

# Co-operative Potential for the Refugee Crisis & New Migrations: Experiences in German Housing Co-operatives

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Kuala Lumpur

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# Housing, Migration and the Challenge of Integration



- 65 million are fleeing worldwide – highest number ever!
- 25 million refugees are not within their home countries but abroad
- 2.9 million of the Syrian refugees are in Turkey – highest number worldwide!
- 1.5 million refugees arrived in Germany between 2015 and now

# Refugee housing in general



- Housing is a basic human need and it's important to provide suitable dwellings to refugees
- Housing co-operatives in the former GDR can provide adequate housing
- More difficult in larger cities such as Hamburg, Munich, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Düsseldorf, Berlin and Cologne
- Unexpected 2015 refugee crisis led to discussions in co-operative housing associations whether / and how far to get involved in solutions
- Housing co-operatives felt that municipal housing companies were primarily responsible



# Solving housing for refugees means reducing vacancies?



- **Absolutely not!**
- What caused vacancies – especially in Eastern Germany?
- A very high unemployment rate!
- These regions can provide housing but not many future employment prospects for most refugees
- Refugees tend to move to the bigger cities to be with their communities

# Examples fom Bauverein



- Bauverein can provide refugees with adequate housing (i.e. regular)
- 1.4 % of our tenants are refugees
- Housing for:
  - acknowledged refugees,
  - refugees with subsidiary protection or
  - a (limited) right to stay
- Refugees become members at the co-operative and move into a regular flat with regular conditions

# Examples fom Bauverein

- Conditions must meet welfare rates
- The state pays the rent and membership fee
- Challenges
  - Integration of new neighbours
  - Communications in multiple languages
  - Not overwhelming our members and tenants



# More than only housing



## "Brückenbauer" Initiative

- Building on open-minded neighbours
- Accepting the differences between the cultures and lifestyles
- Moderating discussion groups

# Integration is more than only housing



**TREFFPUNKT  
MERSEBURG**



## Integration

Herr Neigenfink stellt die Arbeit der Betreuungs- und Integrationshilfe Saalekreis vor

**Dienstag, 19. Januar 2016**

**14:30 Uhr**

Kosten: 1 Euro pro Person

Treffpunkt Merseburg, Geiseltalstraße 19

Bauverein Halle & Leuna eG  
Schulershof 12  
06108 Halle (Saale)  
0345 6734-0

**BAUVEREIN  
HALLE & LEUNA eG**

*HIER SIND SIE  
ZU HAUSE*



## SAMMELAKTION

Liebe Mieterinnen und Mieter,  
viele von Ihnen fragen sich: Wie können wir den Flüchtlingen helfen, die oft nur mit den Kleidern am Leib nach Deutschland kommen? Wir möchten Sie einladen, sich an unserer Sammelaktion für die Erstaufnahmestelle in Halberstadt zu beteiligen.

### Gesammelt werden:

- Warme Jacken, Mäntel und Pullover
- Handschuhe, Mützen und Schals
- Feste Schuhe für Kinder, Frauen und Männer
- Decken

Bitte geben Sie die Sachen verpackt in Tüten bis zum 07.12.2015 hier im Treffpunkt ab.

Wir bringen die Lieferung persönlich nach Halberstadt und freuen uns über Ihre Mithilfe. Bei Fragen wenden Sie sich gern an unsere freie Mitarbeiterin:

Barbara Bräuer 0173 – 900 87 29.

# WOHNEN IN DEUTSCHLAND

21 Tipps für ein glückliches Leben bei den Nachbarn



21 TIPS FOR GETTING ALONG WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURS  
21 WSKAZÓWEK NA UDANE STOSUNKI Z SĄSIADAMI  
KOMŞULARLA MUTLU BİR HAYAT İÇİN 21 TAVSIYE

21 نصيحة للعيش السعيد مع الجيران