

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



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# War in Syria

## 2011 – ?





# War in Syria

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



# War in Syria

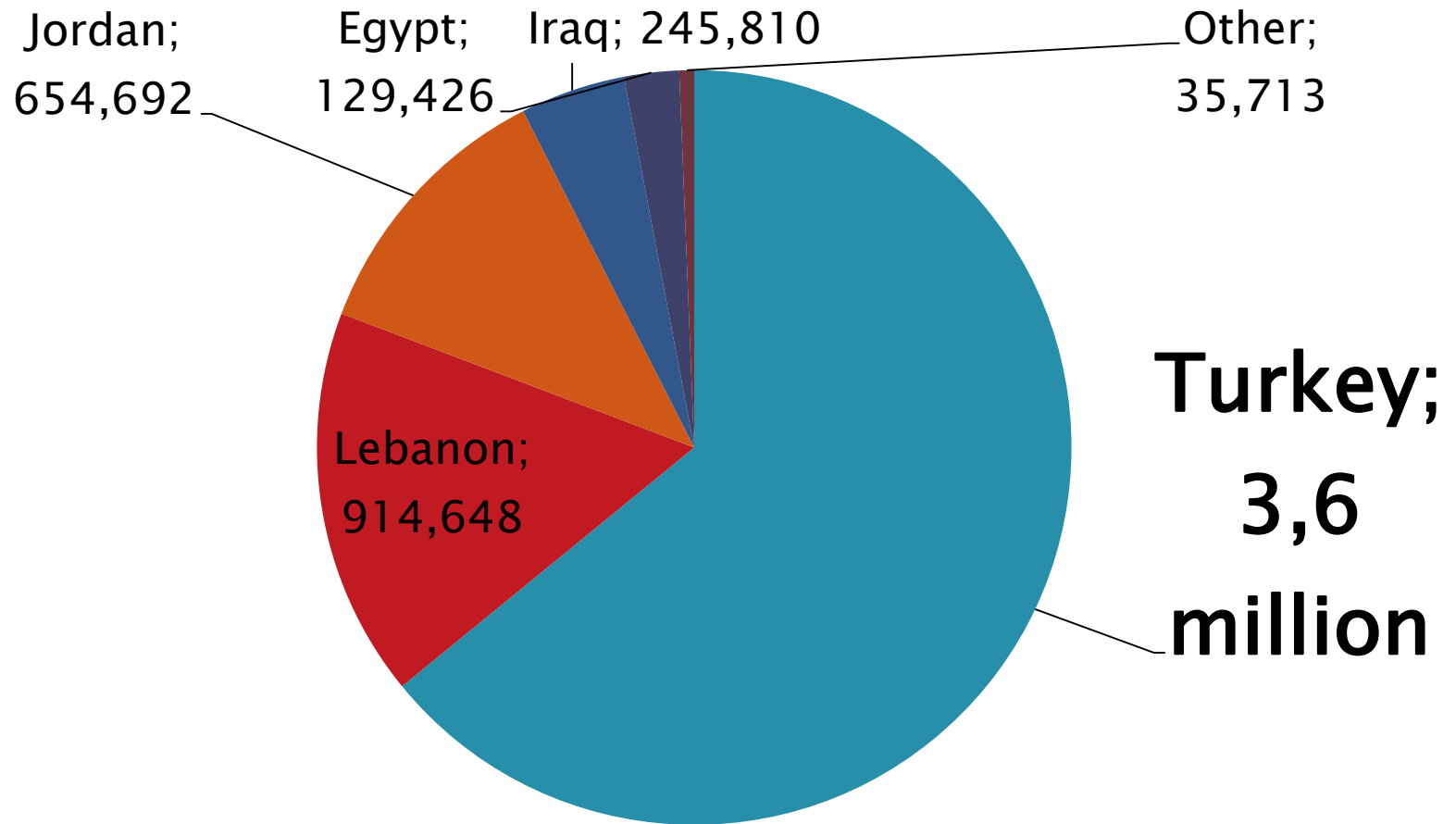
“unprecedented challenge for  
neighbouring countries”

(Balsari et al., 2015, p. 942)



