



UNICORE
UNITUS4Refugees
BRIDGE TRUST

Building up a
sustainable education
pathway ecosystem for
refugee students –
Lessons learned
(Italy)

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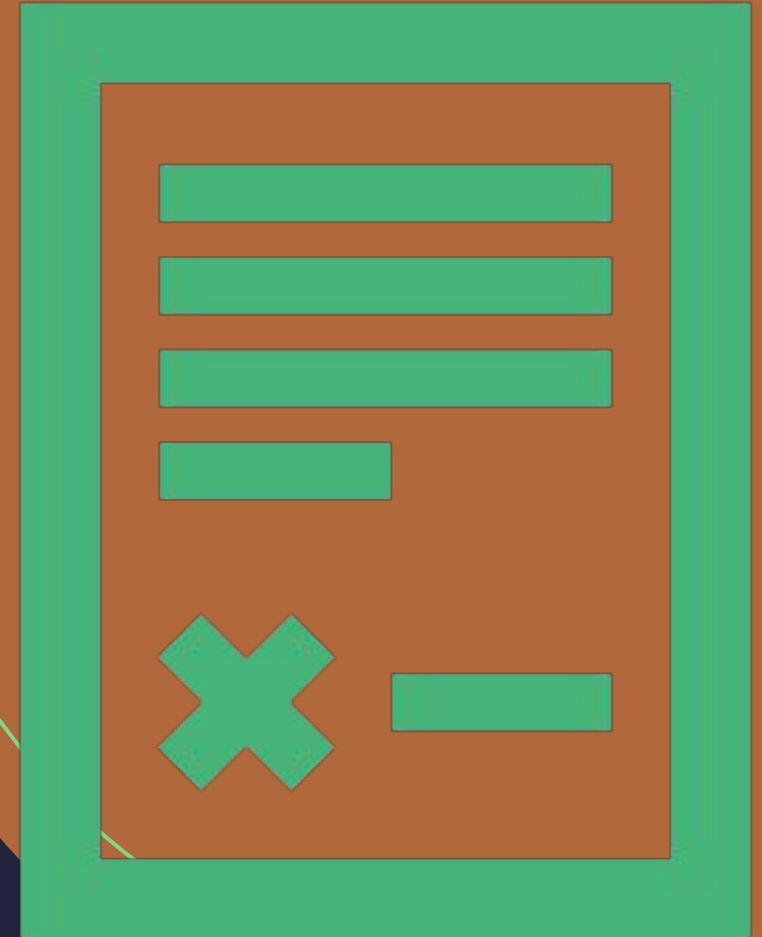
UNICORE PROGRAMME IN ITALY (2019-2023)

- Launched by UNHCR and UNIBO in 2019 (5 refugees)
- 5 EDITIONS (UNICORE 5.0)
- 41 Italian Universities participating over the years
- 307 courses offered
- 202 scholarships provided



PRE-REQUISITES FOR LEGAL ENTRY & STAY

- STUDY VISA
- declaration of value (often required)
- 1 YEAR RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR STUDY REASONS, RENEWABLE
- NB: The refugee status, requested in Italy, cannot be cumulated with the residence permit for study reasons



COUNTRIES OF DEPARTURE

Ethiopia (UNICORE 3.0)

Cameroon, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe (UNICORE 4.0)

Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe (UNICORE 5.0)

Consortium

41 Italian universities

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Italian Ministry of Interior (informal participation)

Caritas Italiana, Diaconia Valdese, Centro Astalli, Ghandy Charity, Communitas Consortium

Banca IFIS, Banca Etica, the Canadian Embassy in Rome and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo

OPERATIONAL PHASES (1)

Design

- Identification of CoD
- Identification of universities, partners
- Drafting national protocol
- Drafting university calls
- Dissemination in the country of first asylum
- Creation of local partnership

Selection

- Publication of UNICORE calls for proposal
- Eligibility screening and short-listing
- Interview and selection
- Publication of the winners

