

Access, Qualifications and Social Dimension of Syrian Refugee Students in Turkish Higher Education

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Outline

Background of the situation/ setting the problem

- Syrian refugees in Turkey
- Challenges of Turkish HE system

Quantitative research on Syrian students in Turkey

Key findings and recommendations

Background

Syria with a population of 22.4 million in April 2011

Around 6 million Syrians had to leave the country so far (more than 25%)

At least 465 thousand people were killed

Hundreds of thousands of people were injured

7-8 million were forced to move within the country

The total number of refugees in Turkey reached 3.5 million in November 2017

This makes 4.5% of Turkey's 80 million population

Majority of the refugees live all around Turkey and only 7% live in the camps established in the region

Provincial Breakdown of Syrian «Refugees» in Turkey

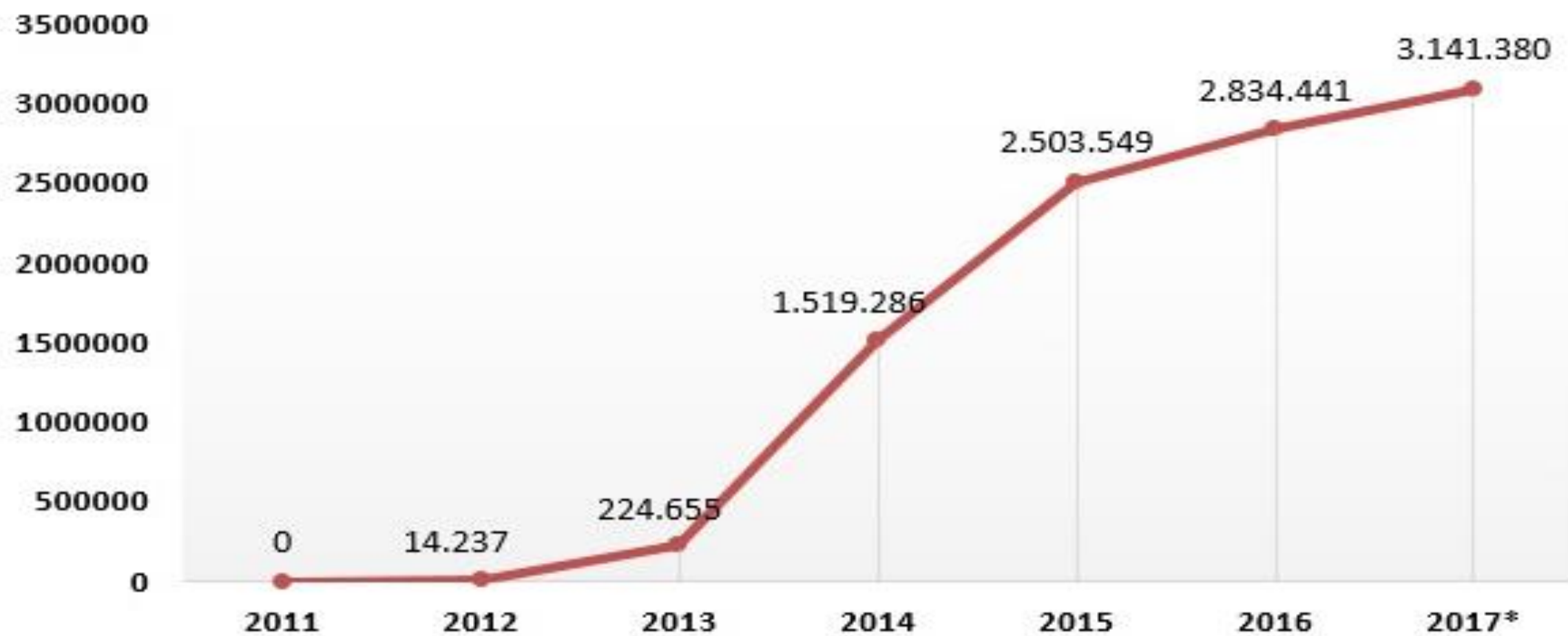
Turkey

Provincial Breakdown Syrian Refugees in Turkey

as of 29 June 2017



NUMBER OF SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION PER YEAR



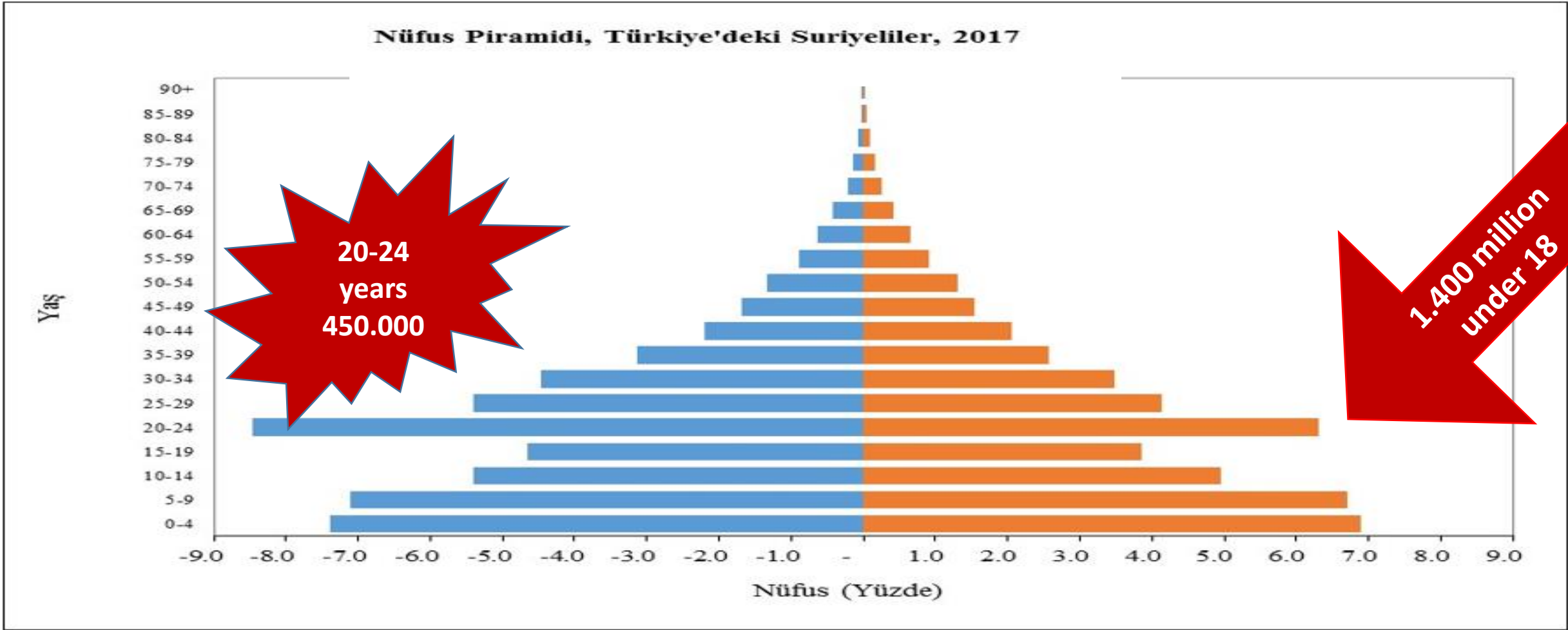
**As of 17.08.2017*

Legal and Administrative Regulations on «Refugees»

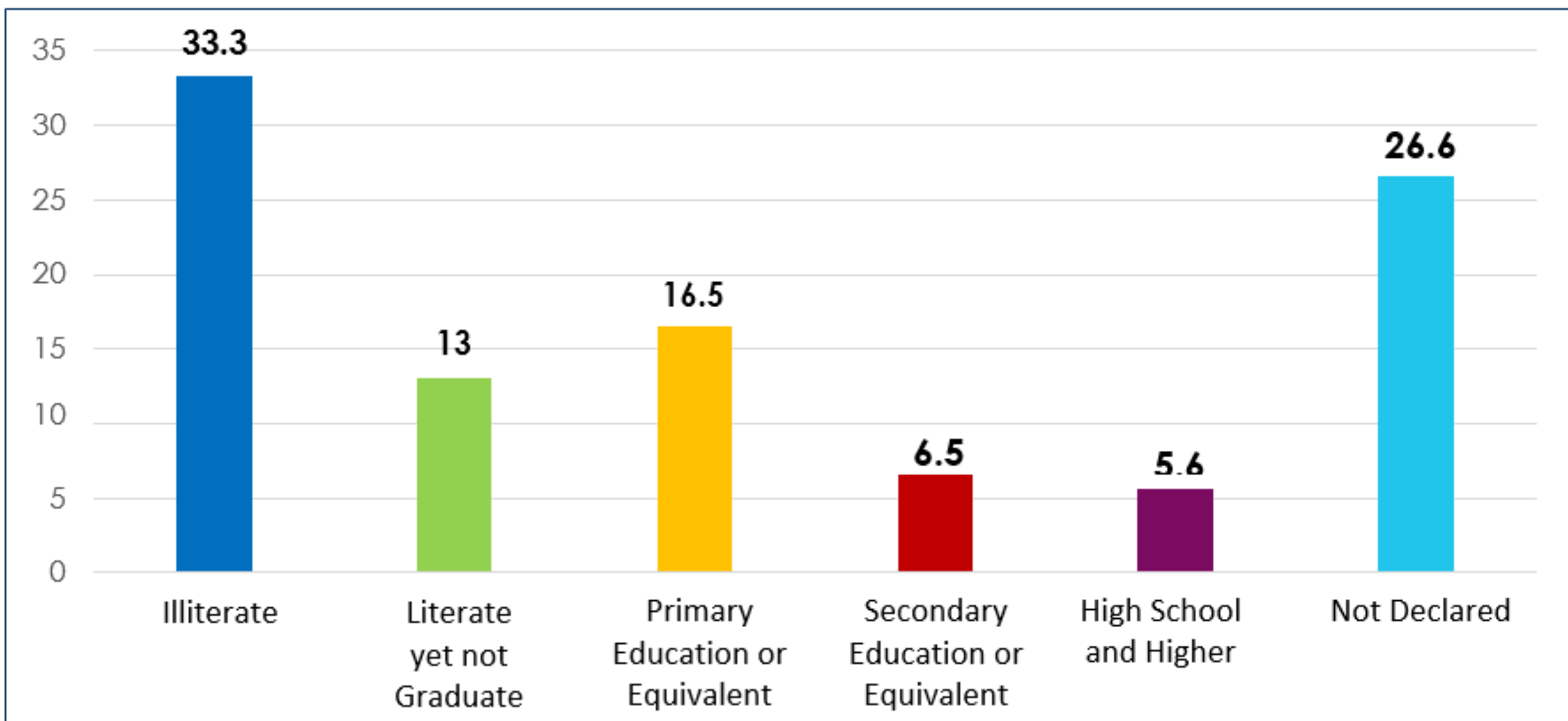
With a declaration in 1961, Turkey, one of the first countries to sign Geneva Convention, stated that “**geographical limitations**” shall be applied, meaning that whatever the reason is, Turkey shall not accept people coming from outside of Europe as “**refugees**”.

