Refugees, Integration and the Case of Vienna

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Vienna

• 1.74 Million inhabitants

• Yearly growth: 40,000 people

• Always on the crossroads of different cultures

• Varied history: Monarchy, „Red Vienna“, Austrofascism, National Socialism, Democracy and 2nd Republic

• Long history of refugee and migrant influx
Autumn 2015 – immediate response

• Train stations as hubs for food, shelter, medical attention

• Network of Political actors, City Administration, emergency organizations, NGOs and refugees
Autumn 2015 – immediate response

- 300,000 Refugees travelled through Vienna
- 65 emergency shelters
- 1.2 Million Overnight stays
Autumn 2015 – immediate response

• Head of Operation: “Sanitätsstab” under the guidance of the Viennese ambulance service (consisting of emergency organizations, military, police)

• Thousands of volunteers

• Volunteer work managed through app and online-tool

• Important partners: Federal Railway, Public Transport, NGOs, Youth organizations and many more
The Austrian Asylum System

- You’ll find the chart in your handout
Mid- and long term integration

• First and foremost: adequate accommodation – transition from emergency quarters to long term solutions (max 150, average: 60)

• Quarters distributed over the whole city

• Special focus: Unaccompanied minor refugees (shared flats under the guidance of Viennese youth welfare service)
Mid- and long term integration

- Integration from the first day on

- Program „Start Wien“ – Language and orientation courses (special counselling for target groups e.g. women)

- Program „Youth college“: Additional language training, Social skills and political education (targeted group: 15-21 years)

- Community work: voluntarily, small compensation
Mid- and longterm integration - Start Wien

1. Admission to asylum procedure
   - Allocation to a federal quarter

2. Transfer into state authority
   - Examination of needed help

3. First face-to-face meeting at the basic care quarter
   - Orientation
   - First competence checks
   - Kindergarten or school
   - Issue of service cards

4. START VIENNA – info module start
   - Basic rules of societal coexistence and orientation (democracy, human rights, juridical system, equal rights)
   - Education, welfare system, Health Care, housing
Mid- and longterm integration Start Wien

5. First appointment at “Bildungsdrehscheibe” at the Adult Education Center
   - Counseling, Clearing, Registration
   - Assignment to Language and Orientation Courses

6. Ticket for Public Transport
   - Service of the basic care system in Vienna
   - Linked to regular attendance

7. Supervision
   - Coaching
   - Educational measures
   - Volunteer and Community Work
   - Further measures
Conclusion

• Large public sector decisive for managing

• Many volunteers

• Integration does not „just happen“, it needs to be shaped

• Treating refugees as enemies is irresponsible and does not provide any solutions
Thank you for your attention!