

Newsletter:
International Community of Integration (ICoI) e. V.
November 2018



International Community
of Integration

Dear supporters and friends of ICoI,

Recently we had a very interesting conversation with a young Afghan who has been living in Germany for about three years. He told us how he was captured by the Taliban when he was a teenager in his hometown in Afghanistan. On a certain day in captivity curiosity seized him and he started to question the Taliban's approach. He wanted to know from his overseer why he acts so brutally to try to create peace and freedom in his country. He went on to ask further about the sense behind his actions and whether it is in fact consistent with what the Koran and the Muslim faith is teaching them. Don't they both believe in the same thing? He was able to find out a few things about him. As the questions went deeper, however, he was clearly made to understand that the conversation is over now.

We too often question the sense of particular actions from different people. Further, we have found it useless to take shortcuts on violence and war when you want to achieve reconciliation, peace, and freedom. The detour through many discussions, compromises, and peaceful agreements is indispensable. With war, much may be achieved quickly, but just as quickly, much more will be destroyed. Reconciliation brings exactly the peace that so many people worldwide are longing for.

Our capacities are fully exploited and support comes from abroad

In Germany it has become more time-consuming for us to cultivate friendships with refugees and to build up new friendships, as most of the refugees have settle down. On the other hand it is nice to see that some refugees grab the chance to make an apprenticeship, to improve their German language skills, and even to start studying in individual cases because these are very important components of successful integration in Germany.

As chairpersons we had over 200 appointments alone in Germany last year. Roberto from Brazil (a gifted puppeteer) was again with us three times. Since this year he is the "Executive Director of Sports and Arts" of ICoI and thus responsible for the artistic, sporting, and also musical side which facilitates the access to different cultures.

We also had Raul and Cassiano from Peru and Brazil for three months with us who have built up friendships with the young refugees as they are young adults themselves. In addition we had 6 more volunteers from Brazil, Hong Kong, USA, and Venezuela as short-termers with us. Their work has been helping us a lot and is fundamental to continue to work on our vision by reaching, comforting, and encouraging people. Without their help the work would not be possible!

In Gambia things are getting more and more concrete

Four students of the university group "Engineers without Borders (EWB)" from the University KIT in Karlsruhe were together with us in Gambia in September 2018. The goal was to get an impression of the country and to look for possibilities on how to implement the project idea we previously created. The idea is to improve the working situation of a community garden in a village in Gambia together with 1000 local people. This includes drilling a solar-powered fountain and building a water system to better water the approximately 4ha garden. In addition, ideas about suitable cooling options and other necessary components are in discussion. Besides many talks with different companies, locals, politicians from the Parliament, other NGOs and many more development workers, we have been able to experience very impressive weeks.

With this project we hope to provide more opportunities for people to stay in their home country and not choose the dangerous route across the Mediterranean. We really like to support the Gambia with our vision and our partners and we are happy that this can reduce the reasons of flight.

The Middle East is still on our hearts

In addition to Africa we are also active in other countries, especially in the Middle East and we continue to work on building sustainable partnerships to help creating peace. In the next few weeks we are travelling to Damascus, Syria and to a refugee camp to Lesbos, Greece. There we want to get to know another starting point and also the middle of the journey where many friends of us went through. We don't want to get tired of empathy, so next year we plan to go to Northern Iraq/Kurdistan more often to get in touch with children in refugee camps in particular. Also we plan to go to Kabul, Afghanistan again to strengthen our networks and to continue to partner and work on creating a peaceful environment in one of the worlds most terrorized cities.

Everything depends on employees and finances

We are thankful for every volunteer and employee who was working together with us so far. More than ever, we are currently looking for relationship-oriented and culturally experienced people who enjoy spending a colorful life with different nations. Challenging tasks and many experiences await you whereby your own limits can be overcome on a daily basis. We will not slow you down but rather support and push you because wherever God makes something possible, we don't want to stand in the way but try to implement his great ideas. If you are interested in working together with us please feel free to contact us!

Many ideas also need many finances. You are more than welcome to donate to us and thus participate in how peace comes to the people all over the world!

Bank account:
Name of the bank: VR Miba
IBAN: DE60 6656 2300 0075 6500 00
BIC: GENODE61IFF

Incidentally there are even more pictures on www.icoi.info!