

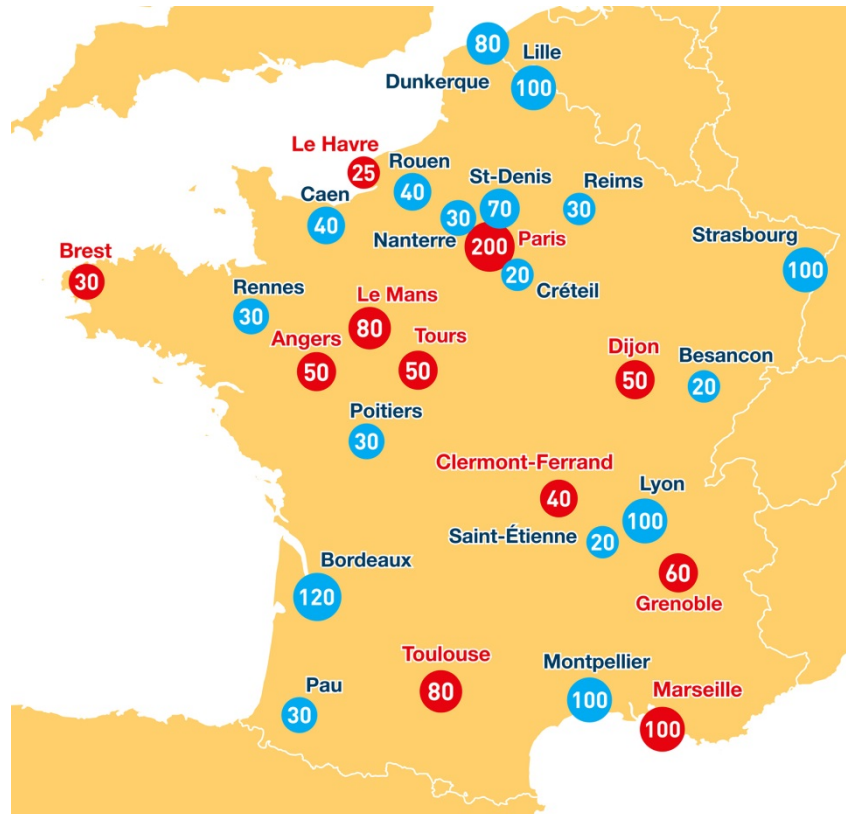
The MEnS initiative: a success story?

Mathieu Schneider (National coordinator of the MEnS network)

GREET Final event

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MEnS: the French network for migrants in HER



(AUF datas, June 2017)

Mathieu SCHNEIDER (University of Strasbourg & MEnS network)
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- Launched in September 2017
- Number of students: ca. 2000
- Budget 2018: 3,7M€ for French courses
of which: 0,46M€ of public funding (AUF)

38 universities are members of MEnS (out of 75)

What is done by the universities?

- French courses
- Welcome-package with assistance for all administrative issues (universities and beyond)
- Free registration at the university
- Accommodation and social assistance
- Integration into campus life
- Career advising

Aims of MEnS:

- Better integrate refugees students in HER and the society
- Be part of a network of actors on migration
- Share good (best?) practices
- Be the “voice” of the universities and act at a political level
- Change the way people look at migrants
- Work together with other universities, associations and networks in Europe and in the world to achieve our mission

MEnS: new achievements

Some achievements of MEnS:

- Creation of a **national diploma** for the integration of refugees in HER (with a national recognition – Ministry of HER)
- Give refugees students access to **social grants** (8M€ this year)
- Constructive collaboration with the **DIAIR**
- Position universities as actors in the **agreements** between cities and the State on integration of refugees
- Launch our **website** and communication
- Participation to the events of the **Refugee day** on June 20th
- Together with AUF, **increase the dotation** of the Ministry of HER for the French courses in universities (+ 200k€ this year)



MEnS: a work in progress...

Still (hard) work to do...

- Recognition of **prior learning** / diplomas
- Integration at the **right level of study** (and determination of this level...!)
- Intensify **positive communication** on refugees (“story telling”)
- Organise **training seminars** for university staff about refugees, their rights, their situation
- Promote refugees’ access to « **regulated** » **professions** (lawyer, doctor, notary...)
- Concentrate efforts on **asylum seekers** (which are excluded of official policies in France)
- Increase the **financial support** of public and private institutions
- Do **alliances** with other networks in Europe

Opportunities:

- Continuity at the head of the French Ministry
- New Erasmus+ program to be discussed and launched

Threats:

- French and European political context is difficult
- Migration crisis decreases
- Money is scarce
- Some people in universities get discouraged
- Lots of Erasmus programs reach their end

Recommendations for the future!

Make our action more visible!

From observation to action!
Change our collaboration at European level

Be stronger together!

Further advocate for academic freedom!

Prepare the reconstruction of the
countries after the crisis
Intensify collaborations with them