



newsletter

Table of contents

1. HGRA activities
2. Recent reports and academic publications
3. Highlights
4. Libyan developments
5. Regional developments
6. European developments
7. International developments





newsletter

HGRA activities

Enhancing the capacity of Libyan universities to tackle migration issues in higher education: HGRA Workshop held at Zawia University on July 9, 2024

This workshop of Work Package 3 was entitled “Exploring international cooperation in addressing migration in Libya”.

The aim of the workshop was to provide an informal platform for discussion among HGRA partners on migration dynamics in Libya and cooperation between Libya and the European Union. The session started with a short presentation of the results of WP2 by the University of Zawia. This was followed by a broader discussion among HGRA partners and experts, facilitated by UNIMED and the University of Barcelona, on key migration concepts related to the project’s objectives and challenges.

After the introductory phase, a training session provided a platform for local and international stakeholders involved in migration issues in higher education institutions to exchange knowledge and best practices and discuss innovative solutions for addressing migration-related issues through international cooperation.

Two more workshops will be organised during the course of the project: one focusing on the status of migrants under international conventions, the other on border control.

Online roundtable on “Bologna Process and Dublin Descriptors for Libyan Higher Education Institutions”, 4th July 2024

In the framework of Work Package 4 – Training Modules – led by Sapienza University of Rome (Italy), the HGRA project hosted a highly informative and thought-provoking roundtable on the important topic of “Bologna Process and Dublin Descriptors for Libyan Higher Education Institutions” on 4 July 2024. The event, which took place online from 3pm to 5pm, brought together distinguished experts and representatives from the project’s partner institutions to discuss the potential benefits and challenges associated with aligning Libyan universities with these influential frameworks.

The roundtable facilitated a valuable exchange of knowledge and highlighted best practices for alignment with the Bologna Process and the Dublin Descriptors. Participants shared insights into successful approaches, identified challenges and explored strategies to overcome obstacles.

Two further roundtables will be organised to address the specific needs of each Libyan higher education institution. These needs have been assessed through a data collection exercise in the second work package of the project.





newsletter

HGRA activities

Next HGRA workshop: The Role of Higher Education Institutions in Dealing with the Phenomenon of Migration: Approaches and Initiatives.

Sebha University, in collaboration with the University of Barcelona, will host and coordinate this workshop, focussing on the issues related to the status and integration of migration in the frame of the International conventions.

Date: 29th January 2025 Location: Sebha University, Libya

Migration is a significant phenomenon shaping the socio-political and economic landscape of the Mediterranean and North African regions. Higher education institutions (HEIs) in Libya are positioned to address migration-related topics through academic inquiry and institutional development.

In this context, Sebha University, in collaboration with the University of Barcelona, is organizing a workshop to explore the role of HEIs in engaging with migration as a key area of interest, focusing on academic and institutional approaches. The event will include discussions on the broader impacts of migration on southern Libyan cities and the region as a whole, fostering dialogue on how universities can respond to evolving challenges and opportunities in this area.





newsletter

Recent reports and academic publications

International Organization for Migration, Libya: Extreme heat risk along migration routes
November 2024

<https://dtm.iom.int/reports/libya-heat-risk-along-migration-routes-libya>

Libya has recently experienced numerous extreme weather events, particularly flash floods and heatwaves, that have significantly affected communities across the country. These events, which have occurred with increased frequency, highlight how climate change affects Libyan communities, with vulnerable populations being the most affected. Research teams from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the AI For Good Lab came together to investigate how extreme heat impacts migrants journeying through Libya as well as host communities residing along migration routes, and how these effects will evolve as a result of climate change

Human Rights Watch, "I Can't Go Home, Stay Here, or Leave": Pushbacks and Pullbacks of Syrian Refugees from Cyprus and Lebanon,
September 2024,

<https://www.refworld.org/reference/countryrep/hrw/2024/en/148714>

Lacking legal migration pathways, unbearable conditions are driving many Syrian refugees to leave for Europe, particularly Cyprus given its proximity to the Lebanon coast, by boats that do not depart from or enter official ports. In response, Lebanon, Cyprus, and the European Union (EU) are pursuing a policy of containment. This report focuses on Syrian refugees attempting boat crossings and provides recommendations to relevant stakeholders.





newsletter

Highlights

Tobruk University and Community Support Sudanese Migrants and Academics

Tobruk University has demonstrated exceptional leadership in supporting Sudanese migrants fleeing conflict, with its efforts extending far beyond academics. The university president, alongside several deans, personally welcomed the migrants upon their arrival in Tobruk, ensuring their safe transit and settlement. This high-level involvement reflects the institution's commitment to fostering an inclusive community and addressing migration challenges effectively.

A significant development has been the integration of Sudanese academics into the university's teaching and research bodies. Several esteemed Sudanese professors, who were displaced by the conflict, are now contributing to Tobruk University's academic programs. Their expertise has enriched the institution, particularly in specialized fields where their knowledge is invaluable. The university facilitated their legal documentation, enabling these professors to resume their professional roles and integrate into the academic environment smoothly.

