



EUROPEAN SEMINAR ON REFUGEES

SUPPORTING DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND DEMOCRACY

26 nov, 09:00 - 16:30

Restad Gård, Vänersborg – a Swedish refugee camp

HOSTED BY Support Group Network, the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (SUHF), Committee for academic refugees, Institut Français de Suède, and University West

THE AIM OF THE SEMINAR is for refugees together with university representatives to reflect jointly on initiatives, recommendations and guidelines supporting refugees for inclusion in different European countries. Additionally we together evaluate the value for refugees in prioritizing recommendations to the higher education community.

THE SEMINAR ADDRESSES representatives from refugee organizations, university leadership, academic and administrative staff as well as policy makers.

THE PROGRAMME WILL mainly be held in a workshop format, but to inspire the discussions and the evaluations, a number of highly relevant and diverse initiatives will be presented in a short format (pitch). The seminar participants will also be able to bring their own initiatives and experiences to the workshops.

UNIVERSITY WEST WELCOMES YOU TO A DINNER at Hotell Hehrne at 7 pm.

Please, indicate in the registration form if you wish to participate.

PROGRAMME

Moderator: Cecilia Christersson, Chairman of the Committee for academic refugees, the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (SUHF), pro-vice-chancellor Malmö University

9.00 – 9.30 Registration and coffee

9.30 – 10.15 **Welcome: Cecilia Christersson**, Chairman of the Committee for academic refugees, the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (SUHF), pro-vice-chancellor Malmö University, **Martin Hellström**, Vice-chancellor, University West, **Sandrine Testaz**, Attachée de coopération scientifique et universitaire, Ambassade de France/ Institut Français de Suède, **Adnan Abdul Ghani**, Initiator of Support Group Network (Swedish Network of refugees),

10.15 – 10.45 **Inam Alghoul**, Project manager “**Strong Women Network, Project and project developer, Support Group Network**: “*From a refugee point of view – how can higher education work together with refugees to promote diversity, inclusion and democracy?*”

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00 **Inspiring research and initiatives: Martin Hellström**, Vice-chancellor, University West: “*Supporting diversity, inclusion and democracy through cooperation with Support Group Network*”

Wafa Triek, Deputy Head French ENIC-Naric: *European Qualifications Passport for Refugees/ERASMUS+ project (to be confirmed)*

Katarina Mozeti, Ph.D. candidate, University of Oslo:

“*I cannot work in a supermarket: Some insights from a study on labour market experiences of highly educated refugees*”

Mathieu Schneider: Vice-president, University of Strasbourg, coordinator of the network Migrants dans l’enseignement supérieur: “*Migrants in higher education*”

Johanna Rasplus, Deputy Head of the European Projects, Campus France: “*InHERE Recommendations and Guidelines*”

Ragheb Aljaoor, Project manager, Support Group Network

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 15.00 **Two workshop on initiatives that supports refugees and migrants for inclusion in their new context.**

The workshops will be inspired by a number of relevant initiatives in “a pitch format” (max. 5 minutes) + responses Support Group Network and from international refugees.

Workshop 1: Initiatives that support

diversity, inclusion and democracy in higher education

Moderator: Jan Theliander, Pro-vice-chancellor, University West

Samit Aita, Président de l’association “*Démocratie et Entraide en Syrie*, Ghosn Zeitoun

Sophie Wauquier, PAUSE
Karolina Catoni, Gothenburg University: *Inclusive internationalisation*

Frederik Sunnemark & Fredrik Sjögren, University West: *Open seminars*

Sophie Adélaïde Magnier, Director International Partnerships, projects, promotion & Internationalization, University of Grenoble Alps

Jane Malcolm-Davies, University of Copenhagen: *THREAD, a themed model for refugee integration using textiles as the catalyst for change*

Workshop 2: Initiatives for validation and integration

Moderator: Hanne Smidt, Senior Advisor European University Association

Bilal Almobarak, Project manager / Support Group Network: “*Informationsmöte för nyanlända med flyktingbakgrund*”

