

Integration of young refugees into the local labour market



one group on their first day of classes
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Location

LEADERregion Kufstein and surrounding – Untere Schranne - Kaiserwinkl

Country

Austria

Short summarizing description

The aim of the project is the successful integration of refugees into the regional labour market in a short way. Within a one-stop-shop program clients got firstly educated in German language, cultural and job relevant facilities. In a second step they got to know local companies, where they may find an apprenticeship afterwards. This is also a chance for the local economy to oppose the lack of professionals in specific industries.

Key Terms

Labour market – language - integration

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

In 2015 a huge amount of refugees immigrated in a short time slot into the EU and therefore into Austria. Kufstein is located at the boarder to Germany and therefore hosted thousands of refugees in 2015 and 2016. The government and institutions struggled to coordinate and organize board and lodgings. LEADER KUUSK, the city of Kufstein together with the chamber of economy were motivated to handle the issue of integration right from the start of arrival. The focus of measures lied on young refugees through German lessons and on a facilitation of apprenticeships.

Which are the key objectives of your measure?

First thing was to get the right choice of young people. The Tyrolian Social Services made a pre-choice of 25 refugees. To get to know their competences and abilities they did some exams and exercises. On that base, 16 of them got the chance through individually prepared curricula to pass an exam for German niveau of B2. A defined goal was to place the refugees in shortage occupations.

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

The main target group are young refugees, who came to Kufstein. 22 of them had in the end the chance to attend German lessons, but also courses in Mathematics, English or intercultural values like a sense of duty. 11 passed the ÖSD exam, which stands for a basic niveau in German.

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

The project is already finished and all the measures from above were implemented. Three refugees got a place at a company as an apprentice. Five found a job without. The others are at the moment in the application procedure.

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

A challenge was the different competences and abilities of the young refugees within the group. One part of the group already had some previous language knowledge and were well-educated back home. The other group had a lack of background knowledge. We divided the refugees into two groups. Another challenge was that the refugees had to move on special places in Tyrol ordered by the national government. Hence there were a lot more travel costs as estimated.

Link to website

<https://www.rm-tirol.at/regionen/kuusk/projekte/einzel/project/arbeitsmarktintegration-jugendlicher-fluechtlinge/>

Starting date

2016-02-15

Duration

13

Regional scale

2 - small region (some municipalities, a mountain valley etc.)

Other involved partners

Chamber of economy Kufstein, Tyrolian Social Services, Federation of Austrian Industry Tyrol

Contact person

LEADERregion Kufstein and surrounding, Untere Schranne and Kaiserwinkl (KUUSK)

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

The fact that the immigrants get individually prepared curricula to pass within one year the German exam (B2), means that only a few had the chance to use this opportunity. The project was example giving and the start for other programs. As our project used the well-established connections of the chamber of economy to get to particular companies in the

region, the refugees had more opportunities to visit them and to find a trainee position. Because of the excellent education in the beginning phase, they also got more self-confidence for their stay in Austria.

Category 5, PR impact and awareness raising

There were several postings on social media as well as the local newspapers. It was also published in all municipality newspapers to show refugees willing of integration and to counteract right wing opinions.

Category 6, Innovative dimension

It was the first project in Tyrol to teach young refugees in all labour market relevant issues. LEADER KUUSK started as soon as possible to integrate the refugees in our society. The city of Kufstein, chamber of economic and the LEADERregion were able to act immediately without waiting for a legal framework and funding. Being able to speak the language and having an activity are the most important measures.

Category 7, Transferability

The way of teaching was designed individually for the clients. It was a mixture of language, cultural and labour market relevant topics. Within the courses teachers were challenged to think out of the box and teach them all areas of Tyrolean life. This new systemic approach should be implemented in the national integration strategy. Important is the cooperation between the LAG, the institutions of economy and also the people, who work in the refugee hostels.

Category 8, Embedment in a comprehensive welcoming strategy

In 2015 there was no public welcome strategy for this amount of young refugees to get into the labour market. Our project was aimed to be a kind of pilot project for the authorities responsible for labour market integration. The project was discussed and designed with the public offices and the public employment service. The selection of young refugees for the program was made with regional asylum homes and supervisors. The chamber of economic was the interface between education and work place.

Further Information



visiting the Hotel Walchseer Hof to get to know the touristic jobs in the region
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project report after finishing the LEADERproject phase (unfortunately in German)
example for an attendance certification (unfortunately also in German)

[Endbericht — 610Kb](#)

[Certification example — 365Kb](#)