

Foundation for Solidarity

PARTNERSHIP DATA SHEET

1. The partnership

Question 1 is designed to elicit an explanation of the nature of your partnership in concrete terms and of the factors which led you to form this partnership.

What was the starting point for the partnership?

The association pursues a responsible political education, especially concerning the young generation, continuing education, fight against unemployment, intensive and broad youth work, realisation of gender equality and anti-racism and anti-discrimination policy. Because of that VIA Bayern e.V. sees it as a duty to contribute to the integration of migrants, to attend to their individual situations and to develop strategies.

With which immigrants do you currently have contact or relations?

Because of the different projects the VIA has contact to all kind of immigrants.

What led you to take an interest in these immigrants?

Especially in the youth work they try to carry out projects with the youth, to gain more tolerance for immigrants and to improve the situations of these immigrants. The straight collaboration with the youth is an important factor for this kind of work.

What is the social situation of these immigrants?

Because of the frequent projects concerning the theme immigration they work with all kind of immigrants, the social situations of these immigrants are very different.

What is the legal status of these immigrants?

See question above.

Has the historical background of the host country influenced the situation of these immigrants?

How would you define the partnership?

The main partner of the project LIDIA is the VIA. Besides there are several partners: the „Arbeiterkultur- und Bildungsverein“, the „Initiativgruppe interkulturelle Begegnung und Bildung e.V.“, „INKOMM - Projektzentrum interkulturelle Kommunikation der Arbeiterwohlfahrt - Landesverband Bayern“, the „Schulreferat der Landeshauptstadt München“, „Pädagogisches Institut“ and the „BBJ Consult AG, NDL München“.

Who are the players in the partnership?

The main partner of the project LIDIA is the VIA Bayern e.V., Verband für interkulturelle Arbeit.

The VIA Bayern is an umbrella organisation for associations, groups and initiatives, that work in the fields of intercultural social work, migration. and refugee-work. VIA Bayern is the regional grouping of the national formation VIA.

At national level, over 100 organisations are in the formation of VIA.

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When did the partnership start (date)?

Beginning of 2002

When is the partnership scheduled to end?

After 3 years, 31st of Dec. 2004.

Why did you launch the partnership?

The VIA supports cultural diversity in education and work, they establish intercultural competence as a key qualification in education and at the labour market. The VIA combines job-related education with intercultural social work and it fights against discrimination and racism.

How did you launch the partnership?

Partnership meeting.

Explain how the partnership operates?

Working together in a core organisational team on one hand side and a bigger group to consult on the other.

List the activities you have developed within the framework of the partnership?

- Sensitisation activities, educational concepts, training courses, activities in companies
- Exchange of views, opinions and materials for intercultural and antiracist education

What aims are you seeking to achieve in launching the partnership?

- Sensitisation of the youth and multipliers regarding work and education
- Development and exchange of education materials and practical concepts for an intercultural and antiracist education
- Realisation of these concepts in the practice, in schools and in companies
- Strengthening of local projects

Do you have an operating budget for the partnership?

Yes. Approx. 400.000 €

Have you received any public and/or private funding for the partnership?

They have received public funding of the Ministry of Work and Social Affairs within the program XENOS with means of the European Social, of the city council of Munich and of the Inner Ministry for the support of migrants.

How many people are working on the partnership?

5 staff members, 15 all together in a wider sense.

How many people are involved in the partnership?

Each partner has an organisationan team involved and some people in addition to advise: 15 people approx.

Have you set up monitoring procedures to evaluate the partnership?

Yes, within the EU-program this has been obligatory.

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Is there any other important information not covered by the previous questions which you think should be mentioned? (Please answer yes / no and provide an explanation where necessary):

2. Details of the initiator of the partnership project

Question 2 is designed to elicit details of the individual/organisation whose idea it was to launch the partnership and which has been the driving force behind it from the outset.

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3. Details of the other partners involved in the partnership

Question 3 is designed to elicit details of the individuals/organisation who accepted the initiator's invitation to join the partnership and to illustrate the basic principle which underlies this difference between the partnership project initiator on one hand and the other partners on the other.