Legal status of Syrians in Turkey is “**temporary protection**” under the latest “Temporary Protection Regulation” in 2013. The Regulation gives the sense of “well-meant support from the host for the **guests** -within the bounds of possibility”, rather than “rights” of refugees and involved liabilities of the state.

Demographic Pyramid of Syrian Refugees in Turkey

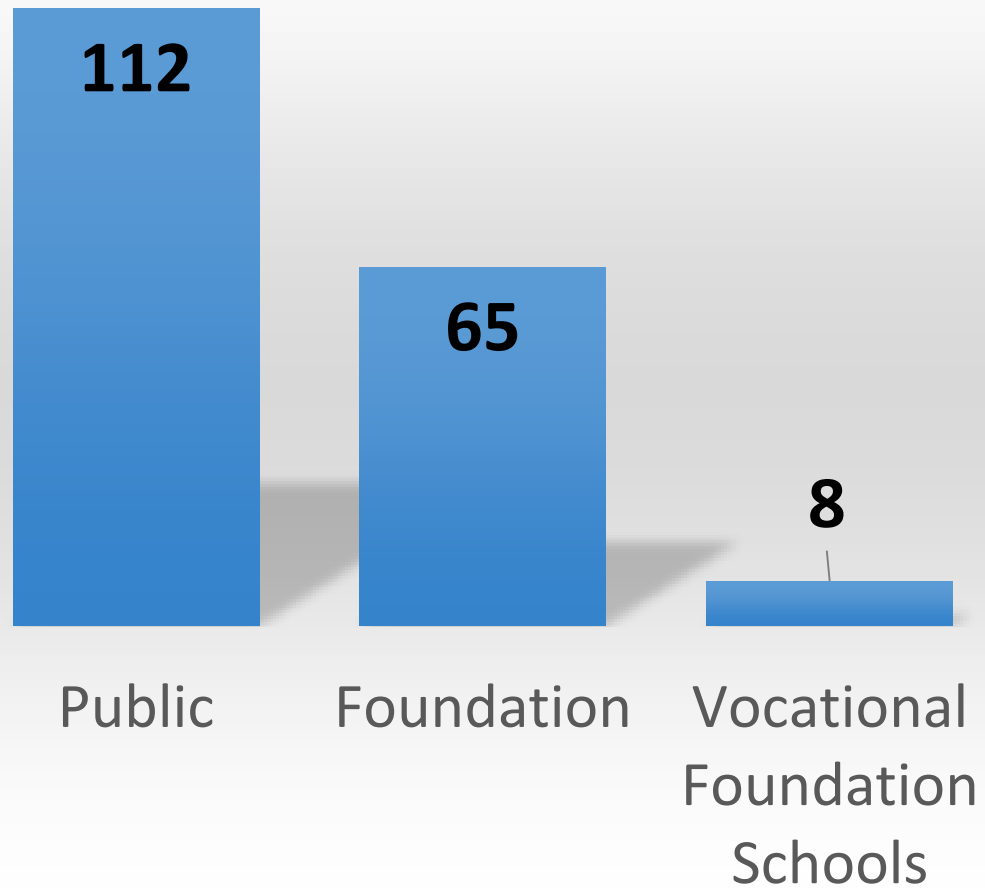


Syrians uTP in Turkey according to their Educational Statuses (%) March 2015

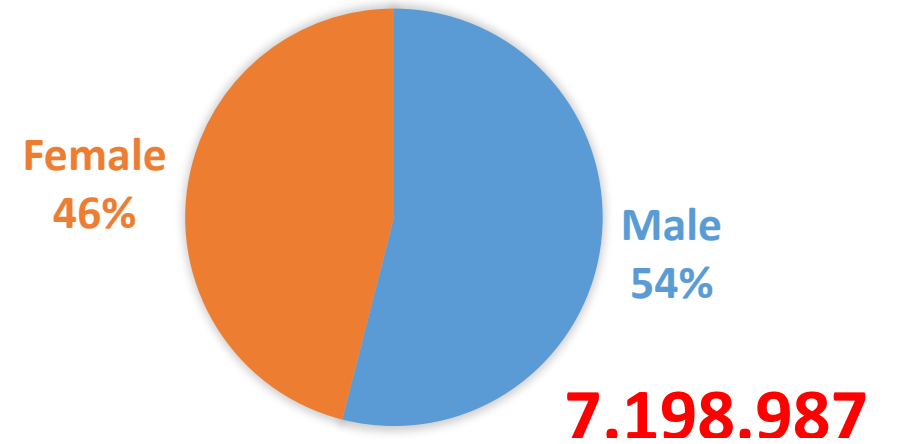


Turkish Higher Education System

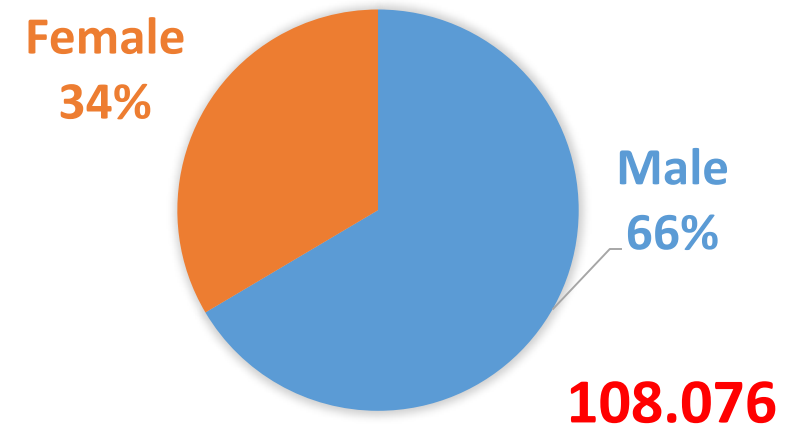
HE SYSTEM



TURKISH STUDENT NUMBERS

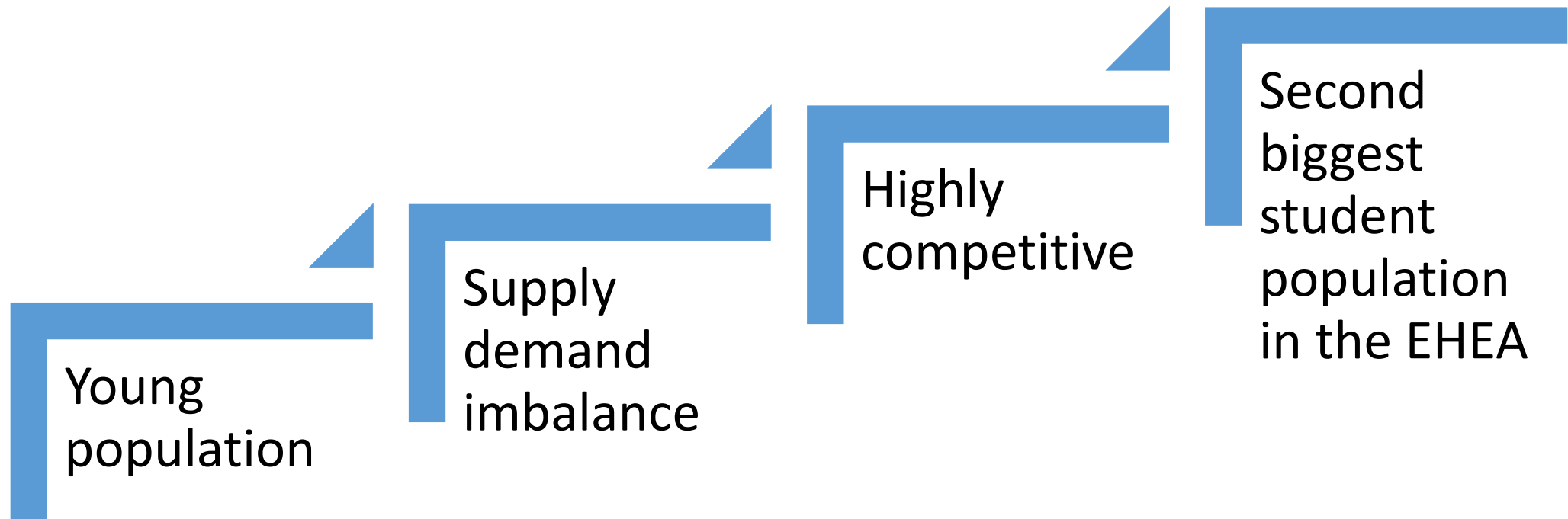


FOREIGN STUDENTS



Challenges of the System

Admitting and integrating Syrian students is particularly delicate issue in Turkey.



Admission Routes to Turkish Universities

In 2013, the following decisions were taken by the CoHE (YÖK) regarding transfer/recognition of the students (except for Medicine and Dentistry programs) from the countries in which education cannot be pursued **due to violence and crisis**.

If students present documentation required for recognition unit, they can be admitted to Turkish HEIs

Undergraduate applications shall be assessed and admitted by the higher education institutions (provided that such applications do not exceed **10% of ÖSYS quota** of the applied department in the respective year to protect the balance of the national students)

Students, who cannot present documentation shall take courses as **special students** at the 7 universities in the region (Gaziantep, Kilis, Harran, Mustafa Kemal, Osmaniye Korkut Ata, Çukurova, and Mersin).

