



NRW Magazine

NRW ZUSAMMEN

Closing Event

Get a summary of what we did within the framework of the project and an interesting podium discussion

6. Edition

Alle 2 oder 3 Monate
Every 2 or 3 months

6. Auflage

Recognition of Profession

All you need to know including contact infos

Sick leave goes digital

What has changed with the "Arbeitsunfähigkeitsbescheinigung" and what next

Study as a Refugee

Find out if you can study if you come to Germany as a refugee



A magazine for people of African origin in the state of North Rhine Westphalia
Ein Magazin für Menschen afrikanischer Herkunft im Nordrhein Westfalen



An African Impulse e.V. Magazine

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Welcome to NRW Zusammen

Good day to you all readers

How time flies. It is close to 2 years now since we started this journey of Project "NRW Zusammen" with its official launching on the 27th of March 2021. On that day, we assembled a cross section of Africans from across the state of North Rhine Westphalia, Germany to introduce the project – its goals and expectations. The topic of discussion on that day was racism. Here we wanted to find out if people of African origin in the state still encountered racism. If so, how it was manifested and what could be done to combat it. Already on this date, we saw how different we are in our perception of situations based on our mindset, which is shaped by how we came into the country, the perceptions we had when coming, how we integrated into the country and what our current situation (work, study, refugee etc) is. That discussion was just an intro which would reflect the dynamic thinking of people of African origin in the coming activities carried out by the project (Virtual Rooms and online discussions, magazine articles and short video sketches). We were able to win 5 partner associations who supported us carry out some of our activities in Cologne, Mülheim an der Ruhr, Dortmund and Duisburg and also in transmitting the information to their various members in our bid to reach a large number of the African community here. At times, this was not an easy task as we realize that as time goes on, a lot of Africans operate independently, spending more time on social media, instead of favouring community activities as was the case in the past.

Our topics of discussions were diverse – we discussed mostly issues related to health, but also discussed and had workshops on improving the media competence of Africans here, acting short films with societal realities to transmit information to those who would otherwise not attend any online or presence sessions or read information we sent out through our website, magazines or newsletters. In all our activities, we always strived to be inclusive (Having touch points with diverse age groups, sex and countries of origin). In the information we sent out, we made it clear that the recommendations or discussions did not in any way represent the exact thinking of the African community but could serve as a starting point or an addition to any further discussion that could be picked up by some other persons or associations. As we close the project activities, with a closing event in the NRW town of Mülheim an der Ruhr, we are proud to look back and say thank you to all who supported us achieve what we could – over 15 online and presence discussion sessions, over 15 short video sketches, regular newsletters sent, lots of tips on how to get support from state structures both for individuals and for associations, many of our members who have learnt how to capture and produce quality pictures and videos , a dedicated website with information on our activities and those of relevance to the community, 6 NRW Magazines with targeted information to the African community.

At this point, I would also like to thank all of our members who have made enormous sacrifices these two years to ensure the success of the project. Last but not least, we would like to thank the project sponsor , without whom all these could not even be possible.

We look forward to continuing our conversation with you all, while wishing you a prosperous and healthy 2023.

Sincerely yours

Dipl. Ing. Clement Nkamanyi
President, African Impulse e.V.



Nearly two years after its start in March 2021, on Friday December 23 2022, we were able to take part in the closing ceremony of African Impulse e.V.'s project, "NRW Zusammen".

At the beginning of the year 2021, the president of African Impulse, Mr. Nkamanyi Clement announced the start of a new project called "NRW Zusammen". This roughly translates to "NRW Together", with NRW being the abbreviation for the German state of North Rhine Westphalia. The project, which was sponsored by the Federal Ministry of children, family, refugees and integration of the state of North Rhine Westphalia, was designed to run for 2 years and aimed, among other things, to

- address some of the main problems experienced by the African Community and how they can be addressed
- Improve the media skills / competence of Africans
- Improve the participation of Africans in topics relating to health in the society
- Improve the participation and access of Africans in/to matters of education within the society and also help in their orientation within the community through targeted information.

In the course of the project, various topics were addressed in online and in-person discussions - some of the results have been published in the NRW Magazine (of which there have been five Editions so far, with the last being produced this month) as well as on the project's website at www.nrw-zusammen.de.

