



TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
DRESDEN



Dresden.  
DIE STADT

## **Dresden's Integrated Action Plan Overcoming the lack of community cohesion**

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## 1. Introduction about Arrival City and context of situation in Dresden and aim of project

Arrival Cities is an action planning network within the URBACT which is a European exchange and learning programme supporting sustainable urban development. The URBACT programme helps cities to develop pragmatic solutions to common policy challenges by working together. The Arrival Cities network is focused on the challenge of managing global migration flows at a local level. The project aims to foster migrants' social inclusion sharing good practices between the 10 partners led by the Municipality of Amadora in Portugal: • Thessaloniki, Greece • Riga, Latvia • Messina, Italy • Roquetas de Mar, Spain • Vantaa, Finland • **Dresden, Germany** • Val-de-Marne, France • Oldenburg, Germany • Patras, Greece



### 1.1. Introduction:

The City of Dresden is a medium sized city in the East of Germany in the *Land* (region) of Saxony with a population of 557 098<sup>1</sup> inhabitants on an area of 328,48 square kilometres. In terms of population Dresden is the 12th largest city in Germany. 3,8<sup>2</sup> % of the present population in Dresden are Germans with a migrant background. Most of these migrants originate from the Russian Federation, China, Poland, Vietnam and Ukraine and to a lesser extent from Czech Republic, Italy, Turkey, and India.<sup>3</sup> 6,8 % of the present population of Dresden are of foreign nationality.<sup>4</sup> Foreigners and migrants make up 10,6 % of the Dresden population.

The refugee and migration challenge of the last years has also impacted the City of Dresden as many other cities in Europe and beyond. Since January 2015, the federal government allocated 3350 people to the city of Dresden, a number that has grown up to just over 5000 over the coming year. Countries of origin are Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Kosovo.<sup>5</sup> Hosting and integrating this large number of people makes the City of Dresden an arrival city. Specifically the shift from 2014 to now is meant. Dresden has always been an arrival city.

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<sup>1</sup> as of 31/12/2017

<sup>2</sup> KommunaleStatistikstelle Dresden - as of 31/12/2016

<sup>3</sup> Konzept zur Integration von Menschen mit Migrationshintergrund 2015 bis 2020 (Integration report)

[https://www.dresden.de/media/bilder/auslaender/Integrationskonzept\\_aktuell\\_nach\\_Beschluss.pdf](https://www.dresden.de/media/bilder/auslaender/Integrationskonzept_aktuell_nach_Beschluss.pdf), page 14 (data as of 2013)

<sup>4</sup> KommunaleStatistikstelle Dresden - as of 31/12/2016

<sup>5</sup> Press Release City of Dresden, 8 December 2015

## **1.2. Asylum policy on German National level - Short Overview:**

Germany has been a prime destination for refugees over the last years, most of German cities and communities have thus become arrival cities and communities.

In order to cope with the influx of migrants and refugees Germany is applying a distribution quota system among its federal entities, the *Länder*, the so-called “Königstein Quota System”: Within Germany, a quota is calculated in relation to each *Land* which combines total tax revenues and population numbers. The underlying idea is that poorer *Länder* should not bear the same burden as equally populous, but comparatively richer *Länder*.

The allocation and the general asylum process is performed by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). It determines whether an asylum seeker is to be granted asylum, refugee protection or subsidiary protection, or whether his/her asylum application is to be rejected.

When refugees and asylum seekers come to Germany, they are initially housed and looked after at reception centres. The BAMF is allocating refugees to the authority responsible for initial reception.

The reception centres in Saxony are run by the state government, in cooperation with the three large aid organisations DRK Sachsen, Malteser, and Johanniter. Until summer 2015, there was only one such centre in Chemnitz. Due to the increasing influx of refugees, another was opened in Leipzig, and several temporary accommodation facilities set up throughout Saxony.

After leaving the initial reception centres, the asylum seekers are distributed across the municipalities, which are responsible for providing further housing and care for these people until the asylum process is complete. Due to the high financial costs associated with this, the Saxon government has decided to grant the districts and independent municipalities 43 million Euros to assist with looking after and housing asylum seekers, and providing repatriation counselling, for 2015.

## **1.3. Key challenges for local level in the City of Dresden:**

The City of Dresden has been allocated over 9000 refugees over a period of 4 years (2014-2018). Provision of shelter, food and first aid/medical assistance has been a major short-term challenge for the municipality, particularly in 2015. Given that multiple actors are involved in the governance of migrant (refugee) integration, coordination and effective cooperation between various governance levels (federal, regional and local) as well as inter-institutional coordination at city level has been a challenge in the first months of 2015 and 2016. While it was possible to set in place a well-functioning governance system, the long-term integration of migrants and refugees into economic and social life has been and is a major priority and task for the City of Dresden in the current period. Following key challenges can be identified:

**Data:**

Along with the quick but steady influx of new migrants, data on educational background, qualifications and skills is not easily available. In order to start with skills and needs matching process, a profiling of existing qualifications and skills must be ensured. Given that some of the migrants/refugees are potentially moving again to another city or local community, data collection and dissemination is becoming even more difficult and complex.

**Language and education:**

Education is a key for successful integration. Language barriers and intercultural communication in general are key challenges for an efficient and easy communication between migrants/refugees and local social or administrative workers impacting the integration process even more. Language instruction, training, recognition of foreign credentials, and job skill-matching are main instruments to increase labour market integration success.

Dresden has aligned its education and training services to provide access to school education, special language classes, adult education offers as well as opportunities to gain post-secondary diplomas from the earliest possible moment of arrival in Dresden. A specific information and advisory bureau for recognition of diplomas and qualifications has been established (IBAS). Yet, efforts need to be stepped up in order to increase language learning facilities in particular for newly arriving refugees. It will still be a challenge to provide equal opportunities for everyone, and in particular for migrants with families/children or older ones.

**Integration into the local labour market:**

Dresden's labour market for less skilled workers is less developed compared to neighbouring cities in Saxony such as Leipzig. This has consequences for Dresden's migrants coming with less qualifications requiring special attention from Dresden's employment and labour market specialists and policy makers. The labour market of the City of Dresden is dominated by a highly skilled workforce that is attracted and employed amongst others by Dresden's manufacturing and high-tech sectors. Thus there is a need of highly educated staff.

**Acceptance by host society and anti-immigration movement:**

Accommodating a larger number of foreign nationals into local society is affecting local administration, business, science and education sectors, and last but not least it affects local social and political cohesion. Whereas the proportion of migrants coming to Dresden has been steadily growing over the past decades, the concentrated influx of a large group of refugees during a short period of time has split the local population in the City of Dresden.

While a large part of the population became active as volunteers helping to overcome the first crisis, another part of the population felt threatened and rejected overall German migration policy. Weekly anti-Islam and anti-migration protest movements developed into large scale regular demonstrations gathering at the peak of the refugee crisis in 2015 around 20 000 people.

