

**Transatlantic Discourse on Integration**

**Challenges for Local Integration Policy  
in the U.S. and in Germany.  
A Conference Report**

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## 1. Introduction

Since 2003, the *European forum for migration studies (efms)* has been organising the workshop series “Transatlantic Discourse on Integration” which is supported by the *German Marshall Fund of the United States*. The aim of these workshops is to bring together scientific and practical insights on integration issues and to promote the exchange of European and American expertise.

Integration takes place primarily at the local level. Therefore, the municipal integration policy is increasingly gaining importance for policy-makers and in research on both sides of the Atlantic.

Considering this aspect, the *European forum for migration studies (efms)* organized a transatlantic expert workshop about challenges for local integration policy. It took place on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Berlin. The workshop brought together 38 administrators, academics, representatives of the government as of nongovernmental organizations and the media from Germany and the U.S.

After an introductory session on local integration policies in the United States and in Germany, the topic was regarded from a research perspective. The participants debated on the importance of intercultural opening up, on the process of immigrant integration between local government, municipal administration and voluntary organizations and above all on the challenges communities in both countries will be facing in the future.

In the second part of the workshop, the cities themselves came to the fore: Commissioners for integration reported on local case studies. These short presentations were followed by discussions about the efficiency of the different approaches and by the question what we can learn from each other.



## 2. Contents of the Workshop

The workshop programme was divided into the three sessions: “Local Integration Policies in the United States and Germany”, “Research Perspective on Local Integration Policies” and “Case Studies of Urban Integration Policy”.

- 9 a.m.           **Welcome**  
 Prof. Dr. Friedrich Heckmann, *European Forum for Migration Studies, Bamberg*
- 9:15 a.m.       **Session I: Local Integration Policies in the United States and Germany**  
 Michael Fix, *Migration Policy Institute, Washington, DC*  
 Dr. Alfred Reichwein, *Kommunale Gemeinschaftsstelle für Verwaltungsmanagement Köln (KGSt)*
- 10:30 a.m.      Coffee break
- 10:45 a.m.       **Session II: Research Perspective on Local Integration Policies**  
 Prof. Dr. Brian Ray, *University of Ottawa*  
 Prof. Dr. Dieter Filsinger, *Katholische Hochschule für Soziale Arbeit, Saarbrücken*  
 Prof. Roderich Kulbach, *Evangelische Fachhochschule RWL Bochum*
- 12:15            Lunch
- 1:15 p.m.       **Session III: Case Studies of Urban Integration Policy**  
 Dr. Christine Meyer, *Bürgermeisteramt, Nürnberg*  
 Abdelghani Barre, *Immigrant Service Coordination, Nashville*  
 Rudolf Stummvoll, *Stelle für interkulturelle Arbeit, München*  
 Doris Nahawandi, *Beauftragte für Integration und Migration im Bezirksamt Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg, Berlin*
- 3:15 p.m.        Coffee break
- 3:30 p.m.        **Case Studies of Urban Integration Policy (continued)**  
 Dr. Helmuth Schweitzer, *RAA/ Büro für Interkulturelle Arbeit, Essen*  
 Anne Wehkamp, *Ausländerbeauftragte, Solingen*  
 Margie McHugh, *New York Immigration Coalition*
- 5 p.m.           **Concluding discussion**
- 5:30 p.m.        Adjourn



## 2.1 Local Integration Policies in the United States and Germany

The presentation of **Michael Fix** from the Migration Policy Institute gave an overview of major trends in immigration in the United States as well as of U.S. integration policy in general. Afterwards, he presented some preliminary findings and observations from a multi-year study on the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) that provides an example of a local integration policy measure targeted at immigrants' children.

With regards to the demographic impacts, the migration flows over the past decade have had a profound effect on the nation's demographic make-up and hold far-reaching implications for all domains of education and social welfare policy. As of the year 2000, the foreign-born represented 11% of the U.S. population.

