



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
JUSTICE FREEDOM AND SECURITY

## Minutes of the First German Advisory Committee Meeting (North Rhine-Westphalia)

**Date:** 27 February 2008

**Location:** Philharmonie Essen Saalbau, Huyssenallee 53, Grüner Saal

### Participants:

- Bülent **Arslan**, Institute for Intercultural Management and Policy Consulting
- Christiane **Bainski**, Main of Office of Regional Office for Foreigners' Affairs (RAA North Rhine-Westphalia)
- Doreen **Barzel**, Foundation Mercator/Essen
- Christian **v. Bismarck**, Foreigners' Council of the city Wesseling, lawyer for foreigners' law
- Antonio **Díaz**, Federation of Parents Association North Rhine-Westphalia
- Udo **Glantschnig**, Federal Work Agency
- Monika **Hegemann**, Association 'The Bridge', Recklinghausen
- Dr. Ulrich **Heinemann**, Ministry for Schools and Education, State of North Rhine-Westphalia
- Ceylan **Isil**, Office of the Commissioner for Integration in North Rhine-Westphalia
- Thomas **Kufen**, Commissioner for Integration in North Rhine-Westphalia
- Heinz **Müller**, Catholic Welfare Organization Caritas, Cologne
- Volker-Maria **Hügel**, GGUA Refugee Help Association
- Engin **Sakal**, Federation of Regional Migrant Associations in North Rhine-Westphalia (LAGA)
- Joachim **Köhn**, Office Bielefeld of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)
- Prof. Dr. Roderich **Kulbach**, University of Applied Sciences, Bochum
- Dr. Lothar-Theodor **Lemper**, Otto Benecke Foundation
- Prof. Dr. Wolf Rainer **Leenen**, University of Applied Sciences, Cologne
- Ingo **Moldenhauer**, Registration and Naturalization Office of the City of Dortmund

- Rainer **Ohliger**, Network Migration in Europe
- Anton **Rütten**, Ministry for Generations, Family, Women and Integration in North Rhine-Westphalia
- Agnieszka **Salek**, Foundation Mercator/Essen
- Prof. Dr. Angelika **Schmidt-Koddenberg**, University of Applied Sciences, Cologne
- Ercüment **Toker**, IFAK e.V.
- Holger **Hey**, Turkish-German Chamber of Commerce
- Anne **Wehkamp**, Commissioner for Integration of the City of Solingen

### 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 Doreen Barzel (Foundation Mercator)

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 Prof. Dr. Roderich Kulbach (University of Applied Sciences, Bochum)

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 second met in Essen (North-Rhine Westphalia) for the first time on February 27. Each 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 roundtables was co-organised by a major German Foundation which hosted the meeting (Foundation Mercator). The foundation 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 Essen, this was Prof. Roderich Kulbach from the University of Applied Sciences in Bochum. 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 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 centralized 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 organisations/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. The topic for the second roundtable in Essen has not yet been set. The second roundtable is scheduled for April 14. The participants of the first roundtables signalled interest to attend the next meetings.