While the rhetoric has become increasingly extreme and violent, the important and decisive role of social media in mobilising citizens and expressing resentment and hate could be observed. Those demonstrations have been highly mediated in and outside Germany, contributing to a negative reputation of the City of Dresden.

While there are many causes for unsatisfaction, the refugee crisis has split the local population of the City of Dresden in an unprecedented way.

#### **1.4 Arrival Cities project and social cohesion in the city:**

One of the key issues for the city of Dresden is to **overcome the increased lack of community cohesion** that has been rising with the increase of migration/refugee population in Dresden. Harnessing the diversity and creativity of the incoming population on the one hand, while ensuring security, social order and local values on the other hand, is one of the key challenges and key task for Dresden's political, administrative and academic leadership as well as its local society in general for the coming years.

The arrival of a new population groups with different cultural backgrounds and value systems and the coexistence with the local population are key aspects of current city life in the city of Dresden. While many refugees took the opportunity to later leave the city, more and more refugees are planning to stay making Dresden an Arrival City. The University of the City of Dresden, the City of Dresden and many other stakeholders have therefore taken up the issue of social cohesion as a key challenge to tackle over the coming years. The joined efforts brought together different stakeholders that started to work together in the context of the URBACT III project Arrival cities in a local action group.

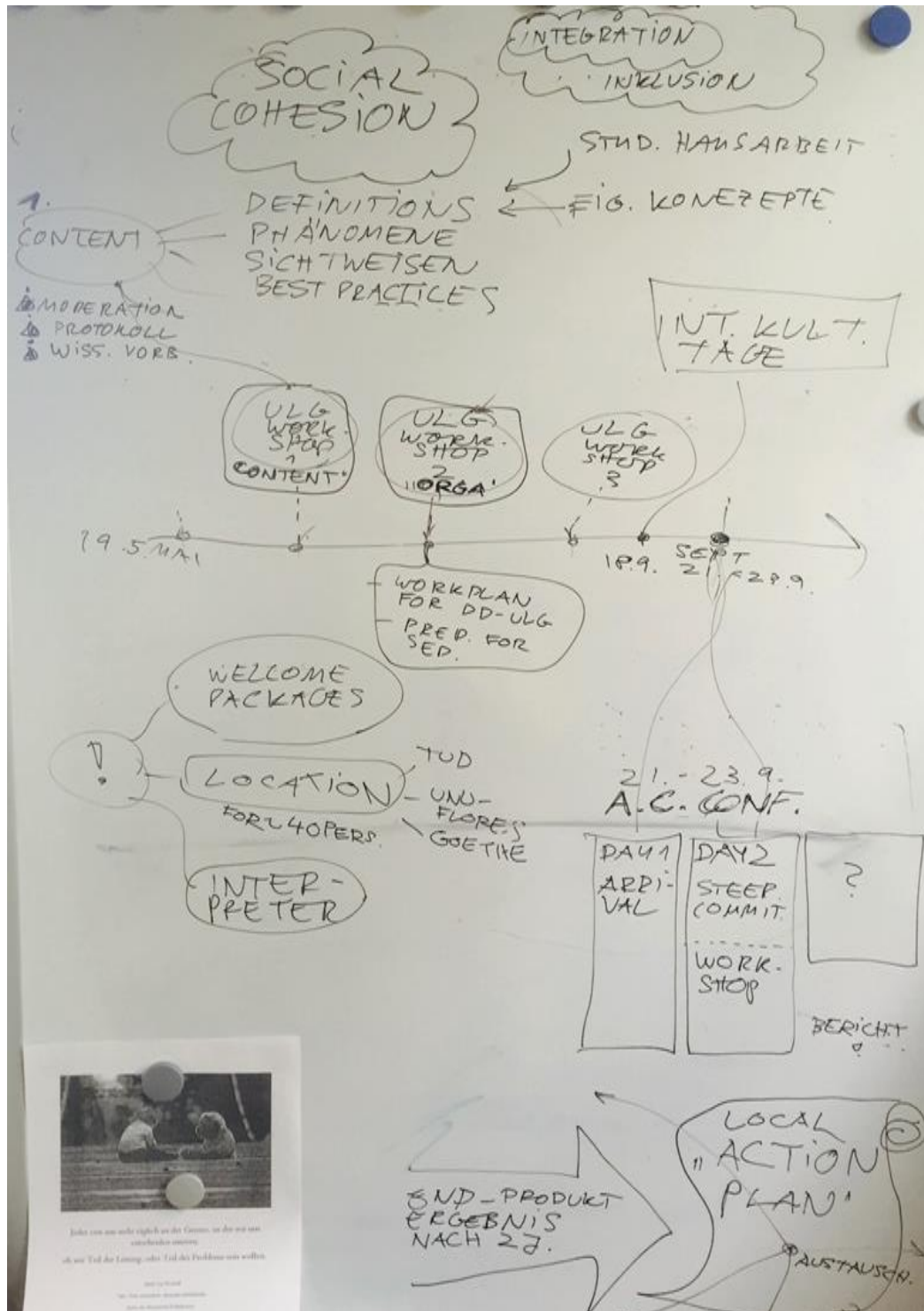
For a long time Dresden is well known as the city for science and research, many students all over the world pursue their education or research at Technical University of Dresden or other institutes and research Centers. Recently and due to huge waves of migrants towards Europe, Dresden has received a considerable number of migrants and asylum seekers. Most of Dresdner people are not familiar with new situation in the city. Different languages spoken in transportation, head scarf, differs culture attitudes are some examples of new situation in the city. Instead of being *transitional city* where several students or researchers are getting back once accomplishing their missions, it has become an *arrival city* for a considerable group of people. As a result of that, Dresden society is suffering from social polarization.

## **2: Methodology of Integrated Action Plan (IAP)**

This section is about explaining the process the Urban Local Group (ULG) have lived through over the last 2 ¼ years. It tries to show the the methods and efforts been carried out in order to process a good way of participation of the various stakeholders in Dresden.

