

Integration Activities for migrants in Germany as Example and Challenge of Intercultural Communication

A huge number of migrants from different countries with different languages, different habits and cultures are arriving in Germany. Some are supposed to return to their home countries after the end of the conflicts with caused their escape. Most of them however will stay and have to be integrated in “our” society. Germany in the past was destination for Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek and Turkish people (not to forget people from Ex-Yugoslavia). Most of them however came because they looked for work which was offered by the German economy.

Nowadays the situation is different: more people, more cultures, more religions and, in average another level of education – and not as much acceptances as – in general – by the German society. This is the background of developing integration programs. One aspect is the paper work, the other the implementation managed by people.

Integration has a wide meaning: Language, Country, Community, daily life, school and working place.

Questions:

1. How to teach German language for people who have even not learned to read and to write?
2. How to explain people from Arabic countries and from Africa the basics of German political, economic and social system and life?
3. How to accompany the integration of refugees in communities in the countryside?
4. How to facilitate their daily life?
5. How to manage the integration of children in schools, considering the cultural and linguistic aspects?
6. How to manage the integration of people to get into the labour market?

These questions are the challenges for the German society which is very estranged. The German example brings me to the core question:

Of course are these questions transferable to all countries which are affected by the integration of migrants. Only the amount of immigrants which has to be integrated in society and work is much greater than in other European countries.

Core questions: Are our European societies ready and prepared to meet this challenge? How to shape communication?