

# DOCUMENTATION

OF THE

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR YOUTH WORK PROFESSIONALS AND MULTIPLIERS

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CROSSING BORDERS:  
SHARING AND SHAPING COMMUNITIES IN TIMES OF MIGRATION AND REFUGEES



OCTOBER 26 – 31, 2016  
JUGENDBILDUNGSSTÄTTE LIDICEHAUS  
(BREMEN; GERMANY)



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## 1. Preface

Welcome speech

“Crossing borders – sharing and shaping communities in times of migration and refugees!”

I'd like to welcome you all here in our Center LidiceHaus! I am glad that all our partners from the Czech Republic, Poland, Turkey, Croatia, Bosnia, Israel, Palestine and from Bremen / Germany are here!

It's almost three years ago since we met in our last International Conference – some of you were here. Our topic 2013 was “Moving histories – dealing with the past and different narratives in times of migration”. Our topic this week is close connected. Since we met last time we all realized a tremendous “wind of change” – globally and in our societies. Especially in the last two years we could witness a worldwide “exodus” because of wars, poverty and discrimination policy. No one among us could imagine some years ago that millions over millions of people had to leave their homes and beloved persons in order to survive - either in their own continents or in Europe. The daily images and news are an ongoing nightmare and horror.

Especially the wars in Syria, Irak or Afghanistan show us the bitter realities of the “modern” world: on behalf of the UN resolution “Responsibility to protect” the nations of power like Russia, US and the NATO are interfering not only to protect civilians. No, they interfere because of their own interests.

The results of these last wars created as well the “Daesch” (or IS) with it's terrific murdering and killing – nowadays it's al-

most impossible to find out who are the allies or the enemies of the others....it seems to me that human rights and dignity are not counting anymore!

The gap between rich and poor becomes bigger and bigger: we all know that poverty and a loss of the own dignity leads societies into dangerous status. The first “Welcoming” of refugees end of 2014 / beginning 2015 in Germany showed a strong civil society, most of us felt optimistic. Less than one year later this welcoming atmosphere drifted into a public discourse all over that defined refugees as “a burden or a threat”. Especially the discrimination and exclusion of refugees with muslim background became “accepted”. The right wing parties and right wing organizations increased all over and refugees and immigrants became attacked and “hunted”.

I guess you all know about the incidents against refugees and you could contribute with similar stories from your own societies. Here in Germany we look to some of the Eastern countries and blame them for their policy of exclusion and for their racist comments. Since we realize in Germany the uprising of the so called AFD (more than 20 % in some of the federal countries here) we have to ask ourselves if we all were a bit “naive”.

Politicians like Marine le Pen in France or Victor Orban in Hungaria are meanwhile “honorable” persons taking part in mostly all political arenas.

We will discuss these dangerous developments on Saturday morning. Furthermore we will focus to the impact of Hate Speech aspects especially in the Internet. We will start our Conference with Rainer Ohliger, a historian and scientist of the

“Network Migration Europe”: he will work with us about “The intersection of migration/minorities and culture, nation, diversity and history”.

Friday morning we are invited by our “Europa point Bremen”: here we will meet Mr. Seele – Liebetanz, the head of this institution and we will meet the head of the “Integration Council of Bremen”, Libuse Cerna.

In the afternoon we split up in smaller groups: we will guide you to diverse institutions or initiatives they are working with refugees. Every group has the chance to meet two different initiatives or institutions.

“What are signs of the changes caused by migration in our society? What are the conflicts and challenges? What opportunities and chances do the changes offer

to us?” “What should our (collaborative) work look like if we aim at developing concepts for an inclusive society? What is our role and «mission» in strengthening a perspective on the inclusive society that focuses on opportunities rather than challenges?” Saturday and Sunday we save time for discussing all these questions in “round table” work and small working groups: you received already some questions and tasks in advance for this. We are looking forward to our results. Sunday morning we invite you to a trip to Bremerhaven: here you can visit the Museum of Migration and Immigration.

I wish all of us a fruitful conference: let’s wrap away anger and hopeless! Let’s strengthen our phantasy and energy!

Anette Klasing

## 2. Conference – Program

International Conference for Youth Work Professionals and Multipliers

Crossing Borders

Sharing communities in times of migration and refugees

October 26 – 31, 2016

Jugendbildungsstätte LidiceHaus (Bremen, Germany)

Wednesday, October 26

4 pm:

- Arriving, getting-to-know-each-other activities, language animation
- Presentation of the work of the LidiceHaus, especially with regard to the topic of the conference

In the evening:

- short presentation of the participants / groups

Thursday, October 27

All day:

- Scientific Input to the topic “Sharing and shaping communities in times of migration and refugees” by Rainer Ohliger of the “Network Migration in Europe”.

Afterwards, the discussion of the topic will be deepened in transnational work groups according to questions of the input such as: How do the societies change?; What does “inclusive society” mean?; Is there a “We” and “the others”?; Challenges and conflicts of the changes caused by migration; Possibilities and chances of the changes caused by migration. Rainer Ohliger will work with different methods.

In the evening:

- Free time for the preparation of the World Café that will take place on Saturday (Poster-Presentations of the partner groups)
- Feedbackgroups

Friday, October 28

Friday Morning:

Before lunch:

- Visit of the “EuropaPunktBremen”: Talk round including Libuse Cerna (“Bremer Rat für Integration”), Horst Seele-Liebetanz (Direction “EuropaPunktBremen”) and maybe Silke Harth (Bremen’s Migration and Integration Commissioner)

Lunch in Town

After lunch:

- Field trips in small groups to different kinds of accommodation for refugees and to NGOs that work together with refugees\*.  
(3:00 - 5:30 pm)

In the evening:

- Dinner at LidiceHaus
- Evaluation of the Day
- And: Presentation of the new Website [www.welcometobremen.de](http://www.welcometobremen.de) - the new information website for refugees and migrants in Bremen?
- Feedbackgroups

\*Possible Groups:

- 1) "Flüchtlingsrat" (NGO: Counseling for Refugees) + Ludwig-Quidde-Straße (Accommodation)
- 2) Grünenstraße (Accommodation) + "ServiceBureau"
- 3) AWO Sonnenhaus + "SOS-Village" - (Neustadt)
- 4) Eduard-Grunow Str. (Mageda Abu-Khalil ) + "Gemeinsam in Bremen"
- 5) "Fluchtraum" (at Lagerhaus) + City Library (Exhibition)

**Saturday, October 29**

Before lunch:

- Workshop concerning the topics 1. "Rise of right wing populism/nationalism in the countries involved in the conference" and 2. "The role of the media"

After lunch:

- "World Café" / Poster-Presentations of the partner groups: What are signs of the changes caused by migration in our society? What are the conflicts and challenges? What possibilities and chances do the changes offer to us?

In the evening:

- Presentation of results of the "Voiceland project": a performance of young refugees
- Later: Possibility to continue the presentations/films etc.
- Feedbackgroups
- 

**Sunday, October 30**

Before lunch:

- Trip to Bremerhaven to the Adventure Museum "Auswandererhaus": The museum presents stories of emigration and immigration in an (interactive) exhibition that is well suited for gaining a global perspective on the topic "Refugees and Migration".

After lunch:

- Dealing with our own educational work / multilateral exchange: What should our (collaborative) work look like if we aim at developing concepts for an inclusive society? What is our role and "mission" in strengthening a perspective on the inclusive society that focuses on opportunities rather than challenges?
- Possibility of presenting own projects / favourite methods in a "Good Practice Exchange"
- Evaluation: individually (individual evaluation forms) + final evaluation
- Taking up the results of last day's exchange and finding common agreements

In the evening:

Final Buffet and Party

**Monday, October 31**

Breakfast and last "closing"  
Around 11 o'clock:  
The end...



### 3. Introduction of some of the involved Organizations

BOSNIA:

#### Center for Peacebuilding (CIM)

They want to build the trust between the people in Bosnia, and begin the reconciliation process. The Center for Peacebuilding (CIM) works hard to reduce the rift between the population groups, caused by the war in the 1990s, and that Croats, Serbs and Bosnians can live together peacefully and neighborly.

Since Imam Vahidin Omanović won the Peace Award in 2011 of the schwelle Foundation (Bremen) as the unknown Peace worker, a continuous collaboration connects CIM and Bremen. The peace center established by him in 2004 – Center for Peacebuilding achieves exemplary works and has – partially through the peace prize – stabilized and furthered to develop itself in the city of Sanski Most and the country of Bosnia-Herzegovina and beyond.

Even though the impression here in German is that the political situation in Bosnia is pacified, the partners in Bosnia however let us know otherwise. The individual population groups live more separated than before the war and national stereotypes dominate politics. In the census the people were supposed to attach themselves to one group and one religion of three (Bosnian, Serb, Croat) – other was not anticipated. Our partners find the situation with the parallel structured Republica Srpska as violence ridden conflicts and very dangerous.

So much more important is the hope brought by the peace work of CIM that reaches many young people and a big group of voluntary peace workers can be

trained and involved. Many parents and important public people could be with the time, be recruited as support.

Vahidin himself had to walk the rough path from experiencing violence and hate, to be willing to begin reconciliation and doing reconciliatory work. He studied peace studies in the USA and did a training as a trauma-therapist. The Imam never uses his personal and spiritual charisma that is shaped by Islam, in order to dominate the youth. Instead, whenever possible, he encourages them to take their own initiative “You do that – this is your center.”

In their offices in the center of the city his colleagues Mevlodin Ramanović, Vahidin, and many volunteers from different countries can be found. One big room is used as a meeting place as well as a seminar room for many diverse activities.

2013 there was a big interreligious feast in a small park in the city for the occasion of Iftar (Fast-Breaking).

2012 an interreligious Choir was established, that consists of members of different genders, ages and ethnic, national as well as religious beliefs. They sing for both Muslim, Christian as well as general holidays and occasions.