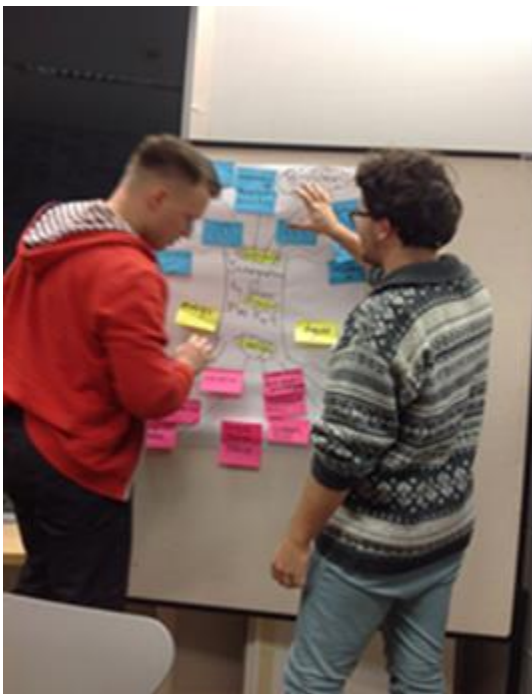
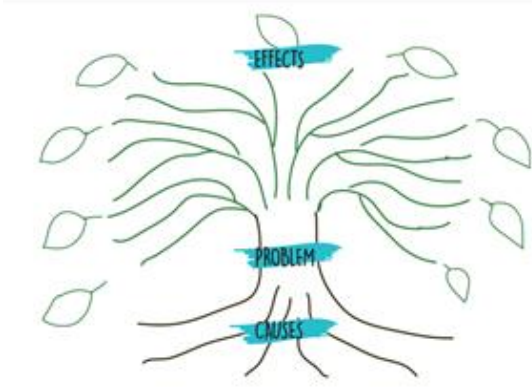
The Urban Local Group ULG was created and held several meetings aiming to 1.) to build a local group joining work forces under the umbrella of arrivals and refugees issues, 2.)

to discuss topics, and prepare an effective participation on the transnational workshops, and 3.) to coordinate meaningful contributions of all ULG members to build up a *working* Dresden local network Dresden and to converge all activities descriptively into an Local Action Plan. In a very early stage the local coordinators co-created a first sketch with the ULG members:





Within this sketch the main activities were outlined and roadmap-ed finally leading to the Integrated Action Plan (IAP). Unfortunately, there was not any consistency in the attendance and participation of various stakeholders of the ULG members throughout the project duration. There have been always around five to six stakeholder partners attending, though some left over the project duration due to several reasons.



The Dresden ULG took also the provided Problem Tree into consideration. They discussed in depth among the present ULG members attending the meeting. Major issues were separation & parallel societies, violence & crimes or long-term unemployment.

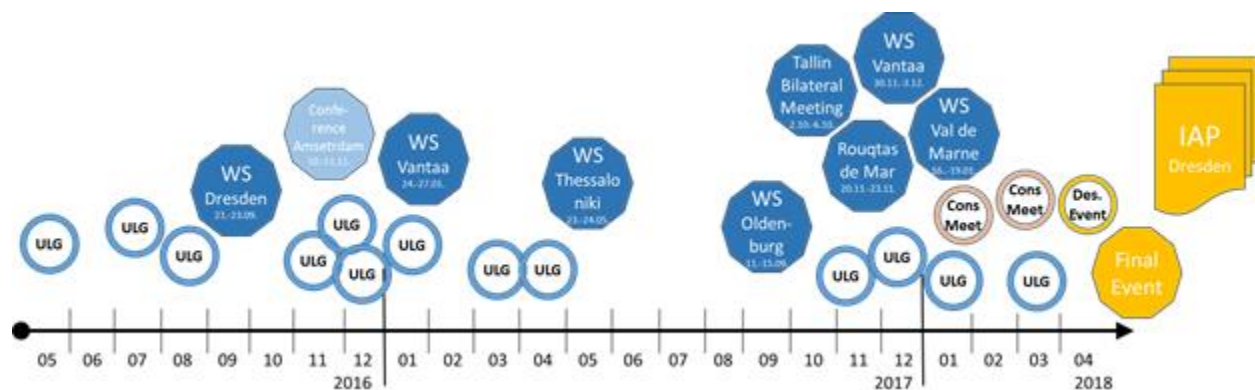


In total, the ULG met 14 times, in order to discuss the main Challenge and Issues of Dresden and its inhabitants are facing regarding the addressed topic of ArrivalCities project and social cohesion in the city. Moreover *bilateral meetings* and *Workshops* took place in all the 10 partner cities.

One bilateral visit has been devoted to Roquetas de mar in Spain. The aim of bilateral visit was to focus on some particular activities that could be beneficial and fruitful to be implemented in Dresden through integrated ActionPlan (IAP). In addition to strengthen cooperation between the two Arrival cities-network cities, through a more intensive learning exchange and networking. The visit took place in Roquetas de mar, wherein local coordinator had a good opportunity to participate in some of the Roquetas de mar ULG members' programs and activities. Meetings, presentations and seminars were organized during the visit as well. The positive role of Red Cross Pablo Picasso Center with migrants was very clear. Moreover the data base center of Juan de Orea Primary education school was very positive and fruitful.

Local coordinator has also participated in the Cooperation forum in Vantaa during the bilateral visit. The ULG members of Vantaa city have organizing a wider consultation event on one of Vantaa's IAP themes – "Promoting active citizenship and good ethnic relations by initiating more possibilities of encounters between residents in different areas in the city". This topic was so interesting and important for Dresden IAP as well as it deals in somehow with strengthening the Cohesion Society by initiating more possibilities of encounters between residents in different areas in the city.

The local coordinator took part in almost all of them accompanied by two or more members of the ULG. Several learnings from these Workshop and meetings have been realized.



Overview on out carried activity of TUD KA and the ULG Members within AC Project Duration

As you can see with the figure above it took many more ULG Meetings than expected to develop a common understanding and language, and to endeavour Dresden Situation and

discussion need to be carried out on how to cope with this specific realm. Even among the ULG members' knowledge and information exchange was not easy at all because some only spoke German and others only English. In order to foster trust and a common ground the meetings took place all over the different group members' location in order to get better to know each other, and understand each one's work-situation and work-environment better. Therefore several Workshop Methods were provide and carried out by TUD KA members.

## **2.1. Project aims and methodology and governance:**

By participating in the transnational workshops and the exchange of experiences, the city of Dresden hopes to identify actions and solutions to support community cohesion, while reaching out to different stakeholders within the local action group and learning from the diversity of the views and exchanges.

## **2.1 Members of ULG:**

### 2.2.1 Technical University Dresden:

#### **LeadpartnerTU Dresden KA - Wissensarchitektur- Laboratory of Knowledge Architecture:**

The **Wissensarchitektur** - Laboratory of Knowledge Architecture of Technische Universität Dresden is an interdisciplinary think-tank conducting research, design, and consultancy at the intersection of design and social sciences. The lab explores the multiple cross-links between environmental structures (spaces, buildings, cities), and knowledge processes (innovation, creativity, co-operation). To investigate knowledge dynamics in space, it creates visualisation and modelling tools, and applies them in academic training as well as in professional practice. The topic of civic participation and participation of local society in complex policy developments processes on local level has been a key point of interest for the Laboratory of Knowledge Architecture. It is with this background in mind that the Knowledge Architects leading the local action group in this project.

#### **TU Dresden - Staff Unit Diversity Management**

In order to promote diversity and equal opportunities at TU Dresden, the staff unit Diversity Management was established in 2012. It is assigned to the Vice-Rector's Office for University Development. The staff unit Diversity Development is the focal point for the coordination and networking of activities that are undertaken with the aim of improving the equality of opportunities at TU Dresden. The primary focuses of our work are: safeguarding the equality of women and men, family-friendliness, the inclusion of people with disabilities and chronic diseases, as well as ethnicity.

