



European and Eurasian Studies Program

NEWSLETTER

Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

December 2017—Special Edition “Germany Making Choices”

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Germany Making Choices1-4
- Refugee Integration in Germany & Beyond.....1-2
- Exhibition: Germany integrating Immigrants3
- Contest Essay.....4
- Contact Info.....5

miamieuc.fiu.edu
&
europe.fiu.edu



Germany Making Choice Panel on “Refugee Integration in Germany & Beyond”



Throughout the Fall semester, the European and Eurasian Studies Program at FIU hosted a series of roundtables, panels and exhibitions. Of particular remark, we obtained a grant from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Washington D.C., and in collaboration with the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami, we were pleased to organize four events during Campus Weeks: “Germany Making Choice.”

Sept. 20, 2017 Conversations on Europe—Video Conference with the University of Pittsburgh on “Germany’s Elections”

Students participated in a video conference with the University of Pittsburgh on “Germany’s Elections: What’s at Stake in 2017?” where experts in Politics from Germany and the United States shared their expertise. To view list of panelists, [click here](#)

October 5, 2017: Panel “Refugee Integration in Germany & Beyond”

We were joined by Hon. Annette Klein, Consul General of Germany; Associate Professor Markus Thiel, and Dr. Jeff

Maslanik to discuss the ongoing refugee crisis and the challenge of integration in European host societies. For the last few years, Europe has been experiencing a monumental influx of refugees. The Dublin Regulation fell short of its goals, and the so-called Common European Asylum System remains in flux. Hence, there is no unified approach in place. Nevertheless, two countries have been considerably

more open than other Member States. Germany received the overall largest number of asylum seekers (just over 800,000), and Sweden received the most per population (163,000 or 1,600 per 100,000 people). Hon. Annette Klein provided



Hon. Annette Klein
Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami

nuance to the German case. She began by noting the most recent crisis displayed shortcomings in the EU’s ability to integrate refugees. At the height of the crisis, “there was a lot of pressure on the system, and we all felt that they really deserve protection...somebody had to do something.” But, “we didn’t have any mechanisms in place. We didn’t have our own border controls...and we didn’t have any arrangements for registration.” Following the initial arrival of asylum seek-



Germany Making Choices

Panel on "Refugee Integration in Germany & Beyond"



Dr. Jeff Maslanik



Dr. Markus Thiel

ers, Germany had to ask, "What are we do to with our refugees and how are we to integrate them?" Today, there are integration classes, which provide refugees with up to 1200 hours of training and other services such as skills and education verification; although, this can be a lengthy and difficult process. Hon. Annette Klein concluded on an optimistic tone, albeit noted that challenges still persist, e.g., refugee relocation, which is based on the number of inhabitants in each municipality and their respective tax revenues. Following

Hon. Klein's presentation, Dr. Maslanik provided data on Sweden. After providing a brief overview of Sweden's integration platform (the Establishment Plan), Dr. Maslanik highlighted challenges facing labor market integration in the Swedish context. Noting a recent study conducted by Pew Research, he explained, "Only 5 percent of jobs in Sweden are considered low-skilled. Thus, jobs traditionally accessed by refugees are scarce in Sweden." Dr. Maslanik concluded, that while the reception period of the refugee crisis went

smooth, "integration, especially economic integration, is a much longer and more difficult step in the process of achieving autonomy and stability in the refugee communities." Subsequently, Dr. Thiel summarized key points raised by Hon. Klein and Dr. Maslanik. He provided a general overview of the crisis as well as outlined a very concise and clear overview of the aims and challenges of structuring a common European asylum policy. Namely, Dr. Thiel underlined historical, economic, and sociopolitical differences (particularly the Visegrad Members), challenging core EU fundamentals that have halted a unified EU initiative from moving forward.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Dr. Markus Thiel, Hon. Annette Klein, and Dr. Jeff Maslanik

► To view photo gallery, [click here](#)

► To watch video, [click here](#)

► To watch video on refugee integration, from Germany Embassy, [click here](#)

► For more information on "Germany Making Choices" program at FIU, [click here](#)



Germany Making Choice Exhibition: Germany Integrating Immigrants



November 1-7, 2017: Exhibition “Germany Integrating Immigrants”

In conjunction with this panel, from November 1st to 17th, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence also hosted an exhibition titled “Germany Integrating Immigrants” composed of 11 panels at FIU Green Library

► To view pictures, [click here](#)

► [Click to download a PDF of "Germany: Integrating Immigrants"](#)

“Germany is a country shaped by immigration. Between 1950 and 2014, 44 million migrants came to Germany. During the same period, 32 million people emigrated from Germany. Migrants make up a slightly bigger share of the population in Germany than in the United States. The recent increase in immigration is a result of both the EU's freedom of movement and the ongoing refugee crisis in Europe. As a result, integration is now an important topic in Germany.” (Source: German Embassy in Washington DC)



Visit of Dr. Peter Funke

“It is very important that we perceive integration as an opportunity for people who chose to migrate to Germany, but also as an expectation that they will learn German and abide by our laws.”

- Angela Merkel, Federal Chancellor of Germany



Installation of the Exhibition on Oct. 31st 2017



Dr. Thiel & Christine I. Caly-Sanchez with FIU Students at the grand opening of the exhibition on Nov. 1st, 2017



Germany Making Choice: Contest Essay "Refugee Integration Compared: Germany, Europe and the USA"

December 7, 2017

Recognition Award Ceremony for the contest essay "Refugee Integration Compared: Germany, Europe and the USA"

The European & Eurasian Studies Program also organized an essay competition on "Refugee Integration Compared: Germany, Europe, and the USA" opened to all FIU students. With the help of an academic jury (made up of Prof. Thiel, Politics & International Relations, and Prof. Krol, German), the first two winners were determined. "All essay entries focused on Germany's immigrant integration policies in a comparative European Perspective, but the first two were found to be the most differentiated ones in terms of the challenges and opportunities of German Policy," said Dr. Thiel. On December 7, Claudia Cardenas, winner of the contest essay competition received a certificate and a gift bag at the recognition Award Ceremony from the hands of the Vice Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany Axel Zeissig; and Dr. Markus Thiel, Director, European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU. Further promotional prizes supplied by the Embassy of Germany were distributed to all who participated with their essays. Students had also the opportunity to discuss with Axel Zeissig, Vice Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami.

- For more information on the Contest Essay, [click here](#)
- To view pictures, [click here](#)



Claudia Cardenas, Politics & European Studies major, receiving her award certificate from Axel Zeissig and Dr. Markus Thiel



These events were co-sponsored by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Middle East Studies Program, the Muslim World Studies Program, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, the European Student Association, and was funded by the Council for Student Organizations

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

European and Eurasian Studies Program

Contact the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence



Florida International University

Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 SW 8th Street, SIPA 508
Miami, FL 33199

Dr. Markus Thiel

Director

E-mail: thielm@fiu.edu

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

Associate Director

Phone: (305) 348-5949

Fax: (305) 348-6562

E-mail: calyc@fiu.edu

Web: miamieuc.fiu.edu

For details please visit: miamieuc.fiu.edu - Events
or contact Christine I. Caly-Sanchez at calyc@fiu.edu