The foreign-born and U.S.-born children of immigrants (i.e., the second generation) together represented 20% of all children in the U.S. Furthermore 3 in 10 immigrants (10.3 million) are undocumented. Referring to the immigrant work force, statistics show that 1 in 7 U.S. workers, 1 in 5 U.S. low-wage workers respectively, are immigrants – but also that 1 in 5 doctors came from abroad. According to Fix, new immigration growth centers have developed in the United States. Despite the high concentration of immigrants in several states and major cities, there has been a wide dispersal to states and communities with comparatively few settling newcomers. Prior to 1995 the six “major destination” states (from West-to-East California, Texas, Illinois, Florida, New York, and New Jersey) held roughly three-quarters of the nation's immigrant population for several decades. Their share declined somewhat during the late 1990s, and today only two-thirds of the immigrant population live in these six states. Especially rapid growth occurred during the 1990s in the 22 “new growth” states. North Carolina had the fastest growth rate – 274 percent – between 1990 and 2000. Despite rapid growth many states still have relatively small, total immigrant populations. Unlike the major destination states, the immigrant population in the new growth states is disproportionately made up of recent arrivals – almost 60 percent arrived in the 1990s. Many of these new growth states have limited experience and infrastructure for integrating immigrants.

Recency of arrival is correlated with lower incomes and limited English language skills. A further – relatively recent – phenomenon is the high poverty rate among the children of immigrants: The foreign-born and U.S.-born children of immigrants together represented 25% of all low-income children; so one in four low-income children is a child of immigrants.

Integration policies in the U.S. include labor force access, basic rights, targeted policies, benefit exclusions, access to mainstream policies, and citizenship. The federal spending for targeted policies in 2004 measured a total of \$2,6 billions and covered programs like the Refugee Resettlement Program, Migrant Education, Migrant Health, and NCLB Language Acquisition State Grants.

According to Fix, the No Child Left Behind Act has the potential to improve the education of children of immigrants and limited English proficient (LEP) students in several important ways. For the first time there is a federal mandate for schools to measure and improve the performance of these students. Under NCLB, immigrant students are one of the key groups that must be tested, with their passing rates on tests increasing over time, and with schools held accountable for their performance; this ensures that their education will be a top priority of schools across the country. For this reason, schools apply bilingual and “English as a Second Language” (ESL) curricula which ensure that LEP



students perform better on standardized tests in the future. Additionally, parents of LEP students and immigrant parents are being kept informed of their child's progress, and their right to transfer their child to another school if that school fails to make sufficient progress is maintained. Finally, since mandatory testing begins in third grade, NCLB may result in more emphasis on kindergarten in order to better prepare children for classroom instruction and tests later on. This would benefit all children, including LEPs and immigrants.

The quality of relations between autochthonous and immigrants is an important factor for the attractiveness of a city. **Dr. Alfred Reichwein** from the "Kommunale Gemeinschaftsstelle für Verwaltungsmanagement" in Cologne accentuates the difference between concrete integration work and integration management: Integration work measures which are relevant for integration in all action fields of a community. Integration management is the overall perspective for monitoring integration, which contains integration policy as well as integration work, organisation, communication, evaluation, and public relations.

Reichwein pleads for a paradigmatic change from an as yet more problem or deficit oriented perception – seeing migrants as persons with social and/or personal problems – to a 'potential approach' which aims at emphasizing the positive aspects of immigration: in the age of Europeanization and globalisation multilingualism strengthens the competitiveness of a location, cultural diversity enables the development of a cosmopolitan culture, and economic engagement of migrants strengthens the local economy.

According to Heckmann, the concept of integration differentiates between the dimensions of structural, cultural, interactive and identificational integration. Nevertheless, in the past, the integration policy focussed on social work. Referring to Heckmann's four dimensions of integration, Reichwein states that local integration policy should mainly focus on four fields of action: language (e.g. financing of language courses in cooperation with migrant organisations), education (e.g. intercultural concepts for kindergartens, remedial education at schools, intercultural trainings for teachers), economy and vocational training (e.g. support of ethnic entrepreneurship by municipal business promotion departments), and housing (e.g. upgrading housing stock). Further, social work, health care, integration and security as well as culture are important fields of work.

There are several factors that decide about the success or failure of the municipal integration policy. First, the city has to develop a holistic integration approach. Integration has to be understood as a cross-sectional task. At the same time, a strategic and central governance and control is inevitable. Very helpful for this is the identification of the political leaders with the topic. The aims have to be clearly formulated and the integration process and success have to be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis. Further, the intercultural opening-up of the municipal administration is an important success factor. Others are the linkage of information and cooperation between the municipal's departments and the other actors in this field. Moreover, special programmes should be developed and enhanced for persuading immigrants to participate in the decision making process at district and neighbourhood levels and in housing companies.



