

Practices of Inclusion and Exclusion Regarding Recognized Refugees in Rural Communities in Lower Austria

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This sub-project examines how practices of inclusion and exclusion take shape with regard to refugees in rural communities in Lower Austria.

Regarded historically, migration is no new phenomenon in Austria. However, the past century evinces a diversification of migratory patterns and the origins of the migrants. By contrast to earlier migratory phases, migrants are increasingly coming to Austria from geographically further flung regions as a result of forced migration movements. This results in a challenge to incorporate immigrants from other countries into the respective community and to develop appropriate practices to this end. This challenge will become increasingly salient in the coming years due to current developments in migration movements. The Ilse Arlt Institute for Research into Social Inclusion is conducting a sub-project on this issue aiming at a broad systemization of the topic "Inclusion of Refugees in Rural Lower Austria". Of central interest here is the question of how community-related practices of inclusion and exclusion relating to recognized refugees have taken shape in the rural communities of Lower Austria. The focus thus lies on the role of social work and its potential for the promotion or support of inclusion processes. The aim is to present the practices of inclusion and exclusion in Lower Austrian communities. These processes of incorporation will be examined through the concept of social inclusion: This focus will do justice to the multidimensional, processual nature of these practices.

A selection of communities will be illuminated through a contrasting comparison with regard to their practices of inclusion and exclusion. This will be achieved through the use of especially qualitative research methods, including group discussions, participant observations, and qualitative interviews. This research project is especially significant in that it makes an important contribution to the deepening of knowledge regarding the inclusion of refugees into their respective communities. Proceeding from the assumption that this topical focus will become enormously relevant in the coming years, the elaboration of an empirical basis of knowledge concerning migration and inclusion contexts will be useful for an evidence-based politics of migration and inclusion.