LIFE LONG LEARNING AND HIGHER EDUCATION “SERVING”
TO THE INCLUSION OF REFUGEES AND STUDENTS WITH
MIGRANT BACKGROUND

Centre for Life Long Learning (CAP Uniba)
University of Bari «Aldo Moro» - Italy

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The Problem

Inequalities in the access to Tertiary Education on behalf of refugee international students with regard to the acknowledgement and validation of previously acquired official Degrees in their countries.

According to the DAFI Annual Report 2022 (UNHCR) only 7% of refugees worldwide have access to Higher Education. Unchr’s main goal is to raise this figure to 15% of those enrolled by 2030 (https://www.unhcr.org/media/dafi-annual-report-2022)
NO-ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN ITALY REASONS

Lack of...

Comparability

Value Declaration

European Passport for Refugees (EQPR)

Academic Equivalency Mobility Information Center (CIMEA) https://www.cimea.it/

Inconsistencies with the Universities’ autonomy

- Lisbon Convention, 11 April 1997 for the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region

  Application in Italy (L. 148/2002): “oriented recognition” for refugee students who have not the original documents.

- Art. 1 Law 15/2022: Academic recognition is provided by Italian institutions of Higher Education in accordance with Article 2 of Law N. 148.

- Article 4 of Law 92 of 2012 establishes and regulates Lifelong Learning in Italy.
Universities, Third Mission
Services and Life-Long Learning (LLL)

The actions of LLL for the academic inclusion of refugee students carried out by the Center for Life-Long Learning of the University of Bari “Aldo Moro” (Italy) since 2016.

Uniba is the first Italian University to apply the Lisbon Convention (S.A. Device of 24 February 2023/p.32).

An autonomous procedure has been designed and developed for the validation of formal qualifications acquired by refugee students in order to facilitate their access to University.
STRATEGIES AND MECHANISMS FOR A SUCCESSFUL ACCESS TO UNIVERSITY: THE CAP UNIBA PROCEDURE

The refugee student forwards his application for enrollment to the didactic secretary’s office of the study degree course.

The secretary’s office requires the CAP Uniba’s opinion/assessment on the student’s admission degree.

CAP Uniba carries out Degree evaluation and takes the student through the Maxipac project, a pathway to transparency of prior qualifications and skills acquired.

The student finalizes and completes the enrollment to the selected study degree course.

The Academic Board sends the Decision of Academic Recognition of the Degree for access to the chosen Course of Study to the Student Administrative Office.

CAP Uniba reports the outcome of the evaluation to the didactic secretary office and the Department of the Course, which forwards it to the Course Didactic Board for a final evaluation.

The applicant receives from CAP Uniba a skills assessment portfolio and a proposal for recognition of CFU acquired in formal, no formal and informal learning contexts.
CASE 1

Last October 26 the first assessment of the qualifications of a Ukrainian student was successfully carried out.

The student had acquired a Bachelor Degree in “Pedagogy” and a Master Degree in "Pedagogy and Methods of Secondary Education. Language and Literature (English)" in order to enroll to the Master Degree Course in "Modern Languages and Literature" and become an English language teacher in Italy.
CASE 2

Last October 31, the second assessment of the qualifications of a Palestinian student was successfully carried out.

The student had acquired Bachelor Degree in “English Language and Literature” in order to enroll to the Master Degree Course in “International Relations and European Studies” to become an Ambassador and Cultural Mediator.
Maxipac.eu PROCEDURE

Project to maximize the previously acquired skills of Third Country Nationals in European Higher Education (2019-2022) (www.maxipac.eu)

Two preparatory steps

- Step 1 - European Qualifications Scan
- Step 2 - Multiple short cases

The core of the PAC-procedure

- Step 3 - Portfolio and assessments

A continuously flanking step

- Step 4 - Support provided by the psycho-social context
Maxipac.eu PROCEDURE

1. Evaluation of qualifications based on documentation held by the student and a structured interview, including job information and language skills;

2. A "multiple short case step" describing, in the initial orientation phase, the program simplified for which the student has requested the recognition;

3. The Creation of a Portfolio where documents and degrees achieved, certificates and work experience contracts are included.

4. The Assessment of psycho-social and cognitive skills acquired and factors related to the student's housing, economic, educational and linguistic situation.
SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFERABILITY

CAP Procedure fits to the Inclusive University Manifesto (https://manifestouniversitainclusiva.unhcr.it/) to provide visibility to Italian universities' initiatives and information for access to higher education.

Since 2021, the CAP has joined the UNHCR Project "Unicore 3.0", "Unicore 4.0" and "Unicore 5.0," funding nine Scholarships to students of African nationality to attend a Uniba Master's Degree Program.

Student Mentorship Service has been active since 2020 carried out by five mentor students in the Academic Year 2023-2024. 28 international refugee students from countries such as Iraq, Ukraine, Iran, Afghanistan and Africa are currently enrolled at our University.
LIFELONG LEARNING SERVICE AND
SOFT SKILLS VALIDATION

Signature of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Regional Network for Lifelong Learning (RETAP) with the Apulia Region for skills certification activities for refugee people.

Lifelong Learning Service for attestation, validation, and certification of soft skills acquired in the training and job experience.
Thanks

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