

# Actions of integration in rural areas – presentation of the practice manual

5<sup>th</sup> SAME –  
Solutions About Migrant Education  
Project Meeting

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# Outline

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1. Background information about the integration process in rural areas
2. Handbook „Integration in rural areas“
3. Good-practices examples



## My own background

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- Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, School of Management
- Research in integration policy and modern public management
  - Several national integration projects:
    - Integration vision for Villach
    - Handbook – Integration in rural areas
    - On going: Migration as a chance for rural areas
  - Interreg-project Italien/Austria
    - Cross-border benchmarking and benchlearning
- Course of studies: Integration management in municipalities



# 1.

## Background information about the integration process in rural areas



## Situation in Austria

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- 1.58 million (18.9 %) of 8.35 million people have a migration background
- Immigration is in particular a phenomenon of larger cities and urban areas
- Up to now, rural areas are hardly recognised as a place for (international) immigration
- Science, politics and the media are focussing cities with a larger increase of immigrants
- However, immigration becomes more and more important also for rural areas
- But, rural municipalities are confronted with different integration conditions



## Relevance of the topic

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- In 2012, in about 690 municipalities under 15,000 inhabitants live 10% or more people with a foreign origin
- Hardly any research studies exist which investigate the integration process in rural areas
- The special focus for examining the integration process in rural areas is currently under development(e.g.)
  - Austrian Conference of Spatial Planning (ÖROK): Partnership „Diversity and Integration“ (Austrian Spatial Development Perspective 2011)
  - Conferences
  - Research projects
- Special importance for municipalities confronted with consequences of the demographic change





## Some reasons for immigrating in rural areas

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- E.g.: Closeness to the next larger city (see Municipality of Grödig)
- Cheaper living space
- Good Childcare possibilities (see Municipality of Neudörfl)
- Job opportunities (see Municipality of Neudau)



# Differences in integration process in urban and rural areas (I)

Criteria	Urban areas	Rural areas
Diversity	High variety of nationalities, cultures or lifestyles	Less
Anonymity	High	Less anonymity, more possibilities to offer social contacts; but more social control and sensitivity against social and ethnical diversity
Integration political emphasis	Integration structures are more differentiated and sophisticated; integration activities in different fields of action; first steps towards establishing a diversity management	Focus on activities fostering social contacts, language and education, providing information for immigrants and possibilities of participation
Major	Responsibility is allocated to more heads	Central role as an „integrating person“





# Differences in integration process in urban and rural areas (II)

Criteria	Urban areas	Rural areas
Structure	More structured responsibilities; mostly, integration visions are existing; more professionalized	Usually, no structured integration competences; no formal responsibilities; integration work is not well organized and/or coordinated; multiple roles of one person
Foreignness	Play a minor role, urban societies are characterized by a higher diversity	Diversity and cultural differences are rather perceived as a problem; differences are more visible; immigrants are longer treated as strangers
Migrant networks	Different ethnical and cultural migrant networks	Often not available
Unions	Play a minor role	Stronger role for strengthening the social living together; can foster the integration process

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# 2. Handbook „Integration in Rural Areas“



# Practical Manual



Marika Gruber

## Integration in Rural Areas. A Handbook.

196 pages, hardback, StudienVerlag,  
2013

ISBN 978-3-7065-5233-2



## Initial point

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Panel of Experts for Integration in Austria has stated in their program that it is has to be a major aim of the Federal Government to **foster the local and municipal integration competence**



## Who is addressed

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- Mayors, local and regional politicians
- Chief officers and administration staff in municipal and regional administrations
- Kindergarten teacher, teacher in schools, people working (honorary) in NPOs and NGOs dealing with integration related topics, unions, migrant associations and networks



## Target group

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- 2,354 municipalities in Austria
- 695 municipalities fulfill criteria of target group
  - Municipalities in rural areas
  - $\leq 15,000$  inhabitants
  - $\geq 10\%$  persons of foreign origin
- Immigration is not only a topic for larger cities:
  - 59 municipalities  $\geq 20\%$
  - 22 municipalities  $\geq 25\%$
  - 9 municipalities  $\geq 30\%$

Source: Statistik Austria, 2012





## Two examples of target group

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- Municipality of Neudau, Styria
  - 1,212 inhabitants
  - 21.9 % persons have a foreign origin (266 persons)
  - Biggest group: Romanian nationals
  - 21 different nationalities live in Neudau
  - Almost everybody living in Neudau immigrated sometime
- Municipality of Kirchdorf an der Krems, Upper Austria
  - 4,101 inhabitants
  - 16.6% persons have a foreign origin (682 persons)
  - Biggest group: nationals from the former Yugoslavia (without Slovenia)