Yearly CIM hosts a Peace Camp, in which young people of different ethnic background live and learn together. It takes courage to tell one another, in the presence of a trainer and a trusted atmosphere, of violence and conflict experience and to find a way together of understanding and finding a new way to be with each other. Another step is to venture into daily life with a new way of thinking, and to become a contributor to the camp next year.



Every year around September 21st the yearly international peace week takes place in Sanski Most, with which CIM goes to the public in the city. They have workshops, seminars, a drawing workshop, concerts, dances and a day of open house that among others takes place with language courses.

In the so called interreligious school there is a weekly meeting of 20 representatives of the religious groups in Sanski Most: Muslim, Roman-Catholics, Serbian-Orthodox and Protestants. The Clergy then each spend teaching a monthly course about their religion with emphasis on:

1. Heartfelt wish of their faiths tradition
2. How does the religion see peace and peace building? After this there should be a curriculum put online.

CROATIA:

### RAND-Regional Address for Nonviolent Action in Croatia

Day of Nonviolence: “What do you know about nonviolence?” asking volunteers of RAND. Fifteen years ago – during the Balkan war – Ana and Otto Raffai from Zagreb asked themselves: “What can we personally do to achieve peace?” They participated in a training program in Nonviolent Conflict Management offered by the association “gewaltfrei handeln” in Wethen, Germany and they themselves began to offer courses and seminars in Croatia.

One of RAND’s priorities is to give training courses, where participants can acquire expertise on the subject and get the opportunity to raise self-awareness about “how to create and maintain peace”. They organize rooms where people meet and



are able to work on their experiences in a structured way. The seminar participants learn practical skills as well as theoretical knowledge.

Since participants come from multiethnic and multireligious contexts, the question arose, what role faith plays in the process of reconciliation between conflicting ethnic groups of the region.

The magic formula: Humanity

As a consequence, interreligious work became the second pillar of RAND's activities. Together with believers of Islamic and Christian (Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant) faith, RAND established a network called "Believers for Peace." The network organizes interreligious peace conferences under the title "Through Building Peace, We Praise God" and invites people from the region and Western Europe to participate. Furthermore, RAND organizes interreligious meetings combining interreligious dialogue with methods of nonviolent communication.

RAND also offers a "training for trainers". Emphasis on topics such as: "How do I deal with conflict in a group" and "How do I manage training work without evaluations" From these sessions a guide book emerged with exercises and texts for the trainers of conflict transformation. RAND annually organizes an international day for non-violence in different cities, at which they make living with non-violence an experience through different activities.

Website:  
www.rand.hr

## CZECH REPUBLIC:

CARITAS - College of Social Work Olomouc draws on the biblical clause "Deus caritas est" (God is love). By the spirit of that clause we mould the personalities of our students into theory equipped and practically skilled social and humanitarian workers. CARITAS – College of Social Work Olomouc offers to its students:

- high-quality theory preparation grounded on up-to-date scientific knowledge as well as the timeless wisdom of the millennial Christian tradition of service to one's neighbour in need
- practical experience acquired at a number of varied workplaces within the Czech Republic and in more than 40 countries across 4 continents
- spiritual, ethical and moral support and background for personality growth
- friendly fellowship of those united by the goal to help and serve others
- -extracurricular activities that provide space for the realization of students in areas of their interest

## Multicultural Center Prague

The 20th century led to the erosion of the Czech land's multicultural heritage. With the integration into the European Union and global economic structures, Czech society is becoming more di-

verse and multicultural. A multicultural society enriches and stimulates but it can also create tensions and misunderstandings. The Multicultural Centre Prague aims to help all people understand and explore this reality. Ever since its activities began in 1999, the Multicultural Center has been fulfilling its goals through public debates, a variety of educational, cultural and public informational activities, research, publications and the establishment of links between individuals and organizations with similar aims within the Czech Republic and abroad.

The Multicultural Center Prague wishes to:

- Show that multicultural coexistence is possible and enriching for all;
- Promote tolerant society, open to differences and making the most of cultural variety within the Czech Republic and beyond its borders while promoting the values of social integration and cohesion;
- Advocate intercultural dialogue and learning among diverse cultures within and outside of the EU by engaging in a wide range of activities including cultural and educational events, public debates, publishing, research and collaboration with other organizations and individuals at home and abroad.

## GERMANY:

### CCS Marburg

The Center for Conflict Studies (CCS) is a central part of interdisciplinary collaboration and the study of peace and conflict at the Philipps University in Marburg. It was founded in February, 2001 and combines various teaching and research activities. At the MA level it offers two degrees, a German language MA in Friedens- und Konfliktforschung and an international English language MA in Peace and Conflict Studies as a Joint Degree with the University of Kent in Canterbury, UK. At the level of BA programmes, the Center offers export modules for various BA degrees of the Philipps University. CCS research foci centers on causes and consequences of international and internal conflicts as well as on their management. The Center hosts a number of research projects, conducts regular conferences and publishes its own working paper series.

## ISRAEL and PALESTINE

### Willy Brandt Center Jerusalem

The WBC is a space for encounter and cooperation between young, progressive activists from Israel, Palestine and other countries.

Together with its partners, the WBC develops active forms of cooperation based on social and political justice. It supports the development of sustainable communication that is both intercultural and non-violent and promotes understanding for different historical narratives and realities.

The WBC is a unique initiative for young people in the region. The house is situated directly on the green line between East Jerusalem and West Jerusalem.

Creating non-violent alternatives to a violent reality is also the goal of the Civil Peace Service (CPS). Many projects of the WBC are therefore financed through the CPS program of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Three German project coordinators are working in the WBC as qualified experts on conflict transformation, alongside Israelis and Palestinians who are active in their political organizations, educational movements and grass-roots organizations.

The official responsible body of the WBC is the Support Association Willy Brandt Zentrum Jerusalem e.V., Berlin, in cooperation with the Forum Civil Peace Service (forumZFD) in Bonn. In Jerusalem, the WBC is registering as a limited company that operates as a public utility under Israeli law.

#### International Youth Union - IYU

The Palestinian Youth Movement ("PYM") is a transnational, independent, grass-roots movement of young Palestinians in Palestine and in exile worldwide as a result of the ongoing Zionist colonization and occupation of our homeland. Our belonging to Palestine and our aspirations for justice and liberation motivate us to assume an active role as a young generation in our national struggle for the liberation of our homeland and people. Irrespective of our different political, cultural and social backgrounds, we strive to revive a tradition of pluralistic commit-

ment toward our cause to ensure a better future, characterized by freedom and justice on a social and political level, for ourselves and subsequent generations.

<http://www.pal-youth.org/>

#### POLAND:

##### St. Maximilian Kolbe House for Meetings and Reconciliation (DMK)

St. Maximilian Kolbe House for Meetings and Reconciliation (DMK) was founded in 1992 by Franciscan Conventual Friars from Gdansk Province. The idea of reconciliation was the main reason to establish the house. At first meetings and seminars were organized to overcome prejudices and stereotypes between Poles and Germans. Now in many international projects also participants from Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Slovakia and other European countries work together to promote the spirit of friendship and collaboration. DMK arranges interreligious and ecumenical meetings. Such programmes are addressed to young Poles, Germans and Ukrainians, as well as to all inhabitants of Gdansk. They promote also dialog and reconciliation between Christians, Jews and Muslims.

Maximilian- Kolbe House is a very experienced organization in youth exchange program. The organisation cooperates internationally since over 20 years. We organize different seminars not only for young participants, we also support youth workers and teachers organising different activities such as trainings, conferences. We create space to improve better chances and competences for the



work with youth. We share our experiences with developing countries such as Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia- giving them good examples for their work.

Yearly we organize from 5 to 10 seminars and conferences, which are in the areas relevant for this application. For DMK it is important to participate in the life of the European Voluntary Service and both accept foreign and send abroad Polish volunteers. We believe that EVS as a long term activity is giving young people an excellent possibility to get to know a new country and culture. By working and living abroad they can collect precious experiences and develop perspectives their future lives and maybe for the country they come from.

Other key projects and initiatives:

- Enhancing youth participation for international and domestic events such as tourism, facilitating cultural interaction between countries they live and other countries they visit to enhance cultural development of the youth and provide required platforms and structures,
- Promoting personal and social development of the young workers (also from disabled societies), assisting them to overcome difficulties they face in their lives,
- Activities oriented at employment and create training opportunities to improve better chances for the future,
- Organizing meetings and panel discussions related to youth issues

### European Solidarity Center (ESC)

Discover history and decide about the future to commemorate, maintain and popularise the heritage and message of the Solidarity movement and the anti-communist democratic opposition in Poland and throughout the world. We want to inspire new cultural, civic, trade union, local government, national and European initiatives with a universal dimension. And also share the achievements of the peaceful struggle for freedom, justice, democracy and human rights with those who are deprived of them. We take part actively in the building of the European identity and a new international order.

The other goal of ECS activity, the prospective one, is to hand down the heritage, ideas and notion of solidarity to future generations. We would like to confirm that solidarity – understood as the concern about the well being and common interest, and unity with respect for diversity – is still very relevant in modern society and worthy of all efforts of enhancement. Therefore, one of the most important areas of activity in this respect is education.

Children and young people are the most important users of the new ECS building. A creative workshop centre will be set up here, not only for local children and young people but also for school groups from all over Europe, both during the school year and on holidays. ECS organises workshops, seminars, lectures and debates for young people, their teachers and local leaders, from all over Europe. People of all ages are invited to such activities as Summer/Winter in the Shipyard (workshops



for kids), With Youth and Solidarity (art workshops for secondary school pupils) and others. It will teach the core values of freedom, responsibility and democracy. This is a main task of the Educational Initiative Section in the Civic Culture Department.

The Fun Department, a state-of-the-art multimedia education space, is where children will get to play and learn under the watchful eye of educators, to develop their interest in contemporary history and learn solidarity by working together.

