



**Summary Report on the
National dissemination seminar
on the results from the testing of the Toolkit
in the International Hellenic University**

The national dissemination seminar on the results of the testing of the Toolkit in the International Hellenic University (IHU), co-organised by DOATAP and IHU, took place on December 20, 2021 (9:30-13:30) at the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Hall “Galateia Saranti”. An invitation was sent by email to all Greek HEIs and other stakeholders in order to participate in the seminar with physical presence or join via zoom.

The opening welcome speech was given by the Secretary General for Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Dr. Apostolos Dimitropoulos. Welcome speeches were given by the President of DOATAP, Professor Orestis Kalogirou; the President of IHU’s Governing Board, Prof. Em. Dr. Athanassios Kaissis; and the Director of Foreign Education, NOKUT, Dag Hovdhaugen.

Marina Malgina, Council of Europe, gave a speech on “The role of the European instruments to support refugees’ access to higher education”. Next, Vasiliki Makri, Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Directorate for European and International Affairs, gave a speech on “Implementation of the European qualification passport for refugees in Greece”. Erlend Bern Aaser, NOKUT, gave a speech on “ARENA project overview”. Following, Vasiliki Athanasopoulou, DOATAP, gave a speech on “Pathways taken in Greece towards refugees’ accessing HE”. Next, Maria Drakaki, IHU, gave a speech, on “Testing of the Toolkit in IHU for Admission of Refugee Students to master degree programmes: Results and Challenges”. Finally, Petros Mastakas, UNHCR Greece, gave a speech on “Refugees’ Education in Greece: Actions and Future Plans”. A panel discussion followed on “Feedback & Input from the participants: Prospects, benefits and challenges”, moderated by Maria Drakaki and Vasiliki Athanasopoulou.

Maria Drakaki, in her speech, presented the background information on the present situation in Greek Higher Education system, regarding admissions of refugees including refugees with incomplete or no documentation of qualifications. She presented the testing of the Toolkit process followed at the University Center of International Programmes of Studies (UCIPS), IHU. She described the tools used, the recruitment process including criteria used for the recruitment. Next, the testing of the Toolkit applied for possible admission of candidate refugees was described in detail including the planning; the meetings held between stakeholders as well as meetings with candidates/refugees; the contact procedure followed for the candidate refugee students; the tools used in the testing process; the challenges faced during the testing of the Toolkit; and the number and nationalities of potential students/applicants tested with the Toolkit for admission to master degree programmes at UCIPS, IHU. Next, she presented the results of

the testing of the Toolkit. Two refugees were accepted in master degree programmes of the School of Science and Technology at UCIPS, IHU for the academic year 2021-22. Furthermore, she referred to lessons learned from the testing of the Toolkit at IHU as well as recommendations for future actions focusing, in particular, on policy changes.

During the panel discussion, support was expressed to the integration of the Toolkit as well as EQPR, as alternative pathways for admission of refugees holding incomplete or no documentation in Greek HEIs. There was also a reference to the Scholars at Risk Network – Branch in Greece as well as a possible scholarship program for refugees in order to attend degree programmes in Greek HE.

An interesting discussion also took place with participants from the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs during the coffee and lunch breaks.

Overall, all participants acknowledged that information about alternative pathways for admission of refugees holding incomplete or no documentation in Greek HEIs is missing to Greek HEIs and that the information presented at the national seminar, regarding the testing of the Toolkit at IHU was very useful and provided a base for further actions from all stakeholders especially Greek HEIs.