

Cultures of social participation in local communities Integration, Prevention and Participation – the development of accessible services for migrant populations

(KUSTIS - Kulturen der sozialen Teilhabe im Stadtteil – Integration, Prävention und Partizipation - niedrigschwellige Angebotsentwicklung für Migrantinnen und Migranten)

Scheduled Time

10/2011- 06/2014

Research team:

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Dr. Dieter Brinkmann, Prof. Dr. Renate Freericks (sub-project I)

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Schäfer (sub-project II)

Prof. Dr. Monika Habermann (sub-projects III and IV)

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The development, implementation and evaluation of accessible and low-threshold services for the elderly is currently an urgent challenge for the Federal States and administrative communities. This is because there are an increasing number of elderly people living in Germany.

In order to enable the elderly to remain in their own houses during old age there is a need to develop services to support them in their homes. Adequate services of counselling, support and care must be developed to secure social participation, prevent isolation and to minimise health related and psychosocial risks for the elderly and their family members.

To develop these services will require the cooperation of all the various groups that offer neighbourhood support and the elderly themselves. It will also require the input and commitment of trained volunteers. The development process for these services should be based on supplying space-related professional expertise and supporting cooperation between the organisations involved, professions and citizens. The involvement of all interested parties is crucial in order to develop and implement appropriate strategies.

How to involve elderly citizens with different ethnic backgrounds in this process is a special challenge. This project is designed to explore how to meet this challenge.

It assesses and promotes how to include elderly migrant populations in the development of services for the elderly in the Bremen suburbs of Gröpelingen and Vahr. The project has four parts:

- (Sub project I) Migrants as (potential) suppliers of voluntary workers
- (Sub project II) Elder migrants and their relatives as (potential) users of services

- (Sub project III) Barriers and support factors for necessary structures and qualifications for established service providers and informal networks that influence the targets from sub-projects 1 and 2
- (Sub project IV) Development of qualitative and quantitative indicators for the regional, nationwide and integrative development of accessible services

Project implementation

The research project will take three years (2011-2014). Qualitative surveys and the analysis of networks will be the research methodologies employed in the four sub-projects.

Expected Outcomes

On a **regional level**, the following aims and results are expected:

- Development of Information/training concepts for voluntary work within the elderly care sector with a special focus on migrant user groups (suppliers/users).
- Development and evaluation of leisure related activities using a process that considers and respects cultural differences.
- Development of guidelines for the design, implementation and evaluation of accessible/low-threshold services in intercultural settings.
- Development of qualitative and quantitative indicators for monitoring of integration.

On a **national level**, the project will contribute to the following sectors:

- It will contribute to the current re-design of the federal integration monitoring system.
- It will help schools and service organisations that are related to education, training and further education of professionals for leisure and activating services (e.g. Ergotherapists) identify how to better meet the needs of students with different cultural backgrounds.

On an **academic level**, the researchers will contribute national and international publications and presentations around the topic of intercultural approaches within the provision of health, care, social work and leisure for the elderly in the community.

Funding

Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF – Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung)

Cooperation partners

The project is supported by several project partners from political and professional backgrounds and is guided by a formal board of experts.

Contact

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