

UNICORE

Unitus for Ukraine

UNITUS4Refugees

IntoME - CoSME

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



# 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



SOURCE: UNICORE EVALUATION REPORT 2023



## 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

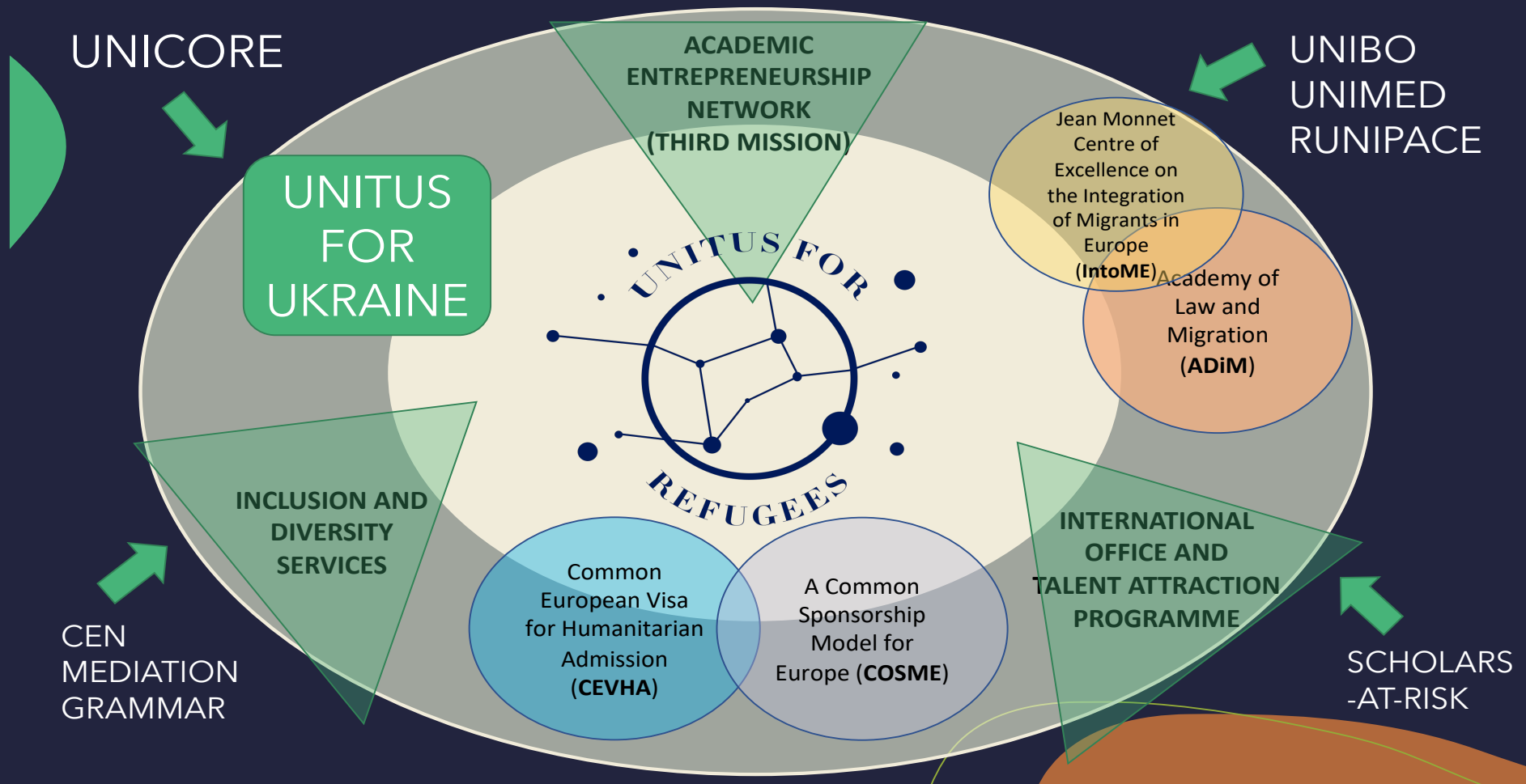


SOURCE: UNICORE EVALUATION REPORT 2023



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## #UNITUS4REFUGEES AS A GOOD PRACTICE IN UNICORE EVALUATION REPORT





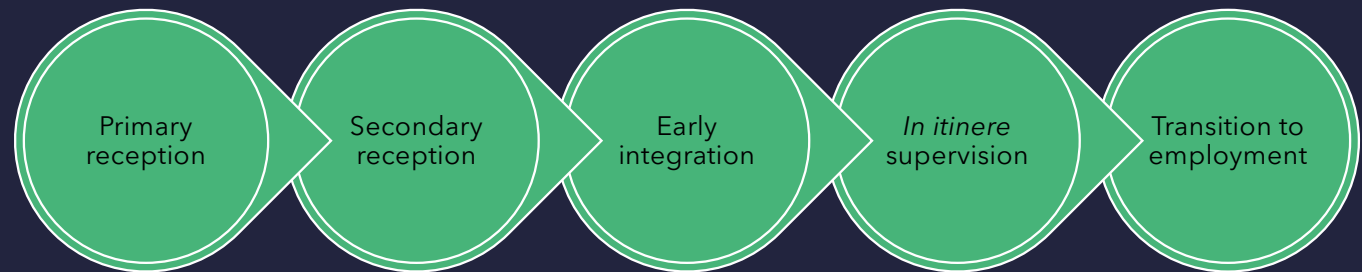
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## #UNITUS4Refugees: A university-specific and impact-driven whole-of-society project

### Beneficiaries

- Refugee students
- International students
- Italian students at risk

### 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**

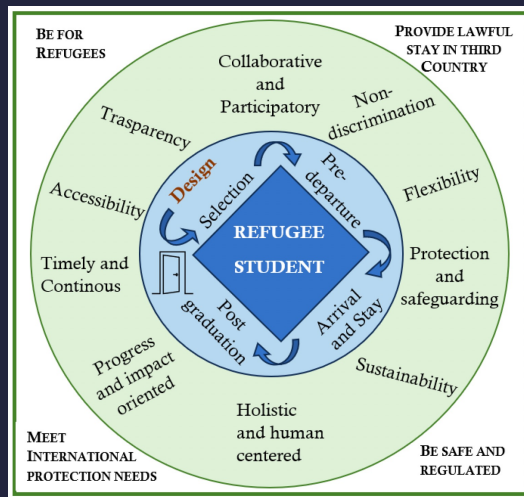
dedicated structures and  
programmes for networking,  
capacity building, awareness  
raising



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## 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)