

WHAT COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PATHWAYS ARE FEASIBLE IN EUROPE FOR PEOPLE IN NEED OF PROTECTION?

Advancing University Corridors as European Model



20-21 November 2023

Accademia delle Scienze, University of Bologna

via Zamboni 31 - Bologna

Hybrid attendance. [Teams link here](#)



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BACKGROUND

In the [New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants](#) of November 2016, States Parties committed to expanding opportunities for refugees and persons in need of international protection to enter a third country through safe and legal channels of entry, adhering to resettlement programmes and promoting complementary pathways to entry and protection. It further articulates the commitment to develop humanitarian pathways and increase opportunities for refugees to obtain **study visas or access scholarships** in EU Member States.

On 17 December 2018, the UN General Assembly endorsed the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) after two years of extensive consultations conducted by UNHCR with Member States, international organizations, refugees, civil society, the private sector and experts; one of the Compact's four macro-objectives is precisely to expand access to solutions in third countries by developing new pathways or strengthening existing ones.

Recently, according to the Commission [Recommendation on legal pathways to protection in the EU \(C\(2020\)6467 final\)](#), the link between community sponsorship and complementary pathways is a crucial nexus for improving refugee integration and significantly increasing refugee beneficiaries. Finally, according to the latest UNHCR report, only 6% of refugees globally have access to **higher education**.

In this legal and political framework, since the 'long summer of migration' in 2015, [universities across the EU](#) started various refugee-related initiatives. Many contributed in the conventional way through research on topics like reception and integration. Some developed more practice-oriented solutions and opened their doors to forced migrants. Recognized refugees were given access to full-time study programs and asylum seekers were allowed to enroll in single

TARGET AUDIENCE

Higher education institutions and university networks, associations, national authorities, international organisations, host communities, civil society organisations, volunteers and refugee students.

university courses. In the majority of cases this was accompanied by softening rigorous intake procedures and removing financial barriers.

One example here is the Italian **University Corridors for Refugees (UNICORE) project** which in the last years has provided free access to a wide range of courses for hundreds of students with a refugee background. UNI.CO.RE began in Bologna in 2019 and has been expanding to 41 Italian Universities. In four years, therefore, the Italian universities have offered 150 study opportunities to refugee students abroad.

OBJECTIVE

Starting by the dissemination of the results of the evaluation on the Italian program UNICORE as deliverable of the EUPassworld project, this event will explore how the leadership of European universities can help expand the initiative and build new bridges for refugee students and scholars that will get the chance to access higher education and employment opportunities.

How could universities, or at least those who have already demonstrated their pledges to assisting refugee student and scholars, provide high-quality standards for their education pathway and afterwards?

Thus, the objectives of the event are to:

- Learn and discuss the current implementation of **existing “university corridors” programs** in Europe and beyond;
- Understand what and how **legal and social drivers and barriers** are currently impacting the implementation of this durable solution.
- Focus on the **legal status** main issues of foreign students and scholars who access university courses and study services;
- Explore opportunities for the **engagement of private sector** after the graduation, building also upon the **lessons learned** from universities experience.

ATTENDANCE

Please confirm your in-person or online attendance by the [registration form](#). The Teams link will be sent after the registration. For any additional queries, please contact mariateresa.veltri@unibo.it.

AGENDA

20 NOVEMBER 2023 (*location: Sala Manfredi*)

First session 14:30-18:00

Time	Theme
14.30-14:45	Registration
14:45-15:00	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rector of University of Bologna ▪ Prof. Marco Borraccetti, University of Bologna
15.00-16:00	<p>First panel: A glance on the outputs and challenges of the existing education pathways programs in Europe</p> <p>Chair: <i>Lorenzo Leotardi</i>, UNHCR Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MARIATERESA VELTRI, University of Bologna – Presentation of the evaluation report of UNI.CO.RE programme in Italy ▪ IRENE DE LORENZO-CÁCERES CANTERO, Refugee Hub – Financing Complementary Education Pathways for Refugees: Existing Approaches and Opportunities for Growth ▪ ANDREW FLAUS - AIDAN HARTE, University of Galway
16.00- 16:15	Q&A session
16:15-16.30	coffee break
16.30-17:30	<p>Second Panel: Complementary Education Pathways and Visa Code: a possibility to Issue humanitarian Visas?</p> <p>Chair: <i>Daniela Vitiello</i>, University of Tuscia Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LORENZO LEOTARDI, UNHCR ITALIA ▪ MAGDALENA JAGIELLO, Unit Legal pathways and integration, DG Home of European Commission ▪ PERRINE RAQUEZ, Federal agency for the reception of asylum seekers (FEDASIL, Belgium)
17:30-17:45	Q&A session
18:00	closing

21 NOVEMBER 2023 (location: Salone Ulisse)

Second session 9:30-13:00

Time	Theme
9.30- 9:45	Pledges on the grounds on CEPs programs: Waiting for the Global Refugee Forum 2023, what pledges are at stake for Academia? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Rebecca Granato - Álvaro Zúñiga Ayala</i>, Global Task Force on Third Country Education Pathways
9:45-10:00	Q&A Session
10:00-11	Third Panel: How to make university corridors a durable solution of education pathways in Europe? Chair: <i>Gabriela Agatiello</i> , ICMC Europe/Share Network Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MARCELLO SCALISI, Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED) ▪ CLAUDIA PADOVANI, University di Padova, Scholars at Risk (SAR Network) ▪ RAF D'HAESE, KU Leuven University
11:00-11:15	Q&A Session
11:15-11:30	coffee break
11:30-12:30	Fourth Panel: Chair: <i>Stefano Montaldo</i> , University of Turin Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DOMENICO TABASSO, World Bank – UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement ▪ SYED HASNAIN, Unione Nazionale Italiana per Rifugiati ed Esuli (UN.I.RE Italia) ▪ YOHANNES SISAY MOLLA, UNICORE former student
12:30-12:45	Q&A session
12:45-13:00	Closing
13:00-14:00	Light lunch