The concluding ceremony for the project was held in the town of Mülheim an der Ruhr. The program of the day included an open discussion between a panel of guests and the audience followed by a hearty assortment of African dishes

and music.

The discussion was coordinated by Mr. Ignatius Kofete and featured the following podium guests:

- Mr. Ogbona Norbert Chukwunyere (Social Welfare Director – Mbaise Europe; Teacher and motivational speaker; Country of origin: Nigeria)
- Hon. Mrs. Elisabeth Yeboah (Kreistag Abgeordnete from Kreis Mettmann; Councilor of State in the Rattigen parliament; Country of origin: Cameroon)
- Mr. Boma Godson (Chairman of Mbaise NRW; Country of origin: Nigeria)
- Agha Augustine (President of Kudeca e.V.; Country of origin: Cameroon)
- Dipl. Ing. Clement Nka-

Project Infos - The closing Event

Project activity presentation and podium discussion

manyi (President of African Impulse e.V. ; Country of origin: Cameroon)

After a welcome note from Mr. Kofete, he introduced the topic of discussion for the day which was:

"The African Community in NRW – What are our priorities and how do we reach everyone?"

He then introduced the president of African Impulse e.V. who gave a brief history of the association and then proceeded with a Power-Point presentation which highlighted the goals of African Impulse e.V. as well as the goals of the project NRW Zusammen. Among the notable goals of the project were:

- Combating misinformation in the digital age
- Enhancing intercultural communication and understanding in order to reduce racism
- Creating a space for dialogue among parents as well as with their children
- To increase media competence of migrants
- Providing information about health issues relevant to African migrants
- Publishing magazines with relevant information concerning the topics discussed during the project events.

The president reiterated that through this project the African Impulse e.V. aimed at strengthening the social cohesion of Africans in the state during COVID 19 and post COVID 19 times. An important component of the project being its conceptual reciprocity – where parents would acquire more competence in electronic media through younger people, while young people, for example, learned societal values and life experience. This would also promote their mutual appreciation through exchange of knowledge. The project provided targeted information, especially in the field of education and health. This information was transmitted through monthly virtual rooms and workshops as well as through various communication channels (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter) and the NRW Magazine.

Mr. Nkamanyi pointed out that as a result of the project, all those who had taken part in the media competence workshops were now able to, not only shoot high quality videos, but also to edit the videos using programs like Adobe-Software-Suite. All videos produced can be viewed on the project website <https://www.nrw-zusammen.de/> as well as on YouTube. At this point he thanked a group of African teenagers who were present, for their role in creating the videos. They have a YouTube channel called Candy Cartel and produce videos, some of which address issues facing migrant kids.

After his presentation the coordinator, Mr. Kofete introduced the podium guests and called them up to the podium. Mr. Kofete informed the audience that the discussion was intended to be an open one and that participants could ask questions or add ideas at any time.

The podium members took turns to briefly highlight their backgrounds and to shed light on the topic of discussion.

Considering the myriad of problems facing Africans in NRW, it was important to pinpoint the most important ones upon which to focus the discussion. In this initial introduction, a few key topics were identified and later expanded upon.

1. The need for better parenting.
2. Discouraging some parents from relying on social welfare aid.
3. Teaching our culture and language to children with pride.
4. Recognizing Germany as our home and not as simply an intermediate stop.
5. Address the lack of will of Africans to engage in political discourse

On the topic of parenting, it was unanimously agreed upon by both the podium members and the audience that parents need to play a more pro-active role in the lives of their children. This means being actively involved in their day-to-day activities at school, being informed about their struggles, their fears and their needs. This only works when parents actively talk to their kids and listen to what the kids say. An audience member pointed out that parents also need to stop selfishly trying to push kids into professions which the kids do not want, simply for prestige. A member of the teenage YouTube channel Candy Cartel pointed out that even though parents need to listen to, and respect the wishes of children, it is sometimes right for parents to maintain their parental control and override the wishes of children if these wishes are detrimental to their future.