# 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

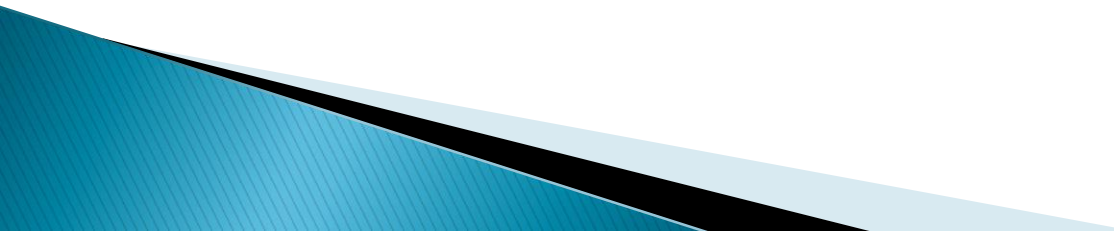


# Reforms for Syrian Refugees' Access to Turkish Universities

- ✓ Academic Reforms

- ✓ Financial Reforms

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





# Academic Reforms

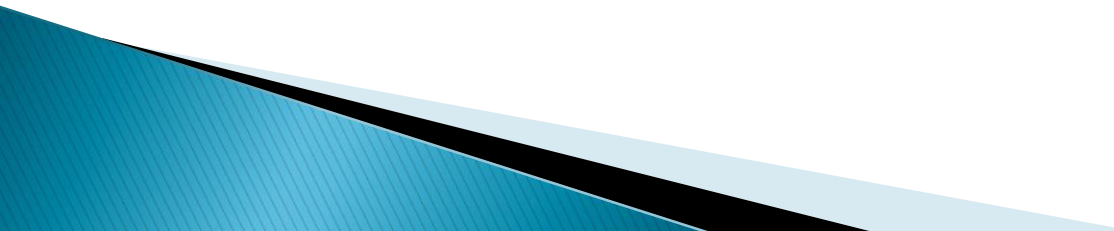
2012 :Special/Full-time status at 7 universities

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

2015 :Arabic-taught programs

2019 :No quota restriction

(CoHE, 2020; Ergin, 2016)

