



Erasmus+

Holistic
Approach
for Successful
Integration
of Migrants



Narrative Report Study Visit Germany – 15.05.2017 – 19.05.2017

Monday 15.05.2017

1) Flüchtlingsrat Baden-Württemberg

1. The refugee council is the only independent and region wide network of local initiatives who work voluntarily with and for refugees. It supports refugee work with extensive information on the social and legal situation in Baden-Württemberg, the refugee policy and the situation in the origin countries.

1.1 Themes presented:

- Structure of organisation (with umbrella organisation, office in every state)
- Offered measures & projects

1.2 Reason for choosing organisation:

- Important cooperation partner in projects regarding refugees
- Central, non-governmental organisation

1.3 Integration aspect:

- Lobbying for the rights fo refugees
- Counselling

2. Best practice examples:

- Online information website with information on life in Baden-Württemberg/ Germany (in different languagues and further languages will be added) <http://w2bw.de/>
- Open phone lines every afternoon for refugees and volunteer

For more information on the refugee council see attached power point presentation.

2) Internationaler Bund e.V., IB Süd, Wohngruppe Cottage

1. Description/ profile:

- housing group for 9 unaccompanied minor refugees
- 3 social workers, concept of “assistance in upbringing”

1.1 Themes presented:

- housing system for asylum seekers in Germany, different types of accommodation incl. legal framework and financial situation
- legal basis for different concepts for working with unaccompanied minor refugees
- daily routine in housing group; layout of rooms
- exchange with some of the residents

1.2 Reason for choosing organisation:

- example for accommodation (in a smaller group, especially for teenagers)

1.3 Integration aspect:

- housing covering basic needs of unaccompanied minors

2. Best practice examples:

- participation in decisions, e.g. about decoration/equipment of rooms
- immediate integration in school system and dual vocational system
- close cooperation with youth welfare service, legal guardians, etc.

3) Universität Tübingen

1. Description/ profile:

- University of Tübingen as one of the oldest universities in Germany, well-established in the humanities, in cooperation with PH (University of Applied Science in Pedagogy) Ludwigsburg
- Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) »Migration & Integration« (extra-occupational program of further education)

1.1 Themes presented:

- structure of program, topics and experts of units

1.2 Reason for choosing organisation:

- model curriculum for professionals in field of migration

1.3 Integration aspect:

- further education for professionals working directly with refugees or in any context of refugees work, fostering knowledge, reflection and competency

1.4 Best practice examples:

- interdisciplinary curriculum (could even be extended)
- linking daily working context with recent research findings (practice exercise between workshop days), relating to experience of professionals

Tuesday 16.5.2017

4. EVA, Wohnheim Böblinger Str.

1. Description/ profile: large residential accommodation for refugees (approx.. 160)

1.1 Themes presented: services/ work of the social workers (The social workers are available to answer everyday questions, help to develop new perspectives and to solve simple problems and to point them to services to get the right support needed)

1.2 Reason for choosing organisation: - seeing what life is like in a big group refugee accommodation, insight into the daily work of the social workers

1.3 Integration aspect:

- Central town location in the middle of a residential and local shopping area, close to many other services
- 'circle of friends' (volunteers who have formed a support group and who offers many different support services reaching from free time activities, translation help, accompanying refugees to official appointments etc.

2. Best practice example:

- cooperation with local volunteers
- local volunteer support group founded
- providing common spaces for activities

5. SIT – Sprachinstitut Tübingen

1. Description/ profile:

- language institute with German courses for students and migrants

1.1 Themes presented:

- types and structure of courses
- observation in advanced German courses for migrants

1.2 Reason for choosing organisation:

- one of the largest language institutes in the region, well-established

- diversity of courses offered
- 1.3 Integration aspect:
- publically funded German courses for migrants and refugees (depending on status)
2. Best practice examples:
- public structure regarding language acquisition from GER A0 to C2

For more information see: <http://www.sit-sis.de/en/home.html>

Wednesday 17.05.2017

6. Internationaler Bund e.V., IB Süd, Bildungszentrum Waiblingen

1. Description/ profile: educational and vocational training centre offering a number of different educational courses for refugees and migrants

Themes presented:

1.1 Reason for choosing organisation: - providing an overview of the different education programmes offered to refugees and migrants in Germany

1.2 Integration aspect: - programmes aimed at integrating participants into labour market or educational system

1.3 Best practice examples:

- school campus offering courses for Germans, Migrants and refugees with common areas
- possibility to enter school system after completing courses
- well connected with labour market

7. Internationaler Bund e.V., IB Süd, Projekt ‚Kugel‘

1. Description/ profile: **KUGEL – Kulturen Gemeinsam leben**“ is a project funded by the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. It was launched on September 1, 2016 and will run for a period of 3 years. The project is being implemented in cooperation with different organizations and associations in the “Heusteigviertel” district, located in the south of Stuttgart, Germany. The district is characterized by vibrant residential and commercial areas that have been gaining in popularity among investors and service providers and where people of different ages as well as social and cultural milieus cohabit. Nevertheless the district is currently experiencing urban redevelopment and is undergoing a socio-spatial transformation. Consequently there is an increasing risk of friction and social tension in the district. In order to achieve a successful and sustainable district development, it is necessary to promote solidarity and good neighbourly relations.