#### **TU Dresden- Center for Integration Research**

Integration is an ambiguous and controversial discussed term bearing different ideas of society and affiliation. The Center for Integration Research is active in the field of research for concepts, dialogues and practices within the wide range of topics of integration”

#### 2.2.2. Municipality of Dresden:

The Municipality of Dresden has been at the forefront of managing the crisis situation in 2015 providing housing, basic care treatment for refugees. Most of the city departments have been affected by the large number of new population, yet the key department has been the department for employment, social affairs, housing and health providing the main services for the refugees.

Apart from that the Municipality of Dresden has an Officer and Office for Integration and Foreign Citizens in charge of designing, implementing and monitoring the Dresden Integration Concept. This is a longtime strategy for integration and inclusion of all migrants into the local society. In 2015 the Integration Concept has been aligned to the new situation of refugees to be a new steering instrument for the integration.

#### 2.2.3. Police Directorate Dresden, Asylum coordination

The department of Asylum Coordination of Police Directorate Dresden has participated as ULG member in most of our meetings. They sent a representative as well to Vantaa Workshop in Finland.

#### 2.2.4. KindergardenKleiner Globus

The kindergarten focuses on improving intercultural, inclusive and multi-lingual childhood diversity. Dresden as a migration society is becoming more and more diverse linguistically and culturally. About 63% of the children in the daycare have a migration background. Most of these children are educated in multilingual terms and bring quite different cultural background and learn to live together

- Each child has a unique personality and is therefore special.
- We welcome all children.
- In our day-care centre, all children have an equal opportunity to develop their abilities.
- Every child creates their own image of the big wide world and actively shapes their own development.
- In our day-care centre, children experience diversity as a positive aspect of life. Our qualified teaching staffs see every child as a personality in their own right and interact with them from person to person.

- They take children seriously and involve them in the centre's day-to-day decision making processes as appropriate to their age.
- They see their role as supporting children and attending to their needs.

Regarding methods and principles of education, our approach is based on the Saxon Education Plan (Sächsischer Bildungsplan). In all we do, we take the actual situation as a starting point, the focus is thus on the child. Many of the children's own ideas will, intentionally or spontaneously, be incorporated in the daily routine. In matters concerning them, the children in the centre have the right to be heard and to participate in discussions and take part in decision-making; their opinions will be taken into proper account. Children want to and should take responsibility

#### 2.2.5. DIMCIB GERMAN INTERCULTURAL MUSLIM CENTER FOR INTEGRATION AND EDUCATION Dresden

The main purpose of the association is to reduce existing prejudices and eliminate misunderstandings of Islam by presenting its teachings in all its cultural, social and historical levels.

Within the framework of this objective, the association contributes to:

1. Promoting integration, especially of refugees and immigrants.
2. Improving relations between Muslims and non-Muslims.
3. Improving the coordination and cooperation of religious and other civil society organizations with similar objectives.
4. Organization of several events a year, pursuing the objectives to achieve the main target of association.

#### 2.2.6. Langebrück Youth Camp for Refugees (Kühn & Kollegen, Hilfen zur Erziehung Dresden)

The Inobhutnahmeeinrichtung in Langbrück is one of the care facilities for unaccompanied minor refugees of various nationalities. Since November 2015, 24 minors have been taken care of at the center. The facility is responsible for minor's maternal needs, for creating a shelter as well as providing routes for their wide integration.

### **3: Problems in Dresden to be addressed by the IAP: Anti-discrimination strategies/overcoming prejudice and stereotypes**

### **3.1 Transition challenges and cultural shock**

The rapidly diversifying population change, differences in behavior and lack of communication capabilities of the migrants, challenged mutual understanding and communication. There had been many irritating unforeseen occurrences. Latent group-focused enmity has manifested in fears, xenophobia and partly violent reactions towards migrants and refugees. At the same time a representative study of the TU Dresden showed that most of the city's population (40.6%) has understanding and sympathy for people who are looking for asylum in Germany and 56,4% affirmed the statement that refugees and migrants are not a threat to local culture and values.

This positive commitment is however primary overshadowed by two basic problems. First, a variety of social assistance facilities that can be used is difficult for newly arriving refugees. Language barriers, which resist mediation and acknowledgement of these support services. On the other hand, refugees ideas, experiences and traditions are contrary to real everyday life in Dresden. Refugees from the experience a drastic "culture shock" in Dresden. Cultural traditions and practices in the Refugees countries differ deeply to the culture here in Dresden. A striking example is the role of women in our society or open dealing with sexuality, for example, through the social networks. Young refugee families experience a uncertainty due to the differences.

Second results from the above differences are uncertainties from the local Dresdeners. Experiences with the world of the Arabic and Islamic cultural are missing. Again, lack of language skills are crucial matter. Dresdner citizens experiencing a form of "culture shock". A form of immigration on this scale is new even for long-established Dresden. They also need to learn a handling and exchange with the new citizens. A mediation between the two parties was unfortunately very far.

### **3.2 PEGIDA**

PEGIDA stands for: PatriotischeEuropäergegen die Islamisierung des Abendlandes - Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the West (Occident). It was founded in Dresden in October 2014 because of the feeling that Germany is getting Islamicised. The group is also anti-american and pro-russian.

Pegida wants to curb immigration, and accuses authorities of not enforcing existing immigration laws. They have held many demonstrations; often there have been many public demonstrations against them as well.

It all started on the 10th of October 2014 when the members of the PKK (Kurdistan's Workers Party) party took to the streets. The PKK supporters were reacting due to the fact that they were attacked during a demonstration against ISIL on the 7th of October by Salafists. The same day Yazidis and Muslim Chechens had violently clashed in Celle, a town in Lower Saxony.

The first demonstration or "evening stroll" (according to Pegida) took place on 20 October 2014, and only attracted a handful of people. During the following days, the movement began gaining wider public attention, and subsequently the weekly Monday demonstrations drew larger numbers of people. Among the 7,500 participants on 1 December 2014 the police identified 80 to 120 hooligans. The demonstration grew to 10,000 people on 8 December 2014.

On the 19th of December PEGIDA was registered as a NPO in Dresden. On Monday nights they were carrying banners like "For the preservation of our culture", "Against religious fanaticism, against any kind of radicalism, together without violence", and "Against religious wars on German soil". On Saturday 10 January 2015 some 35,000 anti-Pegida protesters gathered to mourn the victims of Paris, observing a minute's silence in front of the Frauenkirche, a big landmark in Dresden. On 12 January 2015, Pegidaorganisersorganised a rally of some 25,000 participants. Pegida's main organiser, Bachmann, declared the central political objectives of Pegida, which include calls for selective immigration and the expulsion of religious extremists, the right and duty to integrate, and tighter internal security.

