



BREMER HEIMSTIFTUNG

Integrating refugees with elderly people

contec/Bremerheimstiftung

The project aims to support the integration of refugees through the contact with elderly people. The elderly people act as volunteers and teach the German language to refugees with the main goal to connect both marginalised groups of our meritocracy for further social contact. In the long term contec envisions that part of the refugees might integrate into the elderly caretaking sector to fill the personnel gap. Contec as the initiator implemented the first pilot with Bremerheimstiftung – a perfect partner with access to elderlies and refugees. For the larger scale out further partners will be needed.

Origins of contec/Bremerheimstiftung

Contact in cooperation with Bremerheimstiftung replicated the concept 1:1 from the Irish organisation “Third Age”. Mary Nally founded the organization as a national voluntary organization that promotes the value and contribution of elderly people to their communities. Volunteers are involved in the integration of refugees into the community by offering them conversational courses. Third Age wants to formerly stay involved with German operations, at the moment they figure out the right model.

Network Appetite

- Exchange with other social projects working in language acquisition
- Welfare organisation or foundations (potential replication partners)
- Municipalities





**Detecting
religious violence
early on**

IKM

Based on the model of the Interfaith Mediation Center (IMC) the Institut für konstruktive Konfliktaustragung und Mediation (IKM) (Institute for constructive conflict management) is setting up an “early response warning system” for religious violence. To achieve this, IMC’s Pastor James and Imam Mohammed are coming from Nigeria to Germany to train mediators in Hamburg. IKM plans to integrate those learnings as workshops in refugee camps and other places with mixed religious groups.

Origins of IKM

IKM plans to integrate the learnings from the Interfaith Mediation Center from Nigeria, an organization highly successful in supporting inter-religious peace. They do so by training faith based organization on how to keep or restore peace, support with mediation services in times of crisis and promote a highly effective early response warning system. The founders of Interfaith Mediation Center now train IKM staff to implement their learnings in the German context.

Network Appetite

- Networks to spread awareness about the “early response warning system”
- Access to refugee camps (where they can teach their concepts)





Psycho-social counselling from refugees for refugees

IPSO

IPSO trains qualified refugees or migrants to become psycho-social counsellors with a mix of theoretical and practical work. Such counsellors have a background as psychologists or psychotherapists as well as social educators or social workers. To date, IPSO has trained 22 counsellors in Berlin over one year, who are able to start working now. And another group is in training in Hamburg with on-going efforts all around Germany.

Origins of IPSO

IPSO was originally setup by Inge Missmahl in Germany in 2008, providing services in Afghanistan and Haiti only. In 2016, IPSO recognized the need for its services within Germany due to the refugee crisis for the first time, and the Hello-Innovation Fund offered IPSO the possibility to start its operations there. The concept of IPSO in Germany is very similar to the concept in Afghanistan and Haiti.

Network Appetite

- Health insurances
- Municipalities
- Welfare organizations
- Foundations or other philanthropic investors





**Unleashing
the potential of
migrants in the
workforce**

Jobs4Refugees

Their aim is to help refugees find work and apprenticeships. In online and personal interviews they find out about their skills and motivation. They help with bureaucracy, writing applications and to help understand the German application process and lower cultural barriers. At the same time, they work with companies by suggesting potential candidates and supporting employers with questions on how to employ refugees.

Origins of Jobs4Refugees

Jobs4refugees, a charitable organization founded end of 2015 in Berlin, has helped over 80 refugees into the German labor market. Since the Hello-Festival in March 2016 jobs4refugees is supported and mentored by the US-based organization Upwardly Global, which has over 16 years of experience in the labor-market integration of refugees. To date Upwardly Global has successfully helped more than 800 immigrants from 103 countries to find professional jobs with a special focus on high skilled jobs.

Network Appetite

- Facebook, to be able to spread the word about Jobs4Refugees to refugee communities
- Potential employers (small- mid- & large size companies)
- Traditional Online Job Portals (as potential multiplier)



MORE THAN SHELTERS.

Conceptualizing
livable spaces for
and with refugees

More than Shelters

More than Shelters picks up on the reality that many refugees stay in camps for much longer than the system intends them to. To address the consequential need the organization works to transform the camps into livable spaces with human dignity by involving the inhabitants. The approach is currently scaled to different shelters in Germany, starting with Berlin and Hamburg.

Origins of More than Shelters

More than Shelters prototypes and disseminates holistic, dignified living concepts for people on the move. Central to the organizations work is rigorously considering the social and cultural conditions and taking into account all relevant stakeholders, ranging from the refugees and the locals to the state and local economies. The founder Daniel Kerber started his work in the world's largest camp for Syrian refugees, Za'atari in Jordan. Currently he is active in the highly dangerous transit zones as well as the arrival centers in Germany, such as Berlin Tempelhof.

Network Appetite

- Players in the welfare system (e.g. Malteser, Partitaet, Johanniter)
- Large social organizations (e.g. Save The Children, UNHCR, Red Cross)





Building better environments for refugees

Open State

The Open State team started Refugee Open Cities to use its innovative methods to address the immediate need in the refugee context. The project pilots a holistic and sensitive approach to transform emergency shelters for refugees into thriving environments. For this Open State is currently reorganizing a shelter in Berlin Neukölln, which houses around 600 people, a quarter of which are children. By involving the opinion, needs and skills of the inhabitants living conditions have improved in innovative ways and collective responsibility is inspired.