1.1 Themes presented

- Project as a whole
- Promoting a sustainable culture of recognition in the “Heusteigviertel” district by strengthening intercultural dialogue.
- Project activities: thematic action days and events, through the creation of encounter spaces for neighbors, to multiplier trainings as well as the establishment of a permanent neighborhood networks

1.2 Reason for choosing organisation: Neighbourhood integration project aimed at all those living in the area

1.3 Integration aspect: The Project was designed to have an impact on an individual, as well as on an institutional and political level. The implemented measures will promote discussions regarding topics such as immigration, interculturalism and tolerance and contribute to increase civic involvement as well as mutual acceptance and tolerance between the district residents.

2. Best practice examples: - the project as a whole

See attached power point presentation for more details.

8. Internationaler Bund e.V., IB Süd, Projekt ‚aktiF‘

1. Description/ profile:

aktiF” is a pilot project for the integration of girls and women with refugee or migration background, especially from Arabic countries, into gymnastics and sports associations of the STB (Schwäbischer Turnerbund).

Within the project, pilot associations are advised, supported and accompanied on their way to intercultural opening. Through further education the associations are strengthened in their intercultural competences and linked with actors from the field of integration and refugee work on a local scale.

“**aktiF**” started in July 2016 with a duration of two years. The joint project of the Internationaler Bund e.V. (IB) and the Schwäbischer Turnerbund e.V. (STB) is funded by the Federal Ministry of the Interior within the federal programme “Zusammenhalt durch Teilhabe” (Solidarity through Participation).

1.1 Themes presented: project as a whole

1.2 Reason for choosing organisation: Integration project aimed at girls/women with refugee or migrant background

1.3 Integration aspect: Integration of girls/women with refugee or migrant background into local sports clubs with in Germany plays a major role local communities and are an important part of society.

2. Best practice examples: - project as a whole

See attached power point presentation for more information.

9. Café Nachbarschaft

1. Description/ profile:

- meeting point for all ages and cultures
- space for civil society and volunteers

1.1 Themes presented:

- how café as meeting point is established and run

1.2 Reason for choosing organisation:

- open space, by and for volunteers, but linked to professional coordination

1.3 Integration aspect:

- meeting point for people with different cultural backgrounds
- free space is used for volunteers learning German with migrants/refugees

2. Best practice examples:

- low budget drinks (coffee & tea) available

- open, friendly atmosphere
- free events
- neighbourhood-organised
- cooperation with volunteer groups and local institutions in order to promote offers

Thursday 18.05.2017

10. The Stuttgart Model: Refugee Work, Labour and Integration” (Department of Social Affairs, City of Stuttgart; JobCenter Stuttgart, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Stuttgart)

1. Description/ profile:

Stuttgart is a city of integration. People from over 170 nations live amongst each other in our city, some of whom have been here for many decades. Stuttgart is a diverse and open-minded city that fosters a genuine welcoming culture and cares about treating refugees in a humane way. Stuttgart is currently home to approximately 7,500 refugees. This number reflects 7,500 life stories, 7,500 destinies and 7,500 hopes. For this reason, it is important to us to make each and every one of you feel welcome in our city.

We live here together, in a city that we call home and that those who have been forced to flee their homes and seek refuge here might one day also call home. To enable us to live together in harmony, we all need to show mutual respect and understanding. Those who come to us in distress need help and support, which is why we in Stuttgart do everything we can to house refugees in a humane way. This requires a resourceful approach to refugee housing on the part of the city and the many social organisations, as well as a great deal of civic involvement. More than 3,500 volunteers invest their time, energy, heart and soul into helping refugees in Stuttgart. They do a great job.

As for our refugee policy, the state capital of Stuttgart follows the so-called "Stuttgart Way", which is a special strategy characterised by various overlapping measures: Refugees are housed in the suburbs, in all districts where possible, and live in newly built accommodation as well as rented or city-owned properties. Wherever possible, we try to avoid mass accommodation in Stuttgart.

Independent sponsors take care of the refugees' welfare. Our designated on-site representatives are responsible for the refugees' social and educational welfare so that people receive the best possible support in the most effective way. This work is supported throughout the city by many local volunteers, who form circles of friends to offer assistance to refugees, including before they have secured accommodation (where a circle is already established). Stuttgart attaches great importance to considering the specific needs of the different refugee groups and making sure that they receive basic services in a timely and demand-driven way.

The city is ahead of the game nationally when it comes to offering language courses for every refugee as soon as possible, which we do by using our own municipal resources. Language courses are combined with various measures designed to provide an insight into our working world.

