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The province of Vorarlberg, its profile of immigration and its early encouragement of language programme „mehr Sprache“

- I okay.zusammenleben/project centre for immigration and integration
- II Facts and figures to Vorarlberg as a province with immigration
- III Mehr Sprache. [More language]. Early encouragement of language and multilingualism a challenge for families and children's educational establishments

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- **What?**

- information and advice centre for immigration and integration issues
- motor and trustee of a “learning region”

- **How?**

- Internet site www.okay-line.at for integration in Vorarlberg
- [okay-News](#) newsletter (quarterly), [okay-Events](#) (monthly)
- Specialist integration advice for integration activists (politics, administration, social institutions, migrant organisations, campaigns etc.)
- Talks and publicity work
- “[okay.zusammen lernen](#)” for setting up and supporting German language and orientation courses for migrants in Vorarlberg's communities

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- Community-wide learning support project
- Mehr Sprache. [More language]. Early encouragement of language and multilingualism – a challenge for families and children's educational establishments
- and much more.

- **Aims:**

- making the Vorarlberg society aware of the significance of immigration and integration issues as key questions for the future,
- running an information and advice centre on these inter-related themes,
- the development, guiding and support of concrete integration measures for migrants in Vorarlberg,
- the involvement of the province in an international exchange of experiences and knowledge,

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- the networking of people and organisations involved in integration and
 - the establishment of a platform for exchanging experiences between the decision makers and people and organisations involved in integration in Vorarlberg.
- A detailed description of the project centre's programmes, projects and activities can be found on www.okay-line.at / [module "Projektträger"](#)

II Facts and figures to Vorarlberg as a province with immigration

- 1.1.2008: 366.377 inhabitants, 46.625 foreign citizens; 12,7 %. (Austria ca. 10 %)
- Mikrozensus 1. quarter 2008: ca. 21% of the population in Vorarlberg has a migration background: 52.600 1st generation, 23.600 2nd generation (Austria: approximately 17,5 %)
- Approximately 25% of the secondary school students in Vorarlberg do not speak German as their mother tongue – higher concentrations in urban areas
- Attendance in pre-school education: under 2 8,7%, 2 to 3 34%, 3 to 4 65,9%, 4 to 5 99,2%, 5 to 6 98,2%
- 99% of all children at the age of 5
- 1.1.2008 immigrant groups:
 - Turkey (14.353 turkish citizens; external migration balance 2002-2007: +2.297);
 - Former Yugoslavia (11.855 foreign citizens; external migration balance 2002-2007 +397);
 - Germany (10.317 german citizens; external migration balance 2002-2007 EU-15: +4.138);

II Facts and figures to Vorarlberg as a province with immigration

- **Main characteristics of the immigration to Vorarlberg:**
 - Immigration is primarily due to the economic development of the province. Vorarlberg was already heavily industrialised by the beginning of the 20th century.
 - Immigrants to Vorarlberg do not only live in the few cities, but – in line with the even distribution of industrial production sites – throughout the state in numerous (including smaller) communities and towns.
 - This means that questions of integration policy face not only the province government and the five cities but also many smaller communities.
 - The biggest groups immigrated from Turkey and the former Yugoslavia
 - Most of the immigrants are third countries' citizens with minor social and legal status

II Facts and figures to Vorarlberg as a province with immigration

- **Main characteristics of the immigration to Vorarlberg:**
 - Social and educational indicators point to ethnic segmentation concerning the stratification
 - the immigration to Vorarlberg is becoming more diverse – not as much as in huge cities like Vienna
 - Demographic Change: Immigration will remain a source for demographic developments

III Mehr Sprache. [More language]. Early encouragement of language and multilingualism a challenge for families and children's educational establishments

- **The central strategies of the mehr Sprache programme are targeted at two system fields:**
 - families and
 - children's educational establishments.
- **Initial Situation: Background Information**
 - language skills as key skills in an increasingly cooperative organisation of production in the economy and society
 - linguistic integration of immigrants and their families as a major challenge - is important in order to exploit the full educational potential of this group
 - because of growing trans-nationalisation multilingualism is increasingly perceived as having great social potential

III Mehr Sprache.

- **the programme's lines of attack:**
 - Addressing the society of Vorarlberg: Taping into the knowledge production concerning acquiring a language under multilingual conditions and implement this knowledge in appropriate forms on all relevant levels (teacher training and development, work and consultation with parents, publicity).
 - Addressing the educational experts in children's educational institutions: right packages and organisational vessels to acquire the necessary methods and develop them in successful practice.
 - Addressing the key role of parents and families in language development: specifically-targeted parent education packages, which will contribute to children with an immigration background entering schools with a better language premise than before.

III Mehr Sprache. Specific Programme tracks

- **Bridge builders:** aims to make use of the special skills of people with an immigration background (bilingualism, multicultural skills) for communicating between parents and teachers, and thus for developing a good educational partnership between the family home and the school.
- **„Words like honey/Parental education for early acquisition of language“:** promotes the development of advisory skills with regard to the issue of “Early language acquisition under multilingual conditions” for parents.
- **Skill training “Language acquisition under multilingual conditions” for education experts in pre-schools and 1st and 2nd class primary schools:** Development and implementation of a curriculum-based further education course for education experts who are involved with the encouragement of language at pre-school and primary level.

III Mehr Sprache. Specific programme tracks:

- **Increasing general awareness of language as a key skill in the context of a social transformation process:** The lecture series “mehrsprachig. Wegweiser zur Kommunikation im 21. Jahrhundert” (multilingual. A signpost to communication in the 21st century) accompanies the mehr Sprache programme and creates a forum for discussion and communication for current developments and debates in language politics.

III Mehr Sprache. Specific products:

- **Bridge Builders:**
 - Childcare institutions, pre-schools, schools and parental advisory institutions can book interpreters for parents' consultations and parents' evenings.
 - Education experts receive advice in questions regarding work with parents from an immigration background.
 - A translation service for invitations to parents' evenings and for parents' information materials helps them to reach their target audience.

III Mehr Sprache. Specific products:

- **“Words like honey/Parental education for early acquisition of language”:**
 - A training course specifically developed for these issues is aimed at people who already work with or support parents, as well as people who are interested in this field of work and want to become active in new advisory environments (e.g. in immigrant organisations).
 - A bilingual parents’ guide on the subject of “How can I encourage my child’s language development” has been produced. It is distributed free of charge in the language combinations Turkish-German, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian-German, Russian-German and Spanish-German throughout Vorarlberg: in educational establishments, parents’ advisory centres, local authorities, immigrant organisations etc.

III Mehr Sprache. Specific products:

- **“Words like honey/Parental education for early acquisition of language”:**
 - A “Materials Pack for Early Language Learning” for parents with games, multilingual children’s books etc. including a specific handout for parents (again in bilingual editions) is distributed through public libraries to the target group of parents with an immigration background.
 - The parents’ guide and materials pack also form the basis of actual parent work conducted by trained advisors. As of autumn 2009 local authorities, immigrant associations and other involved parties will be able to order parent education packages on language acquisition, multilingualism and encouragement of a reading/writing culture within families from an adult education centre in Vorarlberg, and then use them on their own premises.