

NEW STUDY EXAMINES EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF REFUGEES

VIENNA DEMOGRAPHERS INTERVIEW 500 REFUGEES IN AUSTRIA. INITIAL SURVEY RESULTS EXPECTED FOR JANUARY 2016.

For months, people from the Middle East have been fleeing to Europe. Many of them have searched refuge from war, terror and persecution in Austria. To help with their integration it is important to know more about their educational background and their professional qualifications, and also about their hopes and expectations for the future. A new study started by demographers from Vienna is gathering this information for the first time in the German-speaking area. Respondents are also asked about their origins and family backgrounds as well as about their attitudes and values. The interviews are carried out by the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital, a research cooperation of the Vienna Institute of Demography (VID) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), the International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA) and the Institute for Human Capital and Development at the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU).

The survey covers approx. 500 persons who had to flee their home countries and are now accommodated in eastern Austria, e.g. in facilities of Fonds Soziales Wien, Caritas, Workers' Samaritan Federation, Red Cross, and Diakonie Austria. Interviews in Arabic, Farsi, and English were conducted by a team headed by Syrian demographer Zakarya Al Zalak (IIASA), until recently the director of the Statistical Technical Institute