# Content

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1. Basics about the integration process
2. Practical work and good-practices
3. Methodology and exercise



# Content - Basics

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## 1. Understanding of integration

- ✓ Different approaches and significant similarities
- ✓ Integration as an interdisciplinary cross-section subject

## 2. Tasks and responsibilities of municipalities

- ✓ Framework
- ✓ Possibilities for municipalities to foster the integration process
- ✓ Challenges

## 3. Integration in the rural area



## Content - Practical work & good-practices (I)

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### Creating the integration process – Creating the living together

- ✓ Possibilities are shown for the organizational anchoring of integration activities
- ✓ Integration political fields of action
- ✓ Tips and experiences from other municipalities



## Content - Practical work & good-practices (II)

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### Integration political fields of action:

1. Living together, Habilitation, and Neighbourhood
2. Language and Education
3. Labour and employment
4. Health and Social Affairs
5. Constitutional State, Local Affairs, and Partizipation
6. Intercultural Dialoge
7. Sports and Leisure Time



## Content - Practical work & good-practices (III)

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### Living together, Habilitation, and Neighbourhood

- ✓ Subject and Challenges
- ✓ Possibilities of Action for Rural Municipalities
- ✓ Target groups
- ✓ Statements from experts and practitioners
- ✓ „Workspace“ for municipalities: Have a look on the own municipality
- ✓ Good-practice examples
- ✓ „Workspace“ for municipalities: Practical approaches for the own municipality





# „Workspaces“

## Arbeitsbereich für Gemeinden

*Was sind die Herausforderungen, mit denen Ihre Gemeinde konfrontiert ist?*



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# „Workspaces“

## Einen Blick auf die eigene Gemeinde werfen

Gemeinden haben in diesem Abschnitt die Möglichkeit, selbst für ihre Gemeinde die Herausforderungen, Ziele und Zielgruppen in diesem Handlungsfeld darzustellen sowie den erwarteten Mehrwert der Gestaltung anzuführen.

Herausforderungen	1.	2.	3. 
Ziele	1.	2.	3.
Zielgruppen	1.	2.	3.
Mehrwert	1.	2.	3.



## Handlungsansätze für meine Gemeinde

Gemeinden haben in diesem Abschnitt die Möglichkeit, selbst für ihre Gemeinde nächste integrationsfördernde Schritte bzw. Maßnahmen für dieses Handlungsfeld abzuleiten.

Ankommen in der Gemeinde	Zusammenleben, Wohnen, Nachbarschaft
Kurzfristig (in den nächsten 1–2 Jahren)	Kurzfristig (in den nächsten 1–2 Jahren)
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.



# Content - Methodology and exercise (I)

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## Toolbox

- ✓ 11 Tools
  - ✓ Tools for beginners
  - ✓ Tools for advanced prationers
- ✓ Explanations and notes for using the toolbox



## Content - Methodology and exercise (II)

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### Toolbox – Tools for beginners

- ✓ *Tool 1: Profile of the Municipality*
- ✓ *Tool 2: „Selbstcheck“ – How „open“ are we?*
- ✓ *Tool 3: Mapping – Integration political actors in my municipality/district/region*



# Content - Methodology and exercise (III)

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## Toolbox – Tools for advanced practitioners

### ✓ *Tool 4: Analysis of the different fields of action*

- Living together, Habilitation, and Neighbourhood
- Language and Education
- Labour and employment
- Health and Social Affairs
- Constitutional State, Local Affairs, and Participation
- Intercultural Dialogue
- Sports and Leisure Time