#### School Mediation Center— Gdansk (ZKPiG)

Our school, called Zespół Kształcenia Podstawowego i Gimnazjalnego nr 33 (ZKPiG nr 33) is situated in Przymorze, one of the districts of Gdansk, the city of a great history and Solidarity. ZKPiG nr 33 consists of four different schools:

1. Gimnazjum 21 (G-21)—with classes for: football players, students from the district and also for students with a special educational needs: integration classes and two therapeutic classes. Many of G-21's students are young people with learning difficulties, they come from the families with a low standard of living, low income, dependence on social welfare system etc. They have a low motivation for studying.
2. SMS - Sport School for a volleyball players (only boys)  
This school cooperates with Lotos Trefl – a volleyball Club which trains our students and takes care of their sport activities. The most of the students will, in the future, be a professional players in a club.

3. Gimnazjum Przysposabiające do Pracy (GPP) - School with a workshops classes. That is a school for the students, older than 15 yo , from the whole city and surroundings, who are unable to finish their basic education on time, and this school gives them an opportunity to get a general education and start preparation for the profession by taking part in a workshop classes. This way of studying helps them to provide the obligatory education.

The most of GPP's students are young people with learning difficulties, they come from the families with a low standard of living, low income, dependence on social welfare system etc. They have a low motivation for studying, they are very often school dropouts.

4. Gimnazjum nr 45 (G-45) - School for the students older than 17. Students who get there are quite often pupils who have dropped out and decided to complete their studies "to have at least formal education". Sometimes they had a few years break in their studies. The most of G-45's students are young adults with learning difficulties, they come from the families with a low standard of living, low income, dependence on social welfare system etc., many of them work or have their own families, some of them are young mothers. Last year a unique project started at our school: the Centre of School and Peer Mediation – the first one of its kind in the whole country

This unique project was organized and is provided by our teacher Mrs Katarzyna Stryjek, the President of the Polish Mediation Centre, department Gdansk.

The Centre of School and Peer Mediation is a place where not only students but also teachers are educated. The main goal is to open schools" communities for the alternative dispute resolution. It gives our students the opportunity to learn how to mediate and is a great way for a civics education. The main goal of our schools is to bring up our students to become people who are tolerant, respecting others views and beliefs, open for the contemporary world and its problems, sensitive to other people and ready to help.

#### TURKEY:

##### International Middle East Peace Research Center- İzmir base (IMPR)

IMPR Humanitarian is a non-governmental and humanitarian aid organization which mainly aims at meeting basic needs and improving living conditions of the individuals and communities who are affected by humanitarian crisis, conflicts, human rights violations and natural disasters.

In terms of Syrian refugee crisis in Turkey, IMPR Humanitarian has been working in the refugee residing provinces and locations to achieve above mentioned objectives since 2013. Through community services, the problems that refugees have been facing in their daily life have been tried to solve and encouraging of social inclusion have been tried to improve.

Regarding Work Permit subject:



Work permits for foreigners under Temporary Protection in Turkey has been issued on 15th of January on Official Gazette. This component of project is aim to raise awareness and disseminate information on relevant subject through established information desks in Ankara, İstanbul, Bursa, Batman, Şanlıurfa, Mersin, İzmir, Hatay and Gaziantep. Information desks are function as counseling offices throughout the project to ensure easy access to relevant information on work permission regulation and procedures.

Sürekli Gelişim Merkezi Gençlik Derneği (SUMER) was founded in 2013. Its founders have been experienced in the fields of both youth activities and international education and partnership. Main target of the foundation are primarily youth and other social groups (women, children and disabled people) in the society and also issues related to this groups such as development, social participation and integration, entrepreneurship, employment and creation of employment opportunities.

The foundation specifically lends assistance to youth about subjects below:

1. Participation of youth in scientific projects, raising young scientists,
2. Development of urban culture, participation of youth in city life and taking part in creation of youth friendly cities,
3. Promoting personal and social development of the young workers, assisting them overcoming difficulties they faced,
4. Organizing activities oriented at employment and create training opportunities,
5. Organizing meetings and panel discussions related to youth issues,
6. Announcing youth rights and demands to authorized bodies, defending these rights and demands,
7. Organizing activities in order to provide support such as funds, scholarships related to transportation, accommodation, health and nutrition issues of the youth or supporting existing efforts,
8. Contributing information and experience flow between institutions working on youth issues and supporting public relations,
9. Organizing activities of aid for natural disasters, accidents, fire, floods and/or supporting existing efforts
10. Organizing advisory services and meetings for informing, gathering information and opinion in all areas, institutions, locations where young people is found
11. Creating and organizing courses, seminars and education activities, developing projects in both national and international levels
12. Facilitation solidarity and cooperation between young people, youth groups, institutions and associations working national and international levels in the field of education and cultural integration

13. Enhancing youth participation for international and domestic tourism, facilitating cultural interaction between countries they live and other countries they visit to enhance cultural development of the youth and provide required platforms and structures without any profit motive

14. Introducing Turkish people and culture through young people getting together with the world citizens, helping young people to know people from different countries and cultures

#### NOTE:

Unfortunately it was not possible to get Information in English about every participating organization. But the poster "our network" names them all.



## 4. The Conference

### a) Get to know each other - Games

#### BINGO – Find Somebody Who...

Every participant gets a list with different statements. The main goal is to find somebody who applies to one of the statements. One person can only sign one statement on each list. The first one who has every statement on the list signed (each by a different person) is the winner.

Find somebody who...

<i>... has interfered already once when somebody was treated unfairly</i>	<i>... looks at conflicts as a personal challenge</i>	<i>... was (at least) once in a situation where nobody believed him_her what he_she said</i>
<i>... is persuaded of the fact that a world in peace is possible</i>	<i>... mediated a conflict successfully</i>	<i>... is experienced in discussing the effects of right-wing populism</i>
<i>... uses no terms of abuse even if the annoyance is big</i>	<i>... feels personally responsible when there are conflicts in his_her own society</i>	<i>... is in direct contact with refugees due to his_her work</i>
<i>... knows the process of a professional conflict settlement</i>	<i>... knows from personal experience how it feels to be discriminated against</i>	<i>... is in direct contact with refugees due to his_her personal life</i>
<i>... knows or even likes your favourite musician or music group</i>	<i>... thinks, that a multicultural society can work out peacefully</i>	<i>... shares the name with someone of your family</i>

## BIG BEN

Every participant draws a clock with twelve numbers on a sheet of paper. Now everybody makes a “Date” with another participant for every hour that is on the clock. For every hour, there is a topic to talk about. When the bell rings, the teamer tells what time it is and what is the topic of this hour. Everyone finds their date and starts a conversation about the given topic. Every date lasts two minutes.

### BIG BEN – Topics:

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 1:00  | How are you?   |
| 2:00  | What are your expectations regarding this conference?                              |
| 3:00  | How did you get to the LidiceHaus, did you face any difficulties?                  |
| 4:00  | What was the funniest thing that happened to you in the last few days?             |
| 5:00  | What is your favorite food?  |
| 6:00  | Do you know the meaning of your name?  |
| 7:00  | Couch-potato or Outdoor-Freak?   |
| 8:00  | Which word in your language is the hardest to pronounce? Teach it to your partner! |
| 9:00  | What is your first impression of the LidiceHaus and of this conference?            |
| 10:00 | Do you already know some other people of the group?                                |
| 11:00 | Party-Queen or TV-King?  |
| 12:00 | What are your fears regarding the conference?                                      |





b) Workshop with Rainer Ohliger

“Sharing and shaping communities in times of migration and refugees” –  
“culture-nation-nexus”

## Abstract

In the more recent theoretical and empirical research on identity formation in culturally diverse societies, it is argued that hybridity – the mixture of identities and a contextual or situative approach towards questions of belonging – is on the rise.

Individuals as well as groups increasingly meander between various forms of belonging that overlap and intersect. Identity is no longer conceived in the singular; instead, plural and pluralistic conceptions are gaining momentum. In Europe this pluralisation of identities is due not least to the fact that immigration reshaped Western European societies, making them ethnically and culturally diverse and thus questioning the nation state paradigm of a single clearly-bound national identity. The statements, reflections and narratives of those immigrant artists who were interviewed provide ample evidence of this seminal shift, and of the redefinition of spatial and social belonging in contemporary Europe.

Bringing Migration into the Historical Equation Europe's political and historical discourse about belonging and migration is not at least a discourse about historical and narrative inclusion and exclusion. The dominant, victorious form for constructing belonging used to be the homogeneous nation as a strong force for building collective cohesion. The nation state acted as its legal and political

tool and national history as legitimizing narratives. Nation states formed national identities based on national narratives. Nation, nation state and national narratives have developed into interdependent forces ever since the late 18th century, when nations and nation states emerged as the ruling political categories in Europe. Minorities, whether ethnic or immigrant, usually served to demarcate lines of exclusion. However, the triadic nexus of nation, nation state and national narratives came increasingly under attack in the second half of the 20th century, coinciding with increasing levels of migration. Labour migration, humanitarian migration and migration related to decolonization reshaped Europe's ethno-demographic fabric, its constituency and thus its polity in the second half of the 20th century. Diversification became an ever increasing albeit controversial, social and political force in Europe. This social and cultural reality of diversity and hybridity is currently about to generate new historical narratives.

Immigration is an omnipresent phenomenon of human history. Here is no history without mobility and migration.