In addition, Sudanese students have been encouraged to enroll at the university, with tuition fees waived to ease their financial burdens. Recognizing the challenges faced by families, Tobruk University has introduced policies allowing parents to bring their young children to campus when daycare is unavailable. These measures aim to remove barriers to education and foster a supportive environment for all.

The broader Tobruk community has also risen to the occasion. The annual Tobruk Kites Festival was a highlight of these efforts, focusing on welcoming Sudanese children. Organized by local private companies, the Red Crescent-Tobruk, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the festival offered a safe and joyful space for children to connect, play, and begin healing from the trauma of displacement.

These combined efforts—academic, institutional, and communal—have had a transformative impact. Today, Sudanese professors are shaping classrooms, students are thriving in their studies, and families are finding a sense of belonging. Together, Tobruk University and its community exemplify how collaboration can turn a crisis into an opportunity for growth, inclusion, and mutual benefit.





newsletter

Libyan Developments

Libya confirms commitment to supporting Palestine's rights

09/11/2024 – *The Libya Observer*

Libya reiterated the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

This came in a speech by the advisor at the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations, Hatem Al-Thalab, during the general discussion of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee at the United Nations in its 79th session.

The statement also condemned the heinous crimes committed by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people, who have been suffering from the most atrocious policies of racial discrimination since the Nakba of 1948. It highlighted the suffering of the Palestinians during the ongoing aggression on the Gaza Strip, stressing the need to hold the entity accountable and to achieve justice for Palestinians.

UNHCR and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs & Interior held a workshop to strengthen coordination on the Sudanese refugee response in Libya.

04/12/2024 – *UNHCR Libya*

"I sincerely thank the State of Libya for hosting many Sudanese refugees" said Aseer Al-Madaien, UNHCR Libya Chief of Mission.

Regional Developments

Libya, Turkey discuss MoU to address residency and visa issues

19/11/2024 – *The Libya Observer*

The Government of National Unity (GNU) discussed a proposed memorandum of understanding with Turkey aimed at addressing challenges faced by Libyans in Turkey, including patients, students, tourists, and businesspeople.

The meeting included Libyan Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Adel Jumaa and Turkish Deputy Interior Minister Münir Karaloğlu. They agreed to collaborate with the Libyan Health and Academic Attaché in Turkey and involve the Libyan Consulate in Istanbul to address issues concerning Libyan residents.

The agreement will cover residency and visa matters, aiming to streamline procedures for all stakeholders.





newsletter

European Developments

Launch of Call for Applications: SAFE – Supporting At-risk researchers with Fellowships in Europe

The EU-funded SAFE project “Supporting At-risk researchers with Fellowships in Europe” has launched a Call for applications to offer up to 60 fellowships for at-risk doctoral and postdoctoral researchers of any non-EU nationality for a research stay at a higher education and research institution in the EU.

The project develops, implements and tests a fellowship scheme to integrate at-risk researchers in Europe. Considering a declining academic freedom worldwide, the project addresses the increasing need to offer at-risk researchers an opportunity to relocate to the EU and continue their work in a safe environment.

As a pilot fellowship scheme funded by the European Union (EU), the project aims to help at-risk researchers escape the threat they face and continue their research in safety in an EU Member State.

The project is implemented by a consortium comprising the following partners: DAAD (coordinator), Campus France, PAUSE (hosted by Collège de France) and UNIMED.

Host institutions established in the EU can submit applications on behalf of eligible non-EU researchers at risk until 20 January 2025, at 23:59 (CET).

Applications have to be submitted by the host organisations, and not by the individual researchers themselves. The same host institution can send one application only.

More information at <https://saferesearchers.eu/>

EASA extends airspace ban on Libya to April 2025

11/11/2024 – *The Libya Observer*

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) announced the extension of its aviation ban in the airspace of Libya until the end of April 2025.

EASA attributed this extension to “information available to the members of the European Union and its institutions,” and said it was due to the dangerous security situation, the presence of terrorist organizations, and the ongoing military operations in the country.

EASA said that there were risks of deliberate and unintentional attacks on civil aviation at all altitudes, fearing a deterioration in air services in the country.

It recommended that operators abstain from flying in Libyan airspace at all altitudes and flight levels, with the exception of operations heading to airports located on conditions of “approaching from the sea, full coordination with local authorities and air traffic control.”



newsletter

International Developments

Washington supports Sudanese refugees in Libya with more than \$3 million

11/11/2024 – *The Libya Observer*

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has made a \$3.25 million donation to support the urgent needs of Sudanese refugees in Libya, through the United Nations World Food Program. According to United Nations, more than 99,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived in Libya, since the start of the Sudanese crisis in April 2023, until last October 2024, including 28,000 whose data was recorded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Last September 28, the USAID announced the provision of \$5 million to support Sudanese refugees in Libya due to the ongoing conflict in Sudan and the humanitarian crisis that the country is witnessing.