Pre-Departure

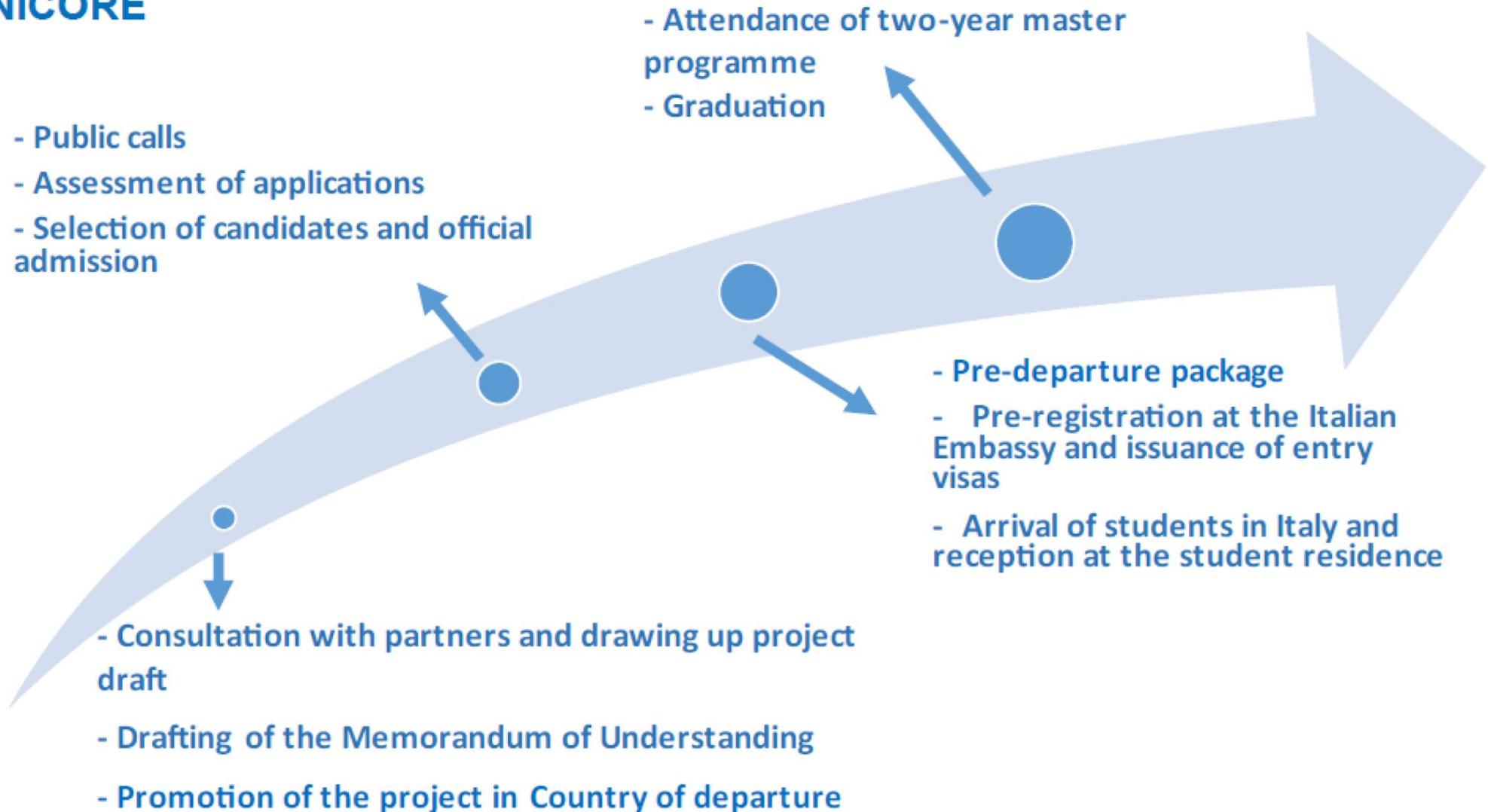
- pre-enrolment procedures
- Request for travel document and visa
- Online Italian language courses
- Pre-departure information
- Online student/univ./local partnership meeting

Arrival and Stay

- Arrival and reception
- Finalization of university enrolment
- Application for residence permit/tax code/SSN registration/bank account opening

