

Council for the Integration of Foreigners in Linz

Report of Activities for 2003

Foreword

As the Chairman of the Council for the Integration of Foreigners in Linz (AIB) it gives me great pleasure to present this report to you. It will provide an overview of the highlights of our work in the year 2003.

In addition to the many activities in the area of information and public relations work (exemplified by the creation of information folders for German integration courses in eleven languages, participation in the making of "Calendars of Cultures" and visits to various migrants' clubs) an important part of our work was dedicated to the representation of interests. The activities dealing with the topic "Political Participation" or offering a multicultural course on giving birth are examples of this. There was also an organisational change in 2003. The office moved from the Neues Rathaus to Pfarrgasse 1, first floor.

We will also continue to work on the realisation of our goals in the coming year and our task of striving for the equal treatment of citizens – foreign and native alike. All those who are interested in working with the AIB are cordially invited to do so.

Finally, in the name of the AIB Linz, I'd like to thank all those who contributed to our success through their support and co-operation.

Krzysztof Sieranski Chairman

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1. Activities in 2003

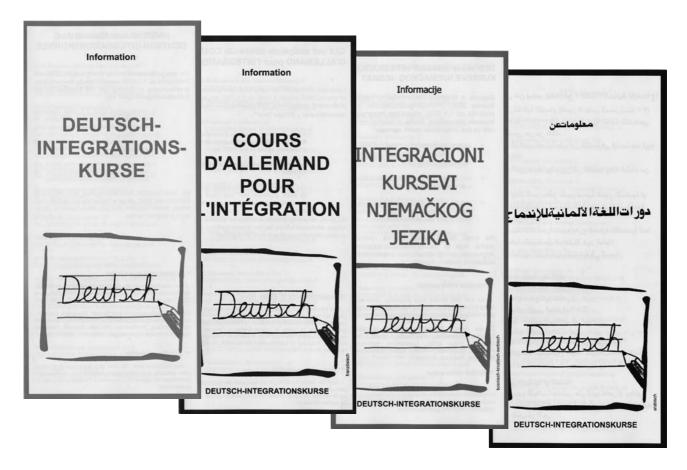
In 2003 the AIB held six public meetings. In addition, regular internal work sessions took place which served as preparation and planning for various activities. Mr. Gunther Trübswasser, member of the provincial parliament of the Green Party, was a guest at one of the public meetings where he exchanged thoughts on the following topics: chances for education for young migrants, the situation of handicapped/elderly migrants and assessment of the realisation of voting rights for non-EU citizens in local elections.

The following enables the reader to have an overview of the activities and work of the council in the past year.

1.1 Information and Public Relations Work

1.1.1 Folder for "German Integration Course"

In order to inform the newly-arrived (as well as the not-so-newly-arrived) in Austria about the German integration course offered, a folder was developed in eleven languages (German, Bosnian, Serbo-Croatian, Turkish, English, French, Polish, Arabic, Albanian, Czech, Hungarian, Romanian) in co-operation with the Foreigner Integration Bureau and the Social Welfare Department of the Province of Upper Austria (Co-ordination Office for Integration)and 160 000 folders were published.. This folder was made available to all relevant institutions (local government offices, city halls, clubs and institutions) in the entire province and may be acquired free of charge at the office of the AIB Linz.



1.1.2 Visiting Migrants' Clubs

In order to intensify the contact with migrants' clubs, the council visited some and held information events with various topics, which were selected by the club members themselves. Ethnic clubs have an important social function and serve as a valuable contact opportunity for the respective groups of immigrants.

25th April: Turkish – Islamic Club for Cultural and Social Co-operation; topic:

Information concerning proof of residence, integration contact and

German integration courses

10th May: Club of Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina; topic: Financial Assistance

16th June: Club Mezopotamya; topic: Asylum

13th July: Nigerian IGBO Union of Austria; topic: Asylum

The information presentation on the respective topic began after a short report on the activities of the council. Numerous questions could be answered on the spot due to the in-depth depiction and expert competence of the speaker. Visits to ethnic clubs will continue in 2004.

1.1.3 Participation in "City of Cultures" (promotional prize)

For the fourth time already, the city of Linz has awarded promotional prizes for exceptional intercultural projects under the motto, "City of Cultures". Within the framework of 2003's main topic, "Women-migrants' Culture", the city of Linz invited participants to approach the topic, "Urban Culture and Immigration" from a gender-specific perspective. The lives of immigrant women were to be made apparent through cultural discussions or given a platform for cultural creations.

