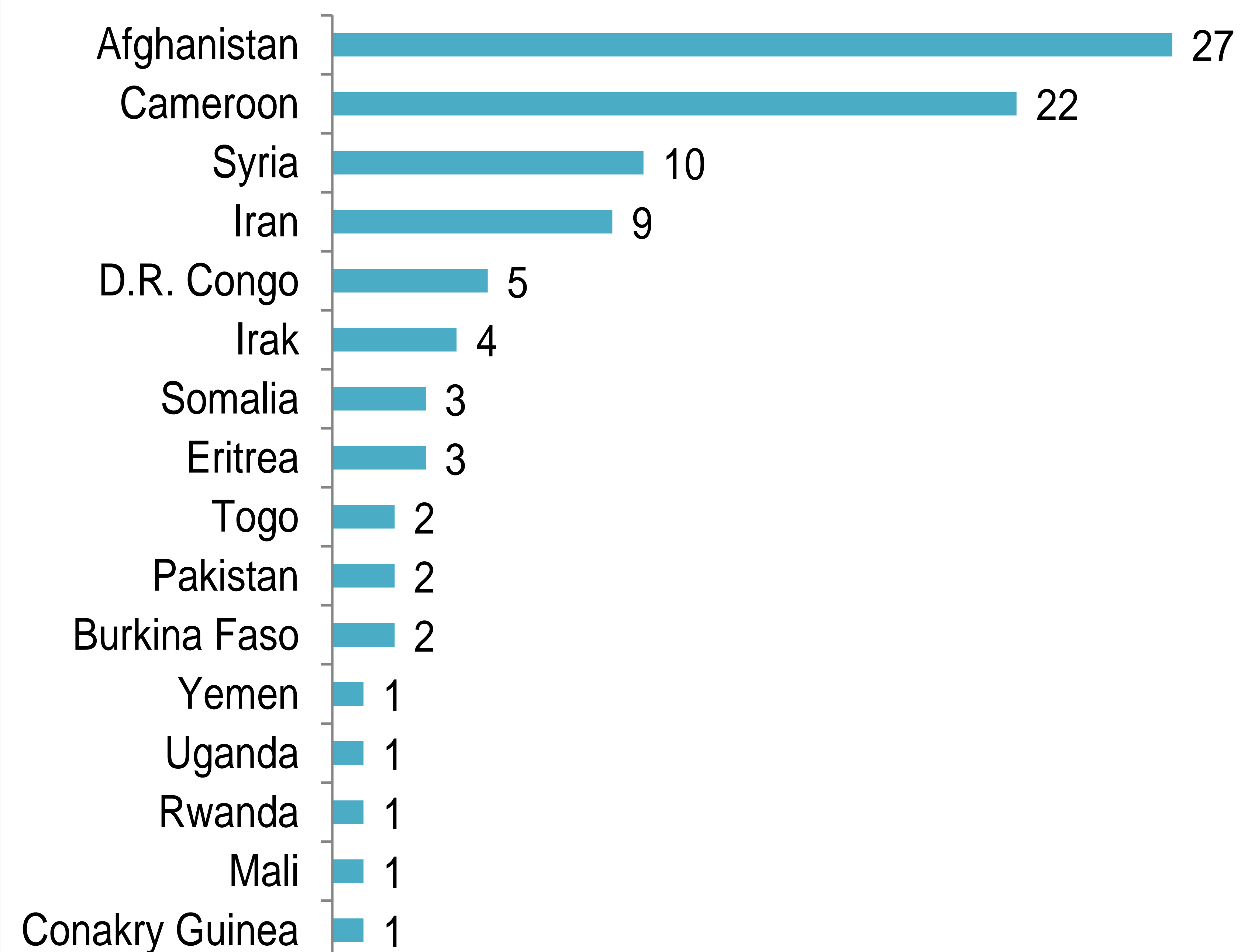
European  
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Horizon 2020  
