



International bridge training seminar for social work

Academic adaptation measure leads to formal recognition of social work degrees acquired abroad



IQ | GOOD PRACTICE to the point

Addressees for transfer:

State Recognition Centres for Social Educators, Universities for Social Work or Social Pedagogy

Job training

“Bridge training seminar for social work”:

Two-semester extra-occupational course for social pedagogues during their recognition procedure, depending on compensatory requirements. Individual selection of up to five modules (full-time internship over several months, theoretical, legal and administrative foundations as well as social management and pedagogy or sociology of social work with integrated technical terminology units).

Project:

International bridge training seminar for social work in Bavaria

Implementing organisation:

Catholic foundation college Munich: Katholische Stiftungshochschule München (KSH)

Project managers in Network IQ:

Carolina Espitia Gascon / Preysingstr. 83 81667 Munich / Tel.: +49 (0)89 48092-1420 carolina.espitiasgascon@ksfh.de

Offer:

An information flyer for the project “bridge training seminar for social work in Bavaria” is available at www.ksh-muenchen.de. Printed copies of the flyer can be ordered from the responsible contact person, Carolina Espitia Gascon, under the above email address. All IQ good practice examples published so far can be found at www.netzwerk-iq.de.

Starting position/challenge

Since 2012, holders of a foreign degree in the regulated profession of social pedagogy are entitled to a formal recognition procedure of their qualifications. Corresponding German professions can be social work or social pedagogy. However, major differences usually still have to be compensated to obtain formal recognition. Until September 2014, applicants in Bavaria did not have the option to meet the compensatory requirements by applying for an adaptation period. The Network IQ Bavaria responded to this challenge.

In close collaboration with the relevant stakeholders, such as the Institute for Continuing Education and Training of the KSH, the State Conference of Deans for Social Work in Bavaria, the State Recognition Centre for Social and Childhood Educators, and the Office for Migration and Housing of the State Capital Munich, an academic adaptation measure has been implemented for the first time, leading to formal recognition of the foreign degrees.

Implementation of the job training

From the outset, KSH's project managers have worked closely with the involved participants to offer and implement the new two-semester, “International bridge training seminar for social work in Bavaria”, tailored to the needs of applicants. It consists of five modules, which must be completed according to the compensatory requirements of the applicants. Each module is completed with a performance certificate. The graduates present the final certificates at the state recognition office, which then provides formal recognition. The modules consist of a practical module with a social-pedagogical



internship over several months, as well as modules on theoretical, legal and administrative foundations of social work. Other core areas are social management, taking into account the institutional requirements, as well as other subjects such as pedagogy and sociology. Technical terminology units are integrated into all modules so that knowledge of work-related German can also be continuously improved.

Summary

Since the measure has been started, 179 participants have registered and more than 100 participants have successfully completed the adaptation measure and achieved formal recognition of their foreign qualifications. Many participants have already found a job that matches their skill level.

This success is due to the fact that the bridge training seminar offers an academic adaptation measure at the level of a Bachelor's degree. In addition, an offer was created which is geared to the individual needs of the participants.

Consideration of individual requirements

Interlinking of counselling centres, recognition bodies and adaptation measures ensures success

Those who wish to receive formal recognition in Bavaria for their foreign degree in social work are well advised and supported from the outset. The recognition counselling centres provide information on the application path and the bridge training seminar so that the prospective applicants can estimate the time and effort involved in obtaining formal recognition. The application for recognition of the foreign social pedagogical degree can be submitted to the State Recognition Centre for Social and Childhood Educators. Detailed information is available online. After review of the certificates, the applicants receive an assessment notice. In most cases it is only partial recognition, i.e.



substantial differences still need to be compensated for. The contact details for the KSH bridge training seminar as well as an information flyer are already attached to the assessment notice. In a personal or telephone consultation, or alternatively by email, the project management of the bridge training

seminar as well as the interested parties discuss the individual requirements and the sequence of the adaptation measures. A large proportion of students, 80 percent of whom are female and on average 32 years old, have to coordinate family, work and study simultaneously in this phase. For this reason, there is the possibility to extend the measure individually. The modules of the adaptation measure include technical terminology units so that the students can improve their professional knowledge of German. Among other things, the training includes writing reports, assistance plans and protocols as well as presenting to large groups.

Three questions to Claudia Mayer, former project manager of the continuing education course “International bridge training seminar for social work in Bavaria”

“The success rate is 93 percent”



What is the innovative aspect of the adaptation measure?

The international bridge training seminar is a recognised, academic group programme for social pedagogues with a foreign degree. To the best of my knowledge, this format does not exist in this form yet. Our university was the first in Germany to offer a study course in social work, which is explicitly addressed to

social pedagogues who have not obtained their degree in Germany. The training signifies an enormous relief for the graduates, because with the successful attendance of the adaptation measure they can be sure to obtain formal recognition.

Is it possible to introduce this job training in other regions?

The concept can be deployed nationwide, since the basic content of the study of social work can be transferred easily. There is a need for close coordination between the respective state recognition body

and the corresponding adaptation measure, since this led to the very successful development and implementation of our measure. Since the occupation of the state-recognised social pedagogy in Germany can only be obtained by means of a university degree, the establishment of an adaptation measure within the framework of a study course at a university makes a lot of sense. We could also imagine close cooperation with other universities in Germany to implement further measures in other federal states.

What can the adaptation measure affect in the long-term?

With the successful completion of the measure, formal recognition of the foreign social pedagogical degree is guaranteed. The project allows approximately 60 people to take part in the job training each year in two courses with 30 seats – in individual cases an increase in the number of seats is possible. The success rate is above 90 percent. The five modules reflect the basic aspects of the study of social work so that attending the bridge training seminar can be seen as an integration course in the social sector.

Imprint

The project is funded as part of the Network IQ. It is a subproject of the Network IQ Bavaria.

Authors: Christian Zingel

Editor: Christian Zingel, Canan Ulug, ebb GmbH

Photos: Catholic foundation college Munich:

“Katholische Stiftungshochschule München”

(KSH), Julia Schlax (RockAByte GmbH)

Layout: Gereon Nolte, ZWH

Version: 2017

www.netzwerk-iq.de

Network IQ

The Network “Integration through Qualification (IQ)” aims at sustainable improvements in the labour market integration of adults with a migration background. The programme is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS) and the European Social Fund (ESF). Strategic partners in implementing the programme are the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Federal Employment Agency (BA).

The Network “Integration through Qualification (IQ)” is a programme funded by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS) and the European Social Fund (ESF).



In cooperation with:

