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Integrated Refugee Management in a Transnational Perspective (IntegriF II)

Birgit Apfelbaum, Communication Studies and Social Sciences

Project outline

(April 2019)







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IntegriF II project team



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IntegriF II: Project outline
Prof. Dr. Birgit Apfelbaum
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What problem is addressed?

The so-called Integrated Refugee Management concept rolled out as a holistic approach in Germany in 2016 aims at improving the legal and administrative framework for accelerated asylum procedures and the smooth and sustainable integration of refugees with a perspective of being granted long-term residence in Germany. Having to cope with the specific challenges of German multi-level-governance principles, turns out, however, to be problematic and calls for a more detailed approach, including specifications and evaluation. Public and private actors supporting the integration process need a reliable framework to interface with asylum procedures and network structures.

Objectives of the project

The interdisciplinary project aims at establishing a regional and transnational exchange of understanding and reflective practice in the field of vocational and educational orientation for incoming refugees (with different prospects of remaining in the country). By pinpointing experiences of select integration actors in Saxony-Anhalt in line with multi-level refugee management and labour market integration measures, the perspectives of relevant network actors are compared, contrasted and joined. Concurrent with the project training modules for mixed target groups, focusing on legal regulations and administrative procedures as well as on (integration) network management competences such as conflict moderation in heterogeneous networks are developed.

Seeking asylum in Saxony-Anhalt =

Seeking asylum in Halberstadt



Source: https://www.volksstimme.de/storyimage/MA/20151126/ARTIKEL/151128937/AR/0/AR-151128937.jpg&MaxW=505&ImageVersion=default&NCS_modified=20151126000000

Seeking asylum in Halberstadt

Aerial view of reception complex



IntegriF Regional Partners





























Diakonisches Werk im Kirchenkreis Halberstadt e. V.





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How we work with our partners



Project plan IntegriF II

Phase I (1 - 9/2018)

- Administrative procedures and legal bases of refugee management in Germany
- Comparative investigation of experiences of select integration actors interfacing with multi-level refugee management
- Focus on vocational and educational orientation of refugees (based on expert interviews and group discussions in Saxony-Anhalt)



Phase II (10/2018 - 12/2019)

- Participatory development of training modules
- Mixed target group: State, municipal and non-state integration actors (including professionals and volunteers)
- Main emphasis on legal bases, administrative procedures and network competences

Transnational exchange with partners from Germany, Belgium, Finland and Sweden (ESF project on sustainable mentoring models for the integration of refugees)

Project results

As an outcome the project will deliver an overview of legal regulations and administrative procedures in Germany as well as a comparative analysis of experiences of select integration actors in Saxony-Anhalt interfacing with multilevel refugee management and labour market integration measures. Furthermore the project is investigating how to arrange exchange opportunities in order to facilitate knowledge sharing and mutual learning in a given field of expertise. This knowledge will be shared in form of a scholarly publication and through workshops with integration actors in Saxony-Anhalt. The result will be a concept for interdisciplinary training modules, addressing a mixed target group of mentors and other integration network partners. It pays particular attention to all aspects of capacity building by designing interventions to lead the network partners to deeper insights and to cooperate successfully.

The benefits of transnational learning

Sharing common questions and challenges provides all transnational partners with motivation, inspiration and learning opportunities. The IntegriF project benefits in many ways from the transnational exchange within the MeMoRe consortium. Knowing more about our partners' experiences, we gain a broader picture of labour market integration processes of refugees in Europe. Furthermore, discussions allow us to reflect upon our research design from different perspectives and to critically review it on a regular basis. In addition, mutual knowledge exchange provides us with new ideas about how to design interventions to facilitate mutual learning and sustainable development which we intend to apply in upcoming workshops. Likewise, we help our transnational partners to place the process of mentoring within the bigger picture of refugee management.

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