Programs in **Turkish and/or in a foreign language** can be opened in the above-mentioned universities.

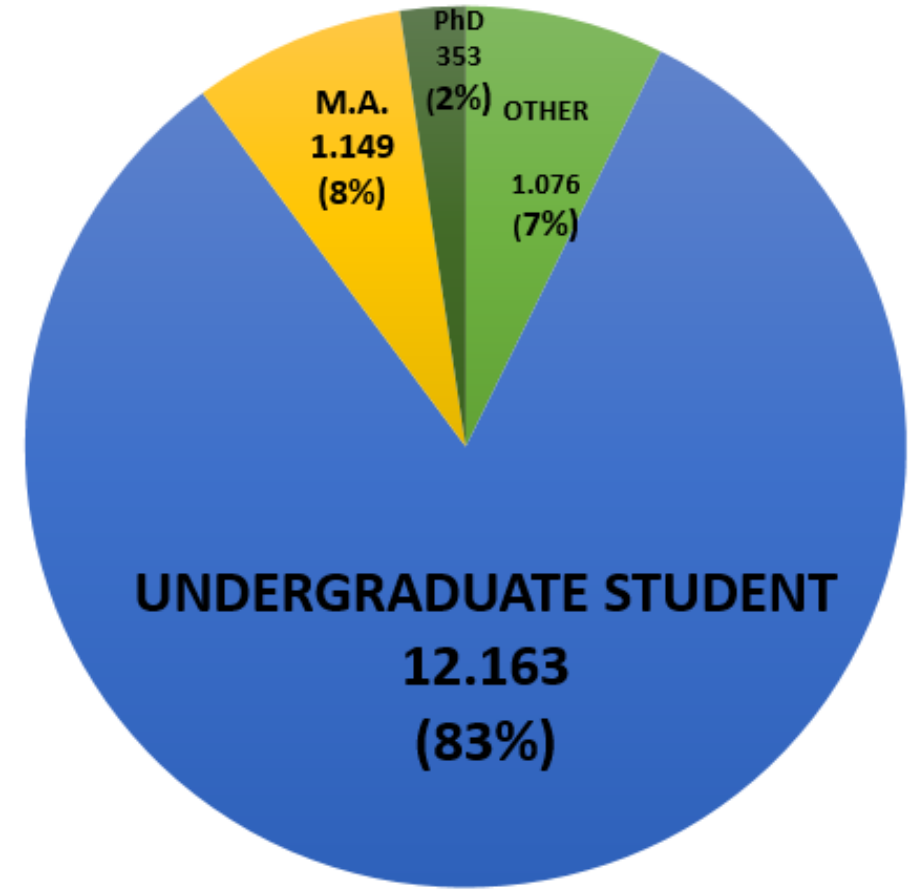
Students **who cannot present the required documents** but applying for the second or third years can be accepted according to the results of **proficiency tests** held by these universities.

Syrian Students in Turkish Universities

2016-2017

**14.740
STUDENTS**

**12.782 (% 86,7) PUBLIC UNIV. / 1.958
(% 13,2) FOUNDATION UNIV.**



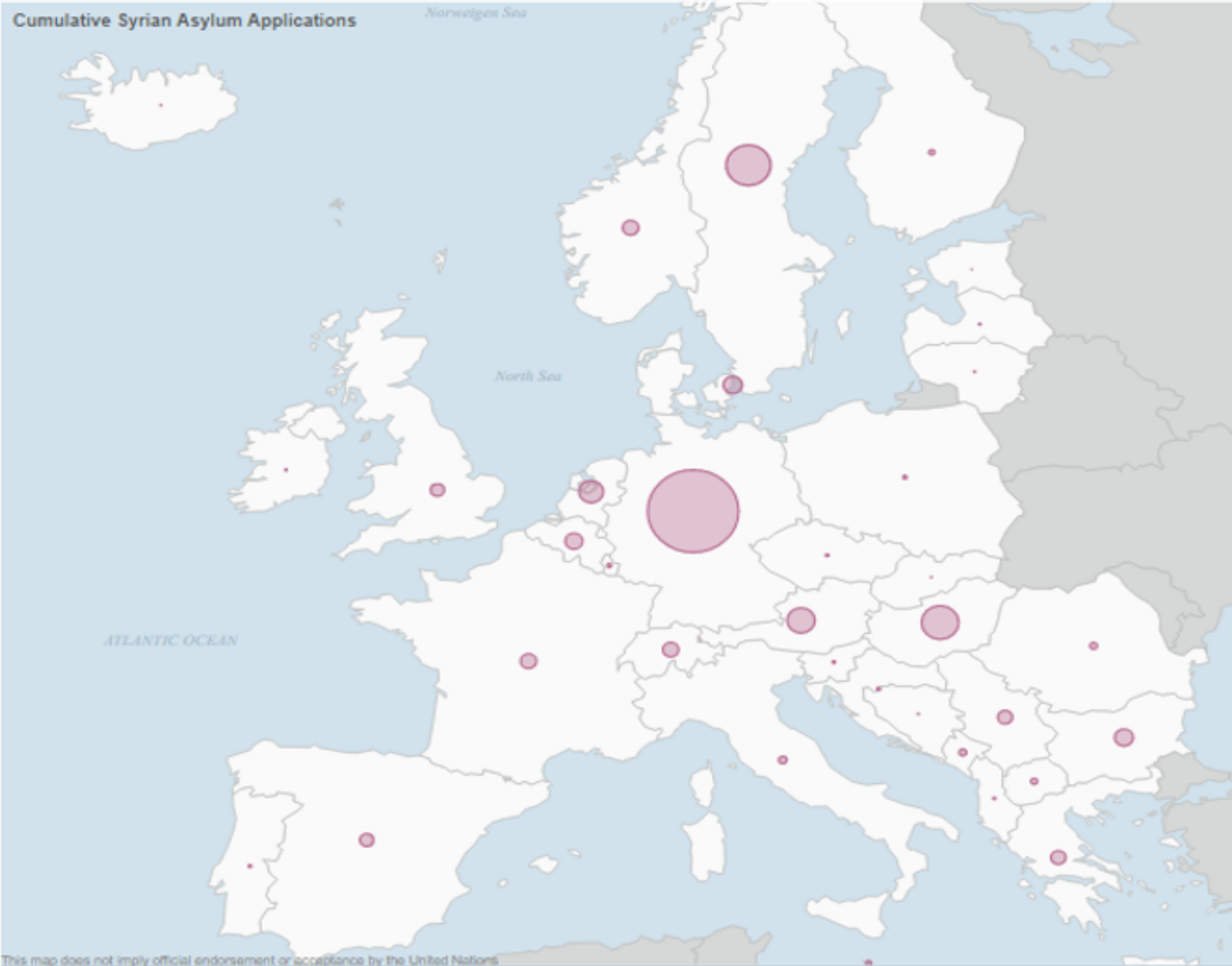
**TURKEY FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM**

TOTAL: 3.473

EUROPE: Syrian Asylum Applications

From Apr 2011 to Oct 2016

Cumulative Syrian Asylum Applications



This map does not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

| EU (AB TOPLAMI) | 856.474 |
|-----------------|---------|
| ALMANYA | 456.023 |
| İSVEÇ | 109.970 |
| MACARİSTAN | 76.592 |
| AVUSTURYA | 42.775 |
| HOLLANDA | 32.720 |
| BULGARİSTAN | 19.158 |
| BELÇİKA | 16.986 |
| FRANSA | 14.265 |
| YUNANİSTAN | 12.138 |
| İSPANYA | 10.373 |
| İNGİLTERE | 10.113 |
| DİĞER AB | 27.371 |

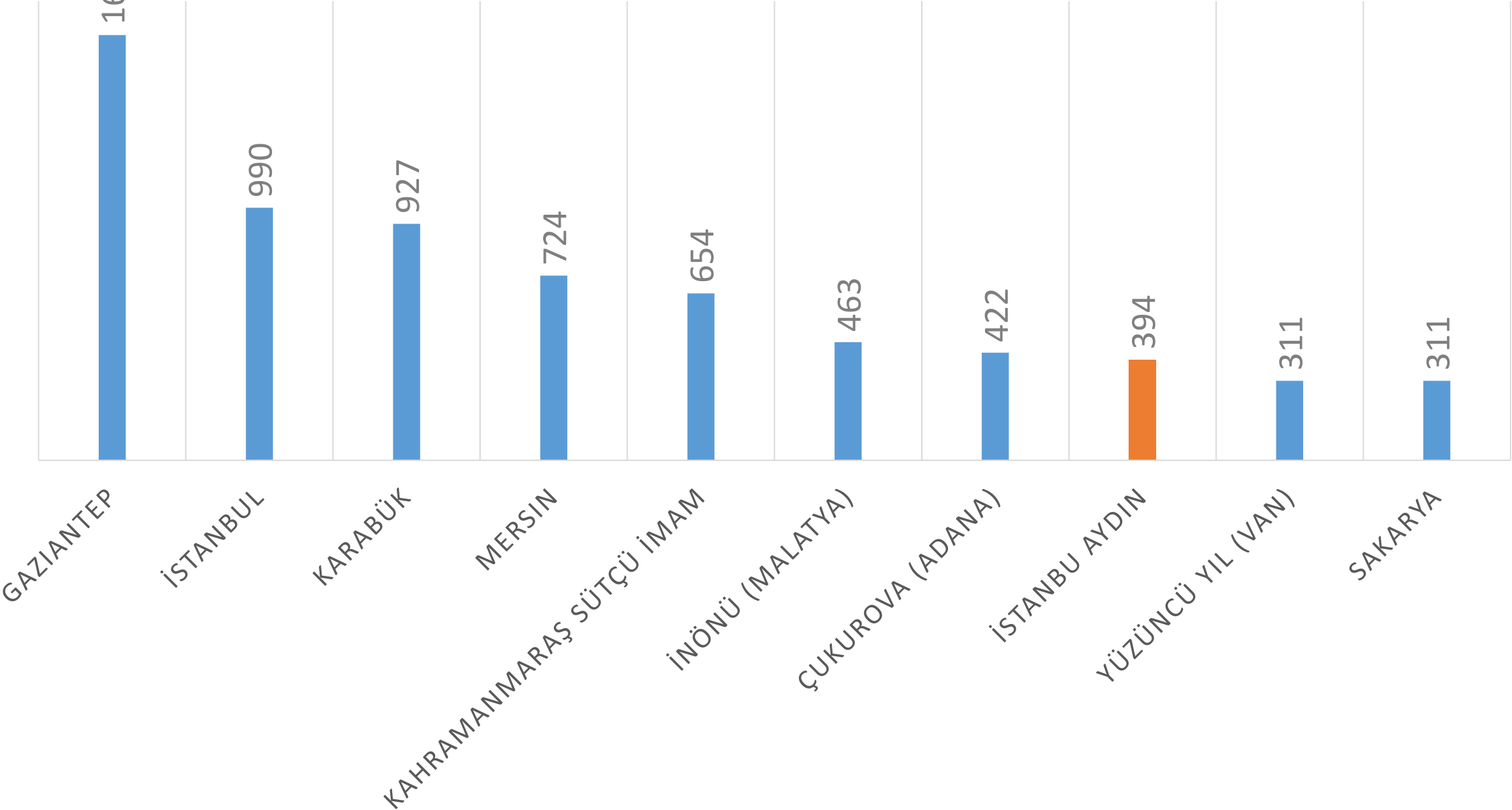
Kaynak: BMMYK/UNHCR

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/asylum.php>

(Erişim Tarihi: 12.02.2017)