On Saturday 27th September the awards ceremony and the presentation of prize winners took place during the Friends' Ball on the ship MS Linz as in previous years. The following were among the prize winners: Club Maiz, Club Mezopotamya, the Voters' Round of Linz and Club medea.

1.1.4 Calendar of Cultures

"The Calendar of Cultures 2004" was created by the Foreigner Integration Bureau and the AIB Linz in co-operation with the Goetheschule Day Care Center. It describes the most important holidays of the main world religions, traditional festivals and holidays and their background, realising that it is not possible to cover all the festivals and holidays of all the cultures which are represented in the city of Linz. Festivals and holidays are of great importance, because they bring people together and enable them to get to know other cultures. This intercultural calendar should give one an impression of the great variety of festivals in the city and stimulate discussion about hitherto unknown festivals.

This calendar is also available on the homepage of the city of Linz, www.linz.at, under "Service A-Z".



Traditionelle Feiertage/Jahrestage

1. Mai: Tag der Arbeit
Internationaler Feiertag zu Ehren der arbeitenden Menschen.

9. Mai: Muttertag

Mai: Mohammeds Geburtstag
 In dieser, Geburtsnacht des Prophete

In dieser "Geburtsnacht des Propheten" erleuchten Kerzen und Lampen die Moscheen. Man gedenkt mit Zusammenkünften und Erzählungen aus dem Leben Mohammeds seiner Geburt.

Buddhismus 4. Mai: Vesakh

Am Tag des Buddha gedenkt man dreier wesentlicher Ereignisse aus den Leben des Sickharta Gautama Buddha: Geburt Buddhas, seine "Erwa chung" unter dem Bodhi-Baum sowie sein Sterben, Auch Buddhas Togill als freudiges Ereignis, weil es sein Eingehen in das Kirwana bestie gill als freudiges Ereignis, weil es sein Eingehen in das Kirwana bestie Pilgerfahrt, Freilassen von Vögeln usw.

1 o Sternich wird das Fest am 30. Mei beangen der

Christentum 6. Mai: Sankt Georgstag

Ein auf vorchristliche Fühlingsdeiern zurückgebandes Familienflest, das auch von mostelmischen Roma begangen wird. In Österreich wird das Georgsfest (Djurdjevdan) mehrheitlich von zugewanderten Roma aus Mazedonen und dem Kosovo gefeiert. Der Heilige Georg ist der Schutzheilige der Roma.

die Sendung in die Weit (wission) erinnert. 30. - 31. **Ma**i: Pfingsten 50 Tage nach Ostern gedenkt man der Herabkunft des Heiligen Geistes

26. – 27. Mai: Schawud Im Mittelpunkt des jüdi

Im Mittelpunkt des jüdischen Festes steht das Gedenken und der Dank für Gottes wichtigste Gabe an sein Volk: Die Thora, die Urkunde des Bun-

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أحمالهيت كامنة وإنت لحيبة بالبحل أمواسي أح كامنة و لونت طبيت إذن بالمي متوة قول مسكرة بهس أيض إنت بالصاحب كلم ممنة عيد مباد دلا علشات بالبحى بين لمبتغيط بيد الأحد مع أحق الحليات والتبيدات

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die sind an allen ligt.

die sind an allen ligt.

die walle het die organise John!

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srekna je i ona.

Set hills Restord maine Eller is I Namman aus Gharu. My warne is Resport My parants are born in Ghard,

Christentum

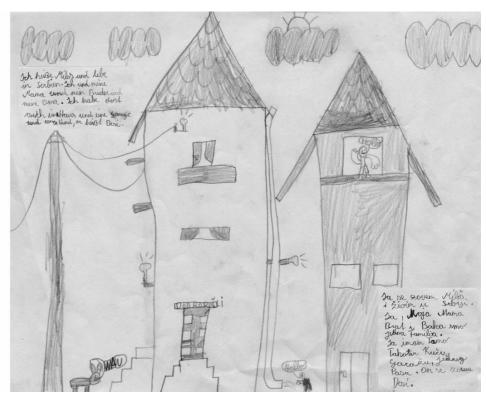
10. Juni: Frenleichnam
Bei diesem hohen katholischen Fest am 10. Tag nach Pflingsten wird bei
einer Prozession das Altarsakrament, das Brot als Zeichen für den Leib
Christi, sichtbar durch die Straßen getragen.

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Juni

Oktober

Mo Di Mi Do Fr Sa So 2 3 4 5 6 7 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 25 <u>26</u> 27 28 29 30 <u>31</u>



1.1.5. Presentation of activities of AIB members or office staff

Also in the past year council and/or office staff members presented goals and areas of activity of the AIB upon invitation from various institutions.