Pegida's specific demands were initially unclear, largely because Pegida has refused a dialogue, considering the press to be a politically correct conspiracy. Demonstrators have been observed chanting "Lügenpresse" (lying press) a term that has a long history in German politics.

Alongside the German national flag, supporters of the movement have often been seen with a variant of the "Wirmer flag", a flag proposed by resistance member Josef Wirmer in 1944 for use after World War II.

According to a Deutsche Welle report from December 2014, Pegida considers Islamism a misogynist and violent ideology. In January 2015 The Guardian described Pegida as a far-right movement, the New York Times labelled Pegida as anti-immigrant, and Angela Merkel has repeatedly questioned the motives underlying its anti-immigrant message.

10 September 2015, Pegida demanded 10 changes in the refugee politics, where they called for an immediate stop for asylum seekers and for a German 'asylum-emergency law'.

According to Frank Richter, director of Saxony's Federal Agency for Civic Education, Pegida is "a mixed group—known figures from the National Democratic Party of Germany, soccer hooligans, but also a sizable number of ordinary citizens". Werner Schifffauer, director of the Migration Council has pointed out that the movement is strongest where people have hardly any experience with foreigners, and among "easterners who never really arrived in the Federal Republic and who now feel they have no voice".

#### Pegida demonstration in Dresden

Dresden University of Technology (TU) interviewed 400 Pegida demonstrators on 22 December 2014 and 12 January 2015. According to the poll, the main reasons of their participation were dissatisfaction with the political situation (54 percent), "Islam, Islamism and Islamisation" (23 percent), criticism of the media and the public (20 percent), and reservations regarding asylum seekers and migrants (15 percent). In all, 42 percent had reservations regarding Muslims or Islam, 20 percent were concerned about a 'high rate of crimes' committed by asylum seekers, or feared socio-economic disadvantages. The author, Vorländer, did not see Pegida as a movement of right-wing extremists, pensioners or the unemployed, but stated that the rallies served as a way to express feelings and resentments against a political and opinion-making elite which have not been publicly articulated before.

A group of social scientists led by Dieter Rucht from the Social Science Research Centre Berlin collected data both by flyer and online survey. Despite a participation rate of only 18 percent in the online survey, it largely had similar results to the survey in Dresden. According to data from

the WZB, Pegida was a male-dominated group, participants were mostly employees with a relatively high level of education, they had no confidence in institutions and they sympathised with AfD. In some cases the participants demonstrated far-right and right-wing extremist attitudes. The conclusion emphasised that Pegida supporters cannot be viewed as 'ordinary citizens', since they articulate group-focused enmity and racism.



As of January 2016 on Facebook, the Pegida fan page had about 200,000 supporters. According to political consultant Martin Fuchs, the fanpage allows the users there to present and more easily spread their ideas, which are not represented in the mainstream media.

In December 2014, representatives of the NPD encouraged people to participate in Pegida rallies, as did the German Defence League and the internet blog Politically Incorrect in an uploaded 'propaganda clip'. According to the police, a few hundred "violent hooligans" have been participating in the Dresden rallies since December 2014.

### 3.3 PEGIDA Counter Reactions

Numerous protests against Pegida and affiliated movements in cities across Germany have drawn up to 35,000 demonstrators in Dresden and up to 100,000 nationwide in January 2015, considerably more than Pegida's own concurrent demonstrations.

In protest against a Pegida march, the floodlights of the Catholic Cologne Cathedral were switched off on the evening of 5 January 2015. Dresden's Volkswagen plant used the same method of protest.

Demonstration against Pegida in Cologne on 21 January 2015. The big banner reads "we stand in the way (of racism)", a popular anti racist slogan in Germany in the left picture and demonstration against Pegida in Munich, 22 December 2014 in the right picture.





German tabloid newspaper *Bild* launched a petition against Pegida, including former Chancellors Helmut Schmidt and Gerhard Schröder, as well as actress Karoline Herfurth and former footballer Oliver Bierhoff.

Chancellor Angela Merkel has criticised Pegida, saying that the leaders of Pegida "have prejudice, coldness, even hatred in their hearts". The Federal Minister of the Interior Thomas de Maizière said that among the participants of the mass rallies were many ordinary people who expressed their concerns about the challenges of today's society. Bernd Lucke, the leader of the political party Alliance for Progress and Renewal, has said he considers most of the positions of Pegida to be legitimate. According to Lucke, the people taking part in these demonstrations did not feel that their concerns were being understood by politicians. Similarly, the Dresden city council's AfD faction welcomed Pegida's weekly demonstrations.

Josef Schuster, chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, voiced his opposition to the group, saying that the possibility of an Islamic conquest of Germany would be as "absurd" as a resurrection of the Nazi regime. Schuster described Pegida as being "highly dangerous": "It starts with verbal assault and leads to actual attacks like the one on a planned refugee hostel in Bavaria". He referred to an arson attack on a home for asylum-seekers that was ready for occupation. After the attack, swastika graffiti was found at the scene. Schuster said that Pegida is a combination of "neo-Nazis, far-right parties and citizens who think they are finally allowed to show their racism and xenophobia openly". He condemned the movement, stating that the fear of Islamist terror was being exploited to disparage an entire religion.

Pegida has been criticised by Lutheran clergy, including the Bishop of Hamburg Kirsten Fehrs. In November 2014, Saxony's Interior Minister, Markus Ulbig (CDU), claimed that foreign criminals stayed in Germany too long. He announced the creation of a special police unit to deal with criminal immigrants in Dresden and the rest of Saxony. Investigators and specialists in criminal and immigrant law would collaborate to process foreign criminals in the criminal justice system, and prevent those not eligible for asylum from obtaining the right to stay in Germany. Ulbig admitted that there had been a number of criminal acts committed by immigrants near the homes for asylum-seekers, but these were a minority and should not be

allowed to undermine solidarity with the great majority of law-abiding refugees. He said police worked on criminal immigrant cases too slowly.

On the night of 5 January 2015, the lights illuminating the Brandenburg Gate were completely turned off in protest against the Berlin offshoot named "Bärgida" and also the lights of the Catholic cathedral Kölner Dom in Cologne in repudiation against "Kögida". The exterior lighting of the Semperoper in Dresden was also kept dark during the weekly Pegida marches. Both rallies in Berlin and Cologne were successfully blocked and disbanded by counter-demonstrations.

## **4. Existing actions:**

Several actions have been taken to improve Community Cohesion in the city of Dresden. In this part we are going to mention to different types of actions and strategies from the different stakeholders.

### **4.1 Long-term strategies by the municipality of Dresden**

#### **4.1.1 Integration policy of the municipality of Dresden- the new Integration Concept:**

Since 2011 the municipality has an Integration Concept. Given the recent changes, the concept was updated by the delegates from the Office for Integration and Foreign Citizens in cooperation with all of the offices of the city administration in order to update goals and tasks, especially in terms of housing, social counseling and education. It was adopted by the city council on May 28, 2015, so it is binding for the city administration. It addresses the city administration and everyone who works there, but also the newly immigrated, since integration is seen as a shared endeavor.