Annick Suzor-Weiner, Agence Universitaire de la francophonie: French courses and resumption of studies

Carina Bäckström, Malmö University: Regional cooperation between

different actors to support integration

Emma Alfredsson, Lund University: Match-IT

Pernilla Hultberg, Gothenburg University: Targeted study counseling, and “Complementary education for migrants”

Johanna Boynton, Stockholm University (to be confirmed)

University of Jyväskylä: Supporting Immigrants in Higher Education in Finland – SIMHE initiative (to be confirmed)

15.00 – 15.15 Coffee break

15.15 – 16.00 Workshop continued – developing three recommendations to European governments based on the experience of refugee groups and higher education institutions working together.

16.00 – 16.30 Panel conclusions

Last date of registration

November 15. We hope to see 60 participants and accept notifications on a first come basis.

INFORMATION

The conference is organised in cooperation between the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (SUHF) Committee for academic refugees, The Support Group Network (A Swedish refugee driven organisation), University West and the Institut Français de Suède.

The conference will take place in Restad Gård's Youth Centre, and it will be a chance for representatives from higher education institutions, policy makers and refugees/ migrants together to evaluate the plethora of initiatives that have flourished to support the integration of refugees and migrants with higher education qualifications into academia and/or the labour market – and together make recommendations to national governments on future developments in the area.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Hehrne Rooms have been pre-booked for the seminar. The price for a single room is: 70 € for a double

room 65 € for a single room.

TRAVELING TO RESTAD GÅRD

Restad Gård can be reached by flying into Gothenburg Airport or Trollhättan/Vänersborg Airport. The easiest is to pre-book a taxi at [Trollhättans Hyrverk](#). Other options are from Gothenburg to take a an airport buss to the central station in Gothenburg. From there – there are train services to Vänersborg. From the central station in Vänersborg there is a direct buss to Restad Gård, buss 67. From Trollhättan/Vänersborg airport – it is a short taxi drive. It is recommended to pre-book a taxi at for example [Taxi Väst](#).

THE SUPPORT GROUP NETWORK

THE SUPPORT GROUP NETWORK (SGN) is an association established by refugees and with refugees at Restad Gård that works with associations, groups and individuals who want to empower, support and help asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants in Sweden and around the world. The objective of the SGN is to encourage and develop refugees' own initiatives, and helping them to establish local Support Groups in their temporary or permanent areas of living. SGN is an Umbrella organisation that supports refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in all fields: (social, cultural, educational, health and psychological care) and gather advocacy for their cases in all levels. SGN is also active at European level and supports the development of similar self-organised democratically developed organisations in other European countries.

<https://www.supportgroup.se>

THEIR MISSION IS TO:

Empower and encourage refugees and migrants own initiatives and support them in all fields: (social, cultural, educational, sports, health and psychological care). Cooperate with other organizations and groups in Sweden and abroad that have the same objectives.

To encourage the local communities and civil society to connect to the Local Support Groups in their areas.

Work to promote understanding of the norms of society

to contribute to integration, inclusion, and coexistence for kids, youth, adults and families, in a way that takes care of their competence and give them the tools to become active members in the society.

Support Group Network awards:

1. Award for human rights 2016 For the Support Group Network from the Västra Götaland Region
2. Lifelong Learning Awards (LLL Awards) 2016 in category of best practice
Support Group Network was Chosen One of the best 10 inspiring initiative in Europe

RESTAD GÅRD

[Restad Gård](#) is situated just outside Vänersborg and Trollhättan. It was build as a hospital for the mentally ill in 1905 and was one of the largest hospitals of its kind in Sweden. Restad Gård is placed in beautiful park surroundings on the brink of a river and became in 2013 an asylum seeker camp. The camp at one point held as many as 1500 asylum seekers. It is like a small village with a high-end hotel, pre-school, youth centre and small shop. Today about 1000 asylum seekers live here, and the Support Group Network that is one of the organisers for the conference grew out of the camp in 2016.

