



European Forum  
of Technical and Vocational  
Education and Training

## **EfVET STATEMENTS**

### **Vocational Education Training in the Current Refugees Crisis.**

The overall aim of the European Union is to foster the inclusion of newly arrived migrants and refugees to host country education and training system, to the local economy and to the society in general. On EU -28 average about 50% of asylum seekers have been recognized in the first instance in 2016 as being genuine refugees more than 350.000 individuals. The majority of applications are from Syria. EfVET would like to ask political leaders to show solidarity and leadership to support refugee crisis.

We would like, together with EfVET members, to bring more solidarity among Member States of the European Union. We would like to call for more political action from all European Union Member States to welcome refugees and provide help and education upon arrival. Also to be in good cooperation with non-EU countries that are affected, like Serbia and Macedonia.

EfVET stresses that education for respect is very much needed at a time in which messages and acts of xenophobia are increasing all around Europe. EfVET stresses that vocational education training is part of the solution both for the refugees and for the host countries. It can help refugees to integrate in their new host country and need to have access to the educational, training and employment system of this host country. VET colleges provide language, skills, competences and IT courses that support refugees upon arrival. The most important are language skills that need to be acquired before actually entering the education, training and work environment. Also, there are important aspects in treating the integration of refugees and migrants, such as non-formal learning, soft skills, civic participation and European values. Many of

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our members organise intercultural meetings for new arrivals and locals. In many Member States there is a considerable gap between the employment levels of third-country nationals and EU nationals. According to Eurostat (Eurostat 2016) in 2015<sup>1</sup>, the employment rate of third –country nationals aged 20-64 was 28% points lower than that of the total population in the same age group at the EU level. The improvement of the labour market outcomes of immigrants’ skills for Europe’s economic growth is fully tapped. The ET 2020 has identified the improvement of the labour market outcomes of immigrants as a key step of 75 % employment rate in the EU by 2020.

EfVET stresses that newly arrived migrants are by definition better prepared for immigration, since they usually plan this procedure from several months ahead.

EfVET with other civil society organisations have played a major role in refugee crisis. We together managed support the refugees with activities and administrative support. EfVET underlines that they need to be better supported.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Migrant\\_integration\\_statistics\\_-\\_education&oldid=253776](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Migrant_integration_statistics_-_education&oldid=253776)