The Integration Concept 2015 - 2020" is divided into various parts. It describes the rules and goals of integration policies in Dresden. Then, it looks at the current situation in eleven areas and future tasks. The city administration, its offices, and the city council have to implement these measures in the next years.

Main goals of the Integration Concept are: All immigrants should feel welcome and accepted in the City of Dresden. They should be able to grow and participate on an equal footing. In particular:

- By 2020, all immigrated children and young people will receive an even better education.
- By 2020, all immigrants will be even better integrated in political and social life.
- By 2020, the conditions of immigrants who work will be improved.
- By 2020, immigrants will have an equal right to use the offerings and services of the city Administration

Underlying assumption of the Integration Concept is that integration is a job for the whole society. It can be successful if immigrants have an equal right to take part in the housing and job market, education, culture, social services, and political and social life.

The Integration Concept is based on following aspects:

- Shared core values form the foundation of integration, including regard for human worth, human rights, free democracy, the equality of men and women, freedom of religion, conscience, and opinion, the separation of church and state, as well as the rule of law, and the separation of powers.
- Integration of immigrants requires the willingness and the activities of everyone – immigrants and people born here.
- Integration recognizes a diversity of lifestyles and approaches to life. It does not requires immigrants to give up their cultural roots.
- Integration is an asset.
- Integration focuses on the talents, abilities, and knowledge of all people.
- Learning German is an important basis for good Integration.

#### **4.1.2 Local action program for a diverse and cosmopolitan Dresden: Promoting tolerance and democracy and fighting racism by the Municipality of Dresden:**

On 7 September 2017, the City Council approved the Local Action Program for a diverse and cosmopolitan Dresden for the period 2017 to 2022. The local action program formulates as a goal: Dresden is a diverse and cosmopolitan city where values such as democracy, cohesion, mutual respect and appreciation are lived.

The main fields of action of the program are:

- 1.the strengthening of a democratic community,
- 2.the dismantling of manifestations of group-focused enmity (eg racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia and others),
- 3.the promotion of political and historical-political education and
- 4.in the promotion of societal integration towards an inclusive society.

With its Local Action Program for a diverse and cosmopolitan Dresden (LHP), the City of Dresden promotes civil society initiatives and activities by committed residents since 2010, working to strengthen democracy, mutual respect and cosmopolitanism in Dresden. With the LHP Dresden participates in the federal program "Democracy Live!" by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Women, Youth and Senior Citizens and the regional program "Cosmopolitan Saxony for Democracy and Tolerance". The Local Action Program is a working basis for the city administration. On the other hand, the population of Dresden is encouraged to actively participate in the implementation. The action program creates structures and defines the means necessary to strengthen democracy, respect, cosmopolitanism and the prevention or elimination of misanthropic thinking.

#### **4.1.3 Promoting a new culture of living together in Europe - Becoming European Capital of Culture 2025:**

The immense challenges of the past two years, the refugee crisis and the rise of anti-European sentiments all over Europe have turned Dresden into a focal point of debate for the future of European values. The City of Dresden has decided to take up these challenges. In 2016 the city has started the process of developing a bid for the European Capital of Culture because here, celebrating arts and culture and shaping the future of a diverse society in Europe need to go hand in hand. The city of Dresden is bidding for the title because:

- of the desire to use its historical legacy of art and culture to develop a new sense of city culture for the present and future;
- it represents a focal point for the challenges and difficulties currently facing European society as a whole;
- art, culture and science show decisive potential for development during this process;
- it is cross-linked with many other European cities that face similar challenges.

The process of becoming European capital of culture is designed as a participatory process that allows its citizens to explore its own identity and its role within Europe.

#### **4.1.4 Dresden - The City of the Future**

In line with the participatory approach of the application to the European Capital of Culture the City of Dresden explores participatory approaches in order to design and allocate new policies for the future of the city. Triggered by German Federal Ministry of Research and Education (BMBF) Competition "Future Cities", the City of Dresden is developing tools and methods (especially for workshops, workshop-materials, community management, involving methods for government, science and businesses) by trying out a 3-phases-process: visioning, planning, implementation in a broad public participation process (actually ca. 300 involved people) in a quite decentralised manner.

The developed methods should help the citizens to train visioning, develop projects and project plans and implement them in phase 3. The process is driven by the municipality of Dresden and aims at strengthening civic engagement and needs based policy making including the key question addressed as well by the application to become European capital of culture - that is: how to live together in the future.

## **4.2 Fostering intercultural dialogue and openness by the municipality of Dresden**

### **4.2.1 International Week against Racism**

Apart from strategic documents, the City of Dresden is engaged in various activities and events. Part of this is the week against racism. From 12 March to 6 April 2018, the International Weeks Against Racism took place in Dresden. These nationwide action weeks have the motto "100% human dignity - Together against racism". They are setting a sign of solidarity with the opponents and victims of racism. More than 100 associations, initiatives and institutions have followed Lord Mayor Dirk Hilbert's call for participation in the Action Weeks, offering a diverse program of over 140 events. These include exhibitions, panel discussions, film screenings,

readings, plays, lectures and workshops. The events deal with racism as it encounters us in various forms: as everyday racism, anti-Semitism or anti-Muslim racism. "I am committed to ensuring that all people in our urban society, regardless of their origin, as well as their religious, cultural or social affiliation, have the same opportunities and participate equally in social life. Unfortunately, that does not always correspond to reality. Racism, exclusion and discrimination are still present and noticeably affect the lives and everyday lives of those affected. An equal and respectful togetherness must of course be in a cosmopolitan and diverse city of course," said the mayor in his call for participation. The aim of the International Week Against Racism is to inform, to sensitize and to encourage self-reflection and self-action. They were hosted for the third time this year by the City of Dresden.

#### **4.2.2 Intercultural Days:**

In order to foster to intercultural awareness and collaboration, the City of Dresden organises the Intercultural Days every year. Over 140 events take place during the weeks of the Intercultural Days, including concerts, lectures, craft or reading afternoons for children and families, exhibitions or film screenings followed by a discussion and much more. The events are dedicated to the following topics: • have part - be part. Design my neighborhood. • Promote inter-religious exchange • Build bridges - create something new together. • In the dialogue on migration - from recognition to discrimination.

#### **4.2.3. International School exchange for students from low-income families:**

In order to provide young pupils from less privileged backgrounds the opportunity to travel abroad and gain intercultural awareness and sensitivity, the Mayor of the City of Dresden implemented a new school exchange program. Supported by the municipality, young pupils have the chance to meet other pupils in Dresden's sister cities and beyond.

