

Best Practices

Hosting of a refugee accommodation structure in Schimpach

The municipality of Wincrange has hosted a refugee accommodation structure in the village of Schimpach, in cooperation with the National Reception Office (ONA) and the managing organisation Hëllef um Terrain (HUT). The structure mainly accommodates families.

The experience in Schimpach shows that hosting refugees at local level can take place in a calm and constructive manner when communication with the local population is anticipated, local stakeholders are involved, and structured follow-up is ensured.

Objectives

- To inform and reassure the local population prior to the opening of the structure.
- To promote harmonious cohabitation between the local population and the residents of the accommodation structure.
- To facilitate the participation of refugees in community life.
- To ensure coordinated and sustainable operation of the accommodation structure.
- To strengthen social cohesion and promote living together.



Methods

- **Communication with residents**
 - Organisation of an information meeting combined with an open day prior to the arrival of refugees.
 - Transparent and proactive communication with the local population.
 - Involvement of the relevant institutional stakeholders (ONA, structure management, school, competent authorities – municipality and ministry).
- **Organisation and opening of the structure**
 - Opening of the structure, where possible, during school holidays, to ensure a smoother transition for all persons concerned, in particular children, schools and families.
 - Progressive and supervised occupancy, with a gradual arrival of residents, to ensure quality support, avoid overburdening the structure and the supervising staff, and facilitate residents' adaptation to the accommodation setting.
- **Operation of the structure**
 - Respect for the privacy of residents.
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- **Municipal follow-up**
 - Establishment of a municipal follow-up committee as from the opening of the structure, involving representatives of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the municipal council, the Intercultural Living Together Commission, the management and representatives of the primary school, educators from the accommodation structure (HUT), and representatives of the National Reception Office (ONA).
 - Regular meetings involving the municipality, the school, ONA, the structure management and the relevant commissions, to review the situation within the structure, at school and within village life.
- **Living together and community life**
 - Close cooperation with the primary school to support children residing in the



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accommodation structure.

- One-off projects in partnership with local associations to promote intercultural living together.
- Encouragement of children's and families' participation in associative and community life.

Budget

The main costs related to the accommodation structure are covered by the State via the National Reception Office (ONA).

The municipality's contribution is mainly limited to logistical support, coordination and the provision of municipal infrastructure. No significant structural financial burden is borne by the municipality.

Materials

- Municipal infrastructure.
- Indoor and outdoor spaces.
- Logistical equipment for meetings and occasional events.

Periodicity

- Continuous operation of the accommodation structure.
- Follow-up committee meetings: at least once per year, and more frequently if required.
- Intercultural actions and projects: occasional.

Evaluation indicators

- Feedback from residents of the accommodation structure and from village residents regarding living together.
- School participation and progress of children.
- Participation of residents of the accommodation structure in community life.



Practical advice - DO's

- Inform the local population prior to the opening of the structure.
- Organise an open day before the arrival of refugees.
- Involve all relevant stakeholders from the outset.
- Establish a municipal follow-up committee.
- Promote well-structured, one-off intercultural projects.

Practical advice - DONT's

- Open a structure without prior communication.
- Underestimate the concerns of the local population.
- Multiply long-term projects without clear ownership.
- Rely exclusively on educators to carry projects.
- Neglect administrative and organisational responsibilities.

Contact person/Possible partners

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