

Language and Integration Courses: Studying Successfully for Daily Life, Free Time and Work

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Integration courses?

- 2005: courses launched to ease the integration of immigrants by introducing them to the language, custom and legal system
- 2015: new regulations allow **certain refugees** to attend a course in order to join the labor market.

Challenges

- Multiple stakeholders need to be informed throughout the process.
- The basic integration course is not suitable for everyone. Prior knowledge, age, educational level/literacy and situation in life are often quite different
- Language itself does not necessarily explain a culture
- The course needs to apply to every day life

Stakeholders

Jobcenter

manages
unemployment
benefits



Public/private
provider of the
course

**Federal Ministry
of Migration** sets
up course
guidelines



**Immigration
offices directs**
refugees to the
course provider/
Jobcenter

Approach to Deal with Heterogeneous Groups

Each integration course consists of a language course and an orientation course. The language course familiarises students with the language and the orientation course gives them an understanding of the legal system, the culture, history and everyday life in Germany.

Furthermore, special courses are offered for specific purposes:

- **Courses with additional literacy development**
- **Courses for women**
- **Course for young adults**
- **Catch-up courses**
- **Intensive courses**

Examples of Good Practice

Why isn't everyone getting a certificate by the end of the course?



Results

- Groups are still too heterogenous: more specialised programs are needed (i.e. learning a new alphabet)
- Many refugees cannot participate in a course because their country of origin is considered safe. Alternative offers are developed in coordination with cities, honorary offices etc. („Mum studies German“ & „Start German“)

Experiences: What challenges do we still face?

- There is still a lack of courses for certain groups such as: mentally disabled adults, people with dyslexia and people who are unable to learn due to a trauma, age or other reasons who are still required to take the course.
- Some students only participate in the course because regular attendance is required to receive financial benefits from the jobcenter.
- Students are given an extra 300 lessons and a second chance to write the exams by the government but some students require additional chances but cannot afford it.

Transfer

Can our practises be transfered to another political and institutional context?

- Turkish Municipalities have been innovative in their efforts to accommodate refugees through free **voluntary** courses.
- In order to have high participation in a course there has to be an incentive for new arrivals to take the course.



Things to consider: make the courses mandatory, make work permits dependent on the certificate etc.