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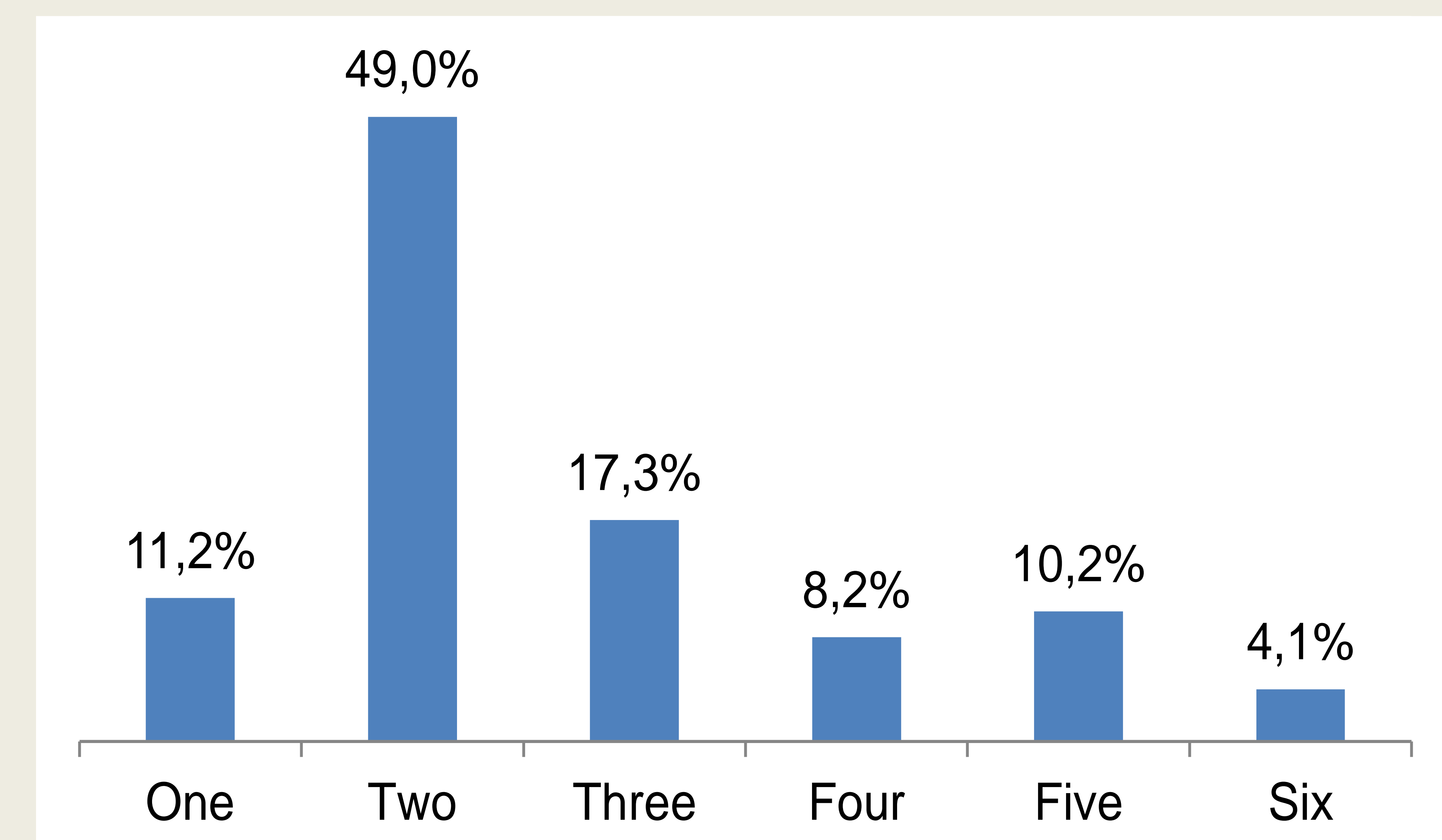
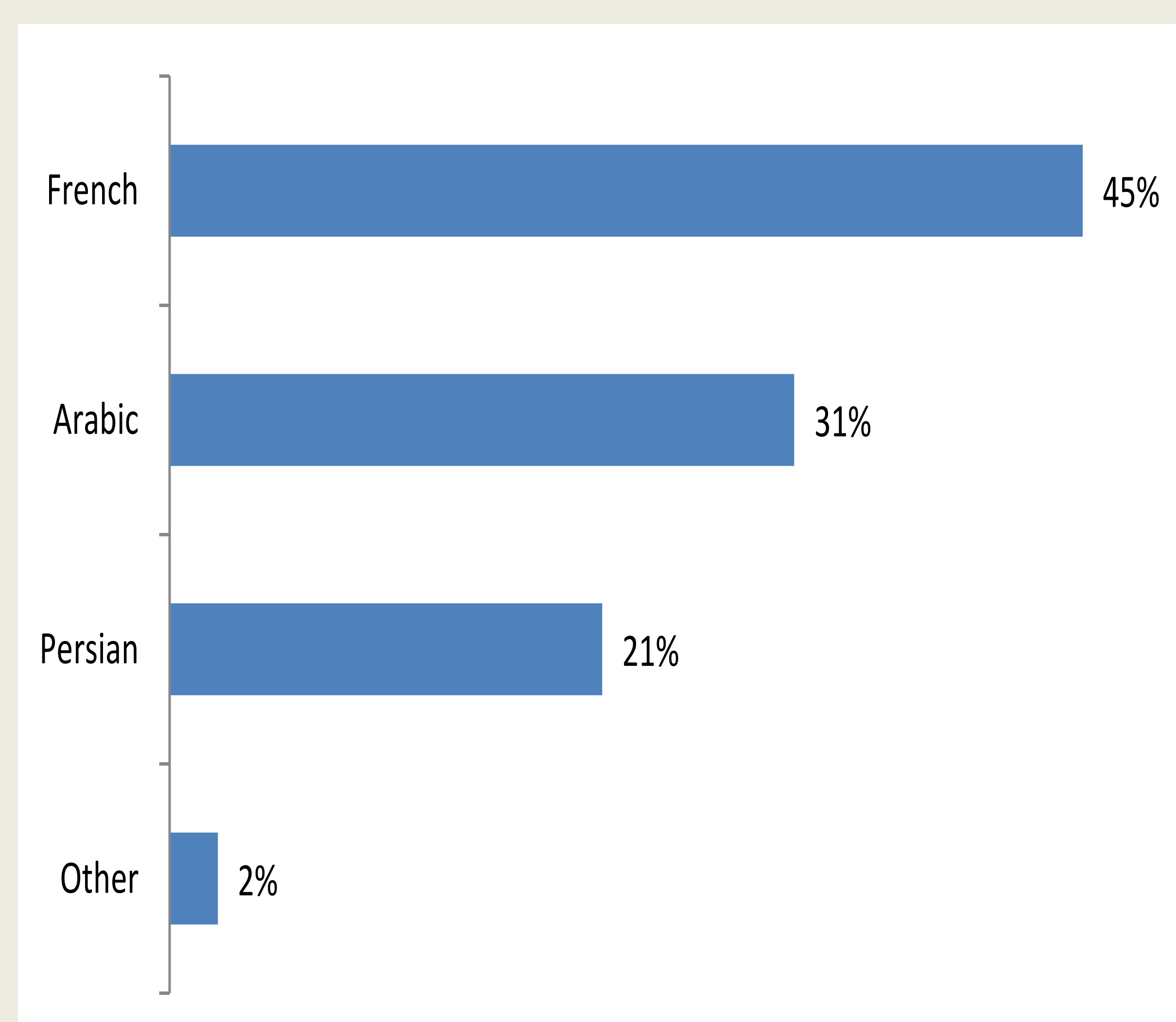