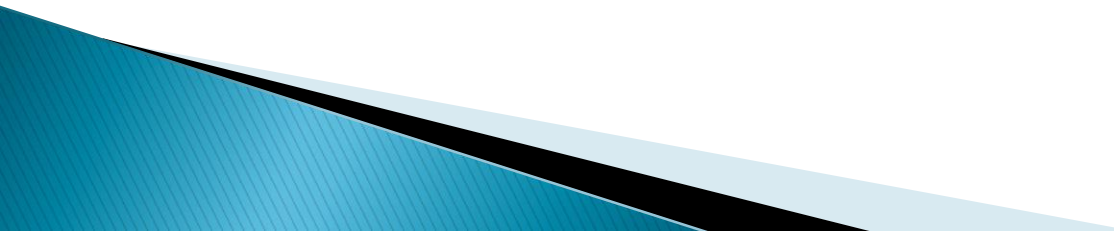


# Financial Reforms

2014: No tuition fee

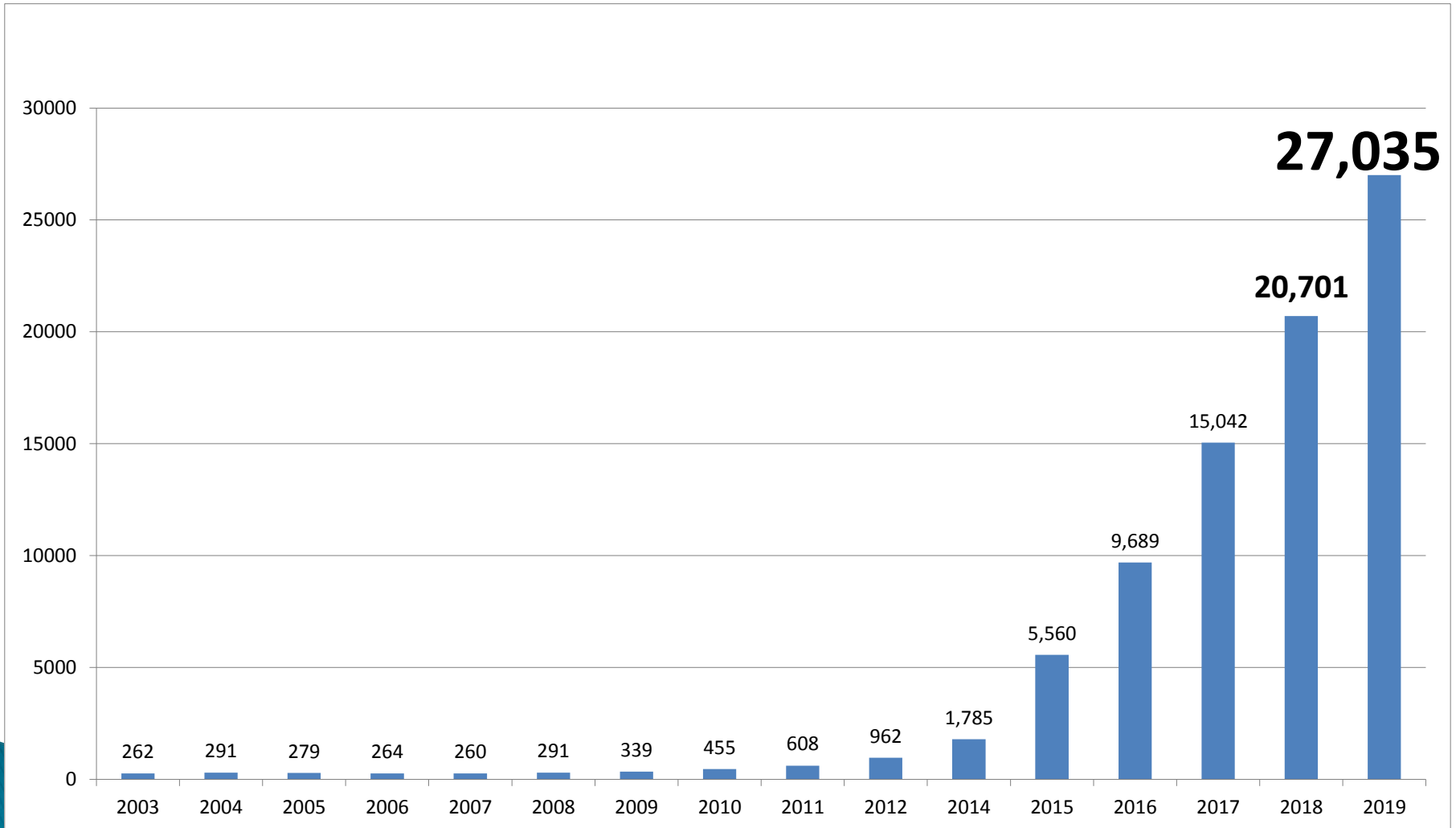
2016: Scholarships

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



# Did it work?

(Council of Turkish Higher Education, 2020)





# Inclusive enough?

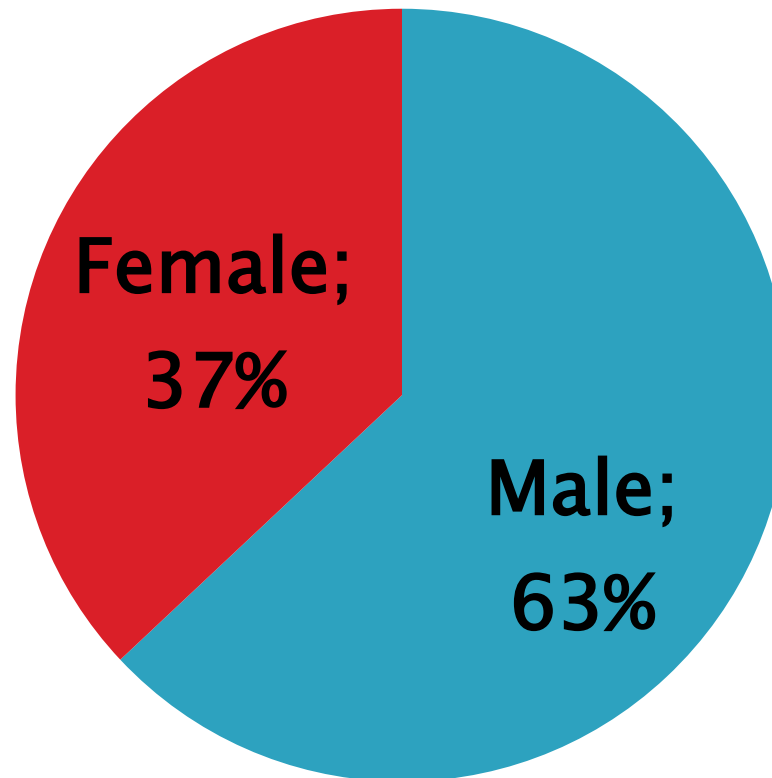
“Internationalization is not an isolated phenomenon in higher education”.

