



Universitat
Pompeu Fabra
Barcelona



GRITIM-UPF Research in Progress Session

Thursday, May 16th, 2019

12.00-14.00

Room 24.400

1. Accepting Return: The case of the EU-Turkey statement

[Sevda Tunaboylu](#)

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Abstract

This paper aims to answer the questions of under what circumstances refugees decide to return and to what extent this decision is made freely. There are serious doubts about how 'voluntary' AVR programs actually are. Many refugees participate only as they face with conditions below humanitarian standards and constant fear of detention and deportation. In the systems where forced and voluntary returns are implemented in combination, the notion of voluntariness becomes compromised (Koch 2013). Likewise, under the EU-Turkey statement, asylum seekers are given the 'choice' to voluntarily return to Turkey (for Syrians) or their country of origin (for all the other nationalities). However, accepting return under the EU-Turkey statements for asylum seekers was a decision made out of desperation and as a last resort. Two case studies show us how the sole existence of a return option tempers with the right to access asylum.

2. Integration of Syrian Youths in Turkish Higher Education: Turkish policy progress

[Begum Dereli](#)

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Abstract

Turkey, which has been generally mentioned as an emigration country, is now the top refugee hosting country in the world with 3.5 million Syrian refugees – a high proportion of which are children and youths. Regardless of positive national legislation and practices to increase child and youth participation in education, attendance rate after primary school is still low; it is around 4% in higher education. This paper aims to provide a timeline of the Turkish policy progress which maintain Syrians' access to higher education and to understand to what extent these policies affect the integration of Syrian youths into the tertiary education. This paper, displays the finding from policy relevant desk research and twenty-five pilot qualitative interviews with Syrian youths who study in Turkish universities, focuses on the challenges and opportunities that Syrian refugee youths have experienced to integrate into tertiary education. Due to the large presence of Syrian refugee youths, the case study of Turkey is of great importance to comprehend to what extent state policies on higher education have influence on the integration process of young refugee population.