Mr. Chukwunyere lamented the fact that some Africans come to Germany and don't want to work, but rather to stay at home and receive social aid. He pointed out that this sets a bad example for children and is detrimental to the parents in the long run. Mr. Godson Boma advised



Project Infos - The closing Event

Podium discussion - What priority for the African Community and how do we reach all

parents to have courage learn a new profession. Giving himself as an example, he detailed that he was able to leave his job as a warehouse worker and ascend into the field of data analysis by daring to learn something else. He said that there are opportunities for vocational training (Ausbildung in German) and parents should be encouraged to step up their financial status by making use of these professions. He pointed out that this also fills the children with pride. Mr. Nkamanyi implored on Africans here to take advantage of technological advances which are changing the job landscape and the way we work. He called on them to leave their comfort zones, drop fear and learn new skills especially those which are digitally inclined as most of the work in the future would be digital and it might not be as difficult to learn as they might think. With this change, they might easily find more rewarding jobs. He made a comparison to other countries he has visited and interacted with like the USA and UK where people of African origin are moving faster into the middle class by taking advantage of IT related training and jobs.



Teaching our language and culture to our African children was identified as one of the most important ways to keep children connected to their roots and ancestral land. The example was brought up of parents who, though they could not speak good German, insisted on speaking this "broken German" with their children instead of speaking their dialect or English (or French) with the children. It was noted that children learn languages much faster than adults and the children will learn German in school, even if they speak another language at home with their parents. Speaking the language of their parents not only enables children to stay connected to family members back home, but also helps them to understand, accept and be proud of their heritage. An audience member pointed out that, for those who do not speak their ancestral dialect, they could also choose to teach their children pidgin English, since this is the closest thing some parents have to an ancestral dialect and is the first language many parents learned in their countries of origin.

The next problem which was identified was the fact that many Africans do not make plans for their future in Germany because they believe they will leave and go back home or to another country soon. They hence suddenly discover that having grown old in a country they thought would be a temporary stop on their journey. In the past months we have seen more and more Africans dying and being buried here. This has caused many to realize that Germany should be considered as home because we might not be going back as some of us thought. It would be best to invest in our wellbeing and recreation here and invest in making Germany home. More Africans need to understand that this stop may be permanent and make necessary plans for a more stable future in Germany.

A lack of interest in politics is having an adverse effect on the African communities in Germany, according to Hon. Mrs. Yeboah. Unlike the Turks, many African communities do not have a representative at the political table who could defend their interests. She pointed out with frustration that even after intense dialogue with many Africans, this lack of interests seems to linger. As an example, she pointed out that there is an absolute lack of interest in voting during elections. Even after her campaign went door to door to encourage African to go out and vote, those they spoke to still didn't show up. Even when a taxi was sent to collect them on Election Day, many told the taxi driver to go ahead, and they will follow shortly behind, but just ended up staying at home. She pointed that many Africans just want the German passport but don't seem willing to integrate fully into the German society.

An audience member asked what concrete steps a person needs to take to enter politics. Mr. Agha shed some light on his attempt to enter politics. He expressed frustration at the lack of support from Africans, indicating that this was one of the reasons why he ultimately abandoned the goal.



Project Infos - The closing Event

Podium discussion - What priority for the African Community and how do we reach all

Honorable Mr. Kenethe Najeme, a member of a local parliament in the city of Essen who was present in the audience agreed that Africans do not support their own African candidates, but said this should not dissuade anyone seeking to be active in politics. This sentiment was echoed by Hon. Mrs. Yeboah who seized the opportunity to tell the teenagers present that they are the future and should not be afraid to enter the political arena in order to play an active role in shaping the future of Germany.

An important problem which was identified was the need to create channels to disseminate information to the African community. The podium members agreed that a good way to disseminate information to Africans would be by engaging with the leaders of the various African associations and NGOs. The idea was raised that if the leaders of the various associations could have the chance to sit together and discuss solutions to problems facing their members they could then take this information back to their own members and by so doing, spread the information into the community. Hon. Yeboah said that she would work to bring the different heads of African associations together.

