

Conclusio



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Location

Schlierbach

Country

Austria

Short summarizing description

The association „Conclusio“ (=latin for conclusion) was founded with the aim to promote mutual support between Austrians and asylum seekers as well as better integration and inclusion of the latter ones. The right to work is among the basic human rights, therefore the possibility to work is offered within the scope of “Conclusio” on a voluntary basis and exclusively among members of the association. As asylum seekers are not allowed to receive any financial remuneration, the association “pays” time credits for the help given. These time credits are deposited in special time accounts. Thus, an essential aspect of “Conclusio” is empowerment. Instead of just receiving help, the asylum seekers give help and can therefore give back part of the help received to the local population. By becoming involved and working together, both Austrians and asylum seekers also learn about core values in practice.

Key Terms

integration; volunteer work; preparation for the labor market

Context and background, Which problems/challenges does your measure try to solve/cope with?

In view of the large numbers of asylum seekers, the issue of work for many people becomes increasingly important. First, asylum seekers are not allowed to work for some time (asylum proceedings last 12 months or longer), and then they do not find work easily as they do not yet have the necessary language skills and partly do not meet the socio-cultural requirements. The right to work is among the basic human rights, gives self-esteem, physical and mental stability, promotes social inclusion and is the main reason for gaining respect from others. Considering this basic right to work and this basic need, SPES Zukunftsakademie has founded the association “Conclusio” which promotes voluntary work for the common good among asylum seekers and can thus contribute to better integration.

Which are the key objectives of your measure?

WP 1 – information events: present the possibilities of “Conclusio” to the citizens and provide enough information for them to decide whether “Conclusio” is the suitable solution for their municipality WP 2 – founding local groups and a regional branch: local groups are founded in the municipalities WP 3 – developing and elaborating fields of work in the municipalities: The local groups develop fields of work suitable and feasible for their municipality WP 4 – active work of the local groups: local groups and regional branches start their work

Who are the main target groups and beneficiaries of your measure?

- Asylum seekers and recognised refugees - Citizens of municipalities and volunteers

Which actions have already been implemented and which results have been achieved so far?

“Conclusio” was initiated in 3 pilot municipalities in Upper Austria with a presentation of the vision, mission and objectives of the association as well as information on the possibilities and limits of voluntary work. After thorough examination of the legal framework and in accordance with the local public employment service, asylum seekers in these 3 municipalities had already done over 500 hours of voluntary work during the first 3 months. By autumn 2017, there are as many as 20 local groups in Upper Austria with about 600 members in total. “Conclusio” also spread into the neighbouring provinces (Lower Austria, Salzburg) and beyond Austria’s borders to Baden-Württemberg in Germany. Now the national expansion is planned, as well as opening the network for new target groups. An EU Erasmus+ project is in preparation to exchange the best practise and to work on an international network.

Which were the main problems and challenges you were/are facing when implementing the project and how did/do you (try to) overcome them?

Difficulties: • Legal recognition • High expenditure coordination with authorities, financial police and Ministry of Social Affairs in Austria Advices: • Do not be put off by legally unclear areas • Innovations often move to the limit, in this case to the limits of legal gray areas

Link to website

<http://conclusio-hilft.at/>

Starting date

2016-09-01

Duration

pilot municipalities (3 months)

Regional scale

3 - big region (Bundesland, Region, Département/Province, Kanton etc.)

Other involved partners

local partners (associations, companies, political and civil societal active), CARITAS

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Category 1, Managing social change

Doing voluntary work is part of the Austrian and European culture and voluntary work creates enormous social capital. "Conclusio" contributes to this part of practised integration, of becoming acquainted with the way our society functions and of becoming actively involved in voluntary work on a local level.

Category 2: Integrating migrants into the local/,regional labour market

By becoming a member of "Conclusio" association and doing voluntary work, asylum seekers can build a network of relationships with locals that improves their access to work, housing and education as well as to social and cultural life within the community (active inclusion). Joint work also helps asylum seekers with learning the language, because by using the language at work they broaden their vocabulary and need to form phrases. With the help of the project "Conclusio" the potentials and talents of (often highly educated) asylum seekers can be spotted, tested in practice and fostered. These potentials having been tested in practice then enable asylum seekers to integrate into the paid labour market more easily (once they are granted asylum). The joint work projects can easily highlight the positive contribution for the community and therefore improve the image of asylum seekers on a long-term basis.

Category 5, PR impact and awareness raising

- Winner of the Austrian Prize "Sozial Marie - Prize for social innovation" <http://www.sozialmarie.org/de/projects/5035> - PR impact in regional newspapers - Awareness raising in the local municipalities

Category 6, Innovative dimension

The essentially new is the adaptation of the time bank concept (billing is therefore not in monetary value but in time value with the help of an hourly account)

Category 7, Transferability

Transferability is an advantage of the Conclusio project. Local association could build up easily. Starting from 3 pilot municipalities, now 20 local groups are working and the network is still growing.

Further Information



Volunteer work
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