- Participation in "The Certification Course Migration" of the Center for Migrants in Upper Austria migrare (January)
- Foreigner Forum Steyr (March)
- "Information Exchange" of the Club Begegnung/Arcobaleno (April)
- Academy for Social Work in Upper Austria (May)
- "Practitioners of Quality Forum" (May)
- Visit of "The Intercultural Center" from Vienna (July)
- Seminar for municipal employees "Contact with Foreign Clients" (October)
- "Open House" of the city of Linz (September)

1.2. Representation of Interests, Integration and Support Measures

1.2.1. Activities on the topic "Political Participation"

Because the right to vote for non- EU citizens in local elections is important to the council, it has created a paper stating its position on this issue and has submitted it to the political parties for comment.

"The Council for the Integration of Foreigners in Linz was integrated into the structure of the city administration as a representative of the political interests of non-EU and EEC citizens. We, the Council for the Integration of Foreigners in Linz, do not view our task as the integration of migrants and Austrians on a social level but rather to put migrants on the same legal level as citizens and thus devalue political discrimination. This is why the non-EU and EEC citizens' right to vote in local elections is a matter of great concern for migrants living in the city of Linz. Letting migrants vote in local elections is a matter of great necessity, because we view this as a momentous sign of recognition and political importance concerning migrants. We don't think that it is right to limit integration on a cultural and language level. It is also important to approach it from a political level and grant the approximately 12% of the population of Linz who don't have the right to vote an important democratic right. This would strengthen the political participation of migrants and increase interest in local city politics, which would result in a positive form of integration. In our opinion the right to vote is not only a right reserved for citizens, because we assume the decision to become an "Austrian" citizen is made for personal reasons and not for political equality. The Council for the Integration of Foreigners in Linz demands the right to vote for non-EU and EEC citizens in local elections."

Responses from the political parties were varied. The FPÖ rejects the right to vote for non-EU citizens (the right to vote is a citizen's right). The SPÖ and the Greens welcome its introduction (the right to vote for migrants on a local level allows them the participation in democratic processes of their immediate personal environment)

To update you on this matter: two petitions (SPÖ, Greens) concerning a resolution regarding "the right of non-EU citizens to vote in local elections" were submitted to

the city council and passed by a majority in January 2004. The AIB considers both of these resolutions as an important signal for the formation of a collective conscience concerning this topic.

1.2.2 Intercultural Summer Festival "Diversity is Moving"

The AIB invited people to an intercultural summer festival at the Sportpark Auwiesen on 6th July 2003, where the visitors were offered a diverse program.

Sports enthusiasts could measure their skills on the pitch at an amateur football tournament in which around 20 teams participated. The Jumping Gym, Astronaut Trainer and various offerings in the Play Bus were ready for the children.

Visitors small and large could fortify themselves at the buffet which featured foods from all over the world. The music had an international flavour as well.

The council wanted to create a framework in which people of various cultures and nationalities could make contact, get to know one another, eat and drink together, play some games and simply enjoy the summer.













1.2.3 Multicultural Course on Giving Birth - Clear Start

The opening of an intercultural health service is a very important matter for the AIB and the multi-lingual course on giving birth should be a contribution to breaking down the barriers migrants face when trying to access local services for preventative health care.

The target group of this project was women from Turkey and the newly-formed countries of the former Yugoslavia, who represent the largest language groups of non-Austrian patients at the Landes-Frauen Klinik Linz who have little or no knowledge of the German language.

The course was designed for 15 couples, in which mothers-to-be along with their partners or other significant persons who would be present at the birth could take part. Six evenings (each two hours long) were scheduled along with twelve information evenings with a female doctor. Due to the low number of participants, these courses could not be held.

KURS - PRIPREMA TRUDNICA ZA POROĐAJ

za žene sa bosankog , hrvatskog i srpskog govornog područja i njihove partnere (ili druge osobe od povjerenja)

od 25. nedjelje trudnoće

Tim: babica (g-đa Prieschl), ginekolog (g-đa Dr. Gaiswinkler), prevodilac (g-đa Šaravanja-Šišić)

SADRŽAJI

- Vježbe disanja, opuštanja i tjelesne pripreme
- razgovori o alternativnoj pomoći pri poteškoćama u trudnoći
- upoznavanje raznih pozicija pri porođaju
- uloga partnera / ili osobe od povjerenja pri porođaju
- moguće poteškoće nakon porođaja
- pripreme za dojenje
- Informacije za prvo vrijeme sa bebom (savjetovališta za majku i dijete u Lincu, dječije doktorice, poklon paket grada Linca, druge mogućnosti novčane podrške)

Vrijeme kursa: 6 večeri četvrtcom od 08.01. do 12.02.2004.

od 20.00 - 22.00 sati

Mjesto: Volkshochschule Linz, Coulinstr. 18

(Narodni universitet u Lincu)

Cijena: € 50,-- po paru

Rok za prijavu: 22. decembar / prosinac 2003.

