

Project note: Migration-related International Social Work

Well-supported and advised on migration. Integration from countries of origin to countries of destination

Background

Germany is a country of immigration. While within Germany numerous services of Diakonie and other institutions enable newcomers to gain a foothold, there are no comprehensive information and counselling services for prospective migrants in countries of origin. Yet, whether migration becomes a success story depends greatly on how well prospective migrants are prepared for living and working in the country of destination. Where can I have my degree recognised? How can I find a school for my child? Upon planning to move to another country, people are faced with these and other concerns. Good counselling and preparation while still living in the country of origin and in cooperation with integration services in Germany enable newcomers to gain ground more smoothly after arrival.

Objectives

Migration is a cross-national phenomenon. Therefore, migration-related social work should also be conceptualised as transnational. However, knowledge is lacking about existing pre-integration services. This is why the project of Diakonie Deutschland, “Well-supported and advised on migration. Integration from countries of origin to countries of destination”, has the following objectives:

- To gain an overview of existing pre-integration services and respective transnational cooperation projects;
- To identify examples of best practice;
- To develop quality standards for good counselling and support;
- To support and establish networks of relevant actors;
- To illustrate in a concept paper the determinants and possibilities of pre-integration in countries of origin and of migration-related social work across borders.

Working definition

We understand migration-related international social work as open-ended and people-orientated advisory services for people in countries of origin who are planning to migrate to Germany. This includes migration for the purpose of work or study as well as family reunification and humanitarian migration. Everyone who is planning to migrate to Germany can benefit from pre-integration services.

Priorities

Initially, the focus will be on countries that are most relevant for migration to Germany, such as various Eastern European as well as South-Eastern European countries, including Turkey. However, the focus will also include other regions such as countries in Africa. Thematically, one of the focal points will be nursing and healthcare. Some sub-organisations of Diakonie have already gained a lot of experience in this area, which will be of benefit to the project.

The project receives funding from Germany's Federal Government Commissioner for Migrants, Refugees and Integration.