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



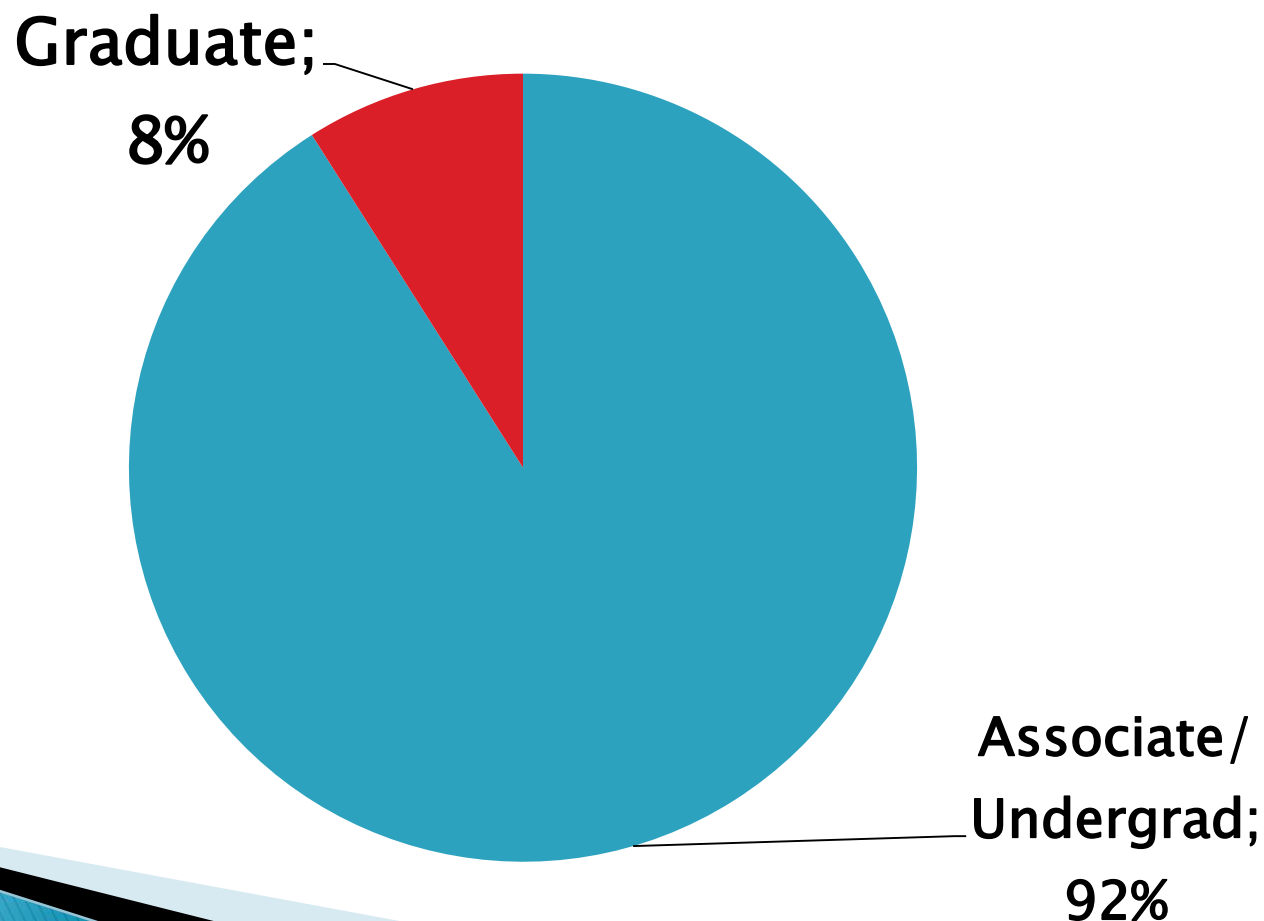
# Syrian University Students in Turkey *by gender*