Na kursu može učestvovati **maksimalno 13 parova** (prednost imaju prvi na prijavnoj listi)!

Molimo ponesite sa sobom ugodnu odjeću!

Prijave i daljne informacije:

AusländerInnen – Integrationsbeirat Linz, Pfarrgasse 1, 4041 Linz Telefon: (070) 7070 / 1150

e - mail: integration@linz.at

GEBURTSVORBEREITUNGSKURS

für bosnisch-kroatisch-serbisch sprechende Frauen und deren Partner (oder anderen vertrauten Personen)

ab der 25. Schwangerschaftswoche

Team: Hebamme (Frau Prieschl), Frauenärztin (Frau Dr. Gaiswinkler), Dolmetscherin (Frau Saravanja-Sisic)

NHALTE

- Atemübungen, Entspannungs- und Körpererfahrungsübungen
- Besprechen alternativer Hilfen bei Schwangerschaftsbeschwerden
- Kennenlernen verschiedener Geburtspositionen
- Rolle des Partners/einer vertrauten Person bei der Geburt
- Mögliche Beschwerden im Wochenbett
- Vorbereitung auf das Stillen
- Informationen für die erste Zeit mit dem Baby (Mutterberatungsstellen in Linz, Kinderärztlnnen, Wäschepaket der Stadt Linz, sonstige finanzielle Unterstützungsmöglichkeiten)

Ein Abend mit einer Frauenärztin

Kurs: 6 Donnerstagabende, 8. 1. bis 12. 2. 2004

Zeit: 20 - 22 Uhr

Ort: Volkshochschule Linz, Coulinstr. 18

Kosten: € 50,- pro Paar

Anmeldeschluss: 22. Dezember 2003

Maximal können jeweils 13 Paare an diesen Kursen teilnehmen (es wird die Reihenfolge der Anmeldungen berücksichtigt)!

Bitte bequeme Kleidung mitbringen!

Anmeldung und weitere Informationen:

AusländerInnen-Integrationsbeirat Linz, Pfarrgasse 1, 4041 Linz Telefon: (070) 7070/1150

e-mail: integration@linz.at

This course was entered for the Intercultural Prize, which is awarded by the Society for Cultural Politics in co-operation with the Upper Austrian Social Democratic Party for cultural, social and scientific commitment.

In the category "Civil-societal Commitment", the course was assessed by the jury as follows:

"Here the needs and difficulties of migrants are not only made transparent to municipal committees, but concrete help for pregnant immigrants, who due to language barriers and lack of information, are more or less excluded from public services, is organised. Thus this pilot project makes an important contribution (hopefully for a long time) to intercultural openness of preventative public health services."

1.2.4 Support for Concerns of the Election Round of Linz

Local elections took place in Upper Austria in September 2003. Because the political parties hardly view migrants as a target group, the Election Round of Linz took it upon itself to influence local elections so that the interests and concerns of migrants will be covered by municipal policy.

Through various activities the Election Round (which is also supported by the AIB) has created awareness about the topic, e.g. discussions with city politicians, information tables, a podium discussion, a press conference and petition drives.

1.2.5 Integration Platform

The Integration Platform is a co-operation of institutions and establishments (Migrare-Center for Migrants in Upper Austria (formerly: Club for the Care of Foreigners in Upper Austria), Land of People Upper Austria, Volkshilfe Upper Austria-Refugee Aid, Refugee and Guest worker Consultation of the Caritas Upper Austria, SOS-Human Rights and the AIB Linz), which for years have been striving for integration, consultation and care of immigrants. These organisations met several times in 2003 in order to discuss various questions relating to integration.

1.3 Information Exchange/Networking

1.3.1 Platform "Foreigner Integration"

The Styrian Committee for Integration Questions, The Integration Council of Vöcklabruck, The Integration Committee of Traun, The Wels Integration Bureau Mosaic and The AIB Linz developed the platform "Foreigner Integration" and met many times in the year for an information exchange. Current topics and developments were discussed in 2003 as well.

1.3.2 An Exchange of Experiences with the Foreigner Council of Graz

In November an exchange of experiences took place between the office staff of The AIB Linz and The Foreigner Council of Graz. At this meeting the work of the Linz council was given new impetus and ideas and a very interesting view of the structure and working methods of the Graz organisation developed.

