GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING AND ALTERNATIVE STUDY PATHS.

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The International Association of Universities

*History & Identity*

- Created in 1950 under the auspices of UNESCO
- An independent international Non-Governmental Organization (INGO)
- An official partner of UNESCO and based at its headquarters in Paris
- A membership organisation comprising more than 650 universities and associations of universities worldwide
Vision & Mission

VISION

✓ Be the most representative and influential global association of diverse higher education institutions and their organisations
✓ Promoting and advancing a dynamic leadership role for higher education in society

MISSION

✓ To promote collaboration among its members
✓ To pursue the creation, dissemination and application of knowledge
✓ To advocate policy and practice that respect diversity and focus on equity and social responsibility
✓ To act as a forum for innovation, shared and mutual learning, and joint action
Education a prerequisite for saving the planet - Agenda 2030

- Knowledge has no borders
- Internationalization
  - Mobility, voluntary and forced must be promoted
    - UNESCO- Global Convention on the recognition of HE Qualification project
      - Recognition as a global right
- HEIs conditions to fulfill the global needs for education – education for all
  - Private/public funding, tuition fees
  - Recognition of prior learning
    - Curricular - Censored course content
Education for Refugees

• The number of refugees still increasing globally
  – 65 million of which approx. 50 percent younger than 18 years

• A big need of education
  – <1 percent of refugees access to higher education
  – Teachers and researchers among the refugees

• Education in host country

• Education in refugee camps
IAU activities

• Higher Education and Education for all
  – Access, success

• Education for sustainable development
  – IAU is a lead partner network in the UNESCO Global Action Program on ESD

• Internationalization

• Intercultural dialogue

• Leadership development

• Information and Communications Technologies
The IAU involvement in prior learning recognition

Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications Project UNESCO:

- Secretary General of IAU member of the expert group looking at the feasibility study for a global Convention
- The draft writing includes ONLY government representatives
- IAU will be consulted on the draft
- The convention should build on NOT replace the Lisbon convention
- Implementation
The IAU involvement in prior learning recognition (2)

Several open communication tools to voice what is being done:

• IAU Horizons Magazine
  Latest issue – ”Recognizing refugee´s qualifications” by Sjur Bergan ,council of Europe.

• The IAU WHED Portal
  Reference tool (produced in agreement with UNESCO) on higher education systems, degrees and institutions around the world.
  Systems and credentials in > 180 countries.
  Information on some 18,000 institutions around the world.
The way forward

- Shared responsibility
- No single system fits all
- The basic values for HE and HEI must be defended
- The curriculum must give academic skills
- Education for all at all levels
- Mobility of students and staff, voluntary or forced, mutual capacity building
- Alternative study paths and new initiatives must be developed
- Recognition of prior learning
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

QUESTIONS?