## 2.2 Research Perspective on Local Integration Policies

**Professor Brian Ray** from the University of Ottawa, presented The Building the New American Community (BNAC) Initiative. This three-year initiative aims to foster the integration of refugees and immigrants at a community level. In the absence of a national integration policy, the initiative is also an experiment in how governments and civil society can co-operate to achieve positive integration outcomes. Coalitions to develop integration strategies were formed in Lowell, Nashville and Portland, and assisted by a national team of policy analysts, advocates and researchers from the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Immigration Forum, the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, The Urban Institute, and the Migration Policy Institute.

Four principles underlie the BNAC Initiative's concept of successful integration: New Americans should be involved significantly in decision-making processes; integration is a two-way process that implicates and benefits both new Americans and receiving community members; coalitions are among the vehicles that can foster effective and meaningful collaborations in order to tackle the numerous challenges and opportunities which involve public-private partnerships; and resources should be devoted to integration-focused interventions, as well as coalition building and training opportunities, which lead to systemic change.

The three demonstration sites – which have only a recent history of immigrant settlement – developed multiple-issue integration agendas. They had a number of issues in common, such as civic engagement programs and a desire to raise awareness among local and state legislators of the contributions made by newcomers to social, economic and political life in each community. But the number of issues particular to each site also highlights the local qualities of integration: it is a process which is highly responsive to local economic conditions and opportunities, as well as contingent upon long-established “ways of doing things” that structure the everyday qualities of social, political and cultural participation. These entrenched behaviours frequently are resistant to change and may pose the greatest challenges to achieving newcomer inclusion.

Ray stresses the importance of involving organizations other than the “usual suspects”, because a broad range of stakeholders such as schools, chamber of commerce and the police give the potential to lever additional support, resources and capacity. Further, a systematic change requires effective communication and knowledge exchange between newcomer and receiving society institutions. The time necessary to achieve this kind of change is well beyond a normal time horizon of most government funding programs. Moreover, there are many integration issues rooted in the particular economic, social and political circumstances of cities. However, the newcomer communities in every BNAC site identified three sets of issues as fundamental to their integration and the social mobility of their children: English training, employment skills and youth development opportunities, especially in the educational system. Altogether, there were persistent challenges to achieving effective two-way integration in each BNAC site: the need of a strong and intelligent leadership, the established policies and practices and established “ways of doing things”, the false distinctions between refugees, immigrants, temporary migrants and undocumented ones. Last but not least, a systemic change demands significant and sustained funding over an extended period of time.

Thereafter, Ray reported some BNAC lessons. First, the definition of integration goals is necessary even if it is extremely contentious. Building organizational relationships can help to accomplish these. Accordingly, he argues that integration policy is an excellent example of a policy area in



which roughly similar problems might manifest in most places that receive significant numbers of newcomers, but the ability to respond effectively to these problems may be radically different because of the availability and quality of resources; a one size fits all solution is highly unlikely! Important are, beyond the mentioned, transparent mechanisms for funding partnerships or coalitions to build integration programs. If the city opts to devolve responsibility for integration down to non-profit entities or local governments, it is necessary to be clear about a strong sense of what trying to accomplish, to use existing research and knowledge and to offer training to ensure fiscal accountability in managing funds.

Concluding, he accentuated the need to move beyond thinking of integration as responsibility of individual newcomers and a handful of non-profit organizations with precarious funding. Moreover, integration policies must be strategic, dynamic and knowledge-based.

The contribution of **Professor Dr. Dieter Filsinger**, president of the Katholische Hochschule für Soziale Arbeit in Saarbrücken, concerned intercultural policy on the municipal level. For an effective integration of the migrant population, institutions have to open-up towards the intercultural reality. Only this opening-up will enable equal participation and access to social, economical, ecological and cultural resources for all citizens. Though this necessity applies to municipal institutions as well, holistic approaches to implement and evaluate such opening-up processes do not exist yet.

An increasing number of cities are aware of their responsibility and are applying various measures; for instance empowerment programs for children and local level activities like the program "Soziale Stadt". Nevertheless, diversity concepts have to be extended on public spaces, mainly on educational institutions. The fact that persons with a migration background are not equally represented in school and on the labour market is the main indicator for this need.

