




POLICIES AND STRATEGIES OF INTEGRATION IN SAXONY

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My background...



Questions about integration before 2015...

- Since the end of the war on the Balkan integration in context of escape and asylum has been an marginal issue besides the urban areas in East Germany.
- In Dresden for example less than 5 *percent* of the inhabitants had a foreign citizenship *back then*.
- Migration an integration wasn't *a main* part of the daily political agenda.
- For sure there were asylum seekers in in Dresden as well as in the whole republic, but politics didn't really *care*.
- In most of the *cities* in the east the few who had the “right status” and who were legally allowed to stay lived together in large housing units, specially *built* or rent for refugees.
- Integration was out of focus because the need to integrate foreigners with a asylum status wasn't *part among* political thinking.

Asylum applications in Saxony and in Germany 2010 to 2016*

(*initial and follow-up applicants)

Year	Saxony	Germany
2010	2,305	48,589
2011	2,475	53,347
2012	3,382	77,651
2013	5,645	127,023
2014	6,930	202,834
2015	28,317	476,649
2016	24,684	745,549
2017		222,683
		127,525**

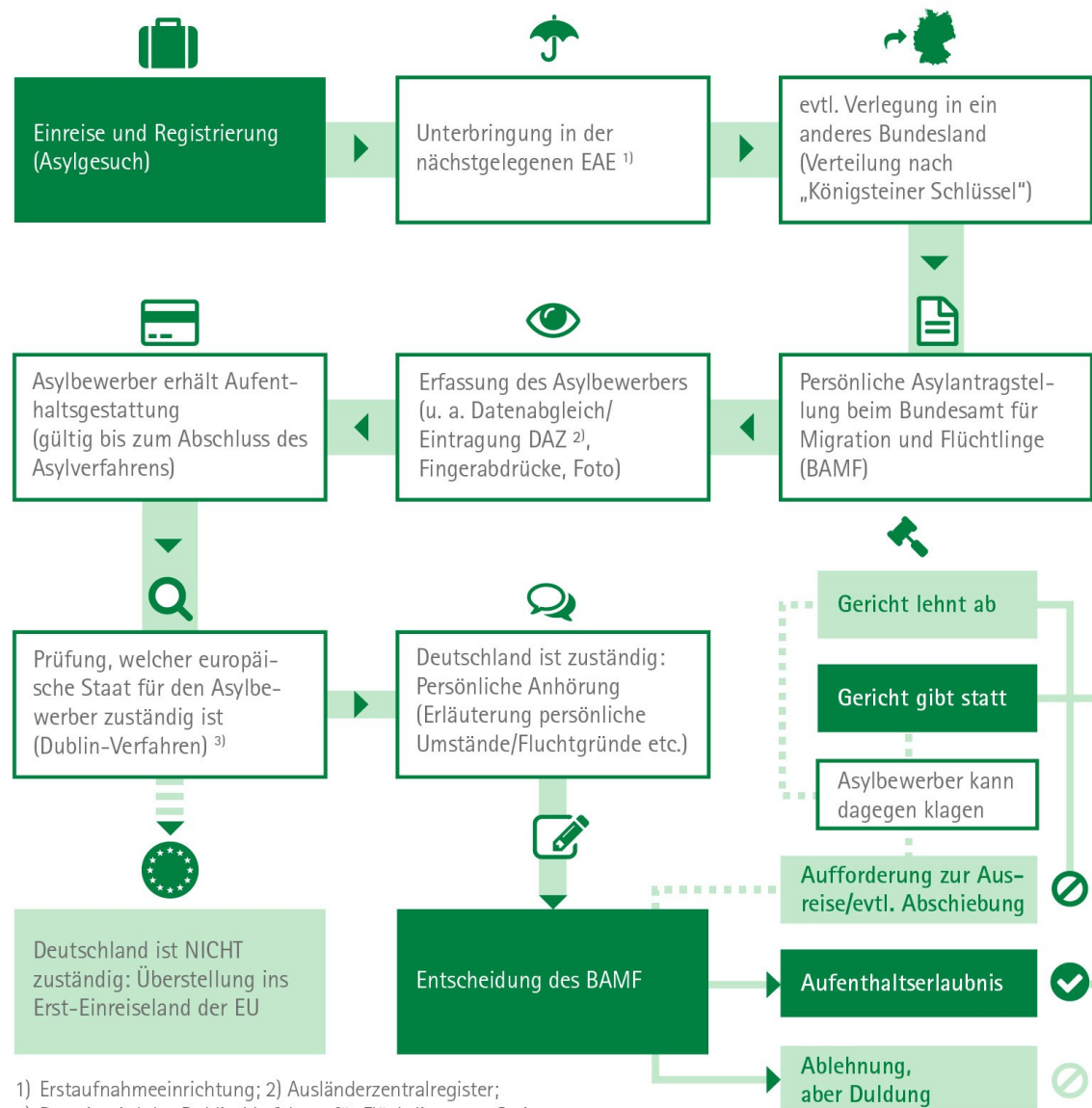
** January to August 2017

Source: Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

... and after 2015

How to deal with the „new“
situation?

Beispielhafter Ablauf eines Asylverfahrens



1) Erstaufnahmeeinrichtung; 2) Ausländerzentralregister;
3) Derzeit wird das Dublin-Verfahren für Flüchtlinge aus Syrien
nicht angewendet. Syrische Personen dürfen in Deutschland bleiben.

Strategies of the Saxon State Government since 2014 I

- In 2014 the government changed from a conservative liberal one to a conservative social democratic coalition.
- The SPD pushed the founding of a new minister position: The State Minister of Equal Opportunities and Integration, responsible for gender equality, integration of migrants (mainly refugees) and for projects to strengthen democracy.
- The coalition agreement between the conservatives and the social democratic party established some new approaches towards integration:
 - *establishing a new concept on migration and integration*
 - *language courses free of charge for all migrants (especially asylum seekers)*
 - *increasing support for the municipalities in Saxony (financial and logistical)*
 - *increasing effort on labour market integration*

Strategies of the Saxon State Government since 2014 II

- Because, from my point of view
 - *integration by language acquisition*
 - *integration by labour market integration*
 - *integration by social connectivity and*
 - *Integration by own housing*
- are the key indicators for entirely integration.

Challenges...

- the conservative coalition partner