(CoHE, 2020)



# Syrian University Students in Turkey *by study programs*

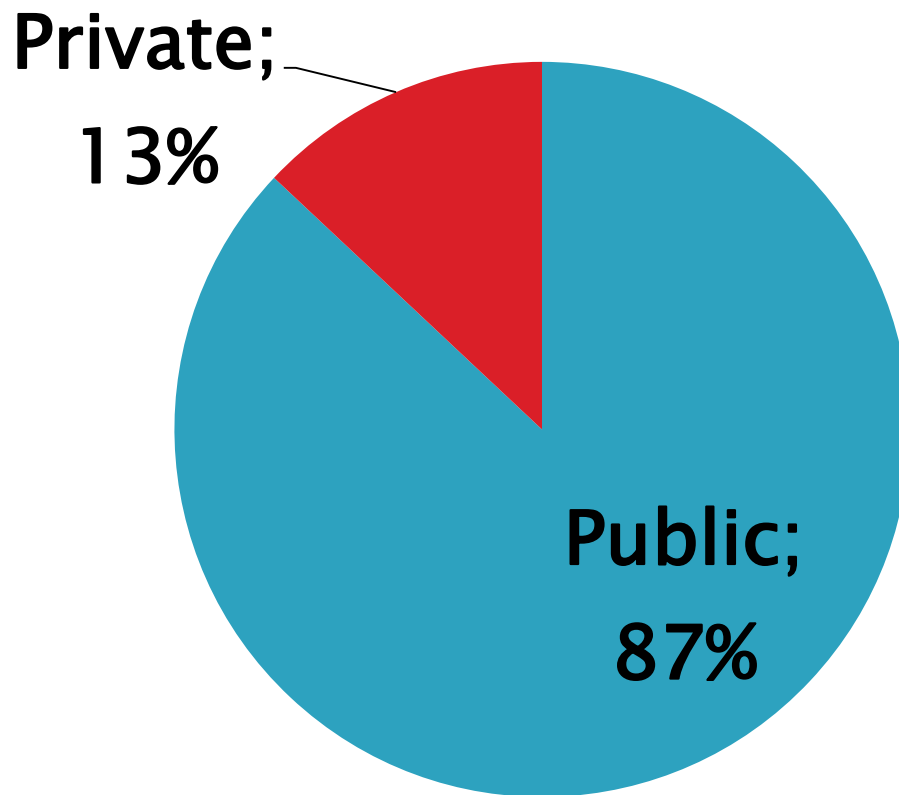
(CoHE, 2020)