Filsinger explained the belated opening towards more interculturalism in Germany with the fact, that intercultural topics have not been gathered by public policy until the late 1990. Furthermore, the general assumption that schools are cultural, ethnical and linguistical homogeneous spheres established an acceptance of certain segregation. Additionally, the proclaimed integration policy of the 1970s has never been implemented.

Concluding, Filsinger elucidated the modules of a holistic municipal integration policy. First, a city should focus on education: Especially for the young generation, education is a key for their future possibilities. Physical and social improvements of districts with high marginalisation effects constitute another module. Finally, municipal institutions have to be aware of their responsibility for more intercultural opening-up. To achieve these aims, a personal as well as an organizational development is requested.

**Professor Roderich Kulbach** from the Evangelische Fachhochschule Rheinland-Westfalen-Lippe in Bochum talked about immigrant integration between local government, municipal administration and voluntary organizations. The professor for administrative science argued that strategic management processes for integration often assume that concrete integration aims can be realized on conditions that aims are clearly formulated and impacts are provable. He criticised that these assumptions are difficult to achieve because, first, it is challenging to measure the output of social benefits. Sec-





ond, there has been no tradition of equal treatment of immigrants in German local government and administration and therefore, it is difficult to get support from administration and local political parties. Third, in Germany, there are various partners to offer services for immigrants: the public system and local administration, private organizations, i.e. immigrant organizations and the intermediary system of voluntary welfare organizations. The German system of voluntary welfare organizations is dominated by large umbrella organizations – which are representing numerous decentralized organizations, institutions and facilities – as the Catholic German Caritas Federation and the German Red Cross. These voluntary welfare organizations play a dominant role in providing social services for immigrants. The different associations focus on specific groups of immigrants; the Catholic Caritas cares mainly for the immigrants from Italy, Spain and the Roman Catholics of former Yugoslavia while the Workers Welfare Association traditionally takes care of migrants from Turkey, Morocco, Tunisia and other Muslim countries.

According to Kulbach, the welfare organizations had to face criticism as being too paternalistic and not representing effectively the interest of immigrants. However, both municipal and federal administration preferred to cooperate with few powerful welfare organizations. Migrant organizations suffered under political and administrative restrictions due to prejudices and fears: they were accused of representing extreme political opinions or fundamentalist religious aims and therefore hindering integration. Nevertheless, in recent years the immigrants' organizations could establish more influence though they do not get the same importance as for instance in Great Britain.

To conclude, he pointed out that a better cooperation between all local partners, i.e. local government and administration as well as welfare organizations and immigrants' organizations will be necessary to enhance the integration process.

## 2.3 Case Studies of Urban Integration Policy

**Dr. Christine Meyer** works in the Lord Mayor's Office of the City of Nürnberg and is responsible for municipal integration policy. Nürnberg is the second-largest city in the Federal State of Bavaria with approximately 500.000 inhabitants, one third of them has a migration background. Meyer presented Nürnberg's integration policy and emphasized the importance of its strategic orientation that requires all projects aiming at sustainability, transferability and long-term effects.

Further, integration is understood as a mutual process: In 2002, the Lord Mayor of Nürnberg made integration policy a matter of top priority. Related to this, integration is seen as a municipal cross-section task that affects every municipal administration unit. This led to some organizational provisions: For instance, a central integration steering group, consisting of the Lord Mayor and members from several city departments decides the general course of operations, further, there are ad hoc working groups with external experts. The council committee is consulted by an integration committee consisting of various members of the civil society (e.g. political parties, religious charitable institutions).

To transfer the integration policy into practice, the city worked out a special agenda including different activities: The intercultural opening-up of the public authorities is a major activity: On the one hand, Nürnberg is encouraging migrants to apply for jobs in administration and affiliated units as



nurseries; also a considerable number of municipal employees has completed intercultural training programs. Further, the city supports active participation of migrants in city life: an advisory council on aliens and on persons from the former Soviet Union with German family roots were established; requests and petitions of the two councils must be treated by the city administration within three months. Moreover, the city promotes cultural activities related to countries of emigration and finances so-called city district culture shops ("Kulturläden") offering programs to migrants with a low educational background, e.g. language courses and music activities. Finally, Nürnberg promotes volunteer commitment as home visits, parents as teachers for children with learning difficulties, and reading to children in day care centres.