(read more in: <http://www.ecflabs.org/narratives>)

The graphic to the right shows some of the topics, the participants were discussing during the Workshop at LidiceHaus:

Group 1: Intersection of migration/minorities and culture

Group 2: Intersection of migration/minorities and nation

Group 3: Intersection of migration/minorities and diversity

Group 4: Intersection of migration/minorities and history

RAINER OHLIGER, born in 1967, studied history, economics and demography at the University of Freiburg and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. From 1995 to 2004 he worked as researcher at Humboldt-University Berlin (Social Science Department). From 2004 to 2007 he was European Associate Director of the euro-transatlantic organisation Humanity in Action, Inc. In 2001, he co-founded the Network Migration in Europe e.V. He is member of its board of directors. The Network's activities include research and consultancy in the areas of immigration, integration and diversity. Ohliger's research focuses on questions of international and historical migration, interethnic relations and education in immigrant societies. Among his publications are:

“European Encounters”: Migrants, Migration and European Societies since 1945

Cross Over Geschichte: Historisches Bewusstsein Jugendlicher in der Einwanderungsgesellschaft, Hamburg: edition Körber, 2009 (co-edited with Viola Georgi).

A recent product work product is the short film and website:

Migrants Moving History: Narratives of Diversity in Europe

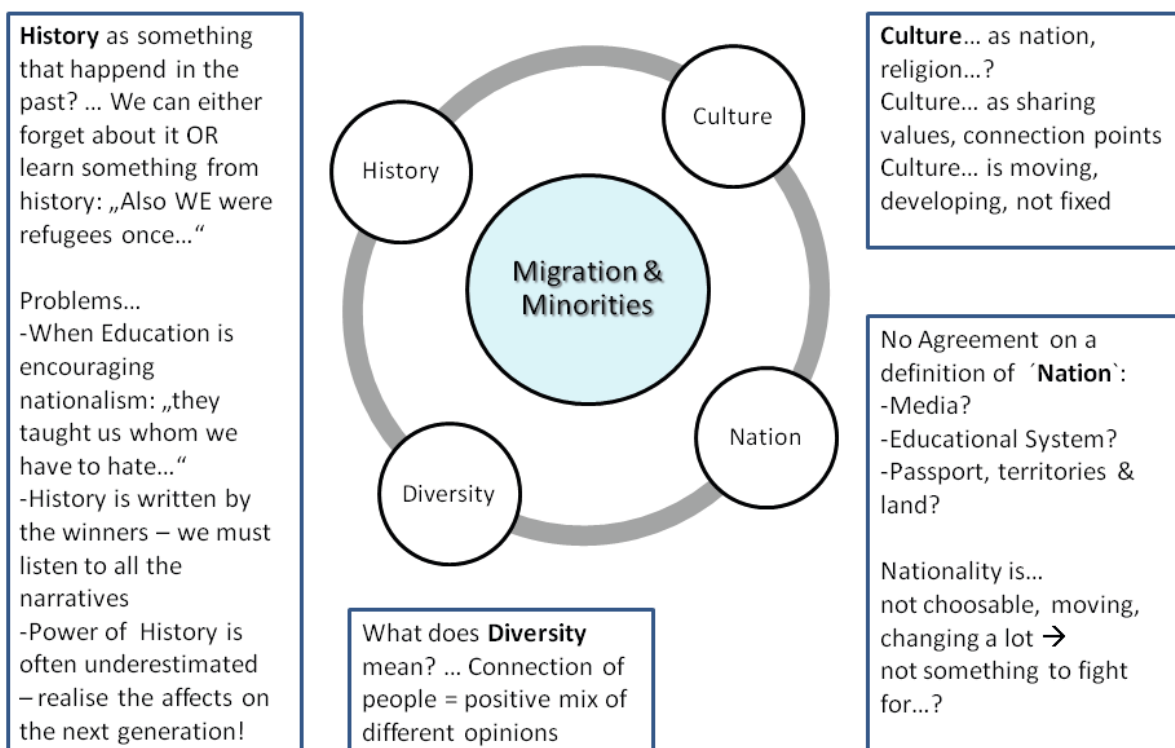
([www.migrants-moving-history.org](http://www.migrants-moving-history.org)).

The film was nominated as one of the top 100 German short films in 2009.

<http://www.ecflabs.org/narratives>

### Who has the power to define terms like Minority/ Migrant? ...

### How are these terms connected with culture, nation, diversity and history?



### c) EuropaPunktBremen

What is the EuropaPunktBremen? It is one of the more than 500 Europe Direct-Information Centres (EDIC) existing in all 28 Member States of the European Union. In Bremen its name is “EuropaPunktBremen” and aims to familiarise the citizens with the European Union (EU). It is run by the “Representative of the Land Bremen to the Federal Republic and Europe, State Secretary Ulrike Hiller” (the official representative of the government of the Land Bremen). It gets financial and logistical support by the European Commission. The EU is far away? No, it is close to you! The distance between the EU-Institutions and the citizens has to become smaller - that's why the European Commission and the European Parliament established the EDIC network to represent Europe not just in Brussels or Strasbourg but also regionally, as i.e. in Bremen.

The EU influences our lives every day, even though this is not always obvious. Get information about the EU in Bremen and Germany; Get information how citizens can commit to the European project and how regions can influence European-politics!

We offer a lot of German publications about EU-politics and processes - but also a small number of brochures in English as well. If you are looking for very specific information, we will help you to get the necessary information on-line or in print. Our staff is glad to help you with any of your questions!

<http://europa.bremen.de/epb>

### Bremer Rat für Integration

The “Bremer Rat für Integration” is a council for integration which was founded for the purpose of fast and good achievement of integration. The Council contains 30 members, sent by many different institutions and groups who are working voluntarily for this committee. Many of them are immigrants themselves. The Council is looking into the successes and challenges coming along with immigration, integration and refugees. Living together, participation and dialogue between immigrants and locals in Bremen and Bremerhaven shall be accompanied and everybody is invited to join and take part. The Council for Integration is supported by the office of senate and the department of integration politics. It has no political right of co-determination. It rather gives advice for a better coexistence. The parties have committed themselves to obey the advice the Council is giving.

<http://www.bremer-rat-fuer-integration.de/rat/>

### d) Fieldtrips

The main goal of the Conference „Sharing and shaping communities in times of migration and refugees, was not only to talk about the problems and deficits of our societies, but to decide, what we can do to actually change something.

Therefore the “good-practice” examples were considered a very important part of the program. The Fieldtrips on Friday belong to this category. The Participants had to choose between five different groups, each visiting two places/organizations in



Bremen: one working with or for Refugees, one accommodating Refugees. Below you will find a short introduction of some of these organizations.

#### Fluchtraum Bremen Space to escape Bremen

Welcome to Bremen. You came alone to Germany and everything is new? We welcome you with open arms, because we are happy you are here. We want you to feel comfortable in Bremen, that you are able to go to school, meet nice people and get off on the right foot into your new life. We, Fluchtraum e.V., are a society connecting volunteers and unaccompanied, underage refugees. The volunteers, chaperons and we as a society will fight for your rights, with you altogether, so you are not alone! If you are looking for a person you can meet on a regular base, who might help you with the new daily routine and takes responsibility for you then come talk to us. We want to help you to find a chaperon. Sometimes it needs time to find one, so be patient. If you are not happy with your situation in Bremen at the moment you can truthfully contact us.

[<http://fluchtraum-bremen.de/>]

#### Flüchtlingsrat Bremen Refugee Council Bremen

We are an independent network of activists and members of NGOs, initiatives, autonomous migrant groups and individuals. Together we seek to raise awareness, acceptance and knowledge about migrant issues by lobbying, press work and activist events. The refugee council

conducts programs, campaigns and activities in order to avoid discrimination and fight for human rights. We support refugees and migrants by providing assistance and support concerning problems, e.g. with the Ausländerbehörde, legal affairs or language courses. Contact us for any questions and join us to be a part of the refugee council.

<http://www.fluechtlingsrat-bremen.de/>

#### Gemeinsam in Bremen Together in Bremen

GiB (give) is short for "Gemeinsam in Bremen" (Together in Bremen). The basic idea is that citizens of Bremen help refugees and refugees help citizens of Bremen. We believe that many have something to give, may it be time, or something else. To connect those who want to give something with those who need something we generated this website.

But since November 2016 this website is more than a platform to mediate donations. Now you can find a "library" to exchange useful information-material and aside from that a calendar, informing about events, meetings and trainings concerning the topic refugees. Furthermore we collected some information for you to prepare yourself for the voluntary work with refugees and also to help you during the service.

<http://www.gemeinsam-in-bremen.de/das-projekt>, translation: Ch. Kühn

### City Library Bremen

The City Library is an open space for education. In consideration of the refugee situation in Bremen the Library developed some special arrangements for refugees and migrants: Refugees and Participants of a German - language course get the library pass for free (for one year). The library provides online access to 2000 international newspapers in different languages, material for learning German as a foreign language and media (books, audio books etc.) in 37 different languages. Furthermore the library set up a special department for intercultural matters, informing about topics like intercultural education, migration policy and refugee-experiences in Germany etc.

<http://www.stabi-hb.de/documents/Interkulturell.pdf>, translation: Ch. Kühn

### Gewitterziegen - Thunderstorm Goats

The Gewitterziegen is an association encouraging feminist work with girls and woman between the ages of 6 to 26. Since 1991 the Association is educating and consulting girls and women coming from different social and cultural backgrounds. The main goal is to achieve equality for girls and women in the society, in cultural and employment matters. In practice this means offering educational and cultural activities as well as consulting work.

<http://www.gewitterziegen-bremen.de/der-verein/>, translation: Ch. Kühn

Charlotte Kühn

### e) Group focused enmity: Researches and results of Prof. Dr. Heitmeyer, Bielefeld - A summary

The LidiceHaus is working and struggling since long years against all kind of exclusion, discrimination and right extremism. Our Center was part of the long term research of Prof. Dr. Heitmeyer concerning "Group Focused Enmity" in Germany. The fact of the uprising right wing parties in Europe was an important issue during our Conference. Here you find a short summary of Prof. Heitmeyers results. You can find further more an overview of the recent right wing parties in Europe.

