

MyKey – Leben und Arbeiten in Tirol



Location

Innsbruck, Tirol

Country

Austria

Short summarizing description

MyKey is a program for (unattended) underage refugees with ongoing asylum procedure aiming at a preparation for apprenticeship by teaching German, mathematics and other basic education skills. The participants can follow the program for one year. The weekly timetable covers 30 hours plus up to 10 hours voluntary activities, such as sports, developing technical skills, excursions, etc. During the participation in the program the refugees presumably achieve their asylum status. This opens the door for entering the labour market or getting access to job programs of the Public Employment Service.

Key Terms

underage refugees, basic education skills, apprenticeship

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

Underage refugees with ongoing asylum procedure are under multiple pressure: They are in a foreign country with different culture and mentality, far away from their families. The majority has suffered or witnessed severe violence during their escape. The psychological impact causes more or less health-, mental- or social problems. The first key to a new life is the local language, the knowledge of social procedures and an educational base.

Which are the key objectives of your measure?

- Improving language skills in German (A2 or higher)
- Making up gaps in basic education skills
- Learning cultural skills
- Achieving vocational training or higher education (college)

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

- unattended underage refugees with ongoing asylum procedure or asylum status
- attended underage refugees with ongoing asylum procedure or asylum status

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

Implemented Actions: • Start of program in August 2016 • Intensive networking with all regional refugee camps, the regional refugee authority and other social projects • Adaptation of the program according to the demands of the target group • Coordinating the collaboration with the Public Employment Service • Initiating German language testings (ÖSD) for participants • Participation in conferences and meetings of involved Institutions • MyKey Soccer-team participating in a regional tournament

Results: • 80% of the participants have reached the Level A2 or B1 in German • 15 participants have finished the program • 1 participant has achieved an apprenticeship contract • 7 participants have continued in another program for basic graduation • 5th place in the Tyrolean "Fußball Integrationsturnier"

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

Challenges: 1. High motivation and expectations of the participants vs low stability to follow the program 2. Ongoing asylum procedures 3. Multitude of involved social personnel 4. Mental problems of the participants due to experience of violence during their escape

Solutions: Ad. 1. Starting the program slowly, clear steps and aims of the program, operating with diversified methods and close contact to the staff of the refugee camps Ad 2. Motivating the participants Ad 3. Implementation of a clear communication structure Ad 4. Intensive communication with the person in charge

Starting date

2016-08-01

Duration

24

Regional scale

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

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

MyKey supports the integration of migrants into local businesses, semi-public and public bodies by • improving the level of German language skills • making up basic education skills • offering cultural training • preparing for vocational training or higher education (college) • connecting with public bodies (Public Employment Service)

Category 5, PR impact and awareness raising

The article shows to the regional general public that (underage) refugees are willing to make an effort in order to integrate themselves by preparing for a professional career and a self-determined life beyond social care.

Category 6, Innovative dimension

In August 2016 "MyKey - Leben und Arbeiten in Tirol" was the first program for (unattended) underage refugees with ongoing asylum procedure in Austria. The intention of the Tyrolean Government was to use the period of time of the asylum procedure as a preparation for the social and professional integration of the target group.

Category 7, Transferability

Since the program "MyKey - Leben und Arbeiten in Tirol" started in August 2016 other regional governments in Austria have initiated similar programs.

Category 8, Embedment in a comprehensive welcoming strategy

Since the program "MyKey - Leben und Arbeiten in Tirol" is closely connected to the main institution for refugees in Tirol, TSD - Tiroler Soziale Dienste and KiJu - Kinder- und Jugendhilfe, it is embedded in all activities concerning particularly (unattended) underage refugees. MyKey is linked with all regional refugee camps, the regional government, the education system and the regional social (supporting) systems, such as the Public Employment Service professional schools and youth centers.