**Abdelghani Barre**, the Immigrant Services Coordinator of Nashville, Tennessee, presented Nashville's efforts on integrating their migrants. Most of Nashville's immigrants have a Southeast Asian, Middle Eastern, African and Latino background. Public school students speak more than 76 different native languages; nearly 20% of immigrants live below the poverty level. The number of foreign-born individuals living in metropolitan Nashville during the 1990s exploded. Between 1990 and 2000 the foreign-born population grew by 213%. The great majority (86%) of Nashville's immigrants arrived after 1990; 41% arrived after 1995.

Up until the 1990s there was very little migration into Nashville and an integration policy was virtually nonexistent. After the number of immigrants increased, Nashville reacted by developing its integration concept.

In the course of the BNAC project (presented by Brian Ray), the Nashville New American Coalition Community Action Plan was installed. The heart of this plan was a commitment to the mutual integration of native- and foreign-born residents. The community action plan for Nashville emerged out of broad consultations with organizations and individual representatives from refugee/immigrant communities in the city. The plan also attempts to enhance the capacity of migrant organizations and their leadership, and to improve the lives of individual newcomers, especially by increasing employment opportunities and job quality. More specifically, the plan is divided into three broad components structuring each domain's activities and strategies. The first component focuses on enhancing the capacity of representatives of immigrants to be leaders within their own communities, e.g. through building relationships between foreign-born residents and leaders from government and business sectors. The second component of the plan is enhancing workforce opportunities for newcomers; the final component of the Nashville Coalition's community action plan focuses on community participation and civic engagement.

The general intention of the Nashville integration policy is to encourage two-way integration between immigrants and the receiving community.

**Rudolf Stummvoll** from the Office for Intercultural Work in Munich presented Munich's integration concept. In Munich, where 35 % of the 1.3 million inhabitants are of migratory background coming from 180 nations, the immigrated population is living in very different quarters.

Munich's integration policy is based on several premises, the most important for successful integration being acceptance of liberal-democratic norms and rules and language competences in German as well as in their native language on the part of the migrants. Furthermore, the city's institutions and administration need to open up and intensify their intercultural orientation. These premises result in



an integration concept aiming for equal availability of all services – social services, health care, schooling, training and employment – for all migrants living permanently in Munich.

Since integration policy concerns many public services, all of these different parts of municipal policy need to bear in mind the city's population's multicultural character. This is to be achieved by opening-up the institutions and specifically intensifying their intercultural orientation. In order to ensure the coherence of the city administration concerning integration issues, this process of intercultural orientation is managed and moderated by the Office for Intercultural Work. This office has to be consulted by other departments whenever they work on projects involving integration issues. The Office for Intercultural Work disposes of its own budget.

Stummvoll illustrated with some examples how the Office for Intercultural Work is implementing an intercultural quality development and how it supports institutions in the opening-up process. The office intervenes on three levels. First, in the process of intercultural orientation and opening-up of the procedures (organisational development); second, by intercultural trainings for the employees, and third, by quality management including the development of concrete measures, offers and work methods. Within a three-year project, each institution defines milestones and nominates contact persons who take part in quality groups that discuss the situation and processes on a regular basis. In the course of the project, institutions are thus enabled to adjust their organisation to the intercultural environment in a sustainable and well managed way.

In conclusion Stummvoll emphasized that every public institution should take part in the process of intercultural orientation and opening-up to ensure that all parts of the population can be reached effectively.

In the Berlin's Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg district there are around 250.000 inhabitants; one third of them has a foreign passport but the percentage of people with a migrant background is much higher. Integration on a municipal level has to work with a concept that takes into account the diversity and heterogeneity of the district where people from over 160 different countries are living together. **Doris Nahawandi**, Commissioner for Migrants in Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg, presented the socio-political concept of "managing diversity" as the best strategy for municipal policy. Managing diversity primarily means accepting that all people are different. Thus it does not presuppose a homogeneity of ethnic groups which, in fact, are highly diverse in regard to religion, attitudes etc. The diversity management approach implies that diversity is accepted as a potential with considerable innovative strength.

The process of managing diversity has to be connected with the process of preventing or fighting discrimination at the same time. In this context, Nahawandi stressed the difference between anti-discrimination policy and diversity management: While activities in the field of reducing discrimination are reactive, diversity management focuses on potentials and strengths and is therefore a proactive approach. Nahawandi criticised the almost exclusively deficit and problem-oriented character of the German integration debate: Immigrants are assumed to cause problems, whereas problems inherent in majority society, such as institutional and structural discrimination, are not focused upon adequately. In her opinion, the shift of perspective towards politics of diversity as a positive and proactive approach has yet to be completed.