The long-term research project Group-Focused Enmity (GFE) in Germany set out to find out how people of different social, religious, and ethnic backgrounds or with different life-styles are perceived by the majority of society and to what extent they encounter hostile attitudes. These attitudes can take many different forms and usually evolve gradually. The way they are expressed ranges from subtle or more overt insults to outright hostility, veiled or overt discrimination, advocated or actual exclusion, threats of violence, or even actual violence. At the center of all this is what we call Group-Focused Enmity. That means that people independent of their

individual behavior become targets only because of their attributed or real belonging to certain groups.

#### An Ideology of Inequality

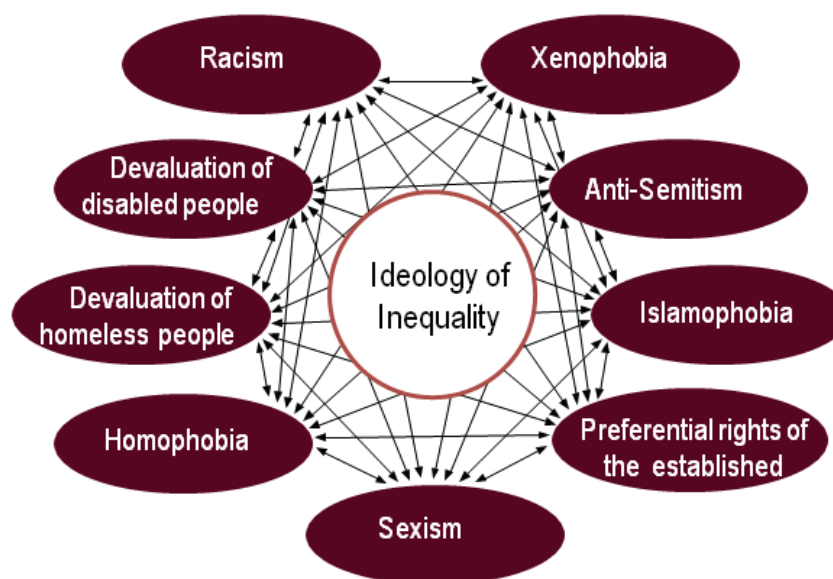
To find out how much a society is pervaded by inhumanity it is not sufficient simply to investigate racism and xenophobia, for these are often the brutal extremes that actually serve to mask the less dramatic suffering of people in other groups and thus to conceal the true scale of exclusion and discrimination. For this reason we assume that this is actually a whole syndrome, encompassing many different elements: xenophobia, racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, prejudices toward the homeless and the disabled, the defense of established privileges, and sexism. The common ground at the heart of the Group-Focused Enmity syndrome is a generalized ideology of inequality.

#### Middle class & East and West

Meanwhile these fears have reached the middle classes. The threat of social ex-

clusion, of a loss of social identity, and of an experienced or perceived loss of social recognition all serve as explanatory factors. In particular the level of perceived social recognition is a central factor in our hypothesis. The more negative it is, the less people are prepared to recognize the equality and inviolability of groups that are in a small minority or have no strong lobby. Instead, they use denigration, exclusion, and discriminating behavior to demonstrate their own superiority and power and to make themselves feel more integrated and socially accepted. If these hypotheses are correct, then we would expect enmity to arise among social groups that feel particularly threatened by social disintegration. The empirical findings support this hypothesis for both western and eastern Germany, but they show a much more fragile picture of integration in the former East Germany and a stronger tendency to denigrate other social groups.

Anette Klasing



## f) Summary Hate Speech Input

### Definition – Hate Speech in a Nutshell

- Hatred against persons or groups of people by using words, which mean to degrade a whole population group
- Hate speech can attack persons or groups of people with specific characteristics
- Hate speech is only evident if the addressed population group factually feels degraded

### Pejorative examples (pejorative: degrading term, negative meaning)

- Stereotypical characteristics: i.e. "Schlitzauge/slit eye" (east-asian migrant), "Fotze"/cunt" (women),"Arschficker/ass fucker" (homosexual men), "Mongol" (person with trisomia-21)
- Neutral term go negativ: "Hartz-4-ler"/ social welfare recipient, "Unterschichtlicher/ underclass member", "Mischling/ mix breed", Flüchtling/ refugee
- Noun + directions: i.e. "Ausländer raus"/foreigners go home, "Juden ins Gas"/Jews into gas

### Elements of Hate Speech

- Equating: Jewish = Israel, Muslims = Salafists, Black skin = African
- Conspiracy Theories (often anti-semitic): "Israel has staged this attack against its own people in order to distract from their own foreign affairs politics."
- Distortion of Reality: "Leftist politicians hate Germany."
- Creating US vs. THEM duality and implying an obligation to counter-act: "If we let them flood our country any longer, they will destroy our German culture." (often referred to migrants from predominantly muslim countries)
- Justifying/ Normalizing existing discrimination: "I'm not surprised, that Muslims are treated this way, it's their own fault."
- "... BUT ...":
  - "He is Greek, BUT he's very hard-working."
  - "My cleaning lady is really great, ALTHOUGH she is Turkish."
  - "Migrants are welcome, AS LONG AS they stick to our laws."
- The Language of Hate speech - Creating fronts & fears by collective symbolisms e.g. Metaphors of Disaster, steps of public discourse:
  1. Nature catastrophe/ hazard
  2. Metaphor of war
  3. Truth
  4. Doom/demise
  5. Saviour
  6. Superiority of "us"

Hate Speech takes a different shape in different countries,  
BUT the pattern is always similar!

## Digital & Social Media Phenomena which “support” Hate Speech

### “Echo chamber”

In news media an echo chamber is a metaphorical description of a situation in which information, ideas, or beliefs are amplified or reinforced by transmission and repetition inside an “enclosed” system, where different or competing views are censored, disallowed, or otherwise underrepresented.

### “Filter bubble”

A filter bubble is a result of a personalized search in which a website algorithm selectively guesses what information a user would like to see based on information about the user (such as location, past click behavior and search history) and, as a result, users become separated from information that disagrees with their viewpoints, effectively isolating them in their own cultural or ideological bubbles.

## How to counter Hate speech?

Ignoring

Facilitation/ moderation

Discussion

- staying calm
- giving arguments
- structuring the discussion
- boiling it down to core issues

Using irony, destroying, twisting, confusing the haters' arguments

Counter Speech

Commenting on or publishing comments

Disclosing the strategies of the haters

Deconstruction assertions (unsupported claims of empirical evidence, “I have heard that...”)

Disclosing conspiracy theories

Making clear the “red line” resp. the “limits of fun”

Know and inform about right wing extremist identification signs/symbols

Taking a clear stand

Filing a legal complaint/ pushing charges

Elisabeth Schindler

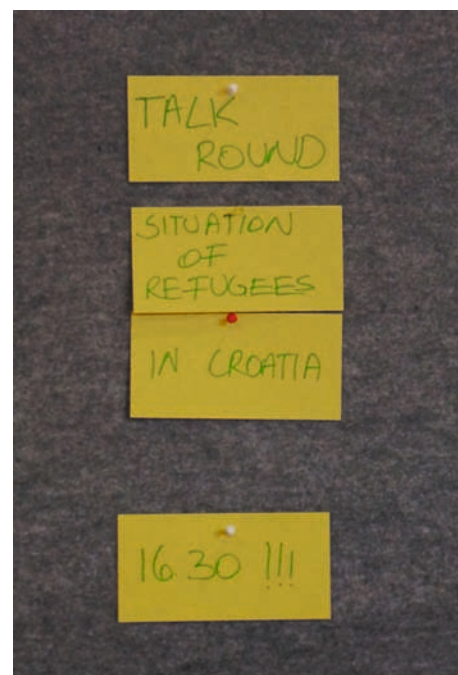
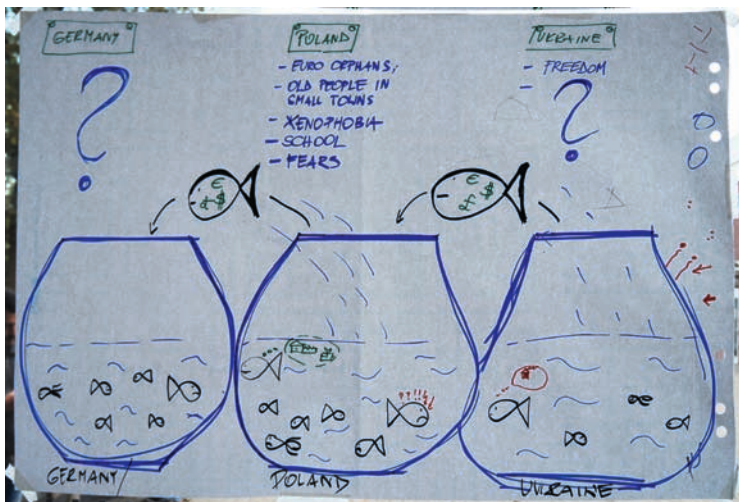
### g) Gallery Walk

The “Gallery Walk” is an alternative method to exchange information by talking to each other instead of listening to one referent. Because every participant came to this seminar from a different background, with different experiences and with a different perspective, it seemed to be important to get an overview. Every country had to create an “exhibit” and decide what kind of information is most important to share with the other participants. The topic was: “The situation of refugees/migrants in my country”. Most of the groups decided to create a poster or to show a video/ power point presentation but there was also one “Talking-round” about refugees in Croatia. Some put their