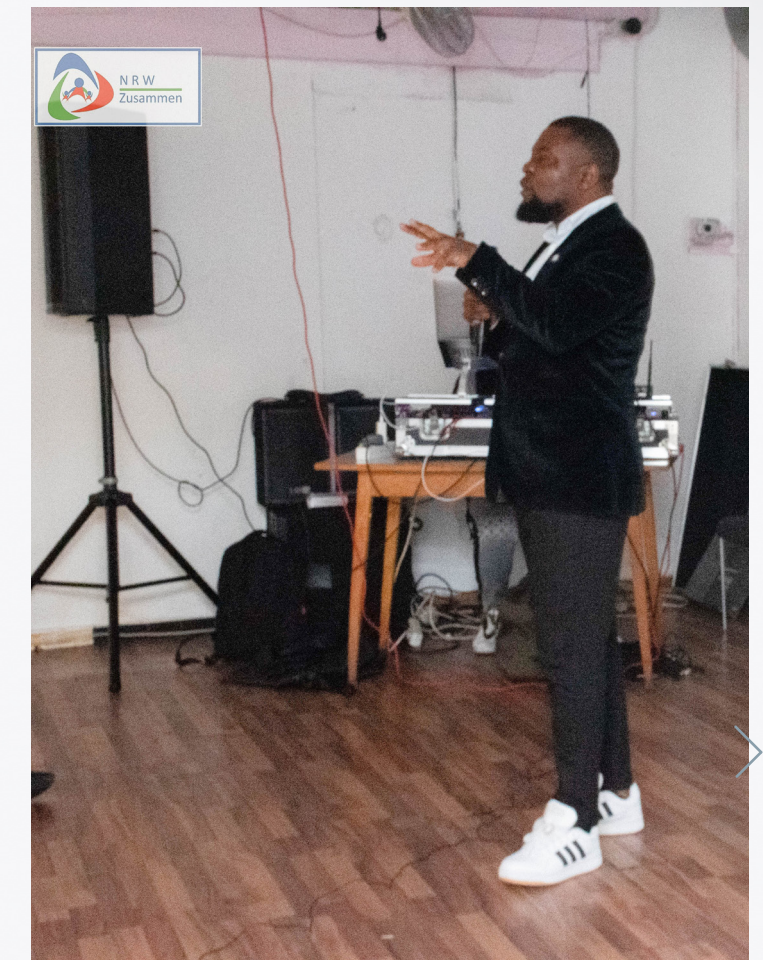
The open discussion ended with Mr. Nkamanyi noting with sadness that the project NRW Zusammen did not garner as much traction and interest in the African community as intended. He acknowledged the fact that Covid-19 pandemic could have played a role in the lackluster reception of the project but vowed to work harder to reach more Africans in future projects.



In his closing remark, the president took the opportunity to thank all who in some way contributed to the success of the project. In particular he thanked all project partners (Club 16 e.V. Cologne, Kudeca e.V Wuppertal, Mülheim United e.V. , MisAD Church Dortmund, Afcopa e.V), all

who participated in the virtual rooms these years, all who sacrificed time to act and make the short informative videos, all who helped in providing information for the NRW magazine and all African Impulse e.V. members for their enormous sacrifices and sleepless nights. A special thank also was said to the state of NRW through the Federal Ministry of children, family, refugees and integration of the state of North Rhine Westphalia for sponsoring the project.

The project was concluded with an assortment of delicious African dishes like juicy turkey wings, fried rice, fish rolls, drinks and wonderful music from the DJ.



THE PROJECT - HOW IT ALL WENT

27.03.2021 | ONLINE

Opening ceremony and discussions on topic "Have you been a victim of racism? How did you go about it? How should we go about it?"

29.05.2021 | ONLINE

Online workshop on the topic "Female Health: The importance of regular gynecological visits, most common cancers affecting women and other health concerns"

24.07.2021 | ONLINE

Virtual Room discussion on "Mental Health"

24.08.2021 | ONLINE

Virtual Room discussion on "Should we take the Covid 19 Vaccine?"

22.10.2021 | ONLINE

Virtual Room discussion on "Wellness and psychological hygiene for people of African origin"

05.11.2021 | ONLINE

Presence workshop with Mülheim United e.V. on the topic "Cardiovascular diseases"

02.12.2021 | ONLINE

Online workshop "State funding for families"

16.12.2021 | ONLINE

Virtual room. We rounded up the year by taking a look into "Covid 19 and its consequences on African families in NRW"

30.01.2022 | ONLINE

Online media competence training on the topic "Fake News and its consequences to our society"

22.02.2022 | ONLINE

Virtual Room discussion on the topic "How can Africans in NRW support one another in progressing and general growth"

20.05.2022 | ONLINE

Virtual Room discussion on the topic "The situation of African refugees in NRW. Has anything changed since the beginning of the war in Ukraine?"