AB üyesi olmayan Norveç'te 14.274, İsviçre'de ise 13.713 Suriyeli sığınma başvurusu yapmıştır.

TOP TEN UNIVERSITIES WITH SYRIAN STUDENTS



Research

Research Question

- «How do the Syrian students integrate in the Turkish higher education system and in Turkish society?».

More specifically

- what their academic and social profile are
- what challenges they face
- what expectations they have

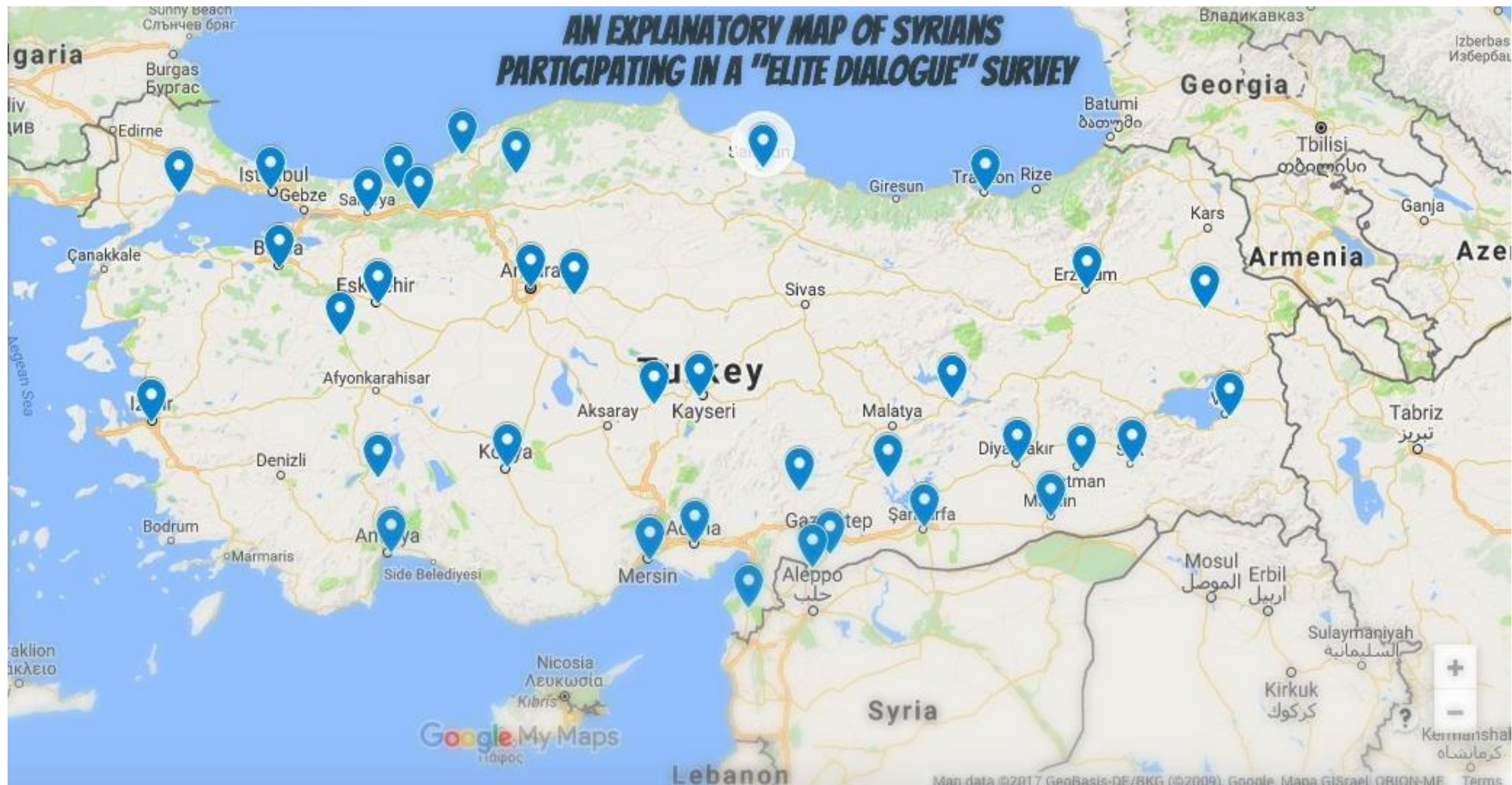
Aims

- to contribute to better understand the profile,
- qualifications
- expectations of the Syrian students