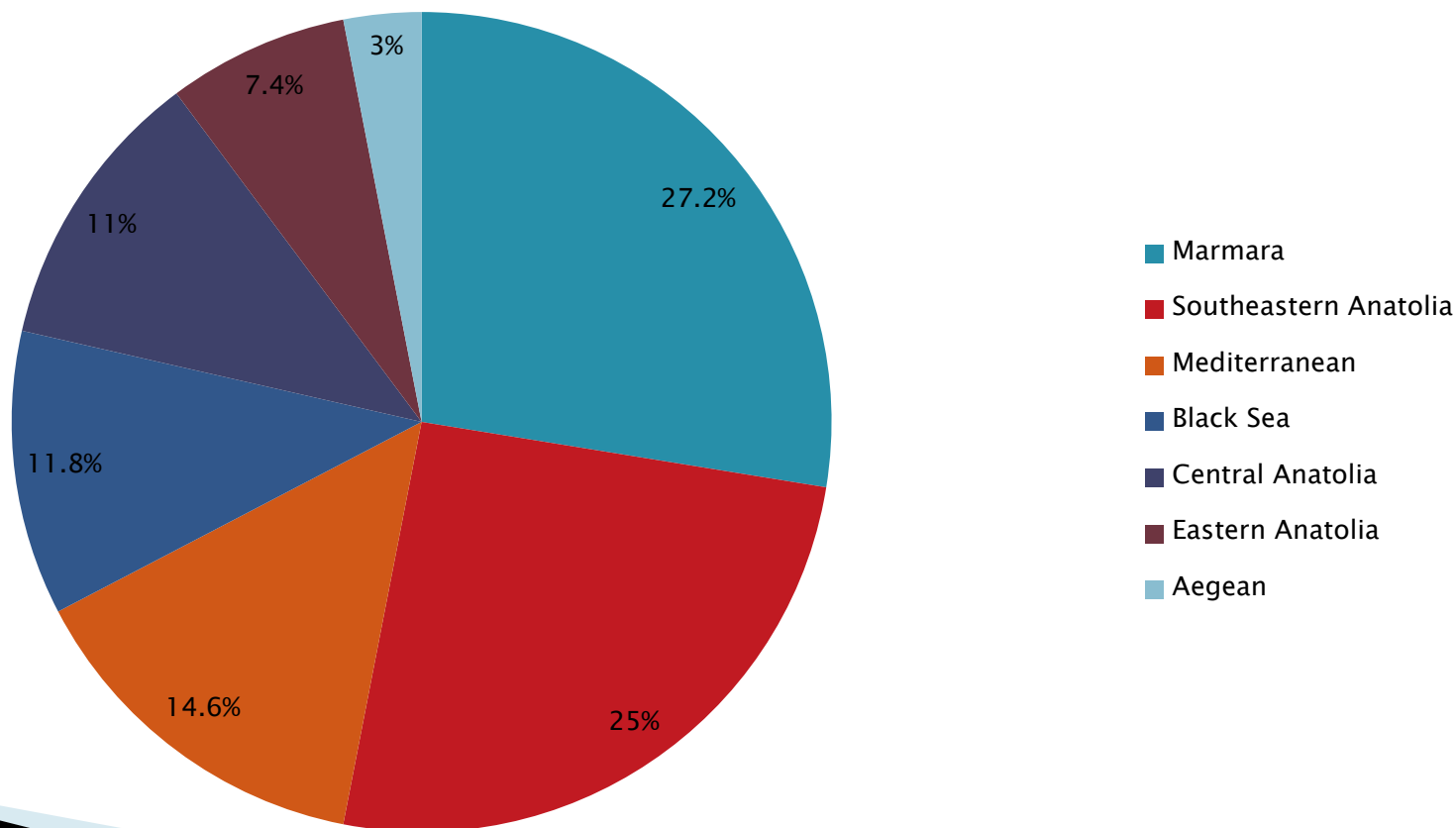
# Syrian University Students in Turkey *by university type*

(CoHE, 2020)



# Syrian University Students in Turkey *by geographical regions*

(CoHE, 2020)



