

Summary of the EURAXESS Conference Integration of Refugee Scholars in Switzerland

Wednesday, 17 January, 2018, University of Zurich

Venue: Room RAA-G-01, Rämistrasse 59, 8006 Zurich



More than 70 participants attended the EURAXESS Conference „Integration of Refugee Scholars in Switzerland“ held on 17 January 2018 at the University of Zurich (UZH). In his welcome address, Prof. M. O. Hengartner Rector of UZH and President of swissuniversities, stressed the humanitarian tradition of UZH as well as the social responsibility of Swiss higher education institutions which has to be continued.



Prof. Susan Thieme's presentation gave insight into on-going research on the subject of migration of the highly skilled to Switzerland, whereas Catrin Scheiber, Claudia Nyffenegger and Rinske van den Berg presented programmes and initiatives on cantonal, federal and European level. The report of experiences made by Oula Abu-Amsha, a Syrian scholar living in Switzerland made a deep impression on the audience and the successful project "power coders" presented by Christian Hirsig gave very practical suggestions for practices to follow.



It was very beneficial to conclude the conference with a panel discussion moderated by Prof. Walter Leimgruber, which allowed to bring together all these different aspects and to discuss them with the audience. The goal of giving scientific insight in the topic of the integration of refugee scholars, discussing the possibilities and limitations on a practical level and fostering new contacts and ideas was certainly achieved. Hopefully, this conference laid the ground for a continued exchange and the development of new measures for the integration of refugee scholars in Switzerland.