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Schulreferat der Landeshauptstadt München, Pädagogisches Institut

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4. Sector in which the initiator of the partnership project operates

Question 4 is designed to establish the economic and social sector in which the initiator of the partnership project operates?

Does the initiator of the partnership project operate in the primary / secondary / tertiary sector? (Please underline as appropriate and provide details):

In the third sector.

Does the initiator of the partnership project operate in the third sector. If so, in which area?

Is there any other important information not covered by the previous question which you think should be mentioned? (Please answer yes / no and provide an explanation where necessary):

5. Sectors in which the other partners in the partnership operate

Question 5 is designed to establish the economic and social sectors in which the other partnership project partners operate.

Do the other partners in the partnership project operate in the primary / secondary / tertiary sector? (Please underline as appropriate and provide details):

In all three of them.

Do the other partners in the partnership project operate in the third sector? If so, in which areas?

Intercultural exchange, job-seeking support for immigrants, youth counselling.

Is there any other important information not covered by the previous question which you think should be mentioned? (Please answer yes / no and provide an explanation where necessary):

Very important to work together with all the three sectors to reach expertise (3rd sector), resources (1st sector) and management skills (2nd sector).

6. Special characteristics of the initiator of the partnership project

Question 6 is designed to establish whether any factors either related or external to the launch and operation of the partnership - economic and financial situation, employment situation, geographical location - have influenced the launch and operation of the partnership project for and by the project initiator.

Do you think that the initial economic and financial situation of your organisation influenced your decision to form this partnership?

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Yes, as otherwise outside of the partnership arrangement in an EU project there would not have been enough resources for activities.

Have you received funding? If so, from whom?

They have received public funding of the Ministry of Work and Social Affairs within the program XENOS with means of the European Social, of the city council of Munich and of the Inner Ministry for the support of migrants.

Is external funding an important factor in the operation of our organisation?

YES YES YES

Is external funding an important factor in the launch and operation of the partnership project?

Yes.

Has the employment profile of your organisation - number of staff, nationality, age range, gender, employee status - influenced the launch and operation of the partnership project?

No.

Outline the profile of your organisation in terms of number of staff, nationality, age range, gender and employee status.

Mixed staff members, women and men, employed and free lancers, mixed.

Do you think that the geographical location of your organisation - urban/rural location, area of high/low population density, high/low immigrant density - has influenced the launch and operation of the partnership project?

Yes. Important to work on a very local level.

Outline the geographical profile of your organisation indicating whether it is located in an urban/rural location or in an area of high/low population density or high/low immigrant density.

Located in an urban location, in an area of high population density and high immigrant density.

7. The socio-political environment of the initiator of the partnership project

Question 7 is designed to establish whether any aspects of the socio-economic situation of the initiator of the partnership project favour or promote the development of the partnership project in terms of the integration of immigrant populations and the fight against negative discrimination. Question 7 is broad and general in its scope.

Do you believe that there are conditions which control access to the employment market? If so, what are they?

Qualification, knowledge and language skills.

Have these conditions which control access to the employment market affected the partnership project?

Yes, discrimination and racism has a close connection.

Is there a national, regional or local framework which shapes the fight against negative discrimination?

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Anti discrimination law in theory.

Have you had recourse to this legal framework which shapes the fight against negative discrimination in launching and funding the partnership project?

Yes. The education activities take recourse to the legal framework.

Is there a regional or local framework which promotes the integration of immigrant populations?

It is valuable for whole Germany, but in the city district it needs concrete measures to realise it on a local level.

Have you had recourse to this legal framework which promotes the integration of immigrant populations in launching and funding the partnership project?

Are there any political, social, cultural or media factors which led you to launch this partnership project?

Local difficulties because of high antiracism atmosphere.

Have you developed a social responsibility policy?

Not explicitly, but on the educational level it is worked out.

What do you understand by a social responsibility policy?