In the city of Essen, so **Dr. Helmuth Schweitzer** from the RAA/Office for Intercultural Issues, a holistic intercultural concept has been developed. It is based on a 25-year tradition of promoting intercultural networking between political actors, immigrant organisations and NGOs. In 1999, local actors formulated a declaration, strategy and action plan for intercultural relations. Public discourse in Essen resulted in the formulation of the need for a better access to public services and participation in decision-making processes on behalf of the migrant population. Public services need to be rethought and reconstructed as common social spaces in respect to, understanding for, and in exchange of different life experiences of migrants and the autochthonous population. Last but not least, this democratic approach shall foster peaceful conflict solving and anti-discrimination.

In this sense, the City Council, a steering group (councillors, Migrants Advisory Council, evaluation groups), the Office for Intercultural Issues, and other planning and evaluation groups including specialists from different institutions formed a strategic management circle to promote the concept of monitoring intercultural orientation of the municipal administration. Goals were formulated that give priority to education at all ages, qualification and employment, intercultural mediation, political, social and cultural participation, and intercultural access for migrants into administration. Since then, civil society stakeholders were integrated in control functions at top administrative levels (“Essen Consensus”), language courses were organised by qualified intercultural teams and multipliers, community policing between the police, Muslim organisations, the Municipality and schools is taking place as well as sustainable anti-racist group work, and numerous other activities. The RAA/Office for Intercultural Issues supports the process as an early warning system, task force and innovation agency of developing, testing, and implementing new products for the intercultural city. Indicators have been developed to measure success and recommend good practices to be integrated into regular systems; a monitoring and documentation system is in progress.

According to Schweitzer, the consequences of the structural crisis of all cities in the Ruhr region put successful implementation of the Intercultural Concept at stake. The lack of political and scientific consensus over criteria for data collection on “migration background” inhibits the evaluation of the success of the Intercultural Concept.

**Anne Wehkamp**, the Commissioner for Migrants of the city of Solingen, pointed out that integration and peaceful living have turned into long-term objectives of both municipal and civil society organisations in Solingen – particularly after the arson incidence in 1993. In 2001, the municipal council passed an Intercultural Concept that posits cultural diversity as a chance for the city and emphasizes the importance of political participation – from and for immigrants in Solingen, of networking with different groups, associations and clubs as well as effective language and orientation courses. A workgroup is reflecting and planning the development and supervising the process of integration.

Wehkamp gave some examples on the realisation of the Intercultural Concept. Concerning the promotion of political participation, an Immigration and Integration Council has been established in which representatives nominated by foreigners and also some city council members are discussing and deciding together. For a good intercultural communication, a mobile translation service has been created, and a five step program, with final examination and certification, shall improve the intercultural competence of members of the municipal administration, and of all members of the intercultural network. Further, several consulting services attend to different needs of migrant popu-



lation. For newcomers as well as for inhabitants with a foreign passport a Foreigner- and Integration Office acts as consulting partner. The RAA Office and the Office for Intercultural Family Education provide support for immigrant families, e.g. qualification for educators, language courses, school-qualification, preventive youth help, project co-operations against racism and xenophobia. Since November 2000, the city is also involved in the Alliance of Tolerance and Courage. As many young unemployed have a migration background, the local office of the Federal Employment Office and the ARGE work together with potential partners to support these young unemployed and ease their transition into the labour market. They arrange internships and trainee programs, do networking with schools, potential employees and migrant associations and organise language courses in combination with job opportunities.

Thus, the intercultural integration concept of Solingen comprises measures responding to all spheres of everyday life. The network including all relevant actors, across different institutional and administrative levels is one of Solingen's success factors concerning integration issues.

