



Proposal from Rostock to the 79 UBC Executive Board Meeting:

In case the UBC Executive Board would decide to hold the UBC Conference on Integration of War Refugees in Our Civil Society – Goals, Challenges, Status, Outlook’ in Rostock, 12 – 14 March 2018

We propose the following ideas concerning the content to be discussed:

Draft / Introduction / Idea:

In March 2016, Rostock was host of the UBC Conference on the Impact of the European Refugees Crisis in Baltic Cities. The Conference attracted much international interest.

Now, two years have passed by, and the situation is partly different:

- 1 Due to the ongoing armed conflicts in Syria and other countries, we still have a considerable influx of refugees into Europe and so into many countries in the Baltic Sea region.
- 2 Now, two years of integration work allow an evaluation of the effectivity of the measures taken, which would be helpful for future work. Many UBC Cities have successful results to report.

Since it cannot be the solution just to park people in shelters and feed and qualify them for years with the help of tax money, solutions are badly needed to enable the newcomers to integrate by working and contributing to the society which hosted them. We cannot suppose that many of them would return to their countries soon, and, we can take it for sure that many of them would never do so.

What could cities do is to integrate them into life and, on the other side, to convince politicians to free the way from obstacles.

In Rostock these topics should be put on the table. A best practice exchange would be good. And, let’s talk about integration with the newcomers themselves, let us give them a voice.

Programme:

Monday 12 March 2018

arrivals

evening

Expat Orchestra Concert

Tuesday 13 March 2018

morning Plenary session
 workshops
noon idea fair with intercultural lunch, press conference
afternoon workshops
evening reception with intercultural programme

Wednesday 14 March 2018

morning workshops
 final plenary session with conclusions and messages, resolution
noon final datings during lunch
afternoon departures

Estimated costs: EUR 30.000,- (shared between host and UBC in a 50:50 ratio)

First ideas for Workshop themes:

- 1 - Psychological situation of refugees
 how to address them, how to help them to stabilize, how to give them hope and an aim,
 emotional disbalance due to scattered families
- 2 – Educational situation of refugees
 how to make them fit into the school system, the labour market
- 3 – Cultural situation of refugees
 new customs of social behavior, new cultural environment, unknown traditions, different idols-
 strongly influenced by the reigning beliefs and common ethical values.
- 4 – Language learning
- 5 – Awareness raising of newcomers and residents for each other
- 6 – Cities for peace – what could be done in order to take action

So it should be the **PERSON**, the **HUMAN BEING**, who is in the center of the focus!

Speakers should come from (i.a.):

- Migration organisations (international and local ones)
- Migrants themselves after having passed the first 2 years in their host country
- Local Politicians reporting their work and experience
- Parliamentarians and Politicians analyzing how cities could contribute to peace.

Further ideas, suggestions, changes, etc.. are welcome!

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