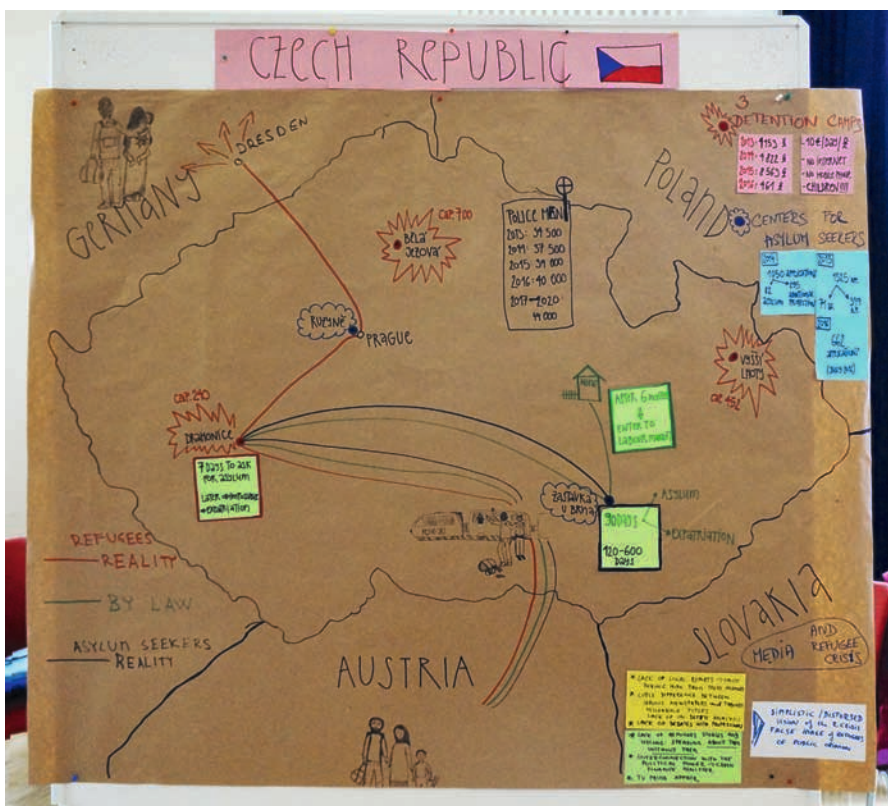
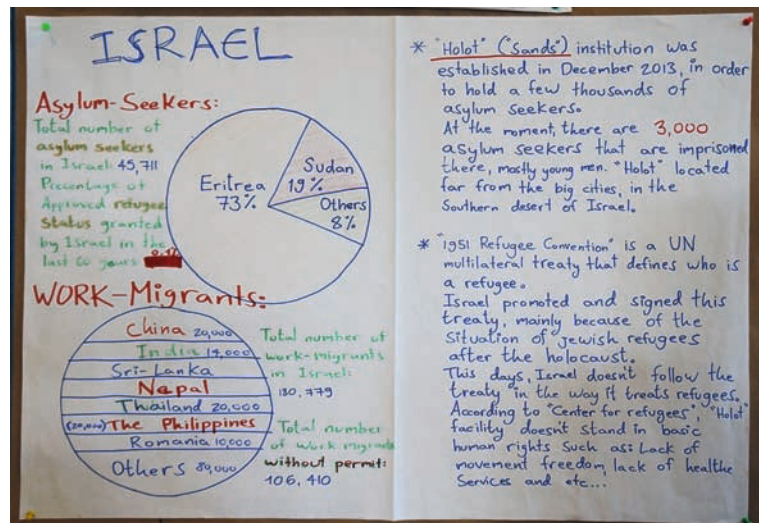
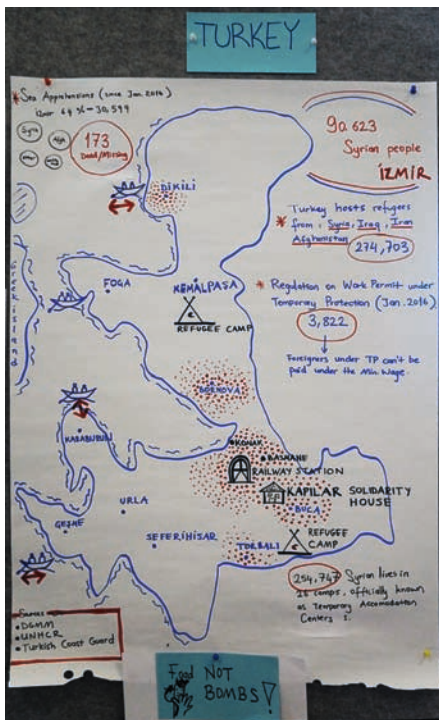
focus on the situation in general, some on the situation of their NGO or organization. Each group was asked to set up their “exhibit” (poster, film etc.) and to choose one of the group members to stay and answer upcoming questions of the visitors. Everybody else could walk around in this Gallery and get informed about the challenges that refugees and migrants face in the participating countries. This face-to-face method was not only a possibility to get objective information about political issues but to get to know different narratives, ones subjective feelings or opinions, a fling to seize the “whole picture” by combining facts and feelings.

Some of the posters you can see below.

Charlotte Kühn





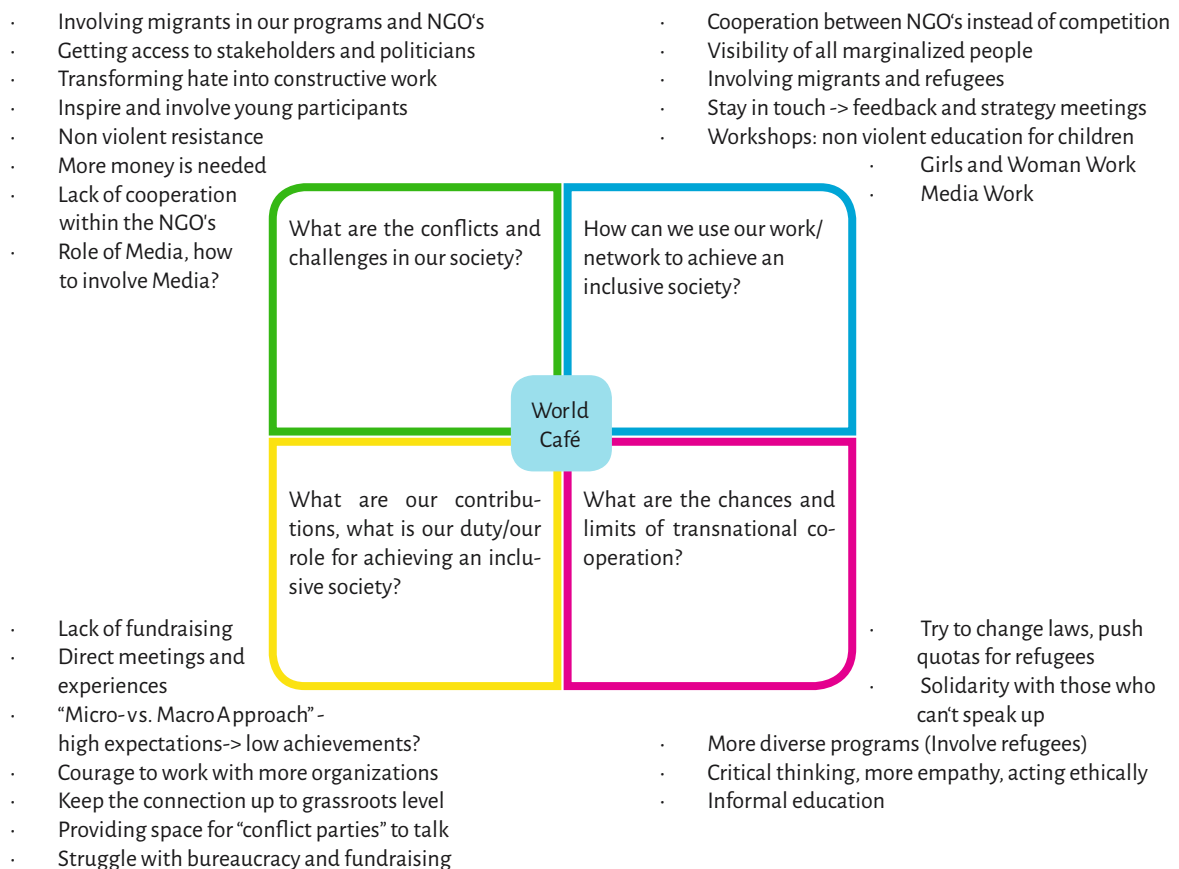




## h) World Café

The last Day in Bremen we spend thinking about what we have learned, heard, discussed and thought about during the conference. The Method: “World Café” is supposed to connect the achievements of the seminar with our future-plans. Four

Tables were set up with one question each to discuss. The Participants came together in different constellations to talk about the given topic and write down their suggestions concerning this topic. Afterwards the outcome of each table-discussion was presented in front of the whole group.



## i) Welcometobremen.de

A new Website for refugees and newcomer in Bremen!

In 2015 Bremen had to cope with several thousand refugees among a short period of month: welcoming initiatives and groups organized together with our governmental administration accommodation and everything what was needed. For a long period most of the refugees had to

live in tents or sports halls. The situation was difficult.