OPERATIONAL PHASES (2)

UNICORE



UNICORE Timeline (selection and pre-departure)

Pre-departure activities	January	February	March	April	May	June	July/August	September
Identification of universities and partner organizations	■	■						
Preparation and finalization of the national protocol		■	■					
Preparation and finalization of the announcement		■	■					
Dissemination in the country of first asylum			■	■	■			
Publication of the announcement				■	■	■		
Selection						■		
Publication of the selected candidates						■		
Pre-enrollment procedures						■	■	
Travel document and visa application							■	■
Pre-departure information							■	■
Online meeting between student/university /local partners							■	■
Departure								■

THE EXPANSION OF UNICORE (1)



SOURCE: UNICORE EVALUATION REPORT 2023

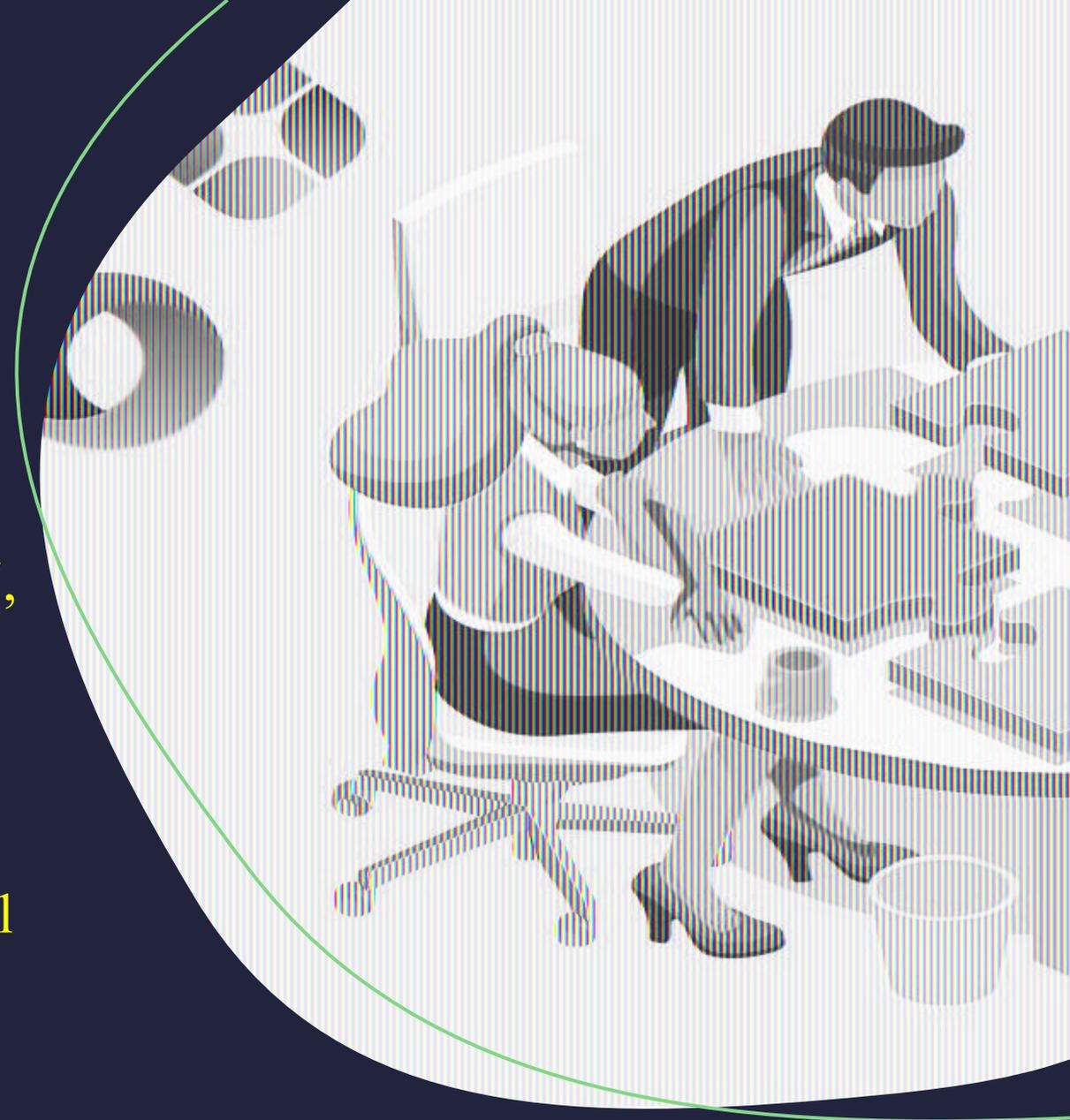
Figure 1. Number of partner Universities and scholarship per A.Y. (See page UNICOR)