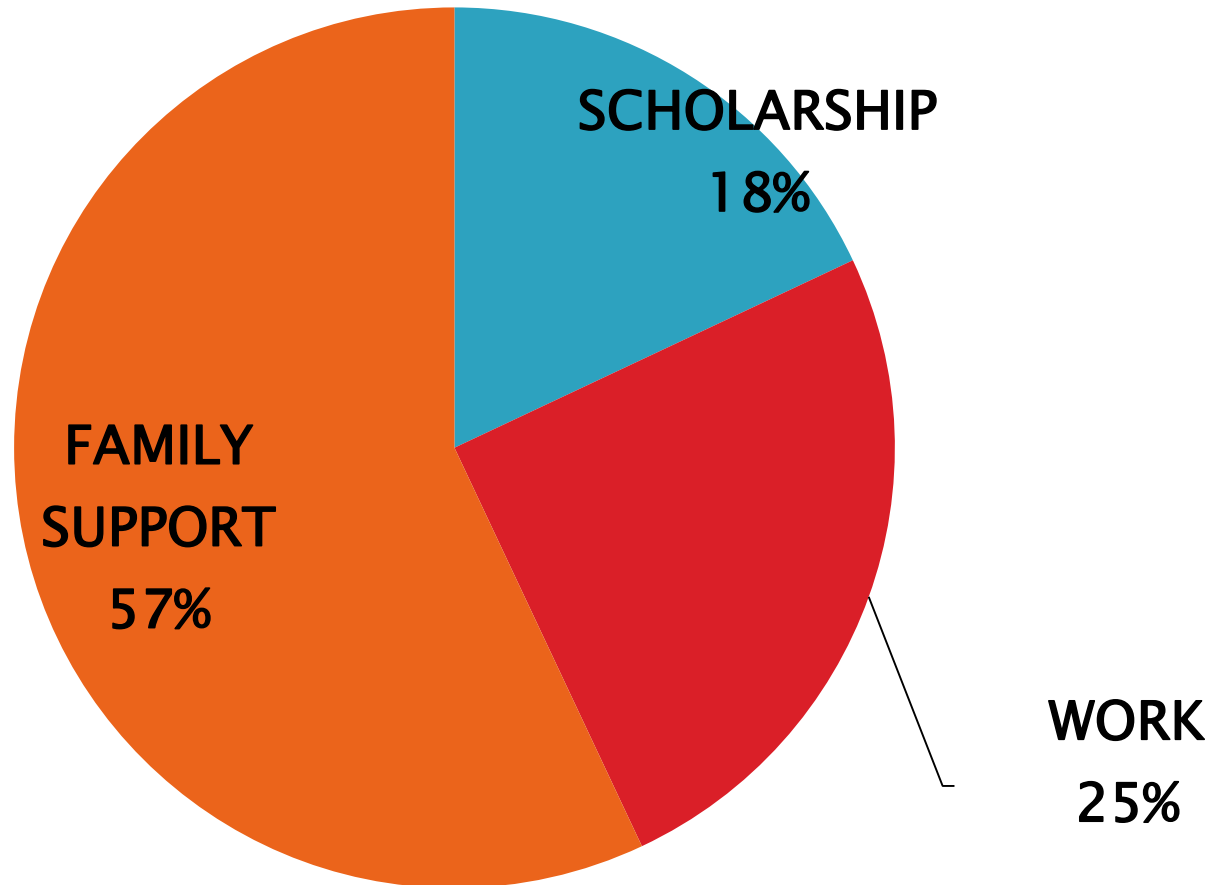






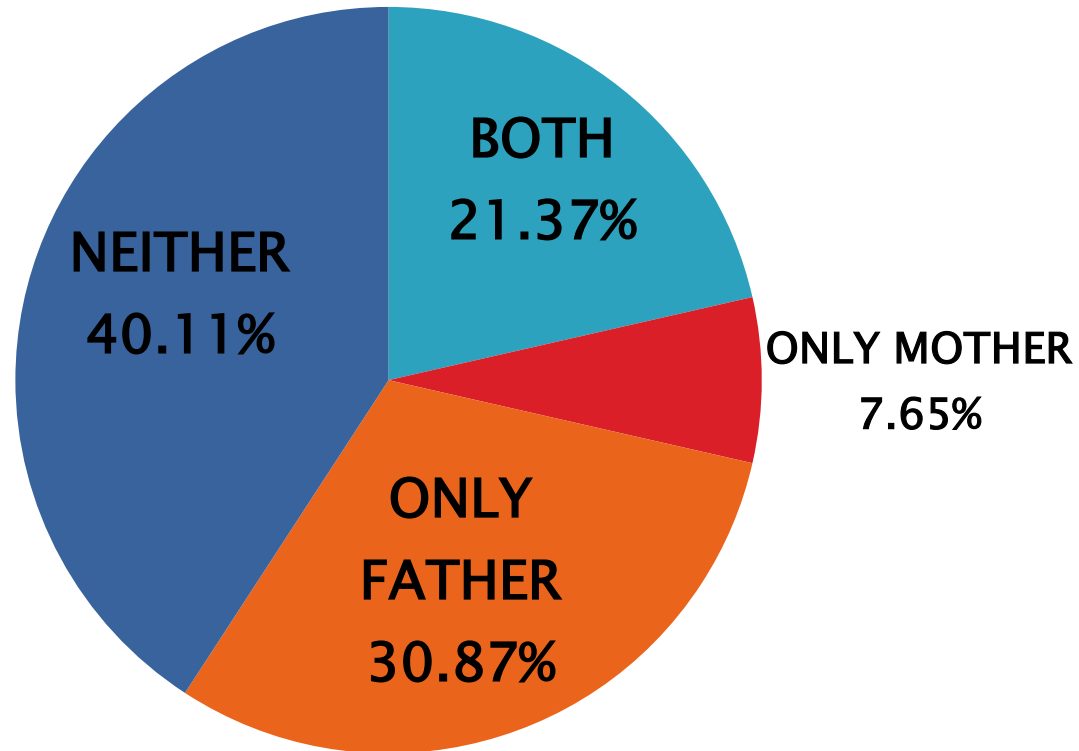
# Syrian University Students in Turkey *by sponsoring HE*

(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...*