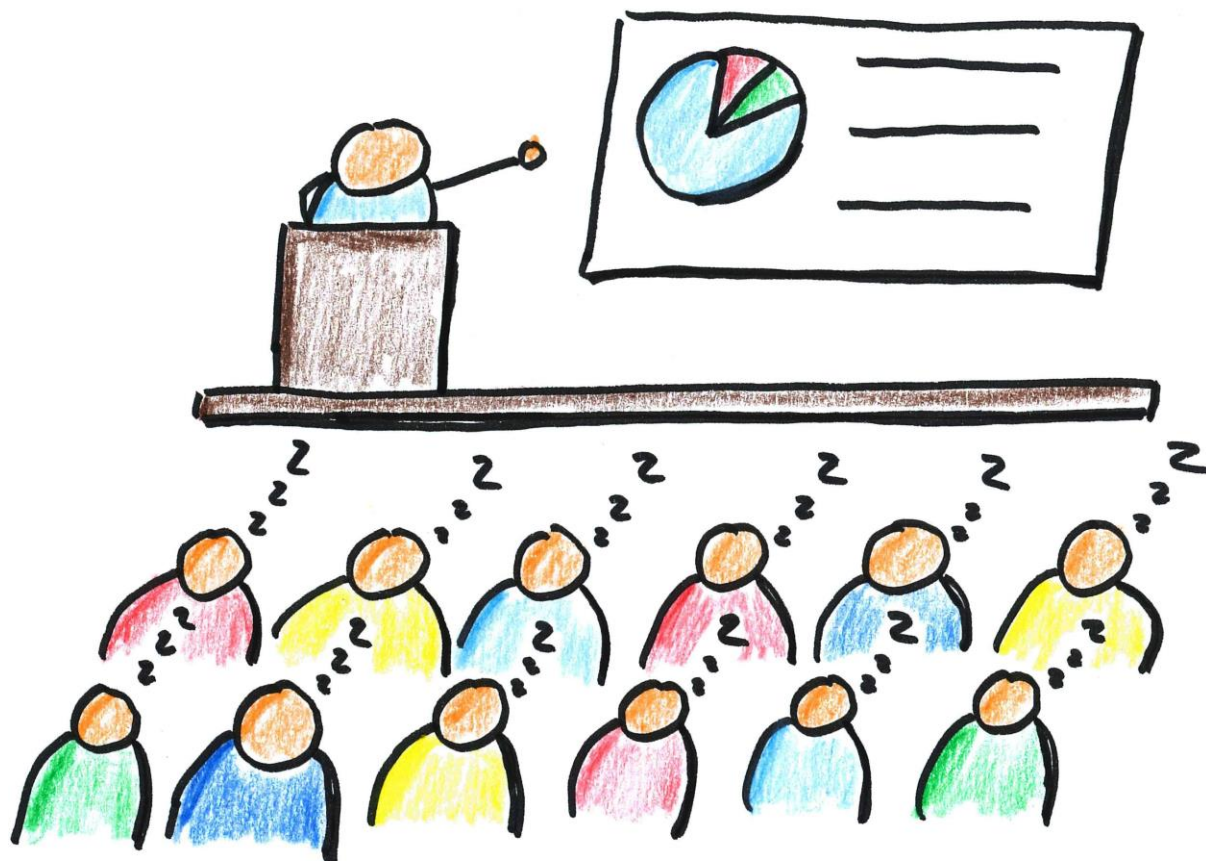




Fostering intercultural dialogue and participation at local level -The example of Eschweiler (D)

by Wolfgang Jousen/Davor Jedvaj/Sandro Sertic (EIE Emigration,
Immigration in Europe)
DURES/ALBANIA 2018



ESCHWEILER - a City in the west of Germany (close to Aachen) - About 56.000 inhabitants till 2014



Since 2014: more than 1.000 refugees became permanent residents in Eschweiler





About 500 refugees could find an apartment on the private housing market. Another 500 are still living in transitional residences of the City of Eschweiler - three transitional residences in the district Eschweiler-West. Only few meanwhile could find a job. Most of them are still dependent on financial and other public support.

