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CITIES

Migration into theatre

building bridges through dance and theater

What is the case study about?

Migration into theatre (TheaterFlucht) offers theatre and dance classes for children and young people aged between seven and 18.

Between 2013 and 2015, it functioned as a two-week summer programme. The participants - refugee children and children born in Austria - spent 14 days together, attending dance and theatre classes as well as creative and sports workshops, and working on a performance that was presented to friends and families at the end of the programme.

The project's success prompted the organisers to introduce changes in 2016. First of all, TheaterFlucht now wants to offer classes during the whole year. The aim is to give refugee children permanent access to the cultural life of society. The contacts and friendships made during this summer project can be long-lasting. That is how integration and inclusion works: people come together, work together, create together and include each other in their daily lives. Currently our team is working on funding for 2017. It is also busy finding venues for our weekly classes next year.

In 2016, we also changed our target group. From this year on, we work with girls and young women aged between ten and 18. We have learned from recent experiences that this is an especially vulnerable age group, and that young female refugees often don't have access to spaces where they feel safe and comfortable or where they are welcome. To provide space - and thereby empowerment - for girls and young women only has been a logical next step for our team.

TheaterFlucht has been built on the conviction that integration works best when people have spaces where they can meet, laugh, play theatre, be creative, dance, exchange ideas and views, express themselves in different ways and create something together. The project aims to make integration happen, rather than remaining a theoretical concept. And as children are future adults, for us working with this target group means working for a better future, one where people are open to each other and are able to respect each other in their commonalities and differences.

Vienna, Austria



Foster integration through dance and theater



TheaterFlucht Österreich was established in Vienna in 2013. Between 2013 and 2015, it functioned as a two-week summer project in August. From 2016 on, the project is expected to extend over the whole year.



TheaterFlucht Österreich, Verein zur Förderung inklusiver, interkultureller und kritischer Kunst- und Kulturprojekte. Cooperation and partners: WUK, Werkstätten und Kulturhaus Wien



€16,448.00 / €6,650.00 (Municipal Department for Integration and Diversity: €2,200.00; Women's Department: €4,450.00). Budget for year 2016

What lessons can be learned?

- Bottom-up projects matter !
- Start small and try to make your idea work, develop and grow.
- Often - especially at the beginning - it is hard to secure funding and support. But if you make your idea work and if you can show that it makes a difference, funding will follow.
- Nonetheless, a project like TheaterFlucht would never work without the amazing support of volunteers and the civil society. Together we are strong and can make the world a better place.

July 2016

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