2. Members of the AIB

Elected Members:



Krysztof SIERANSKI Chairman



Hifzi COSKUN 1st deputy



Ikechukwu OKOFOR 2nd deputy

Isa ESMER

Engin GÜL

Davat GÜVENC (resigned: July 2003)/Halil SERIN



(resigned June 2003)/



Tülay TUNCEL



Ridvan KARABAS

Naci Kaya

(resigned: February 2003)/

Radojka VRHOVAC

(resigned November 2003)/ Mladen VRHOVAC

Ali YAGIZ
(resigned June 2003)/
Osman YILDIRIM



Alija ZEZEVIC

Members with advisory functions:

SPÖ: District Council Member Bettina Stadlbauer (till January 2003)

District Council Member Eichinger-Wimmer (till November 2003)/District

Council Member DI Ana Martincevic (since November 2003)

FPÖ: District Council Member Werner Neubauer

ÖVP: District Council Member Josef Hackl

Greens: District Council Member Gülcan Gigl, MAS

Office

The bureau for the Integration of Foreigners is at the disposal of the AIB Linz.

Address: Pfarrgasse 1, 4041 Linz
Telephone: (0732) 7070/1150 or 1151
Fax: (0732) 7070/54/1150 or 1151

e-mail: integration@linz.at

Business hours:

Monday, Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Contacts: Mag. Gudrun Siegl-Kraft

Mag. Claudia Ziehengraser

General information about the AIB Linz is available on the homepage of the city of Linz – www.linz.at under "Service-Guide"- "Ausländerangelegenheiten".

3. Press Clippings

■ Über 60 Gastwirtinnen und Gastwirte haben bisher beim Linzer Ausländer-Integrationsbeirat (AIB) den Aufkleber "Willkommen! Gastlichkeit für alle Menschen und Kulturen" angefordert. Die Aktion startete der AIB vor einem Jahr zum damals von der UNO ausgerufenen "Internationalen Tag gegen Diskriminierung und Fremdenfeindlichkeit".

Aufkleber kann man kostenlos bei www.linz.at/integrat/aufkleber herunterladen oder telefonisch (0732/ 70 70–22 97) anfordern. AIB, Neues Rathaus, Hauptstraße 1-5, 4041 Linz, Kirchenzeitung, 20. März 2003

www.minderheiten.orf.at, 17. März 2003



"Willkommen! Gastlichkeit für alle Menschen und Kulturen" nennt sich die Kampagne des AusländerIntegrationsbeirates (AIB) Linz, die vor einem Jahr in Zusammenarbeit mit der Wirtschaftskammer Oberösterreich gestartet wurde. Über 60 interessierte GastwirtInnen haben seither den eigens dafür gestalteten Aufkleber angefordert und durch das Anbringen an der Eingangstür ihre Offenheit gegenüber Gästen aus aller Welt nach außen hin gezeigt, resümierte heute der AIB Linz. Mit dem Aufkleber soll für die Gäste deutlich erkennbar werden, in welchen Linzer Lokalen Toleranz gelebt wird, so der AIB.

Eine Liste dieser Lokal ist auch im Internet zu finden. Lokale, die sich an der Kampagne beteiligen wollen, können das Bestellformular für den kostenlosen Aufkleber aus dem Internet herunterladen oder telefonisch unter 070-7070/2297 in der Geschäftsstelle des AIB Linz anfordern. (tk) Aufkleber - AIB Linz

SOMMERLICH FEIERN

Multi-Kulti-Fest. Zu einem interkulturellen Sommerfest im Sportpark Auwiesen lädt der Ausländer-Integrationsbeirat am Sonntag, 6. Juli (11 bis 18 Uhr, nur bei Schönwetter). Auf dem Programm: Hobby-Fußballturnier für Kinder und Erwachsene, Spielebus, Hüpfburg, Ethno-Buffett und internationale Musik. Der Eintritt ist frei.

OÖ Rundschau, 25. Juni 2003

Sommerfest. Der Ausländer-Integrationsbeirat (AIB) lädt am Sonntag, 6. Juli, zu einem interkulturellen Sommerfest im Sportpark Auwiesen ein. Zwischen 11 und 18 Uhr wird den Besuchern ein buntes Programm geboten. Fußball-Teams (bestehend aus sieben Personen) können sich noch bis spätestens 1. Juli bei der Geschäftsstelle des Ausländer-Integrationsbeirates anmelden: Tel. 070/7070-1150.

OÖ Rundschau, 2. Juli 2003