

PARTNER'S PRESENTATION

Volkshochschule (VHS) Göttingen

Germany

VHS Göttingen - Departments

- languages
- ICT
- health
- culture
- school leaving certificates
- vocational training
open offers and
third-party founded projects



VHS Göttingen

- 49 employees
- 516 tutors
- 15.000 participants (2008)
- 54.000 lessons (2008)



24th February, 2010

LIGHT – International seminar, Utrecht

Project areas

- Gender equality at work
- Vocational education and studies
- Integration into the labour market
- Employment 45plus



Projects for migrant women Integration in the 1990s

- projects for unemployed migrant women
- low qualification level: German lessons, civics, vocational orientation & preparation, internship
- approach: reduction of existing deficits



„Strengthening the strength“ since 2000

- more specific offers for different target groups
- projects for women with special attention to female migrants
- higher qualification level:
 - qualification for personal services
 - Start IT: preparation for a vocational training in the IT sector
 - Assistant for foreign trade
- approach: upgrading existing competences (language skills, intercultural competences)



Methods of social inclusion

Profile pass

awareness of own competences, esp.
informal competences

Assessment centre

testing, monitoring and giving feedback
on performance in work-related
situations

Counselling

coaching, resources- and solution-
orientated, systemic approach,
empowerment, objective agreement



Methods of social inclusion

self-learning-centre

computer based self-regulated learning, supported by specific programmes and coaches

job office

employment agency run by and for the participants

learning on the job

qualification via e.g. two days theory in VHS and three days practice in companies



Methods of social inclusion

internship

practical work placement in companies
after qualification, approx. 8 weeks

mentoring

up to now mainly used to improve the
career chances of employed women



Role Model on positive experience overcoming problems concerning migration – Raluca Maria Sirb

Success Story - Raluca Maria Sirb

- 31 years old
- nationality: Romanian
- single mother of one daughter (7 years)
- in Romania founder and owner of an agency for advertising and sales with ten employees (2000-2002)

Social exclusion in the past

- 2002: immigration to Germany and birth of her daughter
- no German language skills at all (but Romanian, English, Italian, French and Spanish)
- without German language skills almost no possibility to take care of her own affairs
- no medical insurance
- no mobility (driving licence was not accepted)
- stay-at-home mother with only few possibilities to socialise
- finding a job seemed unthinkable

The way to overcome social exclusion

- 2003: German lessons (Caritas)
- 2003: separation from husband
- 2004: co-founder of the project *Cafe Grenzenlos*, a meeting place for migrant girls and women
- 2005: German driving licence
- 2005: seminar „Setting up business“ and business plan for an international Cafe (didn't work out)
- 2005: update of documents

The way to overcome social exclusion

- 2006: half-year orientation course at VHS Göttingen
- 2006: internship as industrial business management assistant
- 2007: project „Assistant for foreign trade“ at VHS Göttingen
- 2007: internship as management assistant (foreign trade)
- 2007: training “Setting up business” at VHS Göttingen

Assistant for foreign trade

- 9 month (7 month training, 2 month internship)
- Module 1: Business Competences (European Business Competence Licence – EBCL; Foreign trade)
- Module 2: Languages (English, German, Polish)
- Module 3: Intercultural Training
- Module 4: ICT (MS Office, Internet)
- Module 5: Key competences (office and time management, organisation of conferences and fairs, communication skills)

Social inclusion now

- 2008: foundation of *Business Ro* – consulting in foreign trade (market analysis, fairs, customer acquisition, intercultural training, language services)
- 2008: advancement *Café Grenzenlos*: festival of the cultures, photo exhibition about migrant women, booklet *Café Grenzenlos* (partly done by *Business Ro*)
- 2009: *Café Grenzenlos* became Lower-Saxony winner of the integration contest “Participation and Integration of migrants by civic engagement”



www.vhs-goettingen.de