

INTEGRATION POLICY FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES' ACCESS TO TURKISH HIGHER EDUCATION: *INCLUSIVE ENOUGH?*



Hakan Ergin & Hans de Wit

War in Syria

2011 - ?



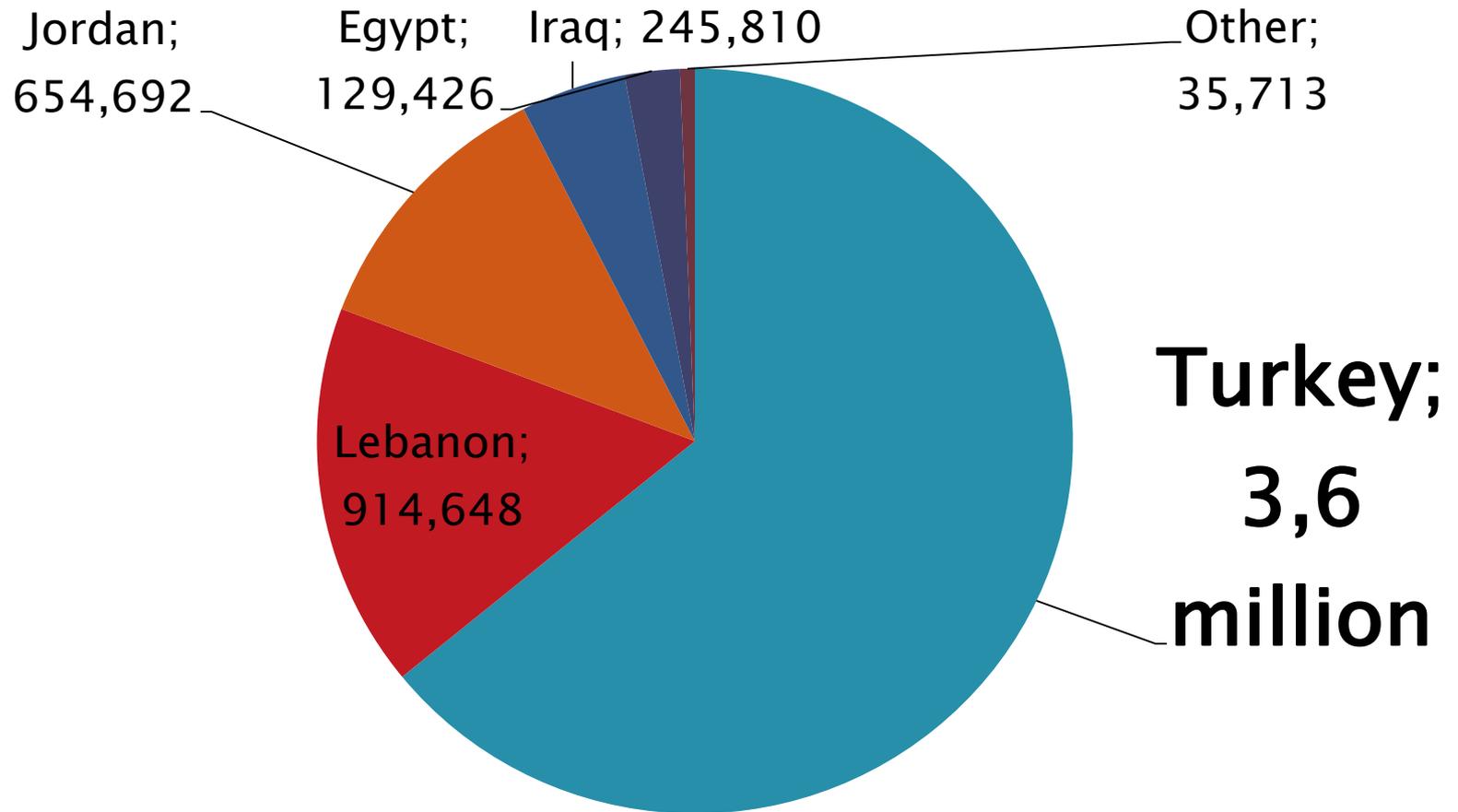
War in Syria

“the biggest migration wave in recent history”
(UNHCR, 2018)



