



EUROPEAN UNION



The EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis

الصندوق الاستئماني الأوروبي 'مدد'

Project Factsheet

An Integrated Pathway for Higher Education in Turkey

OBJECTIVE

- Provide Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP) and disadvantaged youth from Turkey's host communities support and help in successfully negotiating a full and supportive pathway through education to employment.

BUDGET

EUR 10 million

START DATE

10/01/2020

DURATION

40 months

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Syrian and Turkish SPARK students are provided BA scholarships.
- Syrian and Turkish SPARK project students are provided with technical, vocational education training (TVET) scholarships.
- SuTP SPARK students are offered blended learning options during the project duration with an emphasis on e-commerce.
- Strengthened capacity of SPARK project students to successfully finish their studies and improved social cohesion facilitated during the project duration.
- SPARK students equipped with employability skills that will enhance their access to the labour market and increased entrepreneurship capacity.
- Internship and job placement opportunities created for SPARK graduates in small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

BENEFICIARIES

925

Syrian and
Turkish
students

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

spark
ignites ambition

PROJECT LOCATIONS



IMPACT

Stronger ties between universities and employers: the initiative will work to better match the supply and demand side of the labour market, by determining the best potential subject areas for placement. A labour market analysis conducted by SPARK and the Syrian Businessmen and Entrepreneurs Organisation (SIAD), identifies core skills needed for future reconstruction needs within Syria. These researches will be linked directly to the educational programmes supported and financed under this programme, so graduates will be directly linked to the needs of the labour market. With the acquired skill set and degree, these SuTP will be better able to contribute to the economic reconstruction of a post-conflict Syria in the long-term while improving their individual economic situation in the host countries in the short-term.

Increased prestige TVET: Technical, Vocational Education Training is in high demand in the labour market but less popular among students, who automatically see the benefits of a more academic degree that is widely recognised as more prestigious, than a more practical TVET qualification. It is planned to increase strong promotion that underlines the short term and long-term benefits of the TVET qualification, and the initiative will work on re-branding TVET among the students, SuTP and host community members, universities and importantly, also their families: TVET graduates will find employment which will help to sustain their families. Strong support is expected from the local business communities whose members will be invited to participate in the events created to

promote access to labour market and to underline the actual needs of employers.

Increased capacity in universities by providing coaching in student counselling, developing new modules and introducing blended learning methodologies. Through giving universities' substantial ownership of the management of the scholarships, their capacity will be increased, enabling them to operate scholarship programmes more directly.

New blended modules can be reproduced by the initiative sharing better practices in the introduction of blended learning courses. The process will be carefully monitored, together with lessons learnt from an effective development of the methodology but also the development and implementation of better institutional cooperation, so that selected universities can replicate the model for other educational institutions.

Reduced tension through the continued and effective work of students' committees, actively supported by efforts involving local community members and institutions (municipalities, kindergartens, community centres) through different actions of common interest (cleaning joint premises, planting trees, participating in walks to raise greater awareness for disabled members). All this will help in minimising tension between SuTP and their host community while enabling a supportive environment to develop.