Conducted with 497 Syrian
higher education students

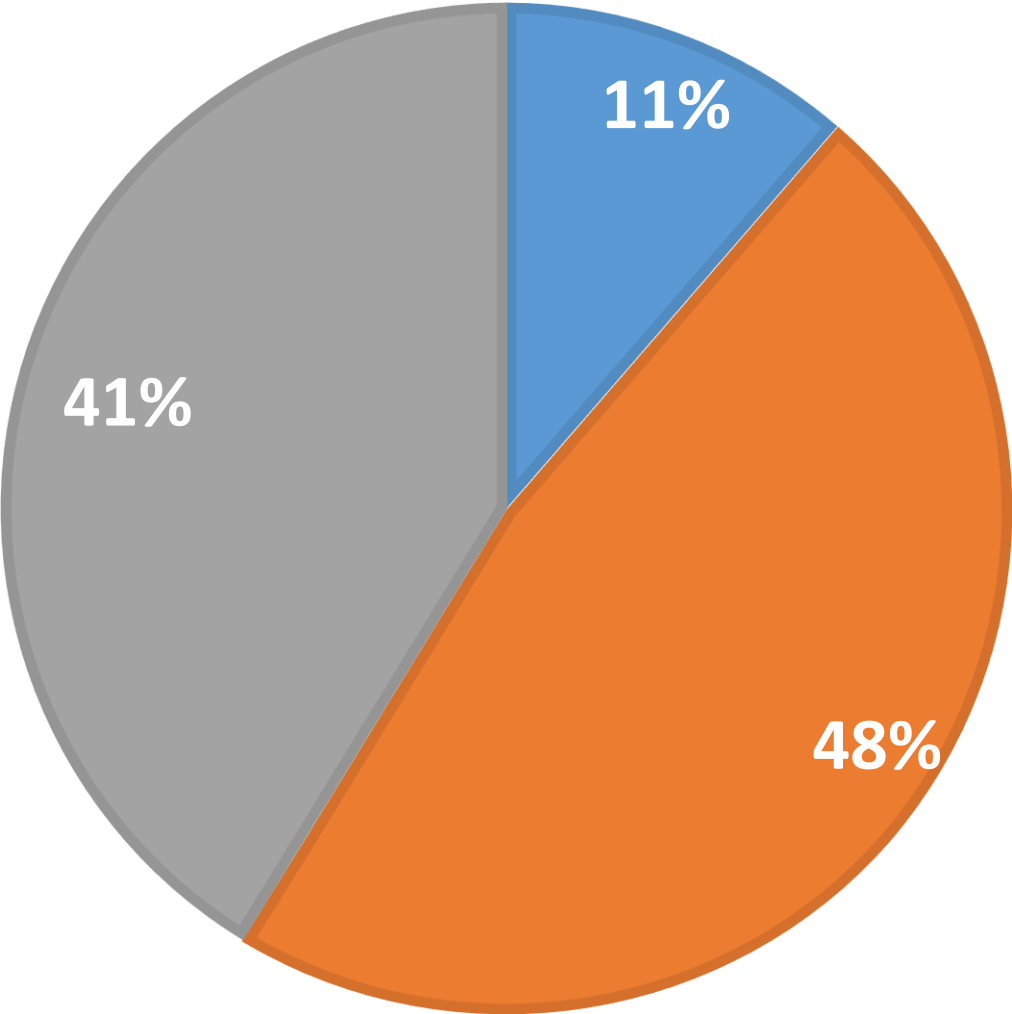
- 395 surveys qualified to be evaluated

AN EXPLANATORY MAP OF SYRIANS PARTICIPATING IN A "ELITE DIALOGUE" SURVEY



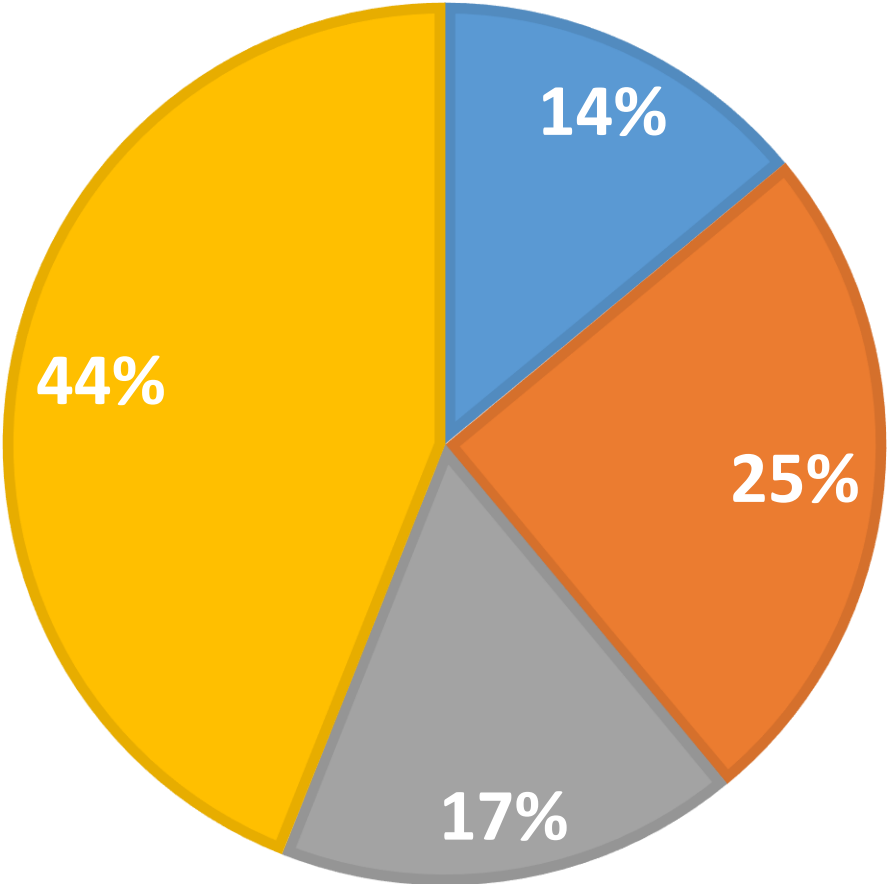
FEELING TRAUMA AFTER WAR

■ Frequently ■ Sometimes ■ Never

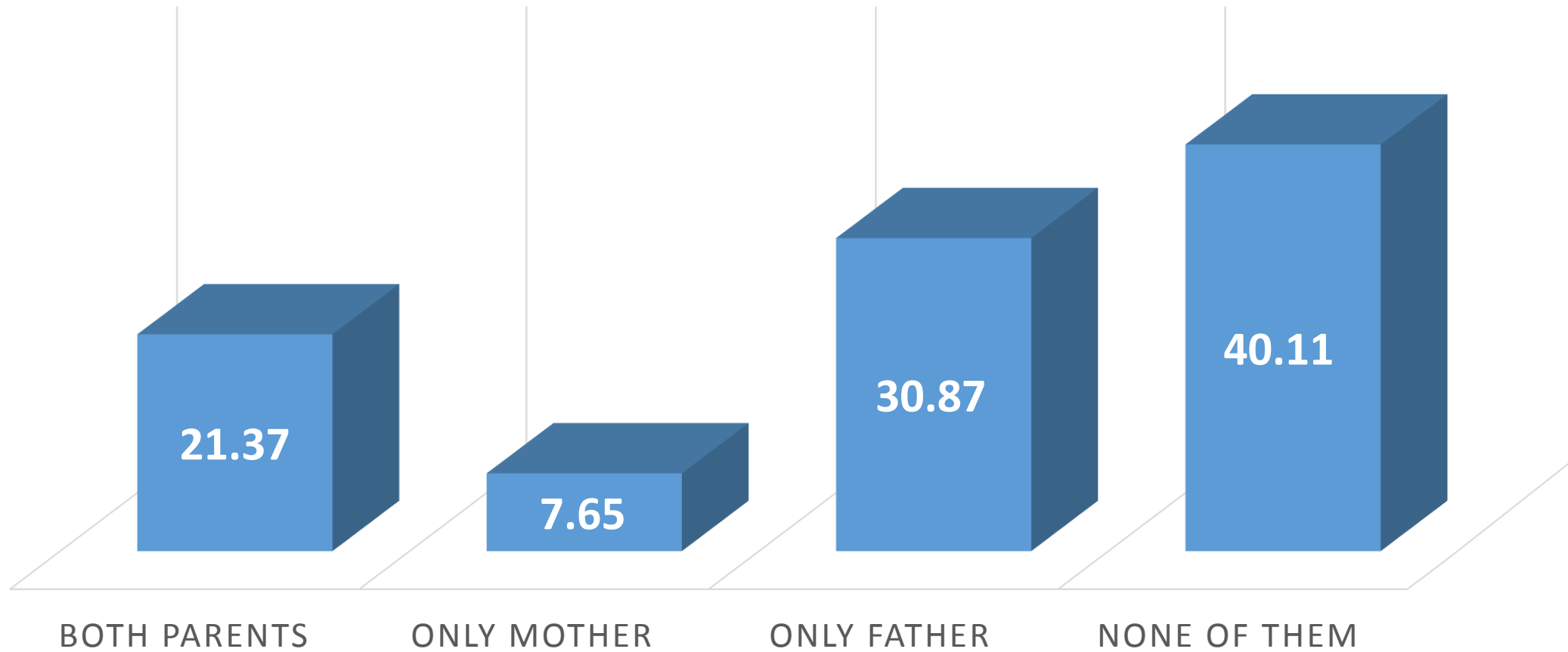


LOSS OF FAMILY/FRIENDS DURING WAR

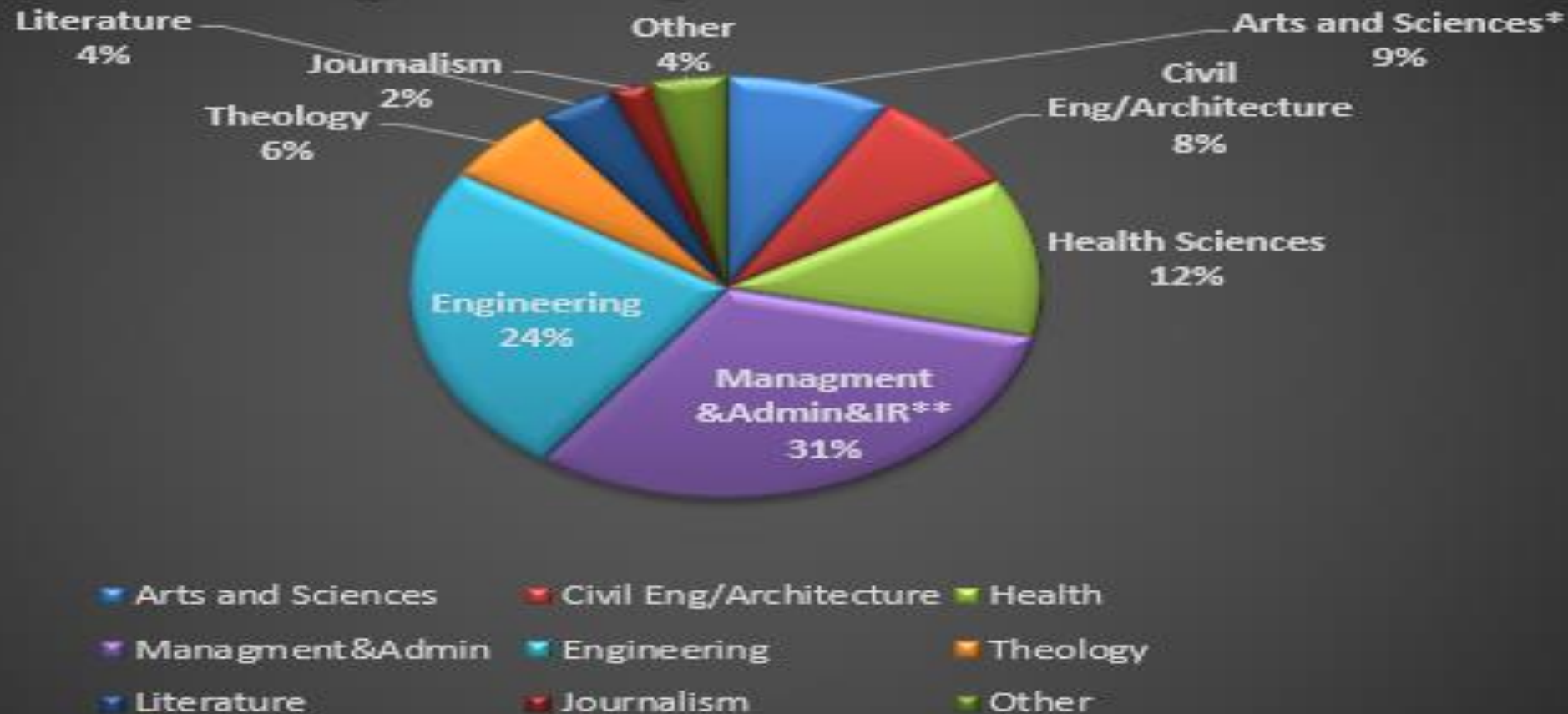
■ Noone ■ Friend
■ Distant Relative ■ Close relative



