'My Community - make yourself at home'

EAFRD-funded projects

GERMANY

Implementing local development strategies

Location
Kempten Oberallgäu

Programming period
2007 – 2013

Axis / Priority
Axis 4 - LEADER

Measure
M413 - Quality of life/diversification

Funding (EUR)
Total budget: 56 558
EAFRD: 8 461
National/regional: 12 265
Other: 35 832

Project duration
2013 - 2015

Project promoter
NGO - Caritasverband KemptenOberallgäu e.V

Contact
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Additional information
www.heimatfueralle.de

The 'Meine Gemeinde Heimat für alle' ('My Community make yourself at home') project brought together local stakeholders into inclusion working groups using LEADER support to develop a range of activities promoting migrant integration.

Summary

The LEADER Local Action Group (Regionalentwicklung Oberallgäu eV was approached in 2013 by Caritas Kempten Oberallgäu to look for possible cooperation on the complex issue of social inclusion. The timing for cooperation could not have been more opportune as summer 2013 saw the arrival of the first refugees associated with the current wave in Kempten Oberallgäu.

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This process intensified the need to work together on how the local community could deal with the new arrivals. The result was the Meine Gemeinde Heimat für alle project Citizen participation both on the LAG decision and implementation levels encourages people to take responsibility for their community, but also greater political and social engagement in projects like 'Meine Gemeinde'. With guidance and consultancy support from the LAG, the project brought together existing boards, advisory committees and representatives of the local government into working groups for inclusion. These groups consisting of professionals and volunteers acted as 'steering groups' for the inclusion process by planning and coordinating different activities.

Results

'Meine Gemeinde' mobilised more than 1000 volunteers in Oberallgäu and 400 in Kempten to help with inclusion activities.

The project provided an online platform (Inklusionsmelder - inclusion detector) to communicate existing services and examples of good practice.

A coordinator of the Kleiderkammer collected and distributed clothes to refugees initially for free, but later in exchange of a small fee so that the refugees do not feel that they are receiving but going shopping.

A notable feature was the number of initiatives focused on young people such as language classes and volunteers helping migrant children with their homework.

As an overall result of the project, the LAG Regionalentwicklung Oberallgäu received new project ideas that can build on Meine Gemeinde Heimat für alle'.

Lessons & Recommendations

❑ The provision and promotion of an online platform communicating existing services and examples of good practice brought together a number of individuals and associations, enabling them to exchange and come up with new project ideas for migrants inclusion.

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Context

The LEADER Local Action Group (Regionalentwicklung Oberallgäu eV was approached in 2013 by Caritas Kempten Oberallgäu to look for possible cooperation on the complex issue of social inclusion. The timing for cooperation could not have been more opportune as summer 2013 saw the arrival of the first refugees associated with the current wave in Kempten Oberallgäu.

Objectives

A process was set up to work together on how the local community could deal with the new arrivals.

Activities

The result was the Meine Gemeinde Heimat für alle project Citizen participation both on the LAG decision and implementation levels encourages people to take responsibility for their community, but also greater political and social engagement in projects like 'Meine Gemeinde'. With guidance and consultancy support from the LAG, the project brought together existing boards, advisory committees and representatives of the local government into working groups for inclusion. These groups consisting of professionals and volunteers acted as 'steering groups' for the inclusion process by planning and coordinating different activities

Main results

'Meine Gemeinde' mobilised more than 1000 volunteers in Oberallgäu and 400 in Kempten to help with inclusion activities. To carry out their tasks successfully, the working groups and municipalities provided the volunteers with guidance and information.

The project provided an online platform (Inklusionsmelder - inclusion detector) to communicate existing services and examples of good practice. The platform offers information and details on the benefits of inclusion, as well as specific activities, job and training offers, and contact people. This enabled an exchange between groups, associations, churches and volunteers on a wide range of integration activities such as gardening, amateur theatre and football, intended to reach out and include new arrivals in the social life of the region.

Efforts were also made to meet specific needs such as the provision of clothing. A coordinator of the Kleiderkammer collected and distributed clothes to refugees initially for free, but later in exchange of a small fee so that the refugees do not feel that they are receiving ' but going shopping.

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As an overall result of the project, the LAG Regionalentwicklung Oberallgäu received new project ideas that can build on Meine Gemeinde Heimat für alle'.

Key lessons

The provision and promotion of an online platform communicating existing services and examples of good practice brought together a number of individuals and associations, enabling them to exchange and come up with new project ideas for migrants inclusion.

Additional sources of information

n/a

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