

Migration

Report of Workshop 2

Moderation: Téclaire Ngo Tam
13 participants

NGO Input speakers:

1. Didar Can

Organisation: Consulting Centre for Migrants, Vienna, founded 1983
Fields of work: trainings; information and help in bureaucracy (labour market, family topics, social benefits, citizenship).
Sponsors: funded mainly from Austrian government and EU (AMS, European Rescue Fond)

2. Wu Min

Organisation: Beijing Civic Education and Information Consulting Centre, founded 2005
Fields of work: "strategies for society building and harmony in society"; helping newcomers with information and community integration, use culture to build a bridge between new migrant workers and old residents.
Measures: teachers' workshops (in private schools); sport games for migrant workers (who built the Olympic infrastructure 2008); theatre performances in community house about social issues; after-school care club for children
Sponsors: no funds and political support of government; main support by international organisations

3. Baowei Wei

Organisation: Little Bird Mutual Aid Hotline for Migrant Workers, founded 1999
Fields of work: "the protection of migrant workers rights", network building and assistance for integration of migrant workers.
Measures: using media to publish number and reach workers and for awareness building in Chinese society (1700 articles); radiobroadcasts etc.
Sponsors: international funding

4. Esther Maria Kürmayer

Organisation: Black Woman Community, Vienna
Fields of work: "self empowerment organisation" originally primary founded for black (or everybody who feels "black") women but soon focused on their children (projects for boys and girls)
Measures: theatre and literature programs (language training); "intercultural coffee meetings"; summer camps for families; coaching
Sponsors: mainly from Austrian government and local government

Discussions and Conclusions

There were two main points of discussion: the financial issue and the topic of migration. Both points were discussed with a focus on the exchange of experiences between Chinese and Austrian NGOs. In contrast to the most Austrian NGOs which are primarily sponsored by public funds (from the Austrian government and the EU) Chinese NGOs are dependent on international funding and small private donations. A main reason for this distinction might be found in very different historical roots of NGO work in the two countries. While most Austrian NGOs are, or at least have been historical closely connected to governmental institutions, the Chinese NGOs are not enrooted within the state; quite the contrary they get no financial- and not even political support.

When we spoke about the topic of migration we focused some similarities but coincidental some differences in the work of the present Chinese and Austrian organisations. We have discussed the big problem of undocumented migration in Europe and the different (human) rights for documented and undocumented migrants. A problem which is not that present in China, because migration in China means domestic migration. So if you look on the level of law, there is a big difference in migration issues between the two regions. But if you look on the level of society, problems of discrimination and integrations are quite similar. And especially within these problem areas there are a lot of similarities in Chinese and Austrian NGO work, as the discussions brought out.

For the minutes
Jakob Wurm