#### **4.2.4 Interreligious Dialogue: Festival organized by BIRD Bündnis Inter-Religiöses Dresden e.V.**

**Humanity first - united in music:** All humans are first people and then afterwards members of different religions, worldviews, nationalities. All religions and worldviews agree that fellow human beings are treated in exactly the same way as everyone wants to be treated. We stand for this unity in the diversity of religions and worldviews and always put them in the foreground. All religions and worldviews deserve equality as long as they allow this equivalence to all others. We are committed to the values of democracy, secularism (separation of religion and state), human rights, the Enlightenment and civil society.

\*organize the first Inter-Religious Festival, in which artists of different religions and worldviews play together and also perform in other arts. More at <http://festival.bird-dresden.de>

\*stimulate, support and accompany the dialogue on the inter-religious / ideological world of tomorrow.

\*show and communicate opportunities for actively shaping the inter-religious future.

\*convey knowledge with heart, mind and practice.

\*make the inter-religious coexistence visible in the media.

\*encourage inter-religious joint action for an open and tolerant society throughout Germany.

## 4.3 Awarding, motivating and supporting local engagement by the municipality of Dresden

### 4.3.1 Dresden Integration Award - Dresdner Integrationspreis

Another tool to promote integration and civic engagement is the distribution of the Dresden Integration Award. The mayor of the City of Dresden awards the Dresdner Integrationspreis for a successful commitment to the integration of migrants and social cohesion. The integration prize is endowed with 5,000 euros. The award recognizes exemplary activities of intercultural engagement, which make a lasting contribution to a diverse, cosmopolitan and solidary cooperation in the Dresden city society. It's about outstanding achievements and everyday things alike.

The Dresdner Integrationspreis is awarded to initiatives, associations, associations and companies that are particularly responsible and committed to the integration of migrants.

### 4.3.2 Marwa el Sherbini Award

The Free State of Saxony and the City of Dresden support young people not only with this scholarship but also with non-material backing. For example, scholarship holders are actively supported in their search for internships. It is assumed that scholarship holders, in consultation with the sponsors, will participate in events organised by the Free State of Saxony and the State Capital Dresden.

The scholarship is worth 750 euros per month, beginning in the 2015-2016 winter semester, and is awarded for a maximum period of up to two years (until the end of the 2017 summer semester: 30 September, 2017). The goal is to admit a further scholarship holder for the respective winter semester after two years at the latest, depending on the availability of budgetary resources. Admission will be based on an agreement under private law with the scholarship holder and the support foundation DRESDEN-concept e. V.

From 1 October 2015, the Free State of Saxony (Saxon State Government) and the State Capital Dresden will, for the second time, award a joint scholarship in memory of Marwa El-Sherbini. In doing so, they are taking a stand for open-mindedness, tolerance and a diverse society.

## 4.4 Fostering dialogue between citizens - activities throughout the city of Dresden

### 4.4.1 The culture of dialogue:

# International Dresden Dialogue

Forming local strategies through international expertise: International Dresden Dialogue  
October 2017: How can local leaders design strategies that contribute to social cohesion in local

communities? This was one of the key question addressed during the „International Dresden Dialogue“. In dialogue with Mayors and community leaders from Europe, the Mayor of the City of Dresden discussed challenges and solutions on how to build community cohesion in the cities. The „International Dresden Dialogue“ was introduced by a [workshop](#) that was focusing on urban peace culture. All the events have been part of a series of events that are organised in the City of Dresden under the theme of „Peace | Culture | City“. Aim was to showcase the active civil society and the dialogue between citizens, culture and politics.

#### **4.4.2 “Gesprächsbereit” - Dialogues in the streets - since May 2016**

Within the Initiative “gesprächsbereit”, see [www.gesprächs-bereit.de](http://www.gesprächs-bereit.de) a variety of meetings had been organized for dialogues in the streets to listen to Dresden citizens and encourage them to speak about their problems and doubts concerning social and political discussions. At many Dresden Meetings and Festivals 2016 the initiative invited for dialogues about all topics which the population of Dresden is facing nowadays.

This offer for discussion in public, although it was organized in the streets was well accepted and used by many people (f.e. at the “Day of the open city hall” June 10th.

More than 100 persons participated. The idea of these open gatherings is to practice freedom of the word in a democratic society, also organize opportunities for people of different opinions to understand better interests of the citizens and work for connection and democratic participation.



#### **4.4.3 “Hand in hand” Dialogue in school – since June 2016**

In the Dresden city district Gorbitz, many migrants and many German families with low income are living. To help for a good mutual understanding a parent’s initiative “hand in hand” initiated monthly “Parental meetings” in the school to listen to the parents and solve problems in organizing their family lives: by German language trainings, deliver information, which are helpful for the families to integrate in Dresden and first of all to understand better and more



about the real life of the families. There are good connection to the integration officer in the district and other active groups and people in the city. The idea is to motivate families to work on cohesion, help each other and enjoy diversity and neighbourhood in the district.



#### **4.4.4 Dual Career Service for university scientist's partners - since July 2015**

**Problem:** how to connect cultural diversity in the Kindergartens and the schools?

**Solution:** Using the immigrants as cultural translators to help the kids to integrate in their new society

**Methodology:** Wives of international scientists are working in kindergarten and afternoon activities in Dresden schools to help integrating children from Dresden and from families from abroad: Refugees families, families from international scientists, from parents people coming here to work and to raise their children. Partners of international scientists are supporting in Dresden kindergartens and afternoon activities with high number of migrant children to create community building of children of different cultures, since they speak languages of the migrant's origin, are successfully integrated in the society and highly motivated to help integrating migrant children. The city of Dresden is offering them further qualification and employment.

#### **4.4.5 Women's Dialogue since 2016**

International (Russia, South Africa, Iran, India, Ukraine, Germany, US,) Women's Dialogue about diversity and common ideas, living in different cultures. A decision was made to move from discuss to action: Activities in a school of a migrant's district in Dresden to support parents with migrant background.



#### **4.4.5 Tuesdayafterwork MIXER at university – since 2015**

Learning from each other, when people present their culture, inform and exchange ideas, talk about experiences and compare, what do we have in common, what is different.

Twice a month the Tuesday afterwork MIXER is prepared in an international team, inviting everybody at the university whether from the German community or from others, refugees, TUD members, students.....



#### 4.4.6 Dialogue at High school Dresden-Plauen Gymnasium since Dec 2017

Pupils met international students and scientists from TU Dresden for one week at school and university to discuss about and describe what identity means to each of the participants and work out together a presentation, which had to be shown to the school audience.



**4.4.7 DIMCIB-** Deutsche InterkulturelleMuslimische Centrum für Integration and Bildung in Dresden - Reduction of existing prejudices and the elimination of misunderstandings against Islam and Muslims in Dresden.

