



# **Integration by Qualification**

## **„Qualiproject of the House of Projects in Babelsberg“**





# **Origination: Multicultural Integration Project (2008-2011)**

## **Qualification and support for young refugees**

**In July 2007 an Immigration Law was passed giving some refugees, whose status were tolerated, the possibility to stay, if they could proof that they either have a job or a apprenticeship training position by 30.12.2009. The aim within the range of the project is to support young refugees in Brandenburg, looking for jobs and a training position.**



- youth without borders (JOG)
- cross-border cooperation
- Integrative educative projects
- Seminars, theme evening discussions
- Multicultural meetings and dinner
- Voluntary Guardianship
- Map of helpful addresses for refugees and immigrants in Potsdam



Dinner im Asylbewerberheim Potsdam



# Formalities (finances, employees, duration)

- The project is financed by the “Aktion Mensch” over 3 years (2011-2014)
- 2 employees (a former refugee woman, a Social worker) 1 part time job held by an immigrant with Columbian roots, with the assistance of a voluntary worker in the environmental sector/ instructor of the Video course





# Cooperation partners

1. “Diakonisches Werk Potsdam”  
(refugees advice, refugee home)
2. Refugees council in Brandenburg  
“Flüchtlingsrat Brandenburg”
3. Networking meetings  
(Foreign Immigration Representative Potsdam  
“Ausländerbeauftragte der Stadt Potsdam”)  
e.g. supporting „Intercultural Week in Potsdam”





# Facilities

- Continuing the 1<sup>st</sup> Project
- The need of low level practical offers for refugees and immigrants
- The required conditions are found in the “Projekthaus”:
- Open workshop area
- Pottery
- Carpentry
- Photo laboratory
- Bicycle workshop
- Bread baking oven house
- Big garden area
- Requires instructors with different language skills, Gardener, Carpenter, Potter and Photographer
- Offering courses like: German, Video, Computer, Gardening, Cooking, Wood workshop, bicycle repairing



Participants cooking



# Ideas

- get refugees from the asylum homes
- Make obligatory arrangements and keep to them
- Activate handwork talents learnt in their home countries
- Preparation courses for practicals, professional training etc.
- Important: does not replace professional training
- Second point: Integration – get to know people from other countries in the “Projekthaus”
- Alternative living (eg. cook vegetarian, meeting between the course participants and activists, taking part in activities beyond the courses: dinner, theme evening discussions)
- Language acquisition

Practical benefits: to be able to make and repair daily used articles: furniture, crockery, bicycles, plants, photos, videos (eg. for applications)



# Aims

**Our aim is to combine qualification with integration**

- **Courses are a guidance to go back to work, to be active and to be needed**
- **Participants can be better prepared for the job training with previous knowledge and**



A participant films at a theme evening discussion



# Implementing the courses

**1. Organise courses with the instructors on three months phases**

**2. Advertise for participants**

- **Data collection (inquire for: personal details, professional pre-knowledge, professional interests, choice of the offered courses)**
- **The courses offered depend on existing workshop facilities, qualification of the instructors and interests of the participants**
- **Meetings with coordination team, participants and instructors for an evaluation once a month**
- **At the end of each phase a certificate of participation is granted**



# Next step

- Participants become multipliers
- Takeover their own courses run them and pass on the knowledge learned



Exhibition of the photo course



Participants building furnitures



Urbangardering



# Dinner for All

Many years ago an Idea was created for a Dinner with the residents of the Refugee home and Potsdam city:

- Basic Idea: Bring people of different origin and ages together to socialize
- This takes place in the refugee home with thematic focus: different organisations introduce themselves and their work, advertisement for the qualification project, discussions about different issues, e.g. Amnesty International or Free Shop Potsdam





# Intercultural Afternoon

You want to improve your language skills,  
Learn about others cultures, and meet new  
people...?

- Afternoon for social integration in Projekthaus
- Supporting self-Organisation of participants
- e.g. playing games, making sport and music with the participants and another people from Potsdam
- Once in a month



# Theme evening discussions

- In the frame of different development political seminar rows in the “Projekthaus” introducing different countries with thematic focus on politics:
- e.g. land rights, cultural and social emancipation and solidarity economy
- We introduce several examples, like how development cooperation can function differently, how equal public discussions can be organised and how recent basic social issues and questions can be discussed
- Embedded in a cultural frame (country typical food, music, movies, photos)



# Difficulties of the Project

- High fluctuation of participants (loss of contact, find pay job, judicial problems)
- High financial costs, high travel expenses because participants come from different towns
- great effort on co-financing



# Future perspectives

## Development of new projects

- help for writing a C.V.
- juridical seminars on integration in the job market
- training of multipliers
- info tours through homes
- internship for participants



# Movie about „Qualiprojekt“

<http://www.potsdamtv.de/Stadtleben/Inwole-18106.html>

[Link for more information](#)

<http://www.projekthaus-potsdam.de/projekte-de-DE/fluechtlingsprojekt/>

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