

# **Projects and events within the Hanseatic city of Herford in relation to the ECCAR 10- Point-Action-Plan**

## **AI 1: Increased alertness against racism**

## **AI 4: Improved and enhanced options for public information and participation**

### **Demokratie leben! Herford**

Since 2015 the Hanseatic city of Herford is actively involved in a nationwide project called "Demokratie Leben ", which focuses on the fight against right-wing extremism, violence and misanthropic ideas. This project aims to promote civilian engagement and democratic behaviour at the municipal, regional and supranational level. Attacks on democracy, freedom and the rule of law as well as ideologies of inequality are permanent challenges for society as a whole. Right-wing extremism, racism and anti-Semitism, the challenges of Islamic and Muslim hostility, anti-gypsyism, ultra nationalism, homophobia, violent salafism and jihadism, left-wing militancy and other areas all show the multitude of democratic and anti-human phenomena. In order to oppose them vigorously, there is a need for joint efforts by the state and civil society.

The Hanseatic city of Herford is one of Germany's 234 municipalities in the program "Partnerschaft für Demokratie", which supports cities and municipalities throughout Germany in developing and implementing action plans for the promotion of democracy and diversity through local partnerships. With around 55,000 € annually, the city will now be building up a local alliance that is designed to develop an overall strategy which is to be realized in the context of different projects and actions.

The project is managed by the youth welfare office of the Hanseatic city of Herford. A co-ordination center has been set up to co-ordinate individual measures with regards to form and content. It is responsible for managing the implementation of the local "Partnerschaft für Demokratie", acts as a contact and contributes to the promotion of local measures. Through appropriate measures, the work of the "Partnerschaft für Demokratie" is to be made known to a broad public and to be advertised for participation.

Within the framework of the targeted networking, civil society stakeholders from the region will also be actively involved in the development and updating of the "Partnerschaft für Demokratie". To this end, a local Democracy Conference will be held twice a year to invite all relevant civil society actors, institutions and leaders from politics and administration to participate by reflecting and determining on the status, objectives and direction of further work in the program.

In order to strengthen the participation of young people in relation to this program, various youth platforms will be established as well as organized and managed by young people themselves. To implement their own measures, individual subsidies are made available to these youth platforms.

(For further information: <http://www.demokratie-leben-herford.de/index.php/ueber-uns>)

### **In 2016 the following projects were conducted/ supported:**

Workshop : „Hilfe - Was tun, wenn sich Kinder rechtspopulistisch oder fremdenfeindlich äußern?“

Dance and theater project for children and young people with and without a fugitive background: "Watch Out! Raus gehen und Theater machen"

„Schubladendenken auf Reisen – ein mit Fotos, Filmen, Zeitungsartikeln, Datenträgern, Fachbüchern uvm. gefüllter Schubladen-Schrank geht auf Reisen in Schulen und JZs“

„Cup der Kulturen“

Music-project: „Geno und die Flüchtlingskinder“

Informative-meeting: "Neuen Rechten"

Paper: "Extreme im Islam"

(For further information: <http://www.demokratie-leben-herford.de/index.php/projekte-aktion/archiv>)

### **AI 4: Improved and enhanced options for public information and participation**

#### **Event-program of the adult education centre (VHS) within the County of Herford (Kreis Herford)**

Lectures regarding intercultural cohabitation such as:

"Rassismus in der Mitte der Gesellschaft" or "Integrieren wie ein richtiges Einwanderungsland?"

The communal integration- centre in collaboration with the development association of the VHS County Herford will host free events regarding the a.m. topics.

## **“Intercultural Week”**

The network for integration and diversity within the County of Herford, “widunetz”, coordinates events which will be offered during the annual “Intercultural Week”

Within the framework of this "Intercultural Week", associations, initiatives, etc. are given the opportunity to address racial and nationalist currents and to discuss how to develop society on the basis of basic and human rights constructively.

For last year’s program and further information regarding the “Intercultural Week” within County Herford, please click on the link below:

<http://www.widunetz.de/index.phtml?mNavID=1461.29&sNavID=1461.161&La=1>

This year’s “Intercultural Week” will take place from September 24<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> 2017.

## **AI 8: Abatement of racism and discrimination through parenting and education**

### **Schule ohne Rassismus; Schule mit Courage**

Local secondary schools within the Hanseatic city of Herford have received the title of “Schule ohne Rassismus” and are currently actively involved in the correspondent project.

For additional information, please click the link below:

<http://www.schule-ohne-rassismus.org/startseite/>

## **AI 9: Promotion of cultural variety**

The Herford Integration Council frequently subsidizes projects and events, which promote cultural variety. In 2016, for example, the council supported various festivities like the “International Cultural Festival”, “Festival of Cultures” and an “Intercultural Christmas Festival”.

For 2017, the council is planning to subsidize the following projects and events:

- All inclusive international festival on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2017
- “Intercultural Week” within the County of Herford