Our goals:

1. Promoting integration, especially of refugees and immigrants.
2. Improving relations between Muslims and non-Muslims.
3. Improving the coordination and cooperation of religious and other civil society organizations with similar objectives.
4. Organization of several events per year, pursuing the objectives set out in points 1-3

#### **4.4.8 Kindergarden - Kleiner Globus:**

**Problem:** How to integrate the little children of the refugees and immigrants into their new society?

**Solution:** offering the kids an intercultural and unique environment and giving them the ability to grow as bilingual

**Methodology:** The kindergarten's „Little globe“ focus to have an intercultural, inclusive and multi-lingual childhood diversity. Dresden as a migration society is becoming more and more diverse linguistically and culturally. About 63% of the children in the daycare have a migration background. Most of these children are educated in multilingual terms and bring quite different cultural background and learn to live together peacefully.

#### **4.4.9 VAbA Project**

**Problem:** Issue of security and safety and particularly role of unaccompanied underaged youths

**Solution:** Cooperation, communication and exchange between police and social workers and launching educational projects for young people

**Methodology:** The project "Preparing young asylum seekers for vocational training" (VAbA) has been launched in Dresden. The aim of this project is to create a network of the some companies like ENSO Or DREWAG. This Network has the task to identify possible development perspectives through 19 coordinated measures for minor and adult migrants in 19 training professions.

#### **4.4.10 CALMSachen**

**Problem:** Refugees & Immigrants who have problems to integrate or participate in everyday's life due to their psychological/social problems.



**Solution:** Offering professional help to refugees and immigrants

**Methodology:** The project „CALM Sachsen “Counsel, Aid, Liaison for Migrants” provides low-threshold psychological and psycho-social consultation and program

#### 4.4.11 Refugee Camps on the TUD Campus

**Problem:** The actual welcoming of refugees 2015-2016

**Solution:** Refugee camps and the university campus (between 2015 and 2016)

**Methodology:** Many of the employees and students of the TU Dresden have volunteered the time after the arrival of refugees in Dresden, especially in the years 2015 and 2016.

Until spring 2016: 3 initial reception centres on the TU campus headed by the German Red Cross, at times a total of 1200 residents mainly from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan and more than 600 volunteers (employees / students).

#### 4.4.12 RLC Dresden Project

**Problem:** Poor access to the German Laws and Regulations

**Solution:** Creating a safe legal space within TUD

**Methodology:** The project called: Refugee Law Clinic (RLC) Dresden



The RLC at the Center for Integration Research of the TU Dresden was founded in 2016 and offers free legal advice for migrants and refugees. Law students are being trained continually as voluntary legal advisers and now advise migrants and refugees on the issues of asylum law, residence law and social law. The voluntary legal advice is supervised by a professional lawyer. There are currently four student assistants and one lawyer at the RLC. Approximately 30 students work as honorary legal advisers at three locations in the city of Dresden. A counselling centre is located directly on the campus.

#### 4.4.13 IDA Project

**Problem:** Integration difficulties

**Solution:** Creating a student initiative within TUD - “Arriving in Dresden”

**Methodology:** In Dresden ankommen (arriving in Dresden; IDA) is a student initiative at the Center for Integration Research of the TU Dresden, which is supported by employees of the TU Dresden and others.



The initiative, which was founded in September 2015, pursues the following goals:

- Coordination of student assistance and offers for refugees (language courses, buddy programme)
- Promotion of an intercultural exchange between refugees and students (social and cultural events)
- Political education and intercultural awareness of students (lectures, workshops...)

In 2017, the initiative received the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in the category "Students are committed to refugees".

#### **4.4.14 Further Studies for Asylum Seekers**

**Problem:** Too little study options for asylum seekers

**Solution:** The guest student programme at the TU Dresden for asylum seekers

**Methodology:** The guest student programme at the TU Dresden for asylum seekers offers the opportunity to get to know the university and for further education.



Asylum seekers can also attend selected courses at the Biotechnology Center of the TU Dresden (BIOTEC) and the Center for Regenerative Therapies Dresden (CRTD).

#### 4.4.15 PEACE Academy StiftungFrauenkirche

<http://www.peace-academy.de/start/>

We ask: What's the world worth to you?

This will be the question at the international Peace Academy 2018 at the Frauenkirche in Dresden, Germany. It takes place at the Pentecost weekend in May.

Young people from all over the world – last time we could welcome more than 400 participants from almost 40 countries – gather to find out where and why our world is in a precarious situation and what we can do about it.

**Target Groups,** Children and Women's Young people

### 5. Proposed actions:

The following table contains some of proposed actions that cover both building bridges to minimize polarization in Dresden society and key services that could raise awareness and sensitizing in the society as well. The following projects could be carried out once financial support is available.

Building bridges to minimize polarization in society (Activities)	"Sensitizing" - key services, raising awareness, sensitizing ( Activities)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DID, DiversityIntegration Dialogue</li> <li>• Police courses on intercultural competence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courage project - TU Dresden, by enter for integration studies Zfl, raise awareness members of public on campus (about discrimination)</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural evening program</li> <li>• Sport Together program</li> <li>• Neighbor Day initiative</li> <li>• Open day Program</li> <li>• Culture shock prevention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st project series 2016 School of Humanities +Social Sciences.</li> <li>• 2nd series by Zfl in 2017</li> <li>• 3rd planned by Zfl, can it be translated to other main cities</li> <li>• Old age migrants and online services</li> </ul>
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## 6. Monitoring, Potential to develop lasting collaboration and Evaluation

As has been mentioned in URBACT Guide, the well-structured strategy or action plan will include details about how indicators will be monitored and ultimately how it will be evaluated.

### 5.1. Monitoring

we have created a routine collection of information about progress of the activities, outputs and results of the projects within the action plan. It was carried out by the coordinator of an URBACT Local Group. Four Progress reports have been submitted. Monitoring data were regularly reported every 6 months.

Monitoring data was used to analyze progress and adjust activities as needed to reach the objectives. It was also used as part of the dialogue with the URBACT Local Group

### 5.2. Potential to develop lasting collaboration

The framework of the local group will provide a room for introducing different kind of cooperation. Training courses and exchanging experiences, workshops and seminars will insure good long term of experiences exchanges and collaboration.

The following actions will be taken in practice to ensure that the collaboration will continue

- Organizing quarterly meeting of ULG before the end of the project to keep discussion and experiences exchange

- Continuing experiences exchange and trying to secure the required funds by different means
- Keeping cooperation among ULG members by supporting joint publications and workshops.
- Establishing sustainable scientific exchange by official cooperation (memorandum of Understanding)
- Seeking support and funds from international bodies, UNESCO and International programs.

### **5.3. Evaluation**

It is a good practice to evaluate integrated Action plan. Self-evaluation will be used as a useful exercise and less resources intensive.

Some form of self-evaluation on an annual basis can be very useful and could be facilitated by an external expert. It needs to be well prepared and as far as possible there should be data on output, performance and results indicators so that discussions are based on evidence.