



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
JUSTICE FREEDOM AND SECURITY

Minutes of the First German Advisory Committee Meeting (Berlin)

Date: 12 February 2008

Location: Hertie School of Governance, Am Schloßplatz 1, 10178 Berlin

Participants:

- Mehmet **Alpbek**, Turkish Union in Berlin-Brandenburg
- Siegfried **Arnz**, Senate for Education, Science and Research
- Dirk **Arp-Stapelfeldt**, League of Welfare Organisations
- Dagmar **Beer-Kern**, Office of the Federal Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration
- Thu Xuan **Bui**, Reistrommel e.V. (Vietnamese Migrant Association)
- Georg **Classen**, Berlin Refugee Council
- Tatiana **Forner**, Club Dialogue e.V.
- Michael **Hampel**, Senate for Interior and Sports
- Danijela-Jelena **Medved**, International Organization for Migration, Office in Berlin
- Karin **Heinrich**, Tio e.V. (Immigrant Association)
- Michael **Knoll**, Hertie Foundation
- Kenan **Kolat**, Turkish Community in Germany
- Petra **König**, Chamber of Trade and Industry Berlin
- Sergy **Lagodinsky**, Board of the Jewish Congregation in Berlin
- Claudia **Langeheine**, Foreigners' Office
- Elena **Marburg**, Conference and League of Local Integration Commissioners
- Wolfgang **Meier**, Office Berlin of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)
- Veysel **Özcan**, Berlin Office of Cem Özdemir, Member of the European Parliament
- Rainer **Ohliger**, Network Migration in Europa
- Günter **Piening**, Berlin Commissioner for Integration and Migration
- Dr. Jens **Regg**, Federal Work Agency
- Niki **Reister**, To Spiti e.V. (Immigrant Association)
- Irmgard **Röther**, Otto-Benecke Foundation

- Bosiljka **Schedlich**, Südost Europa Kultur e.V. (Immigrant Association)
- Antje **Scheidler** , Network Migration in Europa
- Yves-Jacques **Yapi**, Migration Council Berlin-Brandenburg
- Astrid **Ziebarth**, German Marshall Fund

German Partner:

NETZWERK
MIGRATION
IN EUROPA

I. TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION:

- Roundtable on Immigrant Reception and Inclusion as Service

II. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

14.00-14.10: Welcome by Michael Knoll (Hertie Foundation)

14.00-14.30: Short introduction of participants

14.30-15.00: Explanation of INTI project: structure and goals (Rainer Ohliger, Network Migration in Europe)

15.00-15.30: Input statement by Berlin's Commissioner for Integration and Migration
Günter Piening

15.30-16.15: Discussion/Question and answer

16.15: Agenda setting for second meeting

III. MAIN OUTCOMES AND CONCLUSIONS

The German team partner established two Advisory Committees. The first met in Berlin on February 12, 2008. The Advisory Committee was put together in the form of a roundtable that will meet five times throughout 2008. The roundtable comprised ca. 25 representatives of state organisations, immigrant organisations, NGOs, researchers, international organisations and foundations. The invitation for the roundtable was co-organised by a major German Foundation which hosted the meeting (Hertie Foundation), which is involved in the area of immigrant integration and runs various programmes on the issue.

The welcome was followed by the introduction of the participants. Then the INTI project was presented including the Portuguese DVD on the One-Stop Shop Model. An invited speaker provided an input statement before a discussion followed. In Berlin the invited speaker was Berlin's Commissioner for Integration and Migration. The general topic of the roundtable referred to the idea of a One-Stop Shop Model, however, the heading under which representatives were invited was the wider area of "Immigrant Reception and Inclusion as Service". As the One-Stop Shop does not ring a bell in the

German integration discourse this wider topic was chosen. The meeting lasted two-and-a-half to three hours.

The presentation of the DVD and the expert presentation generated lively discussions and debates among the participants. An immediate reaction from most sides was that the Portuguese case looks interesting, but can hardly be transferred to an old country of immigration. An argument made at both roundtables was that the most important challenge in German society, namely the integration of immigrants who have been around for a long time and the children of immigrant families, cannot be tackled with this instrument or administrative structure. Thus, it was suggested that the discussion for the next roundtables should focus on newcomers. However, the current numbers of new immigrants are rather low. It was argued if one wanted to implement the OSS idea in Germany for new immigrants it would probably rather be a concept for the future (i.e. a time of larger numbers of immigrants) than an answer for the present.

Nevertheless some details of the Portuguese model were picked up and discussed intensively, namely the coherent approach of an integration policy by way of a centralised agency and the synergy effects of cooperation among Government agencies. To a much lesser degree, cooperation between Government agencies and immigrant organisations and the role of socio-cultural mediators found interest. The former was seen sceptically, in particular by immigrant organisations and NGOs who complained about the asymmetric relation between Government and immigrant organizations/NGOs. The fact that Germany has been a country of immigration for more than fifty years with on the one hand a complete infrastructure of self-organisations and on the other hand grown mistrust between NGOs and the Government was obvious in the discussion. Yet some steps towards a more coherent integration policy following an OSS model were discussed, namely the reform of the Foreigners Office in Berlin towards a service agency and its ever closer cooperation with welfare organisations. As a consequence, the next Berlin roundtable will focus on this reform. The head of the Foreigners Office and the Speaker of the League of Welfare Organisations will present this model in Berlin and have it discussed. The second

roundtable is scheduled for March 31. The participants of the first roundtable signalled interest to attend the next meetings.