Syrian Refugees

(UNHCR, 2020)



Turkish Policy for Syrian Refugees

Open Door Policy

- ✓ welcome any Syrians
- ✓ no forcible returns
- ✓ humanitarian assistance

(Aras and Mencütek, 2015; Özden, 2013; İçduygu, 2015)

Turkish Universities Open to Syrian Refugees



Reforms for Syrian Refugees' Access to Turkish Universities

✓ Academic Reforms

✓ Financial Reforms

(Ergin, 2016; Ergin, de Wit & Leask, 2019; Erdogan & Ergin, in press)

Academic Reforms

2012 :Special/Full-time status at 7 universities

2013 :Full time status at all universities(*quota:10%*)

2015 :Arabic-taught programs

2019 :No quota restriction

(CoHE, 2020; Ergin, 2016)

Financial Reforms

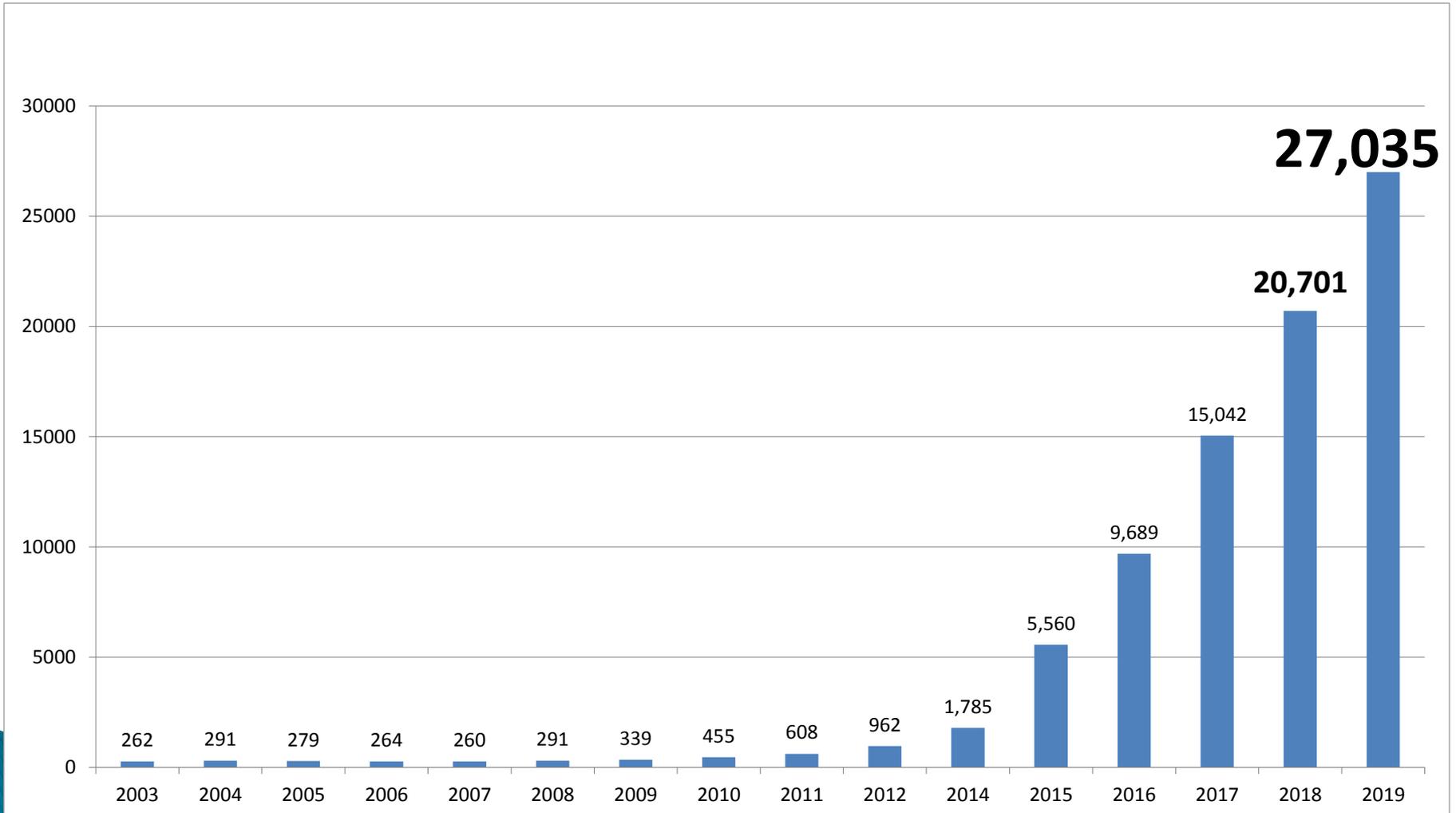
2014: No tuition fee

2016: Scholarships

(CoHE, 2020; Ergin, de Wit & Leask, 2019; Ergin, 2016)

Did it work?

(Council of Turkish Higher Education, 2020)



Inclusive enough?

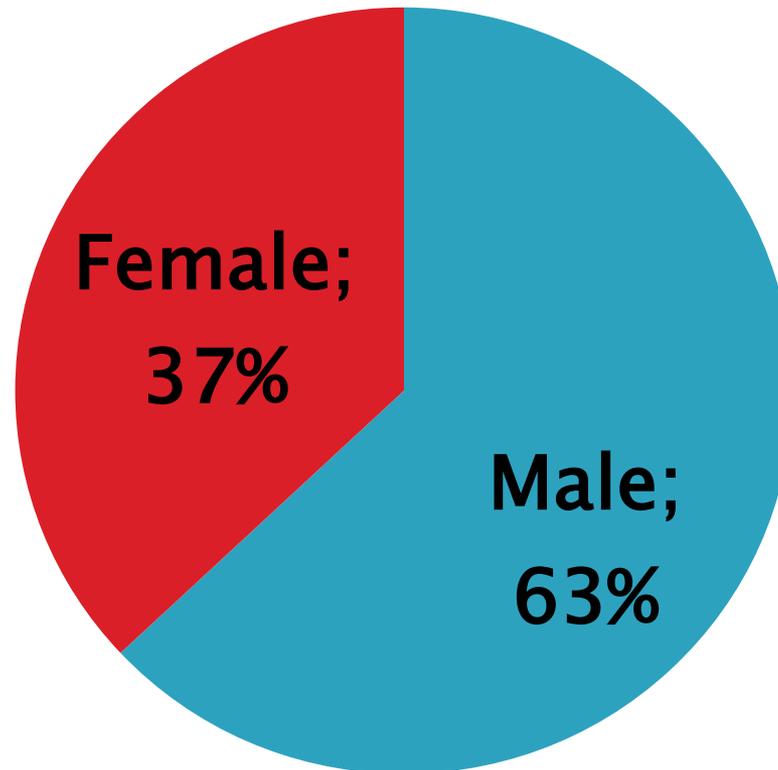
“Internationalization is not an isolated phenomenon in higher education”.

(de Wit & Jones, 2018, p.17)