THE EXPANSION OF UNICORE (2)

UNICORE	Received Applications	Eligible Applications	Shortlisted for interview	Admitted	Scholarships
UNICORE 1.0 (2019-2021)	30	n.a.	13	6	6
UNICORE 2.0 (2020-2022)	100	n.a	n.a	20	20
UNICORE 3.0 (2021-2023)	491	370	176	45	45
UNICORE 4.0 (2022-2024)	356	179	76	50	71
UNICORE 5.0 (2023-2025)	557	265	136	52	64

THE WAY AHEAD: future concrete actions 2023-2027

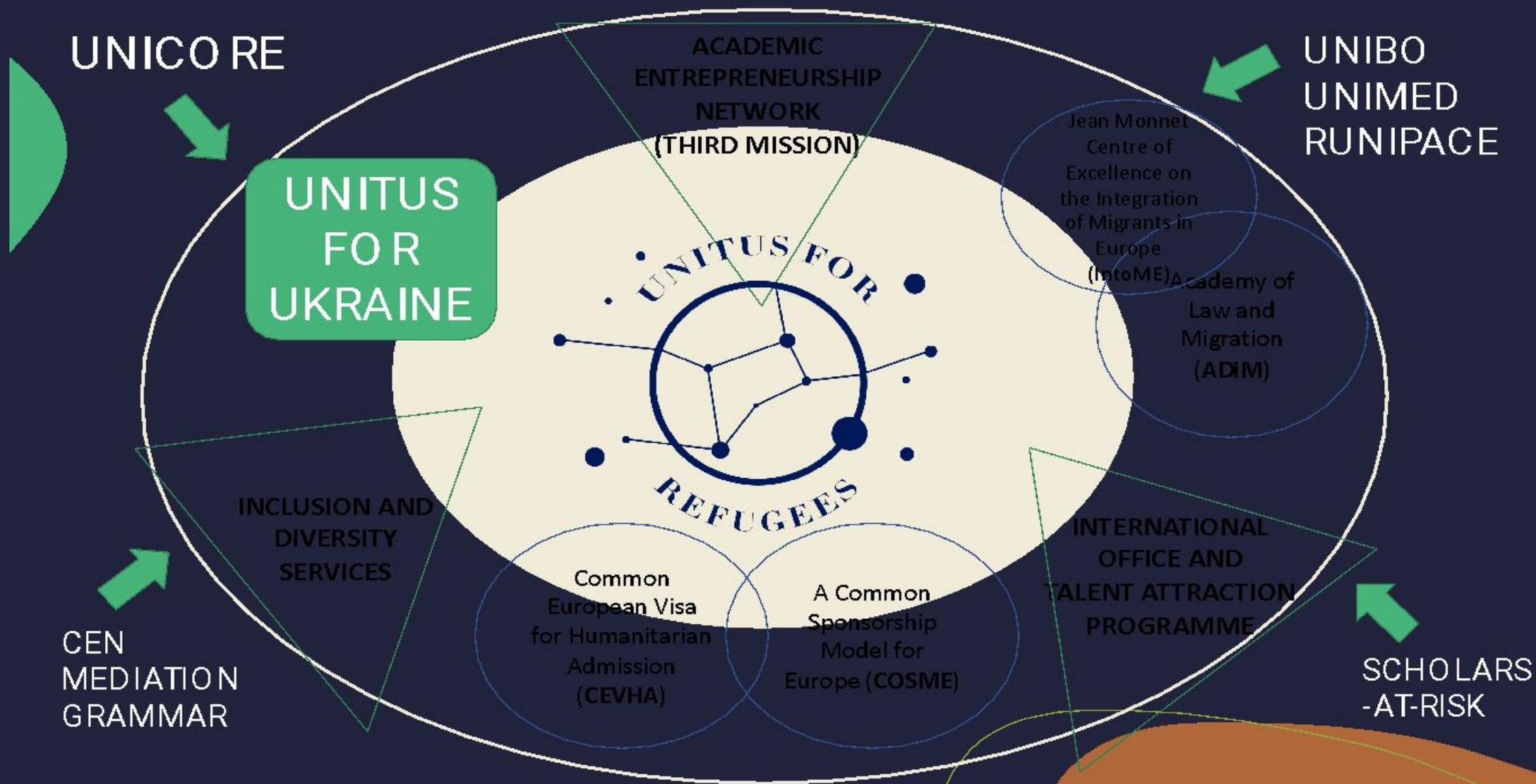
- Provide at least 200 full scholarships
- Select refugees from 10 Countries between Africa and Middle East
- have at least 150 refugee graduates by 2027, of which at least 30% female
- Consortium: at least 45 HEI's, 3 CEOs associations, 2 banks and 5 other private sector entities engaged as partner at national level
- replicate this model to at least 4 EU MSs