HE Attainments of the Parents



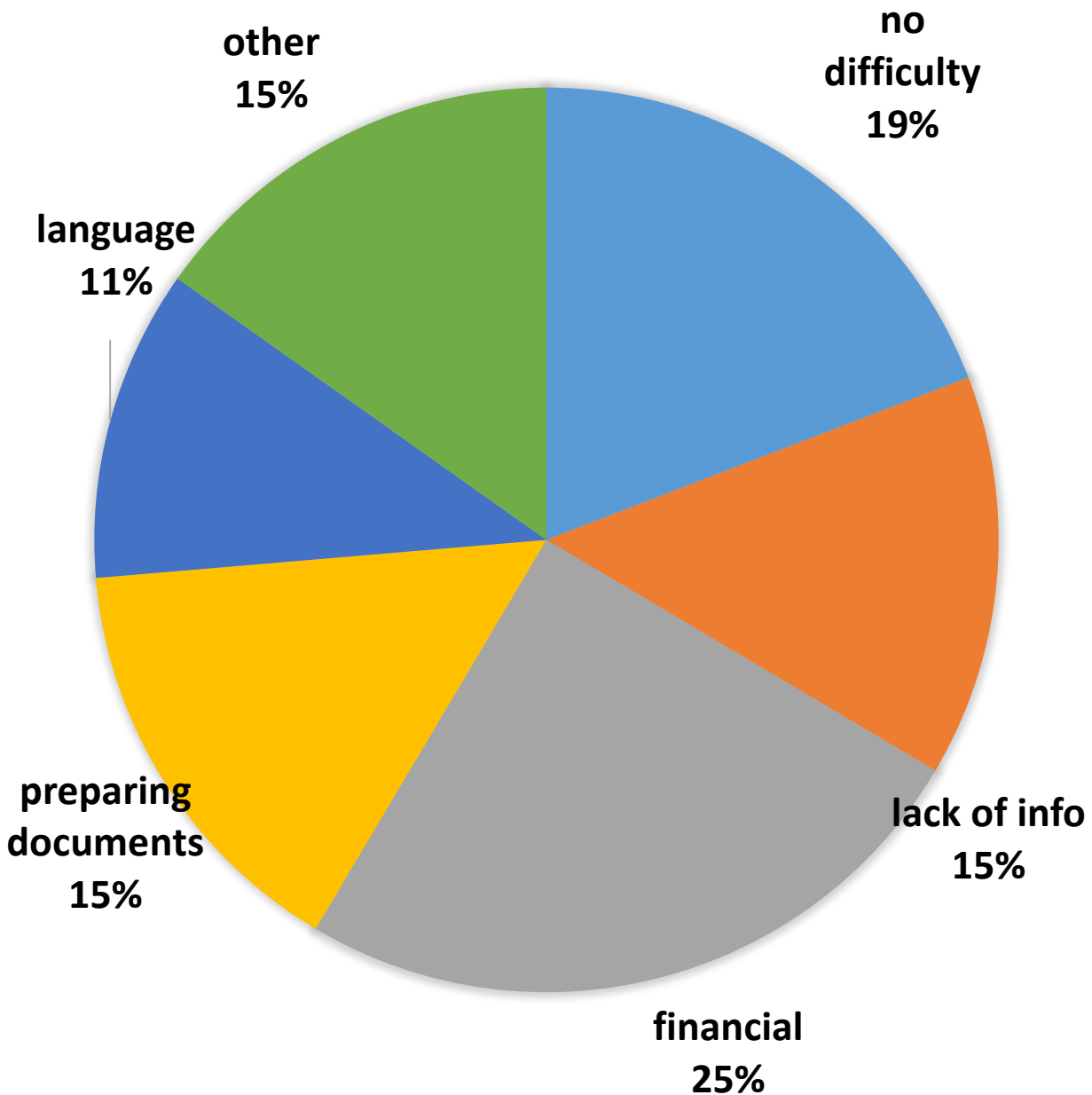
Degree Programs Enrolled



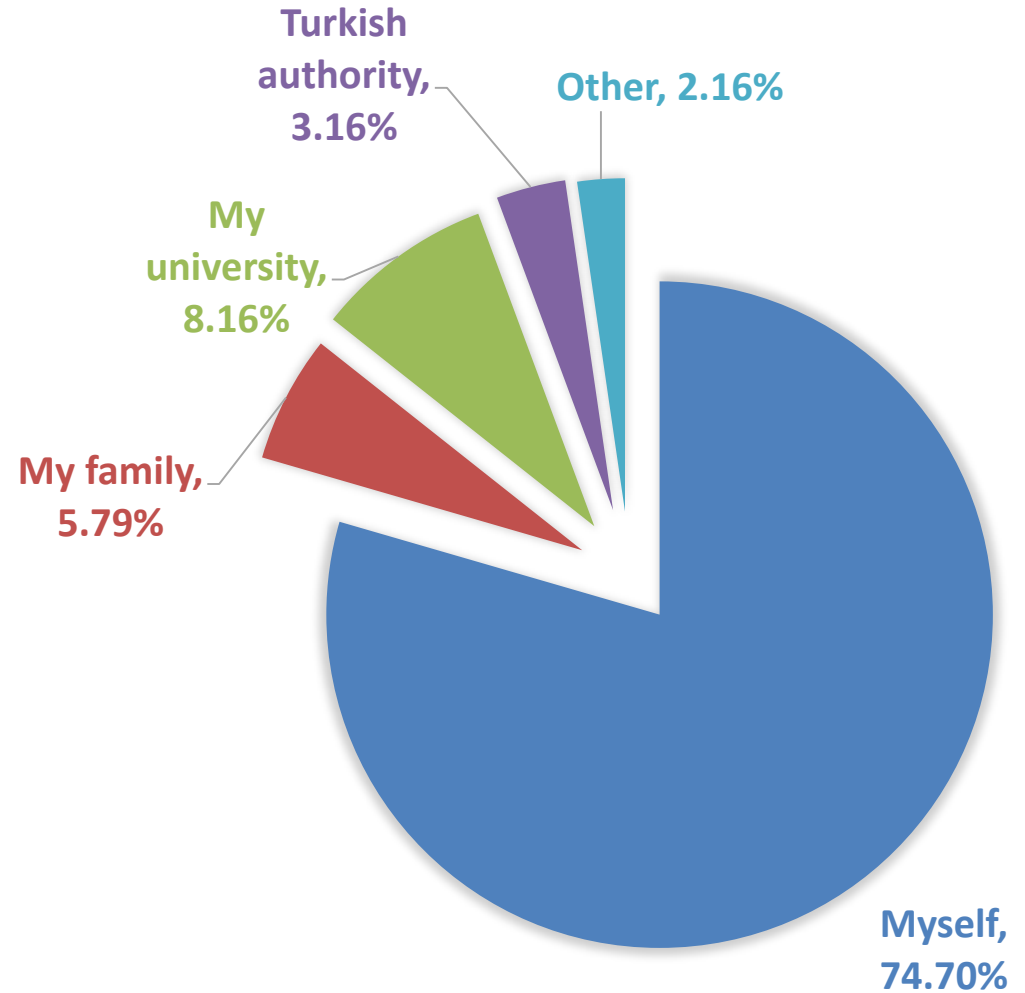
*includes departments such as sociology, math, biology, chemistry, and physics