26.05.2022 | ONLINE

Presence workshop with Club 16 e.V. on the topic "How our cultural background influences our integration into the German society"

30.09.2022 | ONLINE

Online workshop on the topic "Parenting for people of African descent in Germany"

21.10.2022 | ONLINE

Online workshop on the topic "Conflict management in our African community"

13.11.2022 | DORTMUND

Presence workshop with Misad Church e.V. on the topic "Health education and disease prevention in African church communities"

03.12.2022 | MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR

Presence workshop with Kudeca e.V. on the topic "Food consumption and lifestyle and their impact on cardiovascular diseases"

21.12.2022 | ONLINE

Online media competence training on the topic "Internet security for the African family"

23.12.2022 | MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR

Closing ceremony with project partners and discussion on topic "The African community in NRW. What priorities do we focus on and how do we reach all?"

In addition, throughout both years, we held several video acting sessions in Duisburg and trained our members on producing short films. You can find some of the results or summaries of our discussions on our website and/or in the NRW Magazines.





CLOSING EVENT IN PICTURES



Digital sick leave From 01.01.2023

In the past, if you went to the hospital and had sick leave from work, you would be issued 3 attestations.

- An attestation for the statutory health insurance company
- An attestation for the employer
- An attestation for yourself as an insured person

As of January 1, 2023, there will now be a complete switch to an electronic sick leave from work (eAU). When you have a sick leave, the medical practice shall transmit your name, the start and end of the incapacity to work and a note if it is a first case or follow up case as well as indicating if it was an accident at work. Your employer would have to access that electronic system to retrieve your sick leave. With this measure, employees are relieved from the task of submitting these documents to their employers and their insurance company. You do not have to do this again.

If you are given sick leave by the doctor treating you, you will only receive the paper printout for your records. In the course of the next year it might be possible for you to have your copy saved in the electronic patient file.

It is still possible though that not all employers will have the capability to retrieve the information electronically from January 2023 and may still require submission of these documents.

It should be noted that these measures apply at the moment only for statutory health insured persons. Nothing will change for those who are privately insured and those entitled to benefits. They will continue to receive their sick leave attestations in paper form and must send them to their employer and the private health insurance or benefit agency themselves. This applies too to mini-jobbers in private households and for sick children of employees.

So, with this, do you still need to report to you employer that you are sick. The answer is YES. Please, do checkout the regulations of sick leave for your company. If you are sick, you must, as before, inform your employer immediately that you are absent due to illness.

Employees are generally obliged to submit the attestation of sick leave to the employer from the 4th day of their incapacity to work (§ 5 EZFG). However, the employer may even request an attestation on the first day. It is therefore important that you inform your employer in good time that you have been given sick leave by your doctor. This way your employer will then checkout the attestation electronically from your health insurance company.

Source: <https://www.verbraucherzentrale.de/wissen/gesundheitspflege/digitale-krankschreibung-elektronische-arbeitsunfaehigkeitsbescheinigung-65488>



ANERKENNUNG IN DEUTSCHLAND

Recognition of Profession in Germany



We have encountered situations in our community where people say they are unable to work in the professions they trained for in their countries of origin because they do not have the right or required certificates which will allow them to continue exercising the profession they were doing in their home country or to continue further studies or training with those certificates. The African Impulse project "NRW Zusammen" team took up this responsibility to find out what the state of affairs is and to disclose this information to the community. Lucky enough, the president of African Impulse e.V, Dipl. Ing. Clement Nkamanyi has at one time been an adviser with IQ Network NRW on helping Africans with recognition of their professions.

To begin with, what does recognition of a profession mean?

Recognition of a profession means you have a foreign professional qualification which is legally recognized as equivalent to a German professional qualification. In order to have this recognition however, you must go through a recognition procedure. On completion of the procedure, you will receive an official notification which states whether your professional qualification is recognized in Germany. It should be noted that the recognition is always for a specific German occupation, the so-called reference occupation. Please note that in Germany, the Federal Recognition Act and laws in the federal states grants you the right to this recognition procedure. No one can stop you from doing so... And, you can also apply for recognition from your home country.