With colleagues and partners we started to discuss the need of a new Website for newcomer and refugees in Bremen: a Website that provides all needed information and guides people through Bremen. After talks with our Ministry for Social and intercultural affairs we started to raise money. In December 2015 we invited newcomer, refugees and all

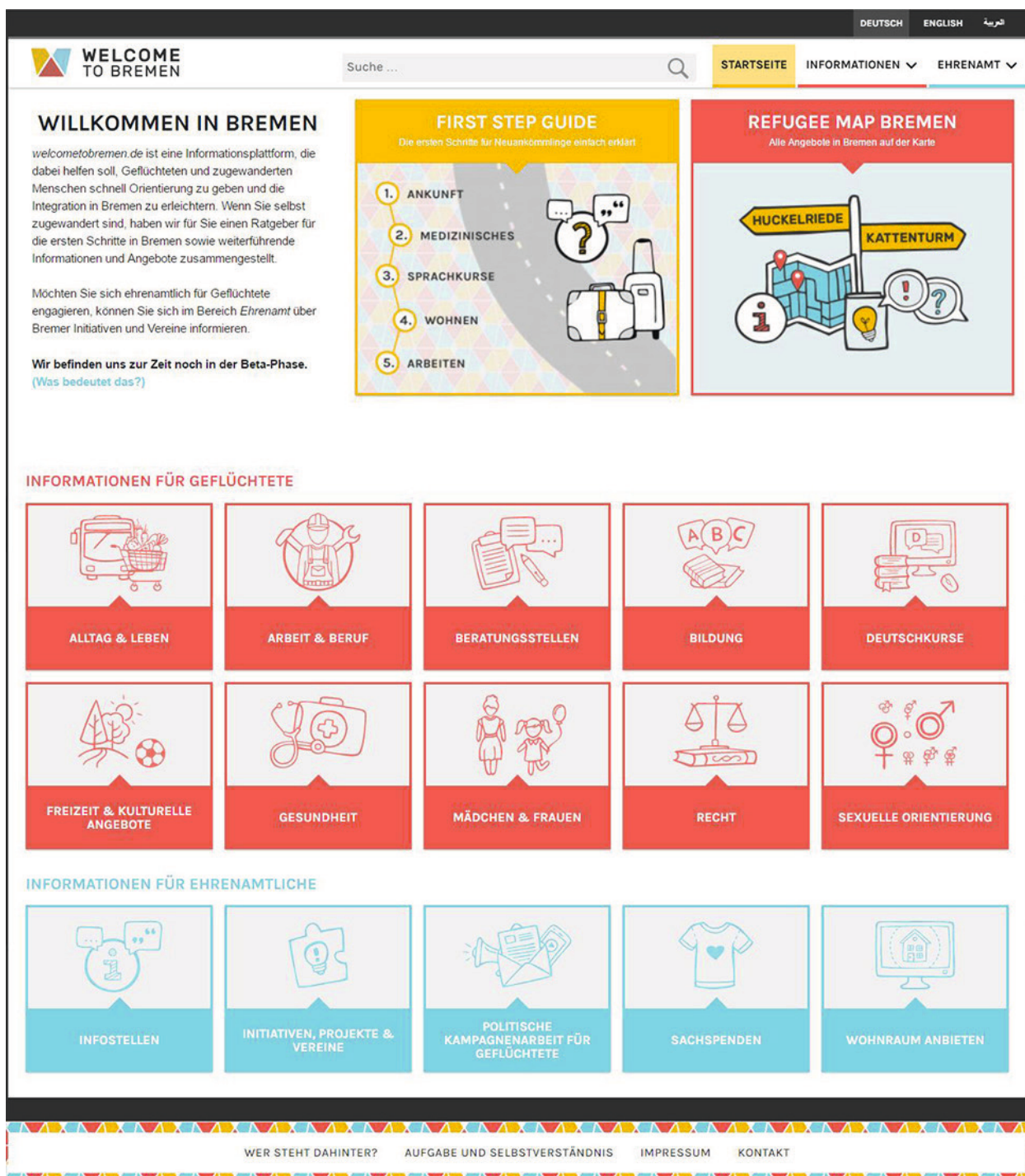
interested people working with refugees. Out of this process we created working groups: the pictures show some of the categories (first step guide, housing, work & labor, education, health, women & girls etc.). Although the development of this new Website took us the whole year until December 2016 we are still convinced that the involvement of all

volunteers (approx. 35 people) was really fruitful. The result is a really good working network.

Starting from December 2016 the new Website will be online:

[www.welcometobremen.de](http://www.welcometobremen.de)

Anette Klasing



## 5. Outcome & Feedback

At the end of every international conference we have to ask ourselves: What is the outcome of this gathering? What did we achieve? Where do we stand now? Every participant, including the organization team, had specific expectations regarding this seminar: to get to know each other and each other's circumstances, to learn about best practices from everyone's country, to connect with people working in different areas, to learn new methods for inclusion, to learn how to change public opinions about refugees and cross social borders in one country, to exchange ideas and experience, to look at things from a different perspective etc. First of all, it is always difficult to organize a seminar without knowing before, what (exactly) our partners would like to learn and talk about. Another point is that each of the topics chosen as the content for the seminar could fill days of discussion by itself. But the important point is that we all had the same basic idea and reason to participate in this conference: Exchange. The atmosphere during the five days at the LidiceHaus was most of the time very peaceful and comfortable even though the topics were not. A lot of very deep conflicts, for example the one between Israel and Palestine (just to mention one), were always with us, even though we were a group of people who are fighting for peace and against racism and prejudices in our everyday life. The Conference was no time out, no space where everybody leaves their own conflicts, beliefs and personal prejudices at home. But it was a space to talk, to discuss things from face to face.

Nobody was the most important person; nobody had the hardest life story or the best-working organization. Everybody and

everybody's story was important. One of the participants wrote: I felt very good, because I felt accepted! An atmosphere was given, in which productive discussions were possible, in which people could exchange, understand and learn from each other, in which people could talk about their fears and hopes and plans and in which people could laugh together.

The last point on our schedule was a method called World Café. It is about finding an ending and finding the right way and direction for the future. Four tables, with one question each were set up, and the participants had time to talk and discuss about how to continue their educational work, including everything we have learned from each other during the seminar: What are the conflicts and challenges in your society/ in your NGO? How can we use our work/ network to achieve an inclusive society? What are our contributions to this main goal, what is our role, our duty? What are the chances and limits of transnational cooperation?

In the end contacts were exchanged, even though there was no plan yet, to actually organize a transnational project between the participants. Still, what we heard and read in the feedback round and on the evaluation papers was most satisfying. It seems that people took not only knowledge and experience, but something very personal from the conference, a motivation to go on, just like one participant wrote: This seminar is a seed for me. [...] I realized that I lost my belief in the future. But now I have a seed. There are more people who think like me. I am not alone with my dream.

Charlotte Kühn

Gather with people who share your mindset gives hope.

I'm really surprised by the fact that some of us share the same history, even though we seem to be very different.

The Discussions were very productive. It was great to have the opportunity to see how people work in other countries.

The Fieldtrips were very helpful to gather information about practices in hosting refugees in Bremen.

We think we live in a democracy, but often it's not allowed saying what you are thinking. Not only institutions scare us. Also about neighbors, work colleges, ordinary people we cannot be sure. But there are so many things (history, migration, minority-groups) we have to talk about.

This day shows us how different the situations but how similar our problems with the media in our countries are.

The "World Café" was my favorite activity today: to share ideas, to get the chance to build new cooperation and to learn that we have similar problems in our countries.

This seminar is a seed for me. [...] I realized that I lost my belief in the future. But now I have a seed. There are more people who think like me. I am not alone with my dream (peacefully).

From this seminar I take a feeling of international solidarity. I believe in it. I learned different things for instance how NGO's are organized (because this is a big problem in my country). Also I see now the reflection of the uprising of right in Europe



## 6. Picture Gallery



## Picture Gallery





## 7. Appendix: Nationalist parties challenging Europe

Many European countries are witnessing electoral gains for far-right and nationalist parties, though they span a wide political spectrum. The migrant crisis has fuelled a backlash against the political establishment, but the wave of discontent also taps into long-standing fears about globalization and a dilution of national identity. How is this right-wing backlash reshaping Europe's political landscape?

### Austria

In recent years the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) has shaken up the centrist consensus politics that dominated Austria for decades after World War Two. But in April 2016 it went further, pushing both main parties out of the running for the presidency. Image copyright EPA Image caption Norbert Hofer won most support outside the main cities and among male voters. The FPÖ candidate, Norbert Hofer, won the first round of Austria's presidential election in April and then secured around half the vote in the run-off vote on 22 May. The result was so tight, it was not immediately clear if he had won. The president's role is largely ceremonial. But Mr Hofer's score reflected widespread voter frustration with immigration and the political establishment. Hundreds of thousands of migrants poured through Austria last year hoping to settle in Germany. Some 90,000 people applied for asylum in Austria itself - 1% of the population. When the late Jörg Haider led the party it achieved its best ever result in 2000 and entered the government, causing enormous tension with EU partners.

### Denmark

Denmark's immigration rules are among the toughest in Europe - reflecting the power of the Danish People's Party (DPP), which came second in last year's general election. Its 21% of the vote was a record for the party, and now the ruling coalition depends on DPP support in parliament. The Eurosceptic DPP also won Denmark's European Parliament election in 2014 by a wide margin, with 27% of the vote. The DPP opposes multiculturalism, as do nationalists in the rest of Scandinavia, where centre-left social democracy no longer dominates in the way it did for decades. Denmark became a target of Muslim anger in 2005 when Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten published cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad. Controversially Denmark has given its police the authority to seize valuables worth more than 10,000 kroner (£1,045; \$1,514) from refugees to cover housing and food costs. The government has also cut migrant benefits and put adverts in Lebanese newspapers warning against migration to Denmark.

### Finland

The nationalist Finns Party (previously the "True Finns") came second in last year's general election. Party leader Timo Soini is Finnish Foreign Minister, in a coalition government.

The party advocates strict immigration controls and argues that Finns, not migrants, take priority for social and health-care spending. Its roots lie in rural Finland and it has championed welfare policies that give it a populist dimension.



### France

Many political observers see Marine Le Pen's National Front (FN) as the biggest nationalist challenge to Europe's liberal democratic traditions. Ms Le Pen is expected to make a formidable push for the French presidency next year. That is likely to trigger a repeat of tactical voting by the Socialists and conservative Republicans to block her. The FN won 6.8 million votes in regional elections in 2015 - its largest ever score - but lost in two target regions after the Socialists pulled out and urged supporters to back Nicolas Sarkozy's conservatives. Marine's father Jean-Marie Le Pen, the FN founder who was fined for Holocaust denial, shocked France in 2002 when he won through to the second round of the presidential election. Marine famously got him expelled from the FN in a family feud last August. The FN has two seats in the French National Assembly (parliament) and in 2014 won the French European Parliament election, taking 25% of the vote. Marine Le Pen is anti-EU, rejecting the euro and blaming Brussels for mass immigration, because of the Schengen free-movement policy. In 2010 she told FN supporters that the sight of Muslims praying in the street was similar to the Nazi occupation in World War Two. The Islamist attacks on Paris in January and November, which nearly 150 people were murdered, raised alarm about jihadists taking advantage of Europe's open borders.