 - *a law and order narrative vs. integration and cosmopolitanism*
- the municipal level
 - *“empty coffers” vs. new tasks*
- the indifferent fear of some parts of the inhabitants in Saxony towards foreigners
 - *lack of experience with foreigner and a supposed unfamiliar situation vs. the need to deal with the new fellow citizens*

And now? Two years of a new policy towards migrants in Saxony I

- The challenges still remain, but there *has been* also real changes so far.
 - *increasing concentration of all issues in context of integration in one department (except asylum-related issues)*
 - *increasing inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation*
 - *establishment of the so called “Seven-Point-Plan” on integration*
 - growth of the financial means for the programs on integration in Saxony
 - expansion of the study guidance for refugees
 - support of science initiatives towards integration
 - establishing of so called employment market tutors
 - development of special events as an orientation for refugees for special sectors of the labour market
 - lowering of the barriers for refugees to participate in organized sports clubs
 - investment in a naturalization campaign for employed migrants

And now? Two years of a new policy towards migrants in Saxony II

- 12 Million Euro p. a. to promote the social work towards refugees on the communal level
 - over 100,000 participants in additional offered language trainings in Saxony*
 - over 8,000 participants in additional offered so called orientation courses regarding** cultural and linguistic issues
 - 88 newly created so called coordinators on integration for the municipal level in Saxony**
- more than 36 Million Euro p. a. to promote programs and initiatives of charities and associations with new offers for refugees
 - hundreds of additional offers
 - support of so called psychosocial centres for refugees with experiences of emotional distress
- about 5 Million Euro for programs in context of democracy and cosmopolitanism

* in the end of 2016

** in the end of 2017

So everything is OK?

I don't think so...

- *In my opinion there are several more things, we have to achieve, so that integration really will work*
 - *We need a new narrative towards foreigner and refugees- in Germany and in the whole European Union.*
 - *We need to have more possibilities to get to know to each other – native citizens and recently come residents.*
 - *We need to fight in a more consequent way against right wing extremists and also right wing populists.*
 - *We need a new line of progress towards emerging and developing countries.*
 - *We need the courage and the strength to hold a positive and human course towards migrants and refugees.*



THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR LISTENING.

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