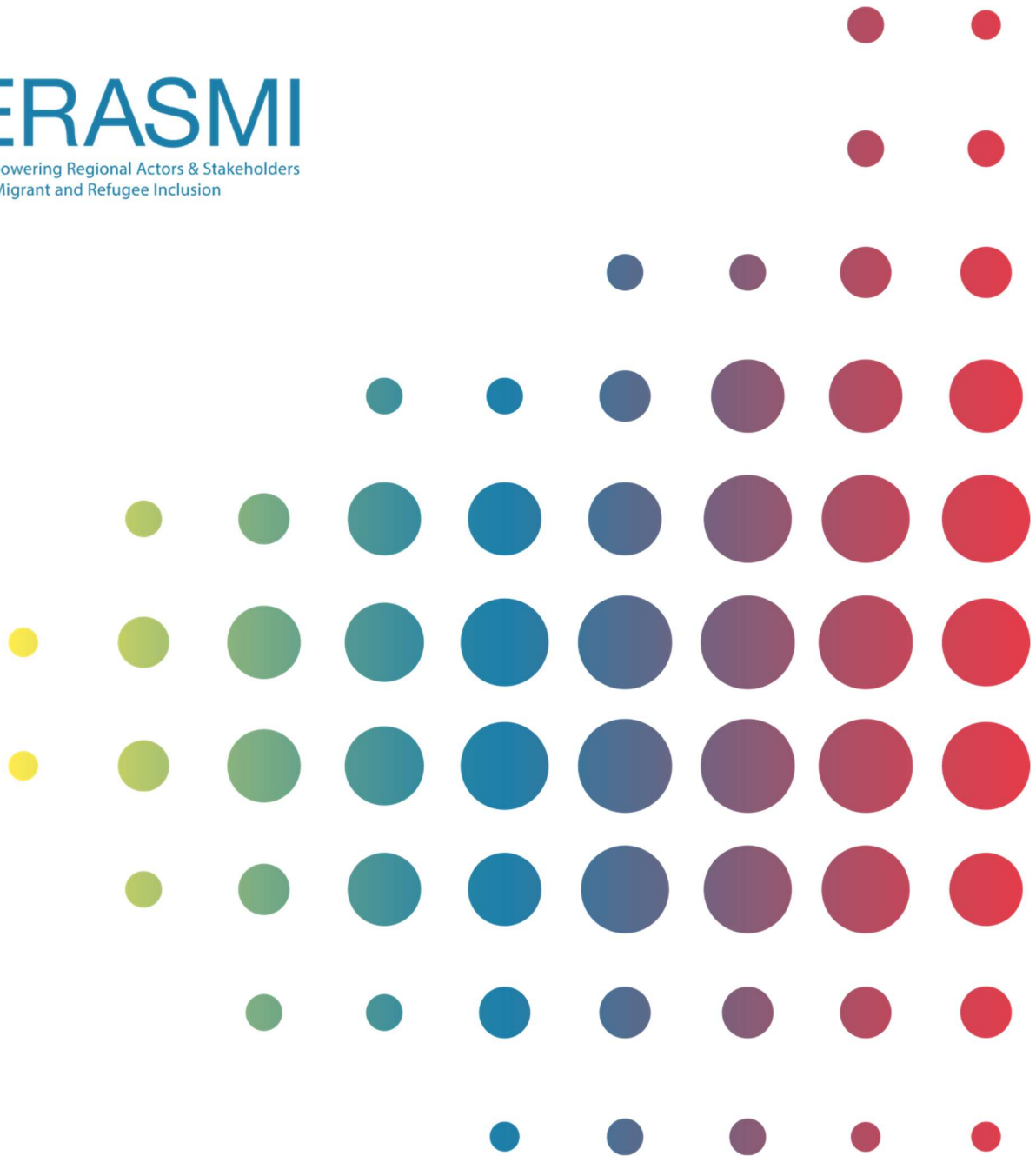




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Empowering Regional Actors & Stakeholders
for Migrant and Refugee Inclusion



Good Practice: NEWCOMERS NETWORK HARZ

Status of information: January 2021

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of the network	Newcomers Network Harz
Founding year	2015
Location	Wernigerode / Saxony-Anhalt / Germany
Coordinating Organisation	No coordinating organisation
Degree of formalisation	Informal
Members	Over 100 people from more than 25 different nations from all continents, including Germany.
Field(s) of action	Language; Housing; Culture and sports; Cultivating one's own culture
Target group(s)	Migrants
Type of network	Migrant network

2. NETWORK PROFILE

Brief description	The Newcomers Network offers a meeting place for newcomers in the Harz region. It is a platform where migrants can cultivate and show their own culture and can get in touch with the newcomers and locals of the region without the constraints or obligations of a formal association.
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations (corporate or private) to cover the costs of using the location • Meetings are organised by the coordinator and everyone who comes to the meetings brings a little something for the international buffet and helps to decorate the room according to the theme or motto
Internal Communication & Facilitation techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instant messaging (WhatsApp group) • Facebook private group • Lectures • Discussion rounds • Socialising: Shared meals, dancing, karaoke in different languages, visits to restaurants • Participation in external activities
External Communication & Event formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As it is a private group, there is no public relations work • Every year, two external events organised by an association are supported • There have been a few reports about the network in a regional newspaper



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3. SUCCESS FACTORS AND MAIN CHALLENGES

Success factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-threshold meeting place: Networking between migrants and local people; many personal relationships have developed • Exchange of experiences as migrants in order to better understand German culture • Offering valuable support with administrative procedures, finding work, housing, and leisure activities • Offers the possibility to further cultivate the mother tongue/culture
Challenges & Lessons learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural diversity and intercultural communication: having representatives from more than 25 nations • Including locals: That the locals regularly come to the meetings (every time at least 20% of the participants are German) • That the people who have been part of the network since 2015 act as "pilots" (there is a hard core that voluntarily and "unconsciously" fulfils this task).
Evaluation & Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For each meeting: Group pictures and a list of all the countries that were represented. This motivates one or the other who could not be there to come the next time. • Trying to encourage all members to identify, approach and integrate all newcomers into the network • Attempt to extend the network: regularly contact teachers of German as a foreign language and ask them to pass on the invitations in their group.
Impact, Innovation & Transferability	<p>It is a good example of an informal migrant network at grassroot level in a very rural area with a rather low number of migrants. Migrants get valuable contacts for work, housing and participation in local society. Newcomers are both strengthened in cultivating their own language and culture and learning about German language and local society in the Harz region. Besides, it is a meeting place for newcomers and locals with and without migration background.</p>

4. FURTHER INFORMATION

Website, Social Media	/
E-Mail-Address	/



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