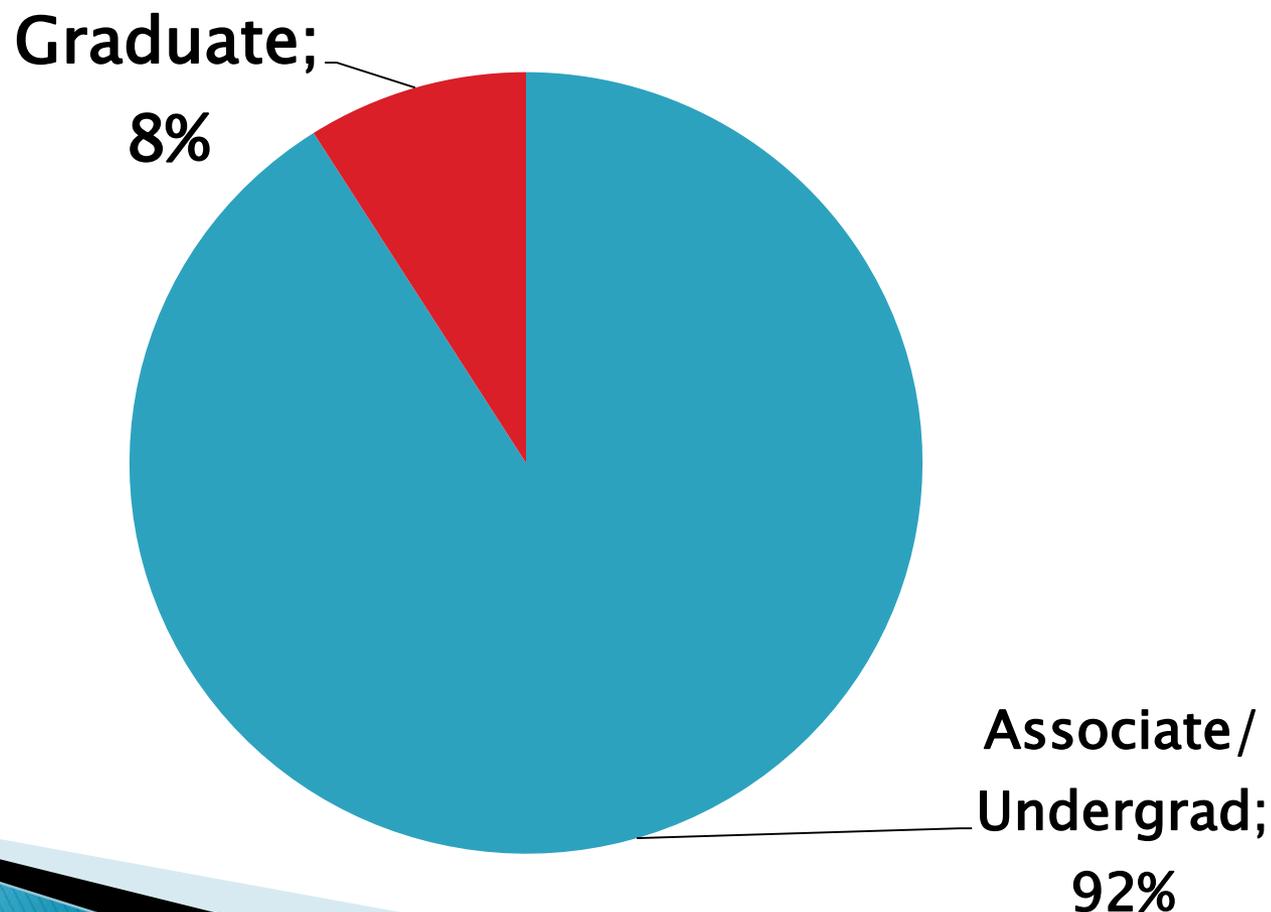
Syrian University Students in Turkey *by gender*

(CoHE, 2020)



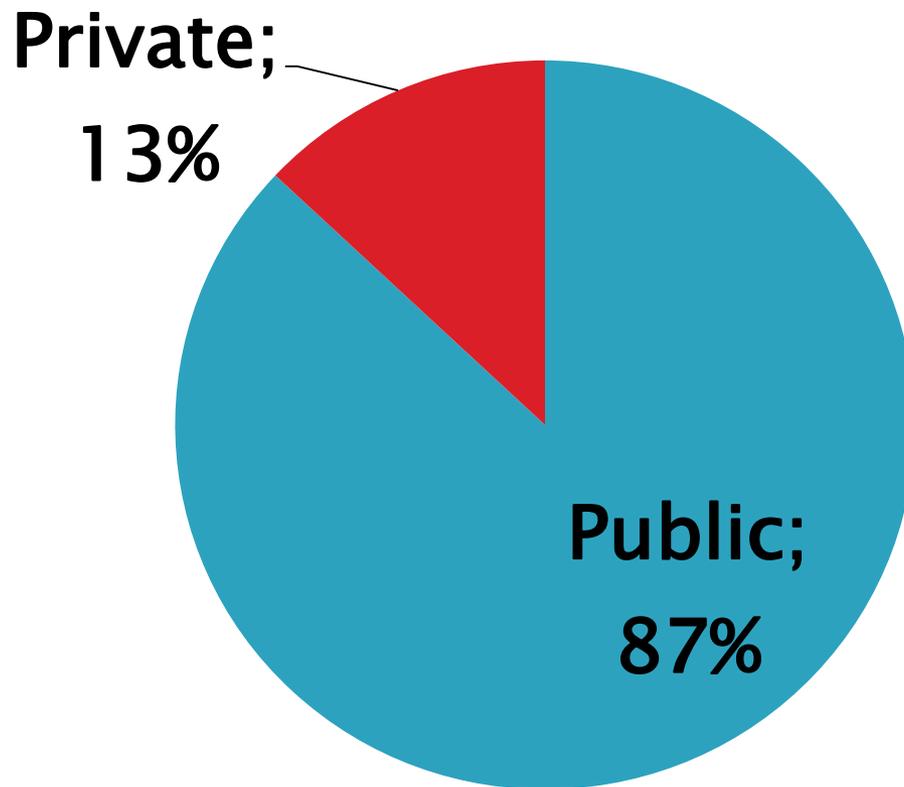
Syrian University Students in Turkey *by study programs*

