Contribution of Austrian Children´s Universities to refugee integration

http://www.uibk.ac.at/jungeuni
Austria

Population: 8.7 Mill.
Area: 83,870 km²
GDP/person: 44,498 US$

Japan

Population: 126,7 Mill.
Area: 377,900 km²
GDP/person: 38,917 US$
Austria-University of Innsbruck

Research in the Heard of the Alps

founded in 1669

28.500 students
4.500 employs
16 faculties
125 studies

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Junge Uni Innsbruck - Children's University
What is a Children’s University? (eucu.net)

- Children’s Universities are organised by or closely linked to a university with the aim to attract children for science and humanities, economics and social science.

- Children’s Universities are for children and with children (typically aged between 7 to 12 years, social inclusion, eye-level)

- They are not for profit and independent in all aspects (politics, religion, private, enterprises)
Aims of Children’s Universities (eucu.net Charta)

- Providing access for all children without boundaries and on a voluntary basis
- Involving and providing benefit for children from disadvantaged groups (social, ethnic, gender, etc.)
- Providing an atmosphere of respect without pressure to perform
- 350 Children’s Universities in more than 25 countries worldwide (eucu.net White Book)
Junge Uni Innsbruck – Children´s University

Activities

• Founded in September 2001 – First children´s university of Austria and German speaking countries

• 4890 young visitors in 2017

• Action Day: 2000 school-students at the University

• Children´s Summer University

• Outreach Programs

• Refugee-Programs

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Asylum-Situation in Austria

Asylum (2016): 21,393 (Syria, Somalia, Russia, Iraq, Afghanistan)
9% of all applications in Austria from people under 18 years and without parents

Source: Ministry of Interior Austria

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FlüKiPro – Science for refugee-children

The project

- Students from the Pedagogical Highschool Tyrol: (Primary school teacher students) Junia Wiedenhofer, Barbara Eisele, Martina Eisele, Belinda Korkmaz
- Start in September 2015, volunteers
- Combination of study and real life
FlüKiPro – Science for refugee-children

The implementation

• 15 Children between 6 and 12 Jahren from Syria, Irak, Afghanistan, Tadschikistan from the Trappschlössl – an accommodation for refugees in Innsbruck

• once a week – support with homework

• once a week – activities: swimming, tobaggoning, cooking, science (Junge Uni), arts (bilding)
FlüKiPro – Science for refugee-children

Activities at the University - Junge Uni

- science, archaeology, technique, sports
mobilding – the mobile arts and architecture workshop

- Facilitation through creativity with creativity
mobilding – the mobile arts and architecture workshop

Activities

• Bilding with cardboard and wood
• Painting
mobilding – the mobile arts and architecture workshop

Picture lexicon

Schule

Haus
mobilding – the mobile arts and architecture workshop
Refugee - Children Integration

Experiences

• Children live in the Now life
• Building of trust by children and parents
• Non – verbal communication through arts and sports
• Learning by doing: learning of rules by playing games
• „Everybody is an expert“
• Esteem and respect
• Responsibility for the children: they are waiting for you!!
Refugee - Children Integration

What needs to be considered

• Organizational overhead: honorary members and voluntariness are limited!!

• Financial issues: No costs for children

• Dynamics between the children: children from different home countries

• Cultural differences

• The children change

• Science programs must be interactive: hands on, minds on

• Training for scientists and explainers
Reaching the goal:

It is the long-term goal of the Children’s Universities to encourage children to participate in education, regardless of their age, abilities, gender, ethnic or religious (or any other) preferences.

EDUCATION FOR ALL!

Dr. S. Prock / November 2017
Thank you for your attention!

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