WASTED POTENTIAL: HIGHLY SKILLED FORCED MIGRANTS AND THE RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN DIPLOMAS IN BRAZIL
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RESEARCH QUESTION
How do structural hindrances in the recognition of foreign diplomas affect the socio-economic integration of highly skilled forced migrants in Brazil?

WHAT IS THE ISSUE WITH BRAZIL, THEN?
- Brazil figures as the country with largest income inequality depending on educational attainment (OECD, 2010).
- The process of recognition of foreign diplomas is considered by all stakeholders one of the main problems to integrate qualified workforce in the country (FDV, 2017).
- Many migrant workers give up on the process because they don’t understand it (FDV, 2017).
- Only in 2016, the Brazilian government created specific norms regarding the recognition of foreign diplomas taking into consideration hardships refugees experience.

RESULTS OF THE ANALYSIS
- National guidelines for higher education institutions
- Limit of 180 days for a decision (before it could take up to 3 years)
- A computerized procedure (Carolina Bori Platform)

Reflections
- The Brazilian government should adopt a radical empowerment (Fernandes, 2015) approach to public policy.
- Partnerships with civil society organizations should be encouraged considering the good case of the NGO Compassiva in São Paulo.
- Policy-makers should consider:
  Creating national guidelines on the fees charged and gratuitousness for forced migrants;
  Release a version in English and Spanish of the Carolina Bori portal;
  The possibility of taking the skill-test in English or Spanish;
  The creation of partnerships and bilateral agreements for automatic recognition of diplomas;

BOTTOM-LINE
Through the analysis of policy documents and literature, it is possible to affirm that there is a lack of specific policies at the national level and structure barriers prevent forced migrants from getting their qualifications verified in Brazil.

OUR DATA
- 180 days to finalize the process
- Each institution stipulates the fee for the process
- An extensive list of documents (including the pedagogic project of the course and syllabi of all the courses one has taken)*
- The diploma and the transcript of records authenticated by a consular authority or with the Hague apostille
- Translation to Portuguese by a sworn translator

*For refugees. They can have their qualifications recognized by taking an exam testing their knowledge and such exams has to be taken in Portuguese.