(CoHE, 2020)



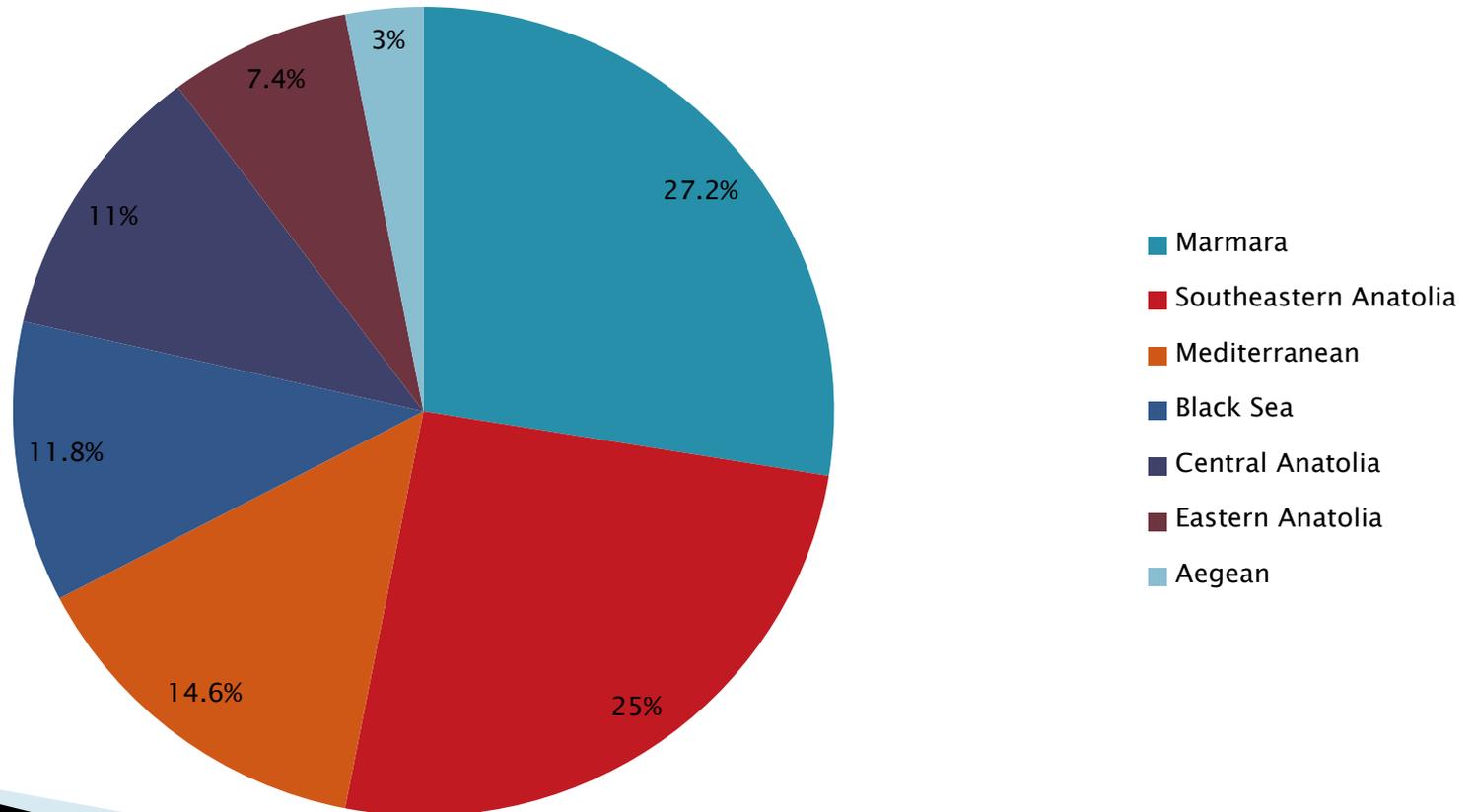
Syrian University Students in Turkey *by university type*