To be able to start the procedure for recognition, a few conditions first

have to be fulfilled:

1. *You want to work in Germany.*
2. *You have acquired a foreign state or state-recognized professional qualification.*
3. *You can prove your professional qualification with a diploma or certificate.*

Once these conditions are fulfilled, the competent authorities for the recognition would compare your qualification with that of Germany, taking into consideration your professional experience and other qualifications. It may occur that you have lost your certificate or cannot show proof of it. In this case the com-

NRW Infos

petent authority might still carry out the procedure by actually testing you through some work in the field.

In any case, if you are not sure on how to go about the procedure or what you might need, there are state counselling offices which can help you with more information or even prepare you and your documents for the procedure. You can find such counselling services through the following link <https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/hinweise-zur-beratung.php>.

It should be noted that the recognition is not mandatory for all professions. For certain professions it is a must. But for professions where the recognition is voluntary, it might still be advantageous for you to do the recognition as you receive an official notification in German from the competent authority which can be helpful when applying for a job as employers can recognize your skills and knowledge immediately and this might even help you negotiate a better salary. But how do you know for which profession, the recognition is mandatory, you might ask. The answer lies in your country of origin and also on whether the profession is regulated.

There are certain regulated professions (Being a doctor, teacher, engineer, safety, social affairs etc) where you need to have a specific professional qualification and perhaps meet other requirements. There is a legal regulation for this. In these cases, you must do the recognition except perhaps you are a legal resident in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland and want to work occasionally in Germany without recognition. In this case, you still need to report this to the competent authority beforehand.

Confused? Let us make it clearer. If you already live in Germany, then you need the recognition to work in a regulated profession.

However, if you live in a country out of the EU/EEA and Switzerland, then if you are coming to Germany to work, you must fulfil one of the following requirements:

- *You have received recognition of your professional qualification.*
- *Your university degree is recognized as comparable in Germany,*
- *You have a certificate for your university degree.*

Non-regulated professions like mechanics, clerks etc are not legally protected and do not require you to have a recognition of your profession to work.

The recognition procedure can cost up to 600 euros, in some cases even more. There are often additional costs for translations, certifications, compensatory measures or adjustment qualifications. Travel expenses may also arise if you have to fetch documents personally from your country of origin. You may be able to get financial support through the Federal Employment Agency or some other sources.

For further information check out the official website of "Recognition in Germany" website through this link <https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/>.

You can also directly watch a video explanation in YouTube here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGsrCL2AvT8&t=11s>.

Another source of information and where you could find some trained people from different cultures who can help you can be found at <https://www.iq-netzwerk-nrw.de/angebote/anerkennungsberatung>

The hotline below

+49 30 1815 - 1111

can answer your questions on the following topics in German and English:

- Recognition of foreign professional qualifications
- Job search and occupation
- Entry and stay in Germany
- Learning German

The hotline is available Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Central European Time)

Your NRW Zusammen team

Hinweise zur Beratung

Bevor Sie die Anerkennung beantragen, sollten Sie sich beraten lassen. Dazu gibt es Angebote in Deutschland und im Ausland.



Study in Germany as a Refugee



General Information on the possibility of studying in Germany as a refugee

Did you know that refugees or people with a refugee background are allowed to study at German universities? If you have a recognized asylum status – that is you are granted a decision which entitle you to asylum or grants you refugee protection, etc, then you are good to go. Even if your asylum procedure is still being processed or if you only have a toleration status. Do not be held back because you have no or incomplete documents about your previous education – you still have opportunities to study at a German university. Depending on the federal state and university, you might, in such a case have to go through one of the following paths:

- A step by step process, e.g. through interviews
- An Admission and/or assessment and/or placement test
- A case-by-case assessment
- Insurance “in lieu of an oath”.