### Germany

German politics has been shaken up by Alternative for Germany (AfD), a right-wing party launched in 2013 by econo-

mists opposed to the euro. Under leader Frauke Petry it has drawn ever more support by rallying against immigration. The AfD's success has been interpreted as a sign of discontent with Chancellor Angela Merkel's open-door policy for Syrian refugees. Last year Germany took in a record 1.1 million asylum seekers, many of them Muslims from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Image copyright Getty Images  
Image caption Pegida marches against Muslim immigration - but there are also counter-demonstrations. The AfD has seats in half of the German state parliaments, though none yet at national level in the Bundestag. Ms Petry has called for "drastic steps" to prevent Islamist ideology spreading in Germany, including a ban on construction of new minarets. She says Islam "does not belong to Germany" - though Muslims who "practise their religion peacefully and privately" can be good citizens. She sparked a furore when she suggested that border police should be empowered to shoot illegal migrants if necessary. Her deputy Beatrix von Storch backed that suggestion. Stridently anti-Islam rhetoric came initially from Pegida, a mass movement that started in the eastern city of Dresden, then spread to other German cities. Pegida regularly draws thousands of supporters at anti-immigration marches. Neo-Nazi groups are among the Pegida followers, who denounce "the Islamisation of the West".

Recently so called "Reichsbürger" were arrested in several Cities: the organization does not recognize the State of Germany and is affiliated with Right extreme organizations.

### Greece

The popularity of far-right Golden Dawn - widely considered to be a neo-Nazi party - has surged during Greece's economic meltdown. Members have been accused of serious crimes including murder. The party's leaders went on trial in 2015 over the murder of anti-fascist rapper Pavlos Fyssas. Yet Golden Dawn secured 7% of the vote in the September 2015 election, and it now has 18 MPs, making it the third biggest force in Greek politics. Its vote was especially strong among people hardest hit by the crisis. The austerity demanded by Greece's creditors turned many Greeks away from the political establishment. The anti-EU party wants to expel migrants and has distributed food in poor areas - but only to Greek passport-holders.

### Hungary

Far-right Jobbik is the third strongest party in Hungary - it won 20.7% of the vote in the 2014 general election. The party denies that it is racist, but has organised patrols by an unarmed but uniformed "Hungarian Guard" in Roma (Gypsy) neighbourhoods. Jobbik says more must be done to tackle "Gypsy crime" and party members have also stirred controversy by making anti-Semitic remarks. Hungarian flags dominate Jobbik rallies, along with the red-and-white Arpad stripes, which are often seen as an echo of Hungary's pro-Nazi wartime regime. With Jobbik support the conservative government of Prime Minister Viktor Orban erected a razor wire fence along its border with Serbia last year to keep migrants out. Mr Orban and Slovak Prime Minister Rob-

ert Fico are suing the EU over its quota scheme for distributing migrants among member states. Both leaders say Europe has to defend its "Christian" heritage.

### Italy

Local elections last year delivered big gains to the Eurosceptic, anti-immigration Northern League (Lega Nord) beyond its Venice power base. Since the party's launch in 1991 it has called for the creation of a separate northern state called Padania, combining Veneto, Lombardy and some other regions. But today its emphasis is less on secession, more on boosting the northern regions' autonomy and paying less tax to the central government. The influx of migrants from North Africa has put a severe strain on Italy's asylum infrastructure and revived the fortunes of the Northern League. Some of the party's politicians have made xenophobic comments about migrants. The party got 4% in the last general election, in 2013.

### The Netherlands

Geert Wilders, with his mane of blond hair, is one of Europe's most recognisable nationalist politicians. His anti-EU Party for Freedom (PVV) has surged to the top of Dutch opinion polls. He wants to stop Muslim immigration, arguing that Islam is incompatible with Dutch values. He wants the Koran to be banned in the Netherlands. He is currently involved in a court case, accused of inciting hatred against Moroccans. In the 2010 general election the PVV won 24 seats, making it the third-largest party.

### Slovakia

The ultra-nationalist People's Party-Our Slovakia of Marian Kotleba entered parliament for the first time this year, winning 14 seats. Mr Kotleba has previously dressed in a uniform modelled on the Hlinka Guard, the militia of the 1939-45 Nazi-sponsored Slovak State. But now he wears corduroy casuals. Immigration was a major issue in the election campaign, even though Slovakia has taken in very few migrants. Robert Fico's Smer-Social Democracy party won - and he contributed to the anti-Muslim rhetoric.

### Sweden

The nationalist Sweden Democrats (SD) have challenged the traditional dominance of Sweden's Social Democrats, a party associated with generous social welfare and tolerance of minorities. The SD argues for strict immigration controls, opposing multiculturalism. In 2014 the SD became the third-largest party, winning 13% in the general election. But they are shunned by other parties in parliament. More than 160,000 asylum seekers arrived in Sweden in 2015 - the highest per capita rate in the EU.

### Switzerland

In October 2015 the anti-immigration Swiss People's Party (SVP) won the parliamentary election with a record 29.4% of the vote. That translated into 65 out of the total 200 seats in the lower house. Switzerland is not in the EU, but is in Europe's Schengen free-movement area, and has a high population of immigrants compared with its neighbours. Support for the SVP has grown during the migrant crisis. For

years the party has pushed for tough immigration controls, using controversial black sheep posters that opponents describe as racist. It spearheaded a campaign to cap EU migrant numbers - and the Swiss voted to do so in 2014. But there is now EU-Swiss legal wrangling over free movement of workers, as the Swiss appear to be defying the Schengen rules.

23 May 2016 (by BBC News) – [Summary by: Anette Klasing]

### Other sources

### Poland

The attack on public media is the latest legislation rushed through since the conservative Law and Justice party (PiS) led by former prime minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski took over. In just over two months, PiS has tightened its grip on the security services, the courts and the civil service. The government made no secret that a purge in the state-owned media was next. Long advocating their distaste for Polish mainstream media, PiS ministers do not shy away from expressing what they think of critical press coverage. Orbán (Hungary) faced similar warnings in 2010, when he took control of the courts and the media to cement his Fidesz party's position. Similarly to the current light-speed pace of reform in Poland, Fidesz sought to implement its most controversial projects as quickly as possible. PiS has passed a number of bills in late-night votes, over protests by the opposition that it did not even have time to familiarize itself with proposed legislation. Orbán and Kaczynski have similar ideological narratives of

national “reconstruction” for their former Eastern Bloc countries, which joined the EU at the same time, in 2004. Both populist politicians dislike the Western democratic values generally labeled as “liberalism” in Europe, and exploit historical sensitivities to strengthen distrust of the EU. Since Orbán's rise to power, Hungary has become a model for the Polish right wing. As leader of the opposition, Kaczynski promised to “build a Budapest in Warsaw.”

### Czech Republic

Right-wing extremists recently held demonstrations in the centre of Prague, Czech Republic to protest against immigration into the country. They waved gallows and nooses and called for them to be used on “all traitors of the nation”. Those traitors, in their eyes, are the defenders of immigrants and the Czech government for pursuing what they see as pro-immigration policies. Martin Konvička, a biologist at the University of South Bohemia, has founded a political party called The Anti-Islamic Bloc, and plan to stand candidates in next regional elections. Whether they will do well remains unclear, but for the time being, the party is capitalising on fear about immigration to attract support. Czech president Miloš Zeman has publicly expressed similar views, stating that he too, is against Islam in the Czech Republic. Zeman won the direct presidential election in 2013, having run as a left-wing candidate who was highly critical of the then right-of-centre government. However, since his election he has made ever more controversial and ever more right wing, often very populist,

public statements. Recent international political developments, such as the war in Ukraine and the perceived danger of a wave of illegal immigrants threatening to swamp Europe, have caused considerable confusion among Czech voters. According to a government opinion poll published June 2015, 83% Czechs are seriously worried about the possible influx of refugees into the Czech Republic—even though the government has agreed to accept only a few hundred.

Erik Lamprecht is a relevant figure of the right extreme Czech organization “DSSS”, together with his friend Jiří Petřivalský the “DSSS” is mobilizing in the Czech Republic. They are close connected with the German NPD.

### Croatia:

The European Union's newest member, Croatia, has an unabashed and strong-willed fascist in its new cabinet — one who makes the right-wingers in power in Hungary and Poland look like wimps. The contested figure is Zlatko Hasanbegović, a 42-year-old historian who became culture minister in late January after the country's latest election produced a new right-wing ruling coalition. Hasanbegović had been a prominent figure in a small ultra-rightist party that openly extols the fascist World War II-era Ustashe movement (He left the party and is now unaffiliated, though he has never renounced it). As a historian, his work focuses on downplaying the crimes of the Ustashe and cautiously rehabilitating its ideas. Unlike the right-wingers in Poland and Hungary who are eviscerating their states' democratic structures, the Croatian national-

ists are waging their war within the realm of political culture — for now. Their goal is to lay the groundwork for an eventual assault on the country's liberal democracy. Hasanbegovic's appointment in the new government — a gesture to the country's powerful far-right forces — provoked protests and sharp criticism, not least from the Simon Wiesenthal Center,

a prominent Jewish human-rights organization. But since taking office, Hasanbegovic has done nothing to blunt his radicalism, cutting funds for progressive groups and independent media and endorsing a revisionist documentary film that denies the scale of the crimes committed by Croatia during its alliance with Nazi Germany in the 1940s.



## 8. Imprint

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