### ✓ *Tool 5: Cooperation for „Integration“ – Building-up networks and integration partnerships*







# Example of a toolbox

Fragen zum Einstieg	
Was läuft gut, welche Angebote/Maßnahmen gibt es? (Stärken im Zusammenleben/der bestehenden Integrationsarbeit? Auf welche Ressourcen können wir aufbauen?)	Was läuft nicht gut, was ist verbesserungswürdig? (Schwachpunkte im Zusammenleben/der bestehenden Integrationsarbeit?)
☺ „Tradition“ in Beteiligungsprozessen	☹
☺ Gute Kontakte zu den Vertreterinnen und Vertretern der Migrantenvereine (Vernetzung)	☹
Fragen zur vertieften Analyse	
<p>✓ Wie kommen politische Entscheidungen zustande? Wer sind wichtige politische Meinungsbildner/innen in der Gemeinde? <i>Informelle Meinungsbildung durch Kommunikation mit unterschiedlichen Akteursgruppen (nicht zuletzt auch am klassischen Stammtisch); Entscheidungsvorbereitung im Diskurs mit und unter Beratung durch Integrationsbeauftragten und IGZ Wörgl. Einiges wird auch von „außen“ über unterschiedliche „Kanäle“ in den Entscheidungsfindungsprozess eingebracht (Medien, Parteizentralen etc.).</i></p>	
<p>✓ Welche Möglichkeiten zur aktiven Mitgestaltung des Zusammenlebens gibt es in der Gemeinde? Wie wird darauf aufmerksam gemacht (Informationsweitergabe)? <i>Wörgl ist auch aktive Lokale Agenda 21 (LA)-Gemeinde und hat daher eine entsprechende Tradition von Beteiligungsprozessen. Auch die heutigen Strukturen und die Basis für die Integrationsarbeit sind aus dem LA 21-Prozess entstanden. Aktuelle Möglichkeiten zur aktiven Mitgestaltung bestehen in mehreren Themenfeldern: neben dem Thema „Integration“ unter anderem auch bei der Seniorenarbeit (Seniorenrat), Kultur (Erarbeitung Kulturleitbild, Kulturstammtisch), Energie (Wörgl unsere Energie), Jugend (Beirat, I-Motion, EU-Projekt „Lerne deine Stadt kennen“), Soziales (Sozialstammtisch) etc.</i></p>	
<p>✓ Welche Möglichkeiten zur politischen Mitbestimmung für die Bevölkerung mit Migrationshintergrund (österreichische/EU- und Nicht-EU-Staatsbürgerschaft) werden in der Gemeinde gelebt? <i>Neben dem Wahlrecht vor allem auch durch Listung auf wählbaren Stellen der Gemeinderatsfraktionen sowie über Einbindung in die Entscheidungsvorbereitung (gute Kontakte zu den Selbstvertretungsstrukturen der Migrantinnen und Migranten in der Stadt/Region).</i></p>	
<p>✓ Gibt es Leitsätze zum gemeinsamen Zusammenleben oder ein (Integrations-)Leitbild? Wurde dieses formell beschlossen? <i>Ja, das Integrationskonzept Wörgl, das vom Gemeinderat beschlossen wurde.</i></p>	
<p>✓ Inwiefern sind Menschen mit Migrationshintergrund in Vereinsstrukturen organisiert/ integriert (z. B. Feuerwehr, Rotes Kreuz, Musik-/Sportverein)? In welcher Funktion? <i>In Wörgl gibt es rund zehn Migrantenvereine sowie etliche „einheimische“ NGOs, wo Menschen mit Migrationshintergrund aktiv beteiligt sind – auch in Vorstandsfunktionen. Nichtsdestotrotz ist die gegenseitige Öffnung der Vereine für die „jeweils anderen“ noch unbefriedigend; daher leitet das IGZ Wörgl mit dem EU-Projekt „natürlich gemeinsam“ und der Kooperation mit dem ÖIF Tirol (Projekt „Auf Du &amp; Du im Sportverein“) einen</i></p>	



## 4. Financing integration activities in municipalities

- ✓ Funding possibilities on EU, federal and regional level

## 5. Further information and contact points

## 6. Integration glossary

Wo erhalte ich Daten und Informationen zu ...	Ansprechstellen
Arbeitsmarkt, Zugang für ausländische Personen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arbeitsmarktservice Österreich: → <a href="http://www.ams.at/sfu/14098.html">http://www.ams.at/sfu/14098.html</a></li><li>• Berufsanerkennung: → <a href="http://www.berufsanerkennung.at/">http://www.berufsanerkennung.at/</a></li><li>• Gesetzliche Grundlage: → Ausländerbeschäftigungsgesetz (AuslBG)</li></ul>



# 3.

## Good-practice examples

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# Language and Education (I)

## Bi-lingual Reading

- Organizations: Caritas-Integration Office Schärding & Municipal Library of Schärding (OÖ)
- An retired elementary teacher and a Turkish woman are reading children's books in German and Turkish
- Event takes place in the municipal library, in the Turkish-Islamic Center or in Caritas-Integration Office
- For parents, guided tours in the municipal library are offered
- Information about the events is given in the kindergarten, schools, and international Women's Café



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# Language and Education (II)

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## ABC-Café

- Organizations: BFI-Tirol in cooperation with surrounding municipalities (T)
- Women with a migration background should learn basic skills of German language and become (if necessary) an alphabetization
- Low-threshold
- Takes place in the forenoon, when children are in school
- Should also provide the women e.g. information about labour market and job opportunities as well as information how they can help their children with homeworks
- Communication lessons are supported by other women who are working/participating honorary



# Labour and Exmployment

- Intercultural trainings for municipal staff, teachers and kindergarten teachers
- Employment of people with a migration background in kindergarten, schools and in different offices of the municipal public administration, offer of work placements



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# Kontakt

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