The "Stuttgart Way" means that everyone who lives here can call Stuttgart home. We are pro-integration and anti-discrimination.

1.1 Themes presented:

- situation in Stuttgart
- The Stuttgart Way
- measures of integration
- circle of friends (local volunteer groups supporting refugees)
- integrating refugees into the dual educational system (i.e. via EQ (Entry Qualifications))
- initiatives for refugees in the Stuttgart area

1.2 Reason for choosing organisation:

- Important players for the integration of refugees in Stuttgart

1.3 Integration aspect: The Stuttgart Way

2. Best practice examples: The Ausbildungscampus (educational campus) – one-stop shop (people only have to come to one place in order to have access to different departments, services etc.) This also means that the different departments and services can deal with issues quicker and together.

11. vhs Stuttgart (Adult Education Centre)

1. Description/ profile: adult education centre offering a vast range of courses including also German and integration courses

1.1 Themes presented: - structure of the courses etc

1.2 Reason for choosing organisation: well-established adult educational centre

1.3 Integration aspect: - publically funded German courses for migrants and refugees (depending on status), access to many other different courses

2. Best practice examples: - access to other different courses, common areas, café etc.

12. Welcome Center Stuttgart

1. Description/ profile: Drop-in center for all those new to Stuttgart so that Stuttgart can become their new home quickly. The members of staff are there to assist newcomers and guide them through the "red tape" so that they can start their daily routine in Stuttgart as smoothly and quickly as possible.

They can provide initial advice on any matters relating to "Living in Stuttgart", such as

- Right of residence
- Learning German
- Working
- Training / studying
- Recognition of degrees from foreign universities
- Living
- Nursery school places and school
- Associations
- Culture
- Contacts

- 1.1 Themes presented: see information above
- 1.2 Reason for choosing organisation: drop-in center for all those new to the city
- 1.3 Integration aspect: - i.e. helping migrants find job placements
- 2. Best practice examples: - world café and world shop (open to all and nice place to chat and meet new people in a relaxed and open atmosphere)

13. Forum of Cultures (Forum der Kulturen)

1. Description/ profile: It is an umbrella organisation of the Stuttgart migrant associations and an intercultural office. More than 250 international associations are members of the forum.

1.1 Themes presented: organisation as a whole and activities and services provided by the organisation

1.2 Reason for choosing organisation: unique type of umbrella organisation

1.3 Integration aspect: - helping small cultural organisations

- organising and coordinating common cultural events between cultural organisations from all sorts of different countries which take place in Stuttgart and around and are highly popular
- workshops and trainings for members (on life in Germany (i.e. courses to understand the educational system), courses on empowerment....)

1.4 Best practice examples:

- Summer festival of cultures
- International brunch
- The Forum of Cultures magazine "Begegnung der Kulturen - Interkultur in Stuttgart" (*Encounter between Cultures - Interculture in Stuttgart*) provides lots of information about intercultural events and activities.

Friday 19.05.2017

15. Internationaler Bund e.V., IB Süd, Youth Migration Service

Description/ profile:

- services for young migrants between 12 and 27 years and their parents, funded by federal family ministry

Themes presented:

- regular offers at YMS
- special projects, e.g. on socio-cultural participation through visiting events, intercultural drama group, diminishing prejudices through knowledge about different traditions, fostering identification with the environment, activities based on common interest
- implementation through case management and group activities
- child-welfare

Reason for choosing organisation:

- well-established institution throughout Germany

Integration aspect:

- Services aimed at supporting young migrants with their integration into society regarding language, school, job and social life
- Fostering parenting skills of migrant parents, esp. regarding the school/professional education of their children

Best practice examples:

- Combination of counselling and various activities:
 - Seminars on violent-free education, addiction issues, partnership, training of communication skills and social competencies

- tandem project regarding personality, team skills, dealing with conflicts
- seminars on nutrition and health
- freetime activities
- creative activities for fostering language skills
- »festival of cultures« (organised by youngsters themselves)
- Cooperation with other educational institutions, migrants' organisations, ...

16. Turkish Community Stuttgart, Project 'Heimat Teilen durch Orientierung'

Description/ profile:

- Migrants' organisation
- Project: Qualification and counselling for professionals/volunteers working with refugees

Themes presented:

- Structure and topics of qualification seminars
- Continuation and adaptation of project

Reason for choosing organisation:

- Self-organised and implemented project by migrants' organisation
- Qualification for volunteers (curriculum, experts)

Integration aspect:

- Migrants increasing their competencies and participation, helping other migrants and refugees with their integration

Best practice examples:

- cooperation with experts on specific topics, often migrants themselves
- connection to target group (migrants)
- variety of topics in seminars: causes of flight, psychosocial issues, labour market integration, intercultural communication / tolerance, counselling, Islam, women, sexuality...
- focus on self-organisation and empowerment
- migrants as volunteers for refugees: using own experience, fostering competencies