

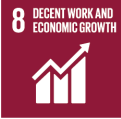
HANKEN SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS: RESPONSE TO REFUGEE CRISIS

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Concerned SDG(s): 4, 8, 10, 16
HEI name: Hanken School of Economics
Type of HEI: University



DESCRIPTION AND CHALLENGES



As the *global refugee crisis* is unfolding across Europe, the Middle East and Africa, sixty million people have been displaced by conflicts and over 410,000 people have crossed the Mediterranean from the Middle East only in 2015⁴⁰. And they still continue to arrive to Europe.

The leaders of the international academic community are called to *take action and address the refugee crisis*. Hanken School of Economics was the first university in Finland to be accepted as a member to and to sign the principles of responsible management education - PRME. The Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative is the first organised relationship between the United Nations (UN) and business schools. The mission of PRME is to inspire and champion responsible management education, research and thought leadership globally. Being a member of PRME, Hanken has realised the gravity of the refugee crisis, sustainability issues and climate change and is continuously striving to increase its efforts and *focus on sustainability and social responsibility* in all the spheres of its impact, namely, teaching, research, engagement with companies and other stakeholders, and its own organisational sustainability.



PRACTICE



As a response to the UN PRME Call for Action in the refugee crisis, Hanken has interacted with other institutions in the Finnish education system, in order to find feasible ways of *contributing to helping refugees and asylum seekers entering Finland*. As the only Swedish-speaking business school in Finland, Hanken *supports multiculturalism* in all its activities. Hanken hosts the Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Research Institute (HUMLOG Institute), which is a joint research institute founded by Hanken School of Economics and the National Defence University of Finland. The HUMLOG Institute collaborates closely with humanitarian organizations, on a local level especially with the Finnish Red Cross, which is also represented in the board of the institute. The HUMLOG Institute supports The Finnish Red Cross based on request. Through the HUMLOG Institute and the expertise in humanitarian logistics, Hanken will continue to *support humanitarian actors* in coping with the refugee crisis based on identified needs. Moreover, Hanken takes part in the Finnish Government's national project "How to support refugees/asylum seekers to integrate into Finnish society".

Call to Action - HEIs: Join in making a commitment to support refugees in crisis



Picture Source: primetime.unprme.org

Figure 1 Hanken School of Economics has joined the Call to Action for dealing with Refugee crisis



PRACTICE

THE CONCRETE ACTIONS TAKEN BY HANKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS CONSIST OF⁴¹:

offering students a possibility to get *volunteer work for a humanitarian organization* credited as an internship or coursework

offering *open university courses without fees* for asylum seekers and refugees

encouraging alumni to find out if their companies/employers could *take asylum seekers or refugees on board* for professional internship and providing companies that do so with training relating to employing asylum seekers and refugees

sharing the PRME recommendations for companies with alumni

offering asylum seekers and refugees a *course on Finnish/Nordic business culture*

including a project relating to the refugee crisis in the master's level course "Project Course in CSR and Humanitarian Logistics" in the spring term 2016

offering *entrepreneurship related courses to support asylum seekers and refugees* in considering if they would see their career to be developed as entrepreneurs

⁴¹Hanken School of Economics – Social Responsibility: <https://www.hanken.fi/en/about-hanken/hanken-society/social-responsibility>

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BENEFITS

The benefits of this program go both ways in helping the asylum seekers to *start new life in Finland* as well as reinforcing Finnish society that is suffering from aging population, thus creating a win-win situation. In addition, the business field in Finland is somewhat lacking of diversity, which could help in problem solving, innovation and freshening some of the unnecessarily incumbent practices. For Hanken, this program will introduce new students who will *diversify the student body*. This can be seen beneficial for Hanken's research activities, since diverse teams that have common goal could generate better solutions to a problem in comparison to excessively like-minded team.

Also, Hanken is participating in the *Startup Refugees Business Program*⁴², which offers support for newcomers interested in starting companies in Finland. Together with other organizations (Supercell, think tank Demos, Aalto University's Startup Center) they provide the guidance needed in all steps from forming the business idea to actually running a profitable company. The participants can seek legal help, advice on bureaucracy, mentors, networking and funding to get their business up and running.

In this way, Hanken *supports the business ideas* of newcomers, and eventually *creates more jobs* for everyone and shows people that refugees to Finland are rather *a brain gain* instead of just a social and financial challenge.



Picture Source: finland.fi

Figure 2 Startup refugees

⁴²Startup Refugees Business Program, <http://startupswb.com/newcomers-finland-startup-refugees-train-fund.html>