(CoHE, 2020)



Syrian University Students in Turkey *by geographical regions*

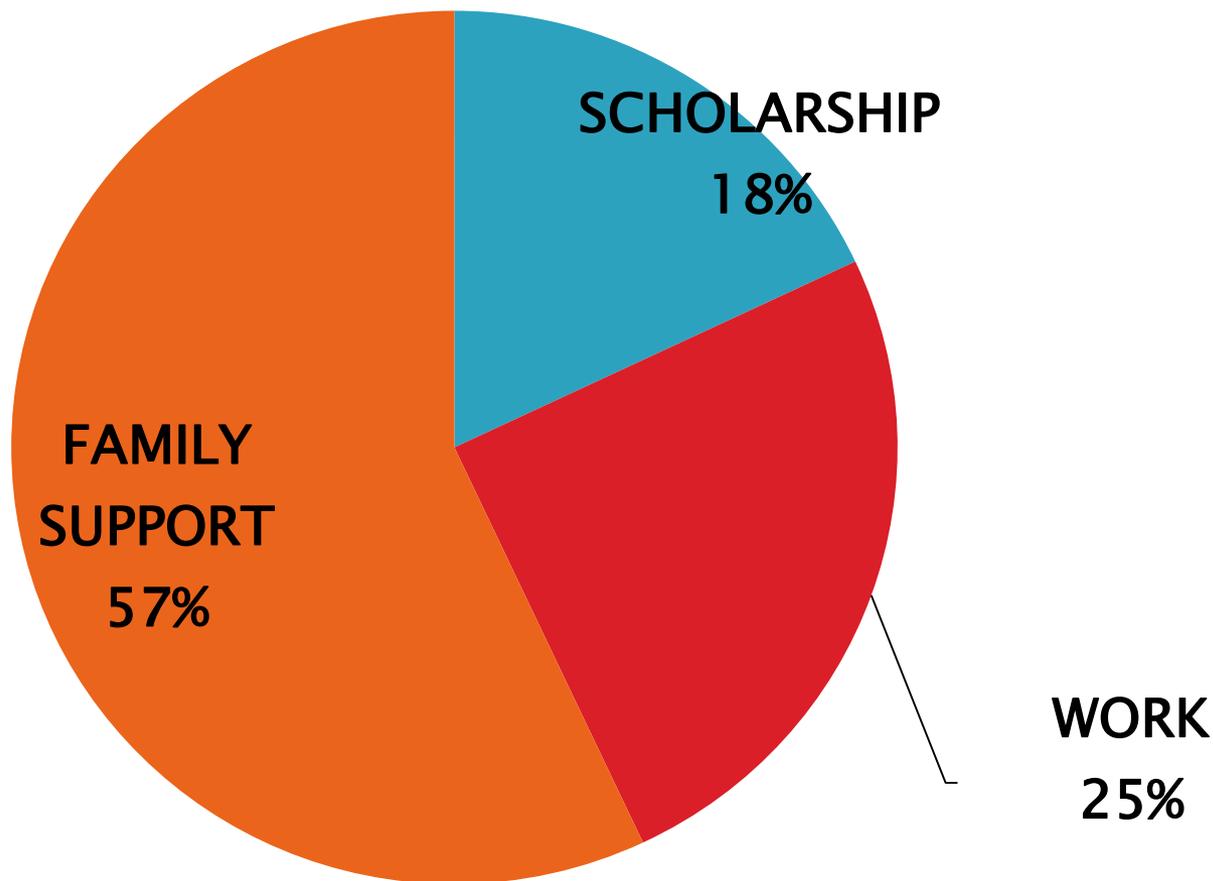
(CoHE, 2020)





