



European Union Scholarships (BEURs) Project

Executive Summary

The ‘European Union Scholarships (BEURs) Project’ aims to increase access to higher education and strengthen pathways to employment through skill development and social cohesion for Syrian students under temporary protection, students under international protection, and students with Turkish citizenship who pursue undergraduate/graduate studies.

The project provides scholarship support to increase access to higher education and associated services. Gender mainstreaming and inclusion of vulnerable groups are the fundamental approaches during the selection of beneficiaries and implementation of the project activities. The project focuses to create synergies for reaching the overall and specific objectives and promotes partnerships between universities, municipalities, government institutions, and international and national organisations for upskilling students with regard to higher education, social cohesion, and integration to employment opportunities.

The project is implemented through a consortium consisting of four members where the International Centre for Migration Policy Development is the lead applicant and the Ankara University (covering the provinces in Central and North Anatolia Region), Hasan Kalyoncu University (covering the provinces in the South East Region), and Marmara Municipalities Union (covering the provinces in Marmara Region), are the co-applicant consortium members.

The project has a three-year implementation period between 1 January 2023- 31 December 2025 and is funded by European Union.

Current Context

Türkiye, as the largest refugee-hosting country in the world since 2014. There are more than 3.3 million Syrians under temporary protection in addition to approximately 330,000 persons under international protection. As of 2023, 58,213 Syrian students have been enrolled in higher education in Türkiye. The current higher education enrolment rates are significantly lower compared to the overall university-attendance rate. Through legislative and procedural amendments, the host government has tried to eliminate the barriers that persons under temporary protection and international protection in Türkiye face in accessing higher



education Scholarship initiatives funded through FRIT ('Higher education for Syrians under temporary protection and disadvantaged host communities in Türkiye' Project and the HOPES Project) and UN and other funds (DAFI Türkiye Scholarship Programme and UNHCR Scholarships in Türkiye) also addressed certain financial and various other barriers in relation to access to higher education by the target groups.

While these initiatives delivered solid improvements in terms of higher enrolment numbers, lower dropout rates and consistency in student GPAs, many of the barriers still remain to be a challenge for the target groups in accessing and completing higher education.

Objectives

The overall objective is to improve access to higher education and strengthen pathways to employment through skill development and social cohesion for Syrian students under temporary protection, students under international protection and students with Turkish citizenship in Türkiye.

The specific objective is to increase enrolment to and graduation from higher education by Syrian students under temporary protection, students under international protection and students with Turkish citizenship in Türkiye.

The proposed action rests mainly on **three components** of activities consisting of:

1. Establishment of the scholarship and support mechanisms,
2. Granting of scholarships, monitoring of student performance, and support activities,
3. Social cohesion and employment-oriented activities.

Beneficiaries

The target groups are Syrian students under temporary protection, students under international protection and students with Turkish citizenship in Türkiye who pursue undergraduate/graduate studies.

Project Duration

1 January 2023- 31 December 2025