**Margie McHugh**, Senior Policy and Program Advisor from The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) in the United States started her lecture with some facts and figures about immigrants in New York. The largest part of the immigrants living in New York comes from Latin America (32%), followed by immigrants from Asia (24%), the Caribbean (21%), Europe (20%) and Africa (3%). 37% of the 8 million inhabitants are foreign born. Between 1970 and 2000 the foreign born population doubled from 1.44 million to 2.87 million. She gave a detailed report about the NYIC as an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for approximately 150 groups in New York State that work with immigrants and refugees. As the coordinating body for organizations that serve one of the largest and most diverse newcomer populations in the United States, McHugh argued that the NYIC has become a leading advocate for immigrant communities as well on the local level as on the state and national level. The NYIC provides both a forum for immigrant groups to share their concerns and a vehicle for collective action to address these concerns. The coalition was founded in 1987. It has since evolved into a powerful advocacy voice, analyzing the impact of immigration policy proposals, promoting and protecting the rights of immigrants and their family members, improving newcomers' access to services, resolving problems with public agencies, and mobilizing member groups to respond to emerging issues and needs.

In addition, McHugh presented the major activities. In the field of policy analysis and advocacy, the NYIC focuses on laws, policies, and practices that affect immigrants and the communities in which they live. The current priorities include the improvement of immigrants' access to safe and affordable housing. They also help to increase the political power of immigrant and refugee communities through a large-scale voter registration project in civic participation and voter education. Concerning community education, the coalition develops educational materials in as many as twelve languages on important issues. Finally, the NYIC acts in the field of training and leadership development. Through its training institute, the NYIC offers hundreds of workshops and community education events each year on immigration and social services law and other issues of concern to immigrant communities.



### 3. The Participants of the Workshops

**Dr. Steffen Angenendt**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik e.V., Berlin

**Abdelghani Barre**, Metropolitan Social Services, Nashville, Tennessee

**Stefanie Bolzen**, Die Welt, Berlin

**Wolfgang Bosswick**, europäisches forum für migrationsstudien (efms), Bamberg

**Dr. Ursula Brock**, Bildungszentrum der Stadt Nürnberg

**Prof. Dr. Dieter Filsinger**, Katholische Hochschule für Soziale Arbeit, Saarbrücken

**Michael Fischer**, Hamburgisches WeltWirtschaftsinstitut (HWWI), Hamburg

**Michael Fix**, Migration Policy Institute, Washington, DC

**Dr. Pia Gerber**, Freudenberg Stiftung, Weinheim/Bergstraße

**Andreas Germershausen**, Beauftragter des Senats von Berlin für Integration und Migration

**Heinz Grunwald**, Regierungsvizepräsident der Regierung von Mittelfranken, Ansbach

**Claudia Hahn**, Bundestagsbüro Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth, Berlin

**Judith Halisch**, europäisches forum für migrationsstudien (efms), Bamberg

**Prof. Dr. Friedrich Heckmann**, europäisches forum für migrationsstudien (efms), Bamberg

**Julia Hieber**, St. Hugh's College, Oxford

**Barbara John**, Senatsverwaltung für Bildung, Jugend und Sport, Berlin

**Dr. Andreas Kapphan**, Arbeitsstab der Beauftragten der Bundesregierung für Migration, Flüchtlinge und Integration, Berlin

**Klaus Kastan**, Bayerischer Rundfunk, München

**Prof. Roderich Kulbach**, Evangelische Fachhochschule Rheinland-Westfalen-Lippe, Bochum

**Doris Lüken-Klaßen**, europäisches forum für migrationsstudien (efms), Bamberg

**Margie McHugh**, New York Immigration Coalition, New York

**Dr. Christine Meyer**, Bürgermeisteramt Nürnberg

**Doris Nahawandi**, Beauftragte für Integration und Migration, Bezirksamt Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg von Berlin

**Stefan Nicola**, United Press International, Berlin

**Veysel Özcan**, Büro Cem Özdemir, Die Grünen/ EFA Fraktion Europäisches Parlament, Berlin

**Prof. Brian Ray**, University of Ottawa, Ottawa

**Dr. Alfred Reichwein**, Kommunale Gemeinschaftsstelle für Verwaltungsmanagement, Köln

**Klaus Rutow**, Rechtsanwälte Rutow + Foerster, Nürnberg

**Kirsten Schönefeld**, Bundestagsbüro Dr. Lale Akgün, Berlin

**Dr. Helmuth Schweitzer**, RAA/ Büro für interkulturelle Arbeit Essen



**Dr. Philipp Schwertmann**, Migrationsrat Berlin-Brandenburg, Berlin

**Rudolf Stummvoll**, Stelle für interkulturelle Arbeit der Landeshauptstadt München

**Ulrich de Taillez**, Bayerisches Staatsministerium des Innern, München

**Alexander Thamm**, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Kreuth

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