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7%



Number of spoken languages by each participant





# Science 4 Refugees in Aegean Archipelago



**Software” & “Sustainable Agriculture”  
Seminars**



**What is/could be the role and concrete delivery of cooperation (also Interreg) to face the migration challenges and integration of migrants?**

## ***Different levels***

The importance of enhancing higher education participation of refugee youth - currently as low as 1% compared to a global average of 34% .

Student's leakage range is still high (10 - 40% at elementary school and 45 - 56% at high school).

The disruption in their life results in lack of regular attendance.

Labour market to learn new skills (national language skills, eco-farming, recycling, green economy, blue economy, zero carbon technologies, circular economy)



## *Different levels*

In Camps  
Technologies  
to improve their  
life



Problems  
mentioned from  
Mr Abou Tagourla





**What is/could be the role and concrete delivery of cooperation (also Interreg) to face the migration challenges and integration of migrants?**

- **Strategic approaches, leadership attention and support** could be the role of cooperation to take advantage of various HEIs initiatives for refugees integration.
- **Dissemination** of the existing research on the situation of refugees and migration to society and to policy makers.
- **An international platform** for exchange and collaboration would foster long-term synergies consequences of migration (HEIs, NGOs, regional authorities, private sector).



## **Ourania Tzoraki: Do you see any similarities between Horizon2020 and Interreg? Which could be the specific focus of Interreg?**

- Continuous supporting programs for HEIs and NGOs to share good practices and strengthen the voice of HEIs
- Harmonization of migration policies to allow better refugee students/ researchers mobility and portability of refugee status without restrictions
- Promote positive narratives about refugees; Promote programs and campaigns against racism, xenophobia and about academic values; Give a voice to the refugees to speak about their own experience
- Dissemination and implementation research/survey/results in educational and social programs for refugees
- Support life-long learning programs for refugees
- Incorporate refugee academics in curricula for refugee students in host countries