

“Highly skilled migrants in cities of North Rhine-Westphalia - Integration of highly skilled migrants in North Rhine-Westphalian cities in the context of municipal integration policies and internationalisation policies”

The immigration of highly skilled persons has become a hot topic in many countries. In Germany, due to the lack of highly skilled employees in consequence of the demographic change as well as growing internationalisation of the labour market, discussions are taking place on all political levels on what can be done in order to attract highly-skilled migrants and to keep them in the long term. In this context the settling-in process of these migrants into the respective urban societies has gained increased attention.

In a joint project of the universities of Aachen, Bonn and Cologne we focus on the settling-in process of highly skilled migrants and the respective municipal integration and internationalisation policies. The study with duration of 3 years (04/2012-03/2015) is financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG). It is based on a pilot study conducted in 2009/2010, which focused on foreign academics in Bonn, Cologne and Aachen. However, our current project concentrates on persons working in management positions on the one hand and artists as well as publicists on the other hand. In four case studies (Bonn, Düsseldorf, Essen and Cologne) the settling-in process of highly skilled migrants is studied from the perspective of the migrants themselves and from the perspective of municipal experts. In addition to questions on the social networks of the highly skilled persons we also have a strong focus on the perception and the use of the urban environment. On the municipal level, integration and internationalisation policies as well as the development of services for this group are analysed. By means of qualitative interviews with highly skilled migrants as well as municipal experts we seek to gather differentiated information on the situation of highly skilled migrants in Germany and their settling-in processes in specific urban environments.

If there are any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us:

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