**includes departments such as Business Administration, Economics, Political Science and International Relations

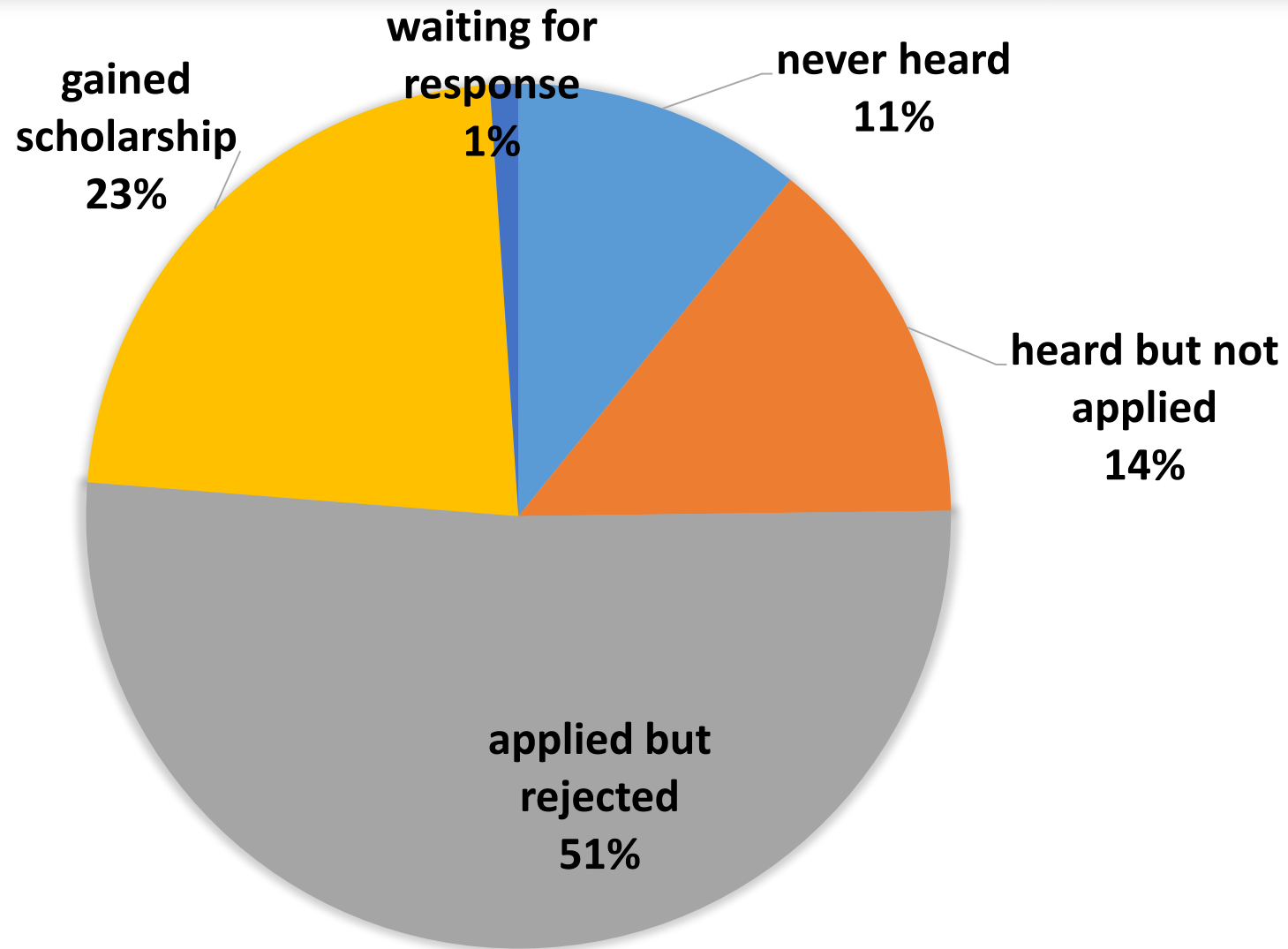
Difficulties Faced During Admission



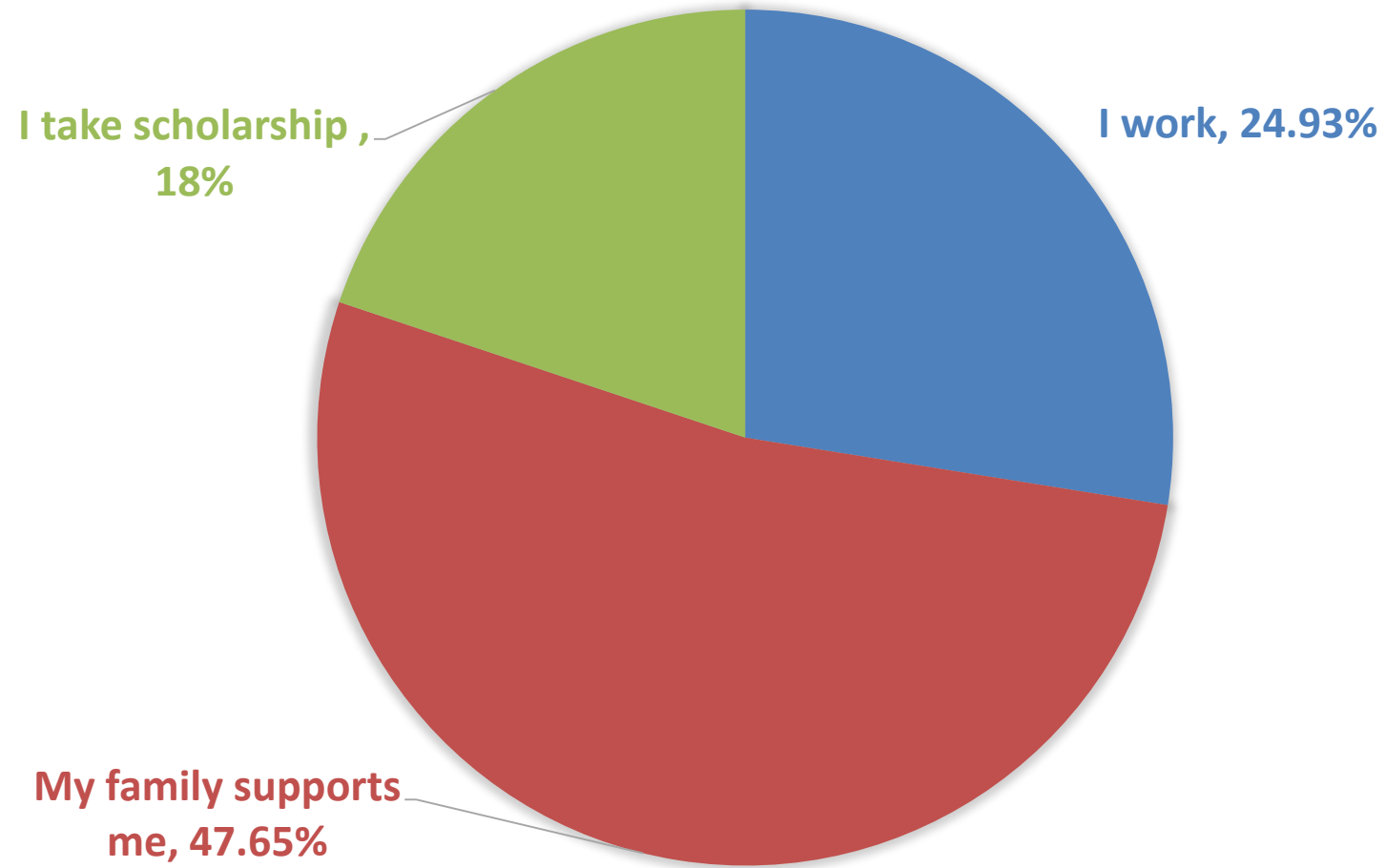
Chosing the Field of Study



Scholarships From Turkish Government

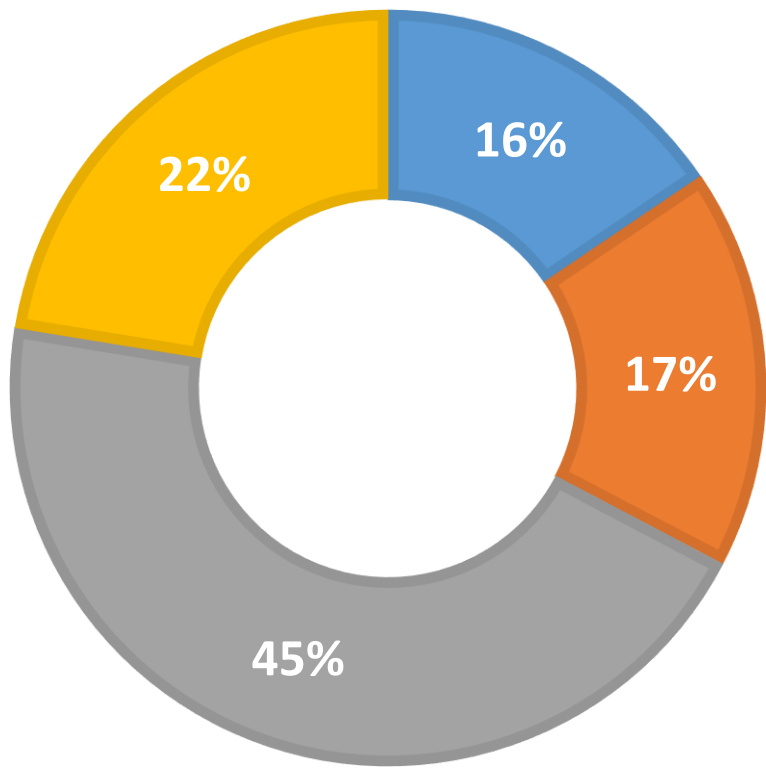


Financial Conditions



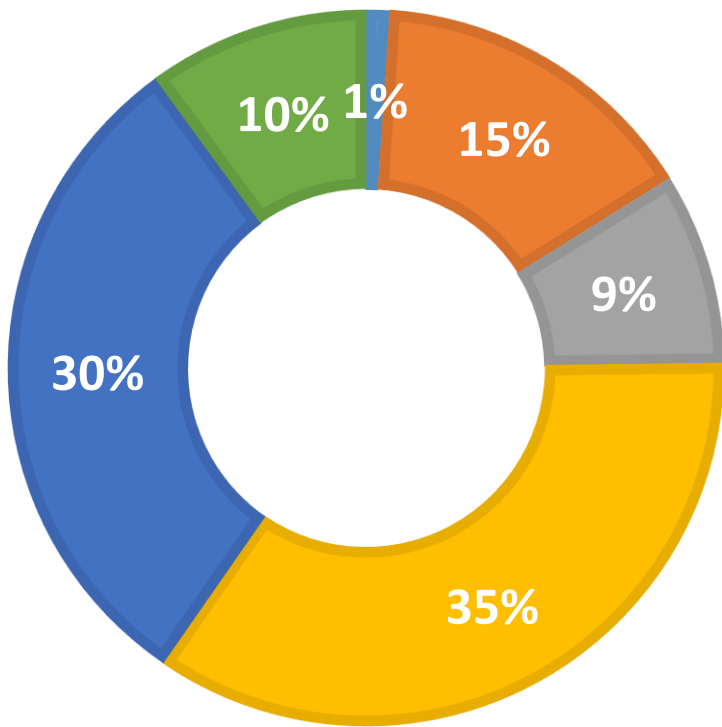
Quality of Education

Average Above average Good Excellent

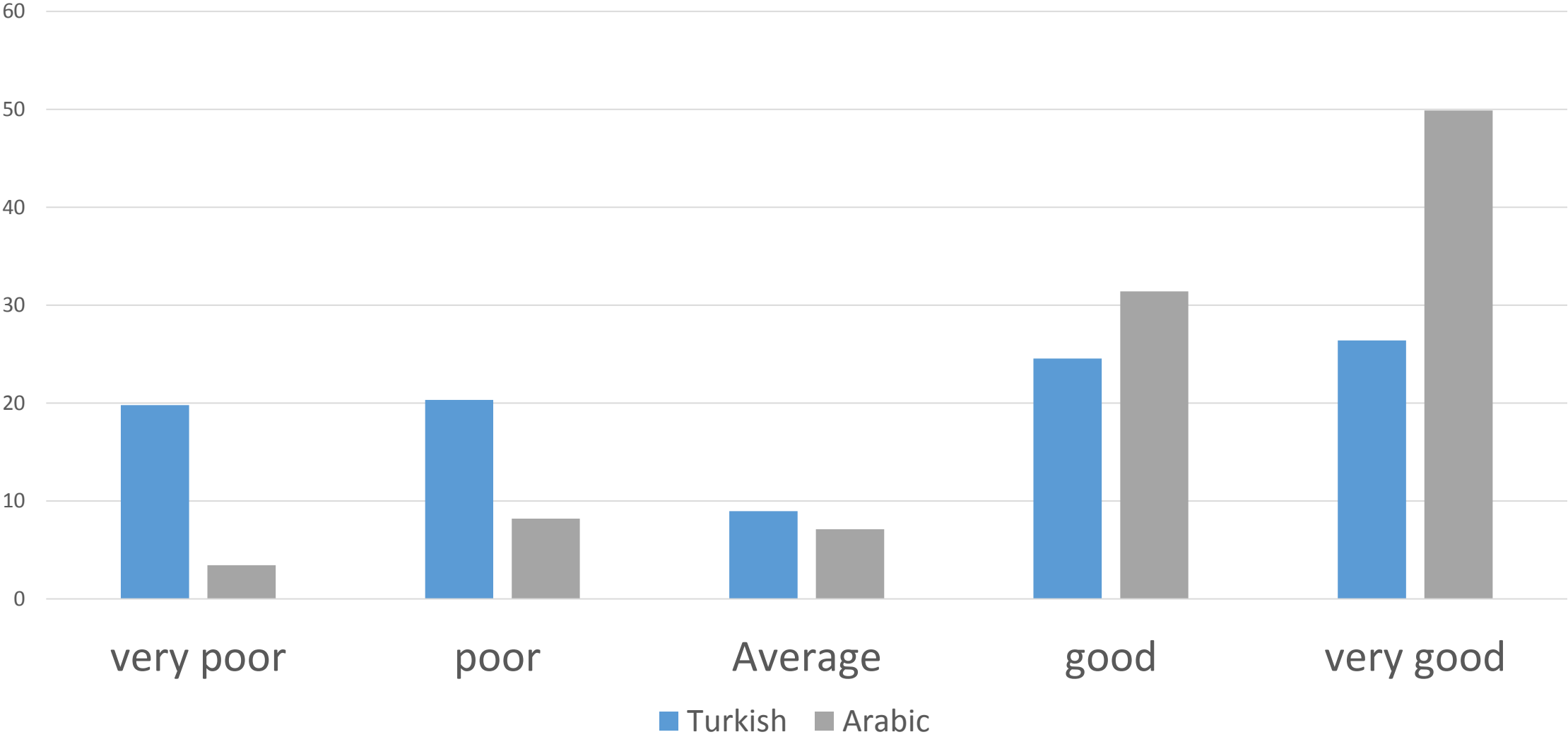


Academic Success

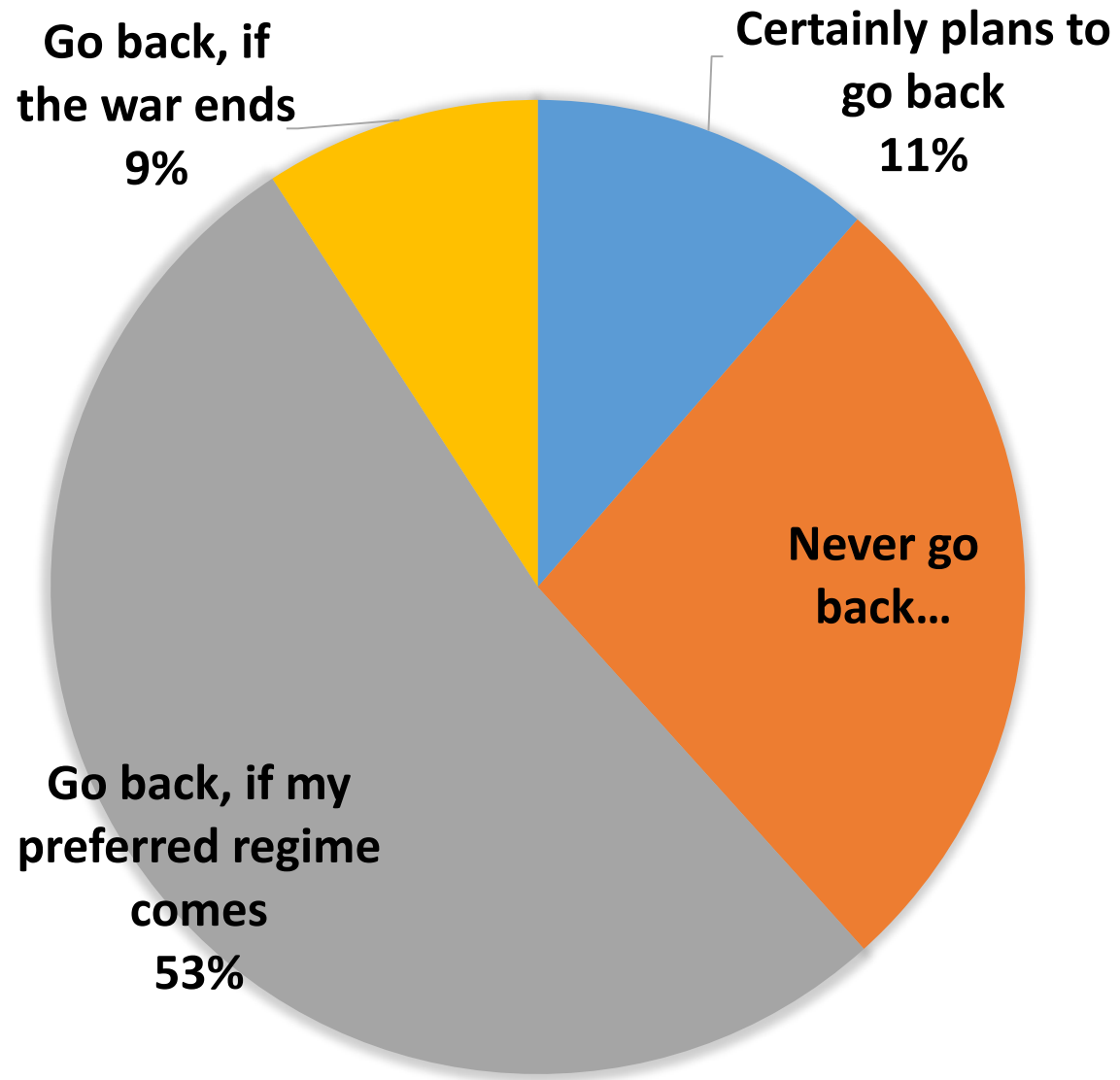
Poor Average Above average
Good Excellent Not started yet



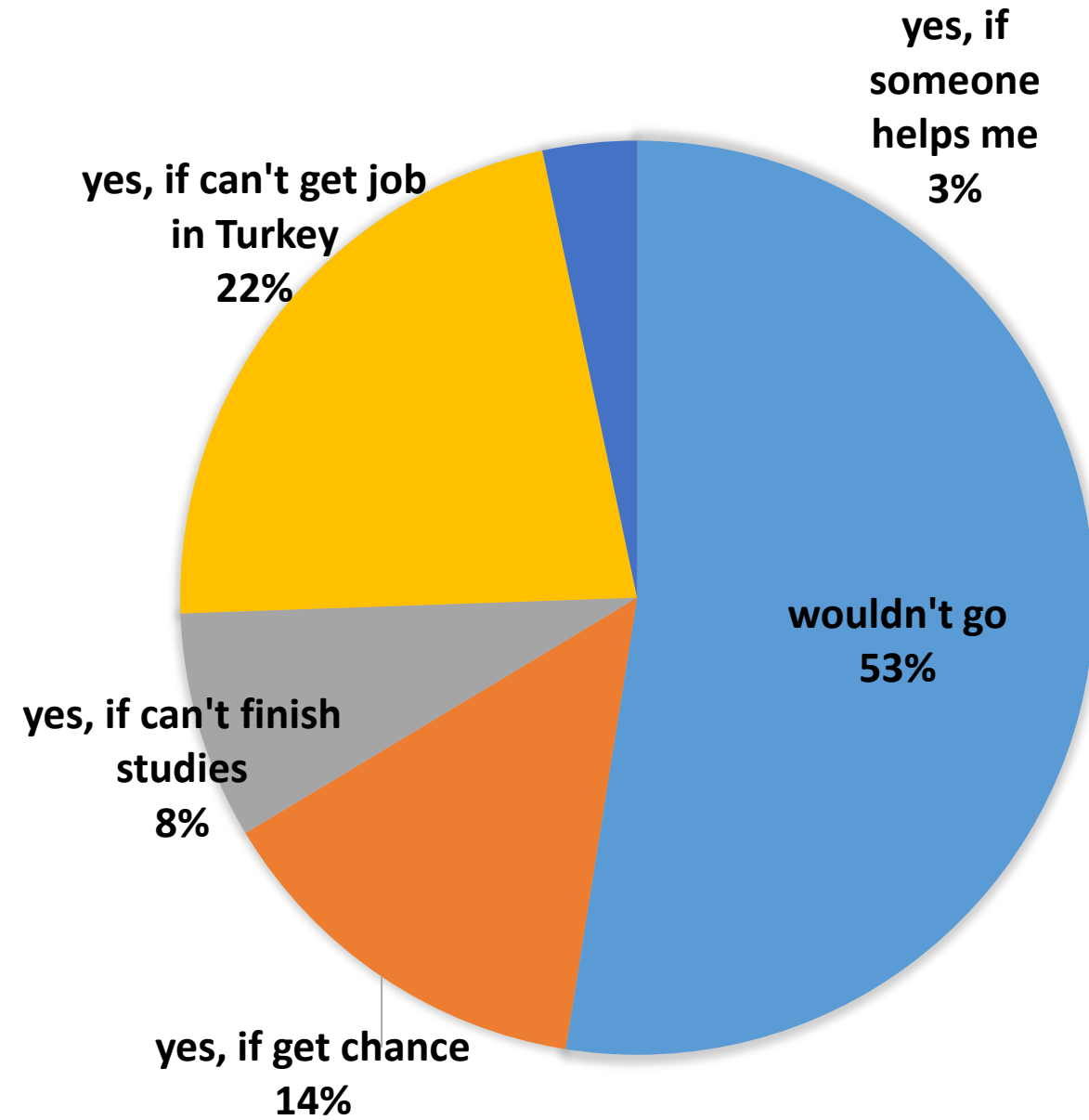
Social Relationships



PLANS TO MOVE BACK



MIGRATION TO THIRD COUNTRIES



Key Findings and Recommendations

High numbers of young population, low enrollment rate

- more funding and more seats in HE with international cooperations and support

Highly competitive HE in Turkey

- delicate issue to admit Syrian refugees HE

Actions and guidelines prepared nationally

- more inclusive, data based, sustainable migration policies

Almost half of the students have dropped out their HE in Syria

- decrease gender imbalance and empower female students

More than half of them have parents with higher education,

- others have no motivation for HE, implement LLL education to increase participation

Traumatic young people experienced deep psychological outcomes of the war

- new mechanisms and communications to represent Syrian students

Academically vulnerable groups; having not clear perspectives

- counselling and academic supervision mechanisms

Socially not integrated with the local people

- focus on social/cultural integration and language competencies

Having unclear future prospects, planning further migration

- follow up and monitor access, drop out, participation, representation and graduation levels

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**A bundle of belongings
isn't the only thing a refugee
brings to his new country.**



Einstein was a refugee.



UNHCR

UNHCR is a member of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
Our job is to protect the rights of refugees and to help them rebuild their lives.
We provide food, shelter, and medical care.
We also help them find a new home.

Refugees are people who have been forced to leave their homes and countries.
They are often fleeing persecution, war, or violence.
They need our help and support.
We must work together to protect their rights and help them rebuild their lives.