

Kiron and Sciences Po sign a partnership agreement to facilitate refugees' access to higher education in France

Kiron and Sciences Po have established an agreement – Kiron's first with a French higher education institution – to extend their action to improve access to higher education for refugees in France.

Paris, 22 June - Sciences Po and Kiron Open Higher Education have signed a partnership agreement to enable refugee students in France to return to their studies, thereby helping to promote access to higher education and the integration of refugee populations. The agreement provides for Sciences Po to make a selection of social sciences courses available on Kiron's online learning platform.

Kiron's solution combines online and offline learning and is available anywhere, free of charge. Students who successfully complete their study programme graduate with an accredited degree from a partner university. Kiron allows refugees to overcome the various obstacles they face in accessing higher education: the language barrier, universities' limited capacity, the financial barrier of tuition fees and the difficulty of administrative procedures.

Through this partnership, Sciences Po will add to the range of study options available to Kiron students by offering courses in English and French in the social sciences. Kiron's first partnership with a higher education institution in France opens new academic opportunities for those who have had their studies interrupted by conflict in their home country.

"This agreement strengthens our commitment to facilitating the integration of refugees; it is an extension of the "Welcome Refugees" programme we launched in March. Through that initial and highly successful collaboration with Kiron we offered language courses to refugees wishing to return to higher education. The new initiative aims to offer them a wider range of learning content to facilitate their return to education and more effectively prepare their integration," said Sciences Po President Frédéric Mion.

About Kiron France

Kiron Open Higher Education is a German social start-up, founded by Markus Kreßler and Vincent Zimmer in 2015. Kiron gives refugees access to higher education - worldwide and regardless of the administrative status of their papers.

Kiron France is the French branch of Kiron Open Higher Education. The French initiative was launched in September 2015 when a team of eight students in Paris became aware of the need to make higher

education accessible to refugees in France. Since September, many volunteers have joined the French team, which focuses on enlarging Kiron's offer to refugees living in France.

Visit our website kiron.ngo for further information and follow Kiron on Twitter and Facebook.

About Sciences Po

Founded on the values of accessibility and excellence, Sciences Po is a selective research university of international standing whose unique model combines expertise in the humanities and social sciences with a focus on interdisciplinary studies and professional development to form new actors who can both understand and transform society. Diversity is a fundamental element of Sciences Po's identity; international students from 150 different countries make up 47% of its student body, and 27% of its students hold scholarships (up from 6% in 2000).

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