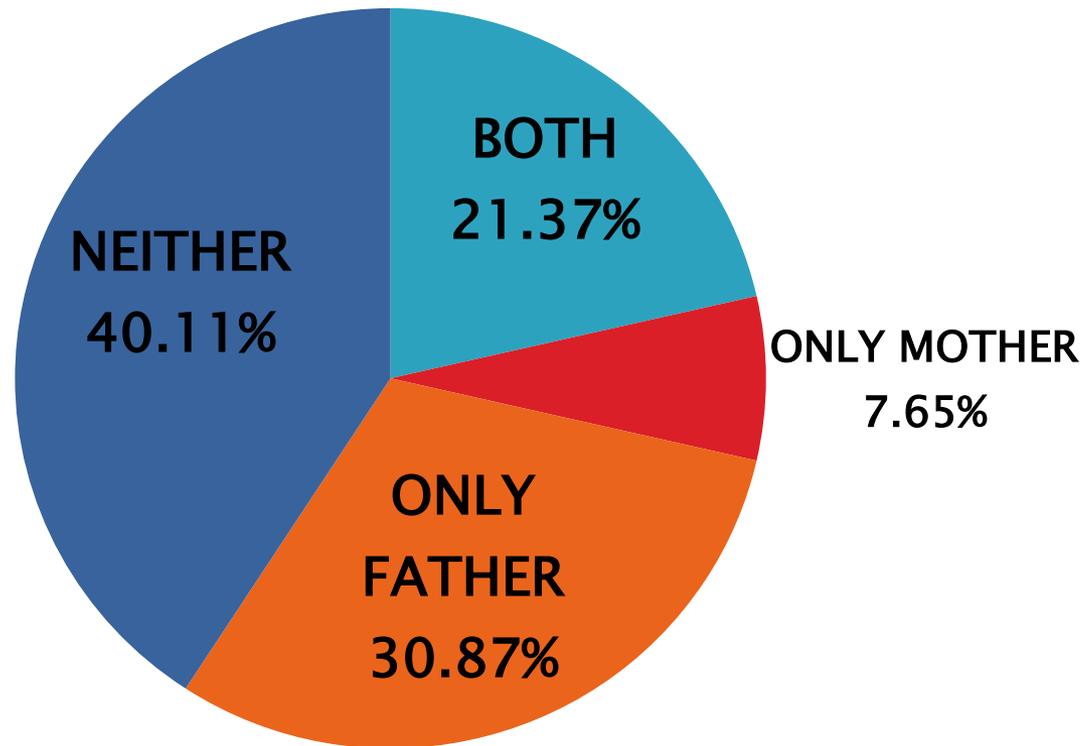
Syrian University Students in Turkey *by sponsoring HE*

(Erdogan & Erdogan, 2018)



Syrian University Students in Turkey *by parents' HE attainment*

(Erdogan & Erdogan, 2018)



Recommendations for Further Inclusivity

- ▶ Encouraging female Syrian refugees:
 - ~ Scholarships for women
 - ~ Day care at university
 - ~ Raising parents' awareness

Recommendations for Further Inclusivity

- ▶ Focus on access to graduate programs:
 - ~ Jobs on campus
 - ~ Quota for Syrian refugees

Recommendations for Further Inclusivity

- ▶ More refugee access to private universities:
 - ~ Quota for refugees
 - ~ Tuition exemption

Recommendations for Further Inclusivity

- ▶ Regional quotas for a balanced distribution
 - ▶ More scholarships to diverse socio-economic class
 - ▶ Campaigns to raise awareness about HE
- 

Final Remark!

“The enforcement of the right to education of refugees is a global and transnational challenge”.

(Education 2030 Framework for Action, UNESCO, 2019; p.5)



thank you...