Concrete measures in a clear social concept frame on a measureable level.

Have you developed a social label, a code of good practice, social audits, a gender equality policy, etc.?

Yes, in the frame of the educational materials these issues are treated in different ways.

Do you take part in social and economic benefit programmes at European, national, regional or local level?

Yes. But it is not easy to reach projects on very local level.

Do the other partners in the partnership project inhabit a different socio-political environment to yours?

The aim is the same, the methods are different.

Have your partners in the partnership project developed a social responsibility policy?

Within the work, on a practical level, yes, not as a own conceptual frame yet.

Have your partners in the partnership project developed a social label, a code of good practice, social audits, a gender equality policy, etc.?

See above.

Do your partners in the partnership project take part in social and economic benefit programmes at European, national, regional or local level?

Yes, most of them.

8. Benchmarking

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Question 8 is designed to measure social, economic and environmental performance in terms of the integration of immigrant populations and the fight against negative discrimination.

Do you think that this partnership project for the integration of immigrant populations and the fight against negative discrimination has changed your social and economic environment?

On a local level, yes.

Do you think that this partnership project for the integration of immigrant populations and the fight against negative discrimination has changed the social and economic environments of your partners in the partnership?

Yes, sensibilised and strenghtened the local work and raised the specific knowledge about the different reasons for racism and discrimination.

Have you introduced or changed your social responsibility policy as a result of the launch of this partnership project?

Could be in the end.

Have your partners in the project introduced or changed their social responsibility policy as a result of the launch of this partnership project?

See above.

Has this partnership project raised awareness of the issues involved in public authorities at European, national, regional or local level?

On a very local level, certainly, the other effects have to be measured at a later stage.

9. Social responsibility in business

Question 9 is designed to establish, where applicable, the extent to which economic entities actually support the principle of “social responsibility in business”. This question is addressed primarily to organisations, irrespective of whether they are businesses, unions or NGOs and whether they operate in the private or the third sector, who have elected to embrace this new political trend – social responsibility in business – which does not simply equate to the notion of work in the social sector, particularly in the field of the integration of immigrant populations and ethnic minorities and the fight against negative discrimination. If this is not the case, the project initiator should simply answer the first two questions.

Are you familiar with the principle of “social responsibility in business”?

Not so much on the theoretical level.

Have you already started to integrate this principle into the management of your business or organisation?

Not as a concept, but on the practical level a lot of prerequisites have been done already.

Is social responsibility in business one of the strategic aims of your business or organisation?

If so, why?

Not yet, but can be in future, if a frame can be worked out.

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-Have you undertaken to carry out a social and environmental audit of your business or organisation dealing, or example, with issues such as working conditions, gender equality, anti-discrimination policy, the integration of immigrant populations, continuing training and development, energy consumption, water consumption, etc.?

There are several audits.

Have you defined a set of social responsibility in business policies and set targets for improving the social and environmental conditions in your business or organisation? If so, what are they?

There are several frames within the organisations, like statutes and policy guidelines.

Have you broadened the scope of your social responsibility in business policies to include your employees, suppliers, clients, shareholders, NGOs, local residents, etc.? If so, how have you done this?

The partnership has raised the awareness of different views and theoretical background, but it has also shown the limits of engagement because of lacking resources.

Are you sensitive to the notion of “fair trading”?

Do you think that initiatives designed to promote the integration of immigrant populations and to fight negative discrimination are important elements of social responsibility in business?

It can be an important factor for a partnership and certainly in counselling activities in local areas.

How do you see your initiative with respect to these two areas (integration of immigrant populations and to fight negative discrimination)?

A partnership of different actors and different expertise and resources is the crucial point of having success on a local level to fight racism and discrimination of immigrants. But without involving the immigrants for themselves, mediating the process of getting to know each other, a theoretical partnership cannot be efficient. Therefore the engagement of NGOs with access to target groups on a local level is important. It has to be made sure that these NGOs get financial resources for their activities as honoraries have to be supplied for the management and coordinating work which has to be done.