

MORUS 14: an overview



What is MORUS 14?

MORUS 14 is a non-profit association, which engages in education, integration and the prevention of violence in Berlin's Rollbergviertel, in the Neukölln district. In particular, MORUS promotes education and the development of social skills amongst children and adolescents.

What kind of problems does the district Rollbergviertel encounter?

The housing estate Rollbergviertel was built in the 1970s. Today, approximately 5.700 people from more than 30 countries live here. The area has been known as a troubled neighbourhood, characterized by a high number of migrants (70% of the population), high unemployment rates and a lack of education. About 45% of the population depend on aid money. The main problem, however, is not poverty but educational disadvantages in all classes of the population.

The concept of MORUS 14

By organising various events, networking and offering learning opportunities and mentoring programmes, MORUS 14 contributes effectively to the social integration of Rollbergviertel's population. Its work is based on "lived diversity" and everyday encounters. MORUS 14 thereby sensitises people for all kinds of discrimination and social exclusion, such as discrimination because of gender, age, cultural background, disability, sexual orientation or religion.

MORUS 14 coordinates five mentoring programmes with 90-100 participants as well as several groups. It offers support for children and adolescents of all ages, from the first grade until the start of their professional life.

The „Netzwerk Schülerhilfe Rollberg“

MORUS 14's most important project is the mentoring programme "Netzwerk Schülerhilfe Rollberg". Since 2003 children and adolescents in the Rollberg district have had the opportunity to be coached by volunteers – continuously and for an unlimited amount of time. During the weekly meetings, children of the age from 8 until 18 from families with a low educational background get in touch with people from Berlin's diverse educated stratum. The programme is free of charge and focusses on educating the students as well as on conveying social skills, such as communication, punctuality and reliability.

„Fit und schlau – von Anfang an“

While practically similar to "Netzwerk Schülerhilfe Rollberg," "Fit und Schlau" is conceptually unique. The project started with the school year of 2016 and is funded by the SKala-Initiative. All children of one of the classes at the local Regenbogen primary school are teamed up with a mentor, who continues to coach them for six years, from the beginning to the end of their primary school years.

„Der frühe Vogel“ (The Early Bird)

Since October 2017, the project offers pupils in the 9th and 10th grade from the Rollberg neighbourhood specialized and goal-oriented support for the preparation of their graduation exams. Five students who study to become teachers teach the groups every Saturday on a weekly basis.

„Rollberg m8 Schule“

Conceived on the same pattern as "Der frühe Vogel", this course aims at helping pupils in the 8th grade catching up their lacks of basic knowledge in maths, german and english in order to be able to properly prepare their graduation exams in the following years.

„Shalom Rollberg“

Education includes an expansion of social and cultural horizons. To address this challenge, "Shalom Rollberg" unites children and adolescents from Neukölln with Jewish and Israeli residents of Berlin. Various group activities (sports, English and art) accompanied by individual mentoring enable all participants to

develop mutual acquaintance. As part of the PRiiL project, an informative introduction to Judaism has been incorporated into classroom instruction at the local Regenbogen Primary School. The activities of “Shalom Rollberg” provide ample opportunities to engage in casual conversation about antisemitism, racism, prejudice and the promotion of tolerance.

What we have achieved so far

Sixteen years after being founded, it is impossible to think about the Rollberg district without thinking about MORUS 14. The association is a place of culture, peaceful encounters and dialogues between people with different cultural backgrounds and religions – in the middle of a district that often makes negative headlines in the media. MORUS’s work is an integral part of the district and receives a lot of recognition by individuals, companies, foundations and in particular by local politicians. PHINEO (Bertelsmann foundation) has awarded MORUS 14 for its “especially effective work” and has recommended the association for financial support.

Transferability

The basic concept of MORUS 14 can be transferred to any other troubled neighbourhood in Germany or abroad. Its district-orientated approach is crucial for its success. With its projects, MORUS 14 addresses all population groups and acts inter-divisional. Many interested people from Germany and abroad have come to study MORUS 14 to learn more about its work and its approach. That includes local stakeholders such as Berlin’s police and neighbourhood projects of other districts as well as students from Michigan University (USA), the German-French Institute for Political Science in Nancy and employees of the Danish Red Cross.

Funding

MORUS 14 is more than just an association. It is a social enterprise for a district, which is supported by many individual long-term donors as well as companies and foundations. MORUS 14’s projects are carried by the enormous voluntary dedication of about 150 people. To ensure the necessary continuity and sustainability of its projects, MORUS 14 deliberately decided against limited public funding. The association is looking for smaller and bigger donors in order to keep up its work.

Basic information about MORUS 14 e.V.

Foundation: 2003

Members: 214

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