

Naflahus



Picture of the intercultural learning garden project
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Location

City of Feldkirch, Vorarlberg

Country

Austria

Short summarizing description

The “Naflahus” is a low-threshold social integration project in the field of migration and integration. The underlying idea/concept is to create space as well as a structure for volunteers in the field of refuge and asylum as well as for refugees/asylum seekers to execute and/or take part in projects relating to the social integration into the society. Furthermore, the project is intended to enhance a peaceful life together by getting into contact. The project “Naflahus” is led and coordinated by an employee of the honorary and integration office of the city administration of Feldkirch, Austria.

Key Terms

Social integration project

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

The measure tries to counter the foundation of parallel societies as well as the social exclusion of (socially) disadvantaged groups like refugees and asylum seekers. Furthermore, it aims to overcome linguistic barriers and tries to deal with uncertainty of those persons (mostly related to their asylum status) or partially traumatised persons.

Which are the key objectives of your measure?

The key objective of the project „Naflahus“ is the social integration of refugees/asylum seekers into the society through the establishment of opportunities to get into contact with locals by using clear frames of reference. The improvement of

language skills (German language) as well as the promotion of an appreciative pluralism are further key objectives of the project.

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

The main target groups of the project Naflahus are, on the one hand, asylum seekers/refugees respectively migrants as well as socially disadvantaged persons in general living in Feldkirch; on the other hand, there are local volunteers of Feldkirch. The beneficiaries of our measure are overall the people of the city of Feldkirch.

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

Already implemented actions: The "Kleiderbörse" is a project where in-kind donations such as clothes, kitchen utensils etc. are given out to persons in need. From Monday to Saturday, German lessons are organized in small groups. A number of migrants have been able to pass different official German courses; some even passed the compulsory graduation. "Somersault" refers to a parents-children-group; this project contains games as well as information about parenting. Another project is an intercultural learning garden. The migrants can learn more about vegetables as well as how to cultivate them in our climate zone. In the sewing project, migrants produce different accessories like cosmetic bags, cloth bags, cherry pit cushions etc. The bicycle repair project is situated in the garage of the house. A number of repaired bicycles have already been given out to refugees. Lastly, a brunch intended as meeting opportunity and to build up social contacts is taking place regularly.

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

The main challenges we face when implementing the projects are unreliability or unpunctuality (mostly related to our German courses) as well as little participation in the different projects. At the current stage we try to overcome these challenges with reminders for courses, announcements on notice boards in accommodations, personal invitations as well as invitations via WhatsApp. Furthermore, there are not always enough volunteers to expand existing projects or implement further projects. This we try to overcome by calls for volunteers in the newsletter, news articles or on the homepage.

Link to website

<http://www.feldkirch.at/stadt/fluechtlinge-in-feldkirch/naflahus>

Starting date

2016-08-01

Duration

16 months

Regional scale

1 - local (one municipality)

Contact person

Amt der Stadt Feldkirch (City Administration of Feldkirch)

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Category 1, Managing social change

The project "Naflahus" supports the management of social change primarily by promoting awareness and developing friendships. Social benefits for migrants can be seen in social contacts with locals which lead to improve language skills and counter isolation, as well as the training of different skills like sewing or gardening and support of everyday situations

by providing company for visits to public authorities. There are also material benefits for migrants like clothes, shoes, bicycles, vegetables, etc. In return, benefits for the local host society are developing awareness for different cultures and traditions as well as becoming familiar with different living conditions. On the one hand, the measure helps to increase the diversity competence of local societies by creating a space where people can get into touch in a neutral and protected framework. On the other hand, it helps migrants by training different skills to build up a life in their new home more easily.

Category 3: Improving land use, nature ,protection and regional development

Within the intercultural learning garden project of the “Naflahus”, migrants are welcome to cultivate the vegetable garden, raised beds and the tomatoe house. To build up consciousness related to the cultivation of vegetables and herbs in the climate zone of our region, we produced signs for (at the current stage) ten different vegetables and herbs with basic information about growth, needs and pests on the various plants. The information is available in the languages of German, English, Arabic and Persian. Furthermore, as the garden is cultivated biologically, the project aims to raise awareness on the protection of the nature in whole and the circle of the nature, e.g. by creating a compost as well as paying attention to regional and saisonal greens.

Category 5, PR impact and awareness raising

Any PR is mainly organized by the public relations office of the city administration of Feldkirch in form of various news articles and pictures. These articles contribute towards raising awareness as they, amongst other things, demonstrate how migrants are looking for contacts, skills and support as well as that they are interested to be part of the society on their own motivation. Moreover, the project is promoted via the website as well as flyers and posters.

Category 6, Innovative dimension

The measure „Naflahus“ has an innovative dimension within the region of Vorarlberg as it includes the principle of an adoption of space relating to volunteers in the context of refuge and asylum. Moreover, this innovative dimension includes a physical embedment into social space. The innovative combination of traditional help (in-kind donations, language courses) and integration into a new society and culture (learning garden, brunch, etc.) offers a unique opportunity for migrants to get settled.

Category 7, Transferability

The acquisition of space within this context can be transferred to other sectors and/or regions as well as the methodology. If there already exists a certain number of volunteers who can “move” into the house the start of the projects will be made much easier. Moreover, a network with partner organisations in the appropriate fields is always a necessary and helpful support (e.g. for announcements on notice boards in accommodations, etc.)

Category 8, Embedment in a comprehensive welcoming strategy

In order to provide a comprehensive welcoming strategy, the honorary and integration office is working together closely with the refugee coordination of the city of Feldkirch. Regarding this, the offices initiated joint actions such as tours through the city of Feldkirch, where we invited refugees and asylum seekers to walk with us and gain information about Feldkirch as well as to make them more familiar with their new home. We also took them for a walk through the christmas market to make them, in a small part, acquainted with our culture and traditions as well as to share information. As a result of this cooperation, all of the “Naflahus”-invitations can be drawn up in German, Arabic and Persian, as the refugee coordinator is able to communicate in these languages. These actions were taken in accordance with and as supplement of the actions of the “Naflahus”.

Further Information



Section of the "Kleiderbörse"

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[bicycle repair project.pdf](#) — 541Kb

Poster of the bicycle repair project

[sewing project.pdf](#) — 959Kb

Poster of the sewing project