Origins of Open State

Open State was founded to design and test economic, ecological and social alternatives and develop new cultural patterns. From this, replicable blue prints are developed to build a more resilient society. The Open State team consists of designers, makers, campaigners, as well as organisational developers and collaborates with international partners and communities. The same approach was followed in the project POC21 to prototype a more sustainable society in 2015 and adapted to the acute need of refugees in Berlin in 2016, when Refugee Open Cities was started. Open State found support in organisations and individuals with similar philosophies such as Refugee Open Ware (an organization founded by Ashoka Fellow Dave Levin), Killian Kleinschmidt (founder of switxboard) and More Than Shelters (a fellow Helloship project).

Network Appetite

- Jobcenters to explore the possibility of funding
- Human resource department of large corporations



SavingBuddies

Saving groups
for refugees

Saving Buddies

SavingBuddies works on financially empowering & educating low income communities with a special focus on refugees and migrants. This is done through the creation of self-sustaining, refugee-led savings groups. Non-refugee residents interested in alternative financial models are also integrated in some of the groups so as to foster integration and intercultural exchange. The model facilitates integration through empowerment, self-sufficiency and financial education by creating new social bonds, networks and exchange. SavingBuddies draws on the experience of refugees and migrants that are part of organization and group members become multipliers for the concept and spread it among their peers .

Origins of Saving Buddies

Saving Buddies replicates the model of the Association for Self-Funded Communities (ACAF), founded by Ashoka Fellow Jean Claude Rodríguez-Ferrera. Saving Buddies replicates the model very close to ACAF with small changes that better adapt to the German context, at the moment the website of ACAF is in translation for the German market. Beside its replication to Germany, ACAF has been transferred to 6 other countries, and Saving Buddies benefits of collaboration with other replicates.

Network Appetite

- Banks to address the challenges of keeping the money & Germany-specific complications
- Partners that can connect SavingBuddies to refugees (including Helloship projects)



RIGHT TOPLAY

**Train-the-trainer
model for life skills**

Right To Play

After piloting the qualification and professionalization of socially engaged youth in sports in cooperation with buntkicktgut, RTP decided to change its approach and refocus on setting up a train-the-trainer model. In joint teams of RTP staff and staff from partner organisations life-skills coaches will be trained to supplement existing offers for job-qualification. The ability to teach life-skills in a playful and active way is currently lacking in the sector and RTP's core competence. RTP also sees great potential in training teachers at German schools as life-skills coaches.

Origins of Right To Play

Right To Play is an international organisations working with volunteers and partners to use sport and play to enhance the development of disadvantaged children and found its entry to Germany through the Hello-Integration fund. Active in both refugee and host countries (among others: Lebanon, Jordan, Norway, Pakistan, Thailand, Ethiopia and Uganda), RTP has successfully implemented sport- and play-based activities for 15 years. This experience will now be adapted by the German branch of the organisation to meet the need of newly arrived refugee children.

Network Appetite

- Schools and educational networks and organisations
- Other Helloship projects to build on existing structures
- Projects using sports to empower children and youth, who could benefit from the life-skill coach training





**Accelerator
program for
refugees and
migrants**

SINGA Deutschland

SINGA Deutschland connects refugees and locals through a variety of innovative projects and activities. One of these programs is Ideas in Motion, an incubation program that focuses on the positive potential and needs of newcomer entrepreneurs interested in starting a business or social venture in the sector.

Origins of SINGA Germany

SINGA Deutschland is part of an international network of organisations in France, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland and Morocco. It was first founded in France in 2012 with the main goal to create more opportunities for refugees and locals to meet and create projects together on an even playground. Since then, different programs have been developed and a number of local SINGA organisations have been established across the world. While each organization operates independently and according to local needs, SINGA stands for a clear set of inclusive values. All organizations are in close contact and exchange. SINGA France is exploring the options on how to create an international vehicle that connects and supports all replicates better.

Network Appetite

- Municipalities
- Jobcenter (sensitisation that some refugees want to start their own company)



WELCOMING
AMERICA



Welcoming

Welcoming helps municipalities in Germany to set up local networks and to implement strategic welcoming plans for refugees. It is set up in a partnership model between Bertelsmann Stiftung and Welcoming America. During the Transatlantic Exchange program, integration experts from the USA and Germany went on learning journeys to learn about the situation in municipalities in the other country. The Bertelsmann Stiftung then decided to take it one step further also as it played well into their program “Ankommen in Deutschland” (“Arriving in Germany”) where it already supported municipalities to handle the integration challenges with refugees. And the other participants of the Transatlantic Exchange program support the approach in Germany now.

Origins of Welcoming

The Welcoming Model stems originally from Welcoming America, a movement that helps inclusive communities to become more prosperous by making everyone feel like they belong and are able to contribute their talents. Their main activities to get there is by helping nonprofits and government partners to implement welcoming practices. The model is transferred very close to the original model, Welcoming America has even sent one employee to Germany to help implement the model.

Network Appetite

- Companies and NGOs that support refugee and migrant activities to become part of their network
- Media and journalists
- Municipalities

Turning
municipalities
into Welcoming
communities