There are various ways of applying for a place at a German university. How you apply depends on your chosen field of study and your country of origin. Check out this link to find out more <https://www.study-in-germany.de/de/studium-planen/vorbereitungen/bewerbung/>

ADVISING SERVICES

There is an Internal Office at the university in your city to get more information. They help you with a bunch of things (suitable degree, certification) and there are even some counsellors that focus only on refugees. The counselling sessions are free of charge and in total there are 21 advising offices throughout Germany. Appointments can be made on their website (University Guarantee Fund). The DAAD is something you should look at as a refugee. It offers different measures for people with a refugee background.

FINANCING YOUR STUDIES

Studying in Germany is very cheap. At most you will have low tuition fees. The majority of German higher education institutions are funded by the state. So in comparison to other countries tuition fees are not very high, as you are almost only charged for certain Master's programs. When it comes to scholarships many different organizations, universities etc. offer them but there is no actual database where to search for suitable funding opportunities. So just call the institution you'd like to study in and ask directly about financial support.

LANGUAGE COURSES

We are in Germany. Expect most of your study to be in German although you might find some, at for example Masters degree level in English. Most fields of study require a minimum level of German. Of course the quality of your language skills also plays a role. There are six levels: from beginner level A1 to the highly advanced level C2. So instead of just being thrown in the cold water you can test yourself on “The Goethe-Institut” website and immediately get a result. For an even more precise result you can use the test onSET-Deutsch (formerly onDaF), some universities offer it for free. The website <https://www.study-in-germany.de> provides links to institutions which offer language courses.

Every person in Germany who receives financial support from the government should know about Hartz IV (Arbeitslosengeld II). In any case, this is a type of financial assistance in Germany - a form of unemployment benefit. But not everyone can receive this type of benefit. You only receive such benefit if you have no money, no property, no savings and no private pension.

It is existential for those who receive this support. The question however is, is this amount of money enough for anyone in their situation to cover the basic costs of living a normal life? One could argue about this. We all know how the economic situation in the world and Germany in particular has become very difficult in the past years. Just out of the Covid 19 lockdowns, the world is confronted with the war in Ukraine which has pushed energy and commodity prices up, leading to high inflation and a higher cost of living. Life has become expensive. For Hartz IV recipients, life would be very difficult if they would continue to receive the same amount of money. The federal government realized this and reacted by coming up with relief measures to support its citizens. Part of this reform is the overhauling of the social system by implementing major social income reforms to protect the unemployed and their wellbeing. In this light, the “Bürgergeld” or “Citizen income” was born to replace HARTZ IV..

Concretely, this means, as from Jan 1. 2023, citizens of Germany shall be entitled to Bürgergeld. It is intended to enable people to participate in society and respect the dignity of the individual. Receiving this money will be tied to certain requirements.

- The standard rate shall be €502 per month for a single adult. In addition €451 shall be paid to married or non-marital partners who live in a cohabitation. Children up to 5 years old shall get €318, from 6-13 get €348 and from 14 to 17 get €420. Allowances for the income of pupils and students will increase to €520 euros. Allowances for trainees will be increase.
- In the first two years of receiving the BürgerGeld, recipients of benefits would be allowed to stay in their homes. So, housing costs (accommodation costs) shall not be assessed when checking if you can get the benefit. In addition, assets of up to €60.000 shall not be factored into the calculations for the first two years.
- To discourage citizens from being lazy, reception of this money is tied to a short period of grace as the government wants beneficiaries to concentrate on looking for work. There is so-called a waiting period in the first year of receiving basic income benefit.
- You do not just get this benefit. You have to apply for it. The application must be submitted to the competent authority. This is usually the “Stadtverwaltung” oder “Gemeindeverwaltung”. No longer the Job Centers.
- The previous integration agreement shall be replaced by a cooperation plan that will be drawn up jointly by the beneficiaries and integration specialists.
- The so-called placement priority in workplace is to be abolished. Instead, low-skilled workers shall receive support for further vocational training to enable them have easy access to the skills needed by the labor market.
- Comprehensive support (coaching) shall be provided to those entitled to benefits but who have certain difficulties in taking up work due to a variety of individual problems.
- Sanctions shall be based on a three-step system in the future.
- A breach of the regulations will lead to a reduction of 10 percent basic income in the first month, 20 percent for 2 months and 30 percent for 3 months, respectively. A reduction in support may not be made if it leads to exceptional hardship for a particular individual.



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