

Thursday 11th July 2024

Intergenerational participatory workshop: “*Shaping the Future Together – How to Use the Human Potential in the Civil Society*”

Subgroup 4: “*To be Migrants*”

Moderation by: Marina Kuch

Minutes made by: Angela Pudda

The working group introduces the individual contributions with the consideration of the extent to which the needs and aims of migrants play a role in the acceptance and openness of the inhabitants of the destination country.

Ute discusses the ideas from a German perspective.

The flow of migrants has taken on dimensions that have a strong impact on the housing situation, education, ability to integrate and financial support options.

She proposes to promote support on a personal level to learn the foreign language better, working life, lifestyles, religious life through social and cultural activities

Olha introduces to the immigrant policy in Ukraine and the situation of internal and external migrants. Ukraine is not as attractive for refugees as Germany. Although the country is now in great need of them in order to rebuild the country.

As a migrant abroad, she sees great discrimination in the difficulty of having to learn new skills and cultural characteristics. Removing these barriers, or making them easier to overcome, is an important step towards an inclusive society.

Dejan tells about the current situation in Serbia. Many Russians have immigrated to Serbia to build a new peaceful life there. As there are no strict regulations for setting up a business, they open department stores and gastronomic enterprises. This also leads to a lively black market. Apart from the increase in the standard of living and prices in general, this has also led to a difficult situation for Ukrainian immigrants.

There is a general mistrust of all foreigners and it is not always possible to distinguish between a refugee for economic or political reasons.

Other immigrants come from Pakistan and often do difficult, physically demanding work.

The discussion in our working group is focussed on whether an inclusive attitude, sometimes seen as naive, in which foreign people are seen as brothers and sisters and the active participation of immigrants in the country of arrival represents a development for the society. How can we find arguments in the dialogue between politically right-wing views? Words such as respect, acceptance and xenophobia are used, especially where there are more foreigners living together than familiar, native people. The association Menschlichkeit, which operates in Ulm, was cited as an example. And there are many other associations that are based on practising European values and bringing together people who need and give help. Migrants can share their own skills and interests within society. It is important to create conditions an exchange between residents and immigrants around the topics of leisure, learning and food.

What we can do is maintain the dialogue. It is also important to limit illegal immigration and make the labour market more bureaucratically accessible. There is often a shortage of skilled workers, but the alignment and recognition of non-European qualifications is not yet in place in some areas, or is in the authorisation phase.

It is therefore important to see people's skills as an opportunity. By meeting each other and creating opportunities to give, take and share, civil society and the cultural sector can be able to gather creativity and ideas to make living together enjoyable. Without doubt there is a need for effort and will fullness to integrate.