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#UNITUS4REFUGEES AS A GOOD PRACTICE IN UNICORE EVALUATION REPORT





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#UNITUS4Refugees: A university-specific and
impact-driven whole-of-society project

Beneficiaries

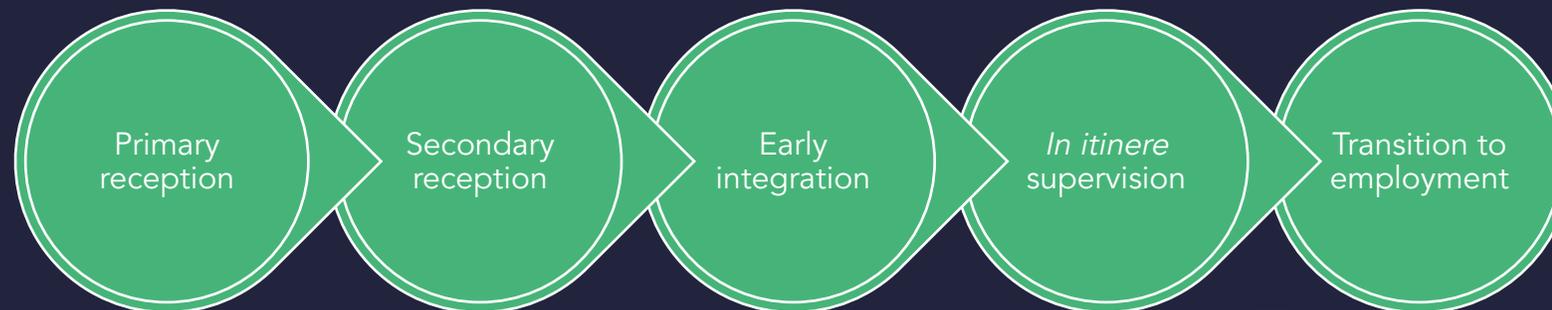
- Refugee students
- International students
- Italian students at risk



COSME

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP
FOR MIGRANTS IN EUROPE

The reception-integration *continuum*





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#UNITUS4Refugees: A crowdfunding network based on community engagement

Funding

- Regional scholarship (public)
- UNITUS grants (public)
- UNITUS4Refugees (ALUMNI & Student associations)

Activities (examples)

- **Student prizes and competitions** (Creative writing competition on integration and peace, “Falling in Law” video contest, video contest on “the meaning of peace”), awarding prizes sponsored and funded by private entities
- **Student-led Cultural aperitifs** (e.g. Multicultiuni / role of STUDENT ASSOCIATION)
- **Awareness raising events** fighting toxic narratives around migration (Have your say / Roundtables)
- **Summer Training Schools** (free of charge for refugee students)
- **Outreach activities and webpages** (UNITUS in Law)
- **Dedicated library services**
- **Mentorship** (PhD students), **orientation grants and buddy/peer-to-peer programmes**
- **Free language courses** (language acquisition and additionality of the grants)
- **Simultaneous translation of all events in Italian**
- **Support to placement:** linguistic and cultural mediation / HR (Tribunal / Semi-di pace)