ESCHWEILER-WEST: About 150 refugees found a new home in 40 apartments rent by the City of Eschweiler in the district of Eschweiler-West - in one neighbourhood (Gutenberg Quarter) with a high number of vacant flats before



Eschweiler-West: a district where even before 2014 a lot of people with migration background were living The Gutenberg Quarter - a neighbourhood with people from different nations and cultures in a district with high urban and social renovation needs



To promote the living conditions of the migrant population and the intercultural dialogue between the "old" and the "new" inhabitants in the district Eschweiler-West the City of Eschweiler setup the project "INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES IN THE DISTRICT ESCHWEILER-WEST" with cofunding of the State of North-Rhine Westfalia (07/2016-12/2018)



The Project has three working priorities:



a) advice and support for refugees in the district Eschweiler-West; b) improvement of the co-operation of organizations and institutions working with refugees in the district Eschweiler-West; c) promote intersocial and intercultural dialoge in the district Eschweiler-West



ADVICE AND SUPPORT: operated on behalf of the City of Eschweiler
by AWO Arbeiterwohlfahrt Kreisverband Aachen-Land - a non
governmental social service organization Manager: Raphael
Kamp, M.Sc.



CO-OPERATION/SOCIAL AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE: operated on behalf of the City of Eschweiler by B-PLAN Bureau for Social Sciences Analyses and Planing Dr. Jousen
Manager: Wolfgang Jousen, head of B-PLAN/President of EIIE



Instrument to improve CO-OPERATION/DIALOGUE: establishing a "Social District Conference" with more than 40 organizations and institutions
TASK: identify needs, organize and operate common activities and projects to improve the living situation and the intersocial and intercultural dialogue



Bundesarchiv, B 145 Bild-F084812-0008
Foto: Lemmerz, Wolfgang | 29. Juni 1990

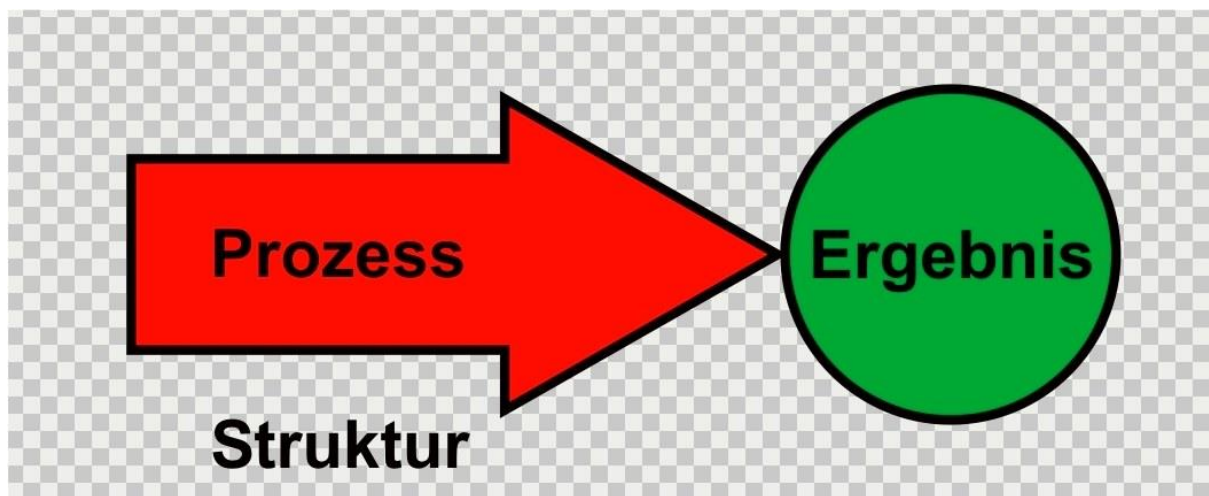
Common activities and projects are funded: "neighbourhood projects" - budget: up to € 5.000



Examples of conducted "neighbourhood projects": support trauma counselling for children; improvement of information on social and local life in the city and district (schools, kindergarten, social care institutions ...); language courses particularly for migrant women with young children; coaching of refugee pupils; cultural festivals; support for newly formed intercultural groups of German inhabitants and refugees in the district



RESULTS/RESUMEE: Projects as setup in the district of Eschweiler-West - a combination of individual support for refugees in everyday life in a neighbourhood combined with a "social district conference" - can help to improve co-operation of organizations/institutions and the intersocial and intercultural dialoge, but have very limited impact on essentials of the living situation (job, income, housing, access to vocational training ...). Nevertheless: such Projects are important for the low scale integration of the refugees at the local level!



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