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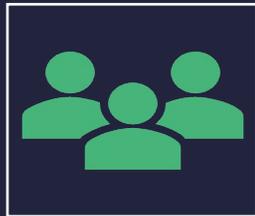
UNITUS4Refugees: The sustainability challenge

Diversifying Funding, Sharing Responsibility, Distributing Risks

Innovative Financing

- dedicated fund for primary reception (meeting immediate specific needs)
- student-led crowdfunding campaigns
- partnering with locals as service providers (e.g. housing)

Strategic sustainability principles



Empowering

Students, Student associations and ALUMNI as "sponsor groups"



Partnering

partnership agreements for internships with Champion sponsors



Unlocking potential

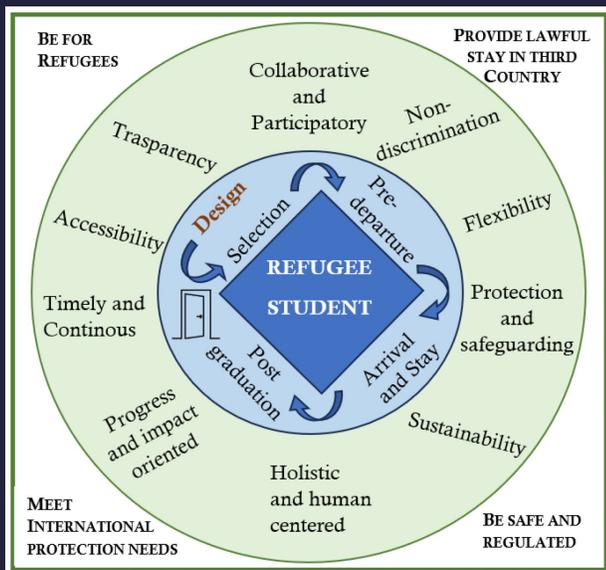
dedicated structures and programmes for networking, capacity building, awareness raising





UNITUS4Refugees: The sustainability challenge

Sustainability from the students' perspective



FINANCIAL SUPPORT



RELIABILITY OF ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS



PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT (UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATIONS /BUDDIES)



LANGUAGE ABILITIES



MOBILITY CHALLENGES



FRIENDLY LIVING ENVIRONMENT



CO-CREATION OF THE STUDENTS' EMPLOYMENT TRAJECTORIES

Transition to employment

- *language as a tool for the enjoyment of rights (nexus between language – access to services – human rights enforcement)*
- *study courses which maximise refugee students' specific expertise (e.g. linguistic skills for cultural mediation)*
- *ongoing supervision and support (including in handling legal status issues)*

THE BRIDGE TRUST: A PEER-TO-PEER INITIATIVE AND SUPPORT MODEL

- ❖ The Bridge Trust is an initiative by UNITUS international students who seek to work with refugee children and vulnerable people in the local community
 - Advocacy
 - Fundraising
 - Engagement
 - Content creation
 - University as a "Knowledge Broker"



**Lorenzo Quinn's Giant Stone Hands
Venice Art Biennale 2019**

BRIDGE TRUST – Christmas / Epiphany donation campaign

❖ Donation for 19 children ranging in age from 7 days to 14 years old | Reception centre (Balletti Park Hotel) | Viterbo (Italy)

"Through our collective efforts, we were able to gather a significant amount of funds that allowed us to purchase Christmas and New Year's presents (new educational and interactive toys and treats) for the children. The drive behind this donation was to promote the idea of social responsibility embedded in us all to assist the less privileged in our communities by showing empathy, love, time, and our resources."

Joshua Wishye Kabelu, SHR international student,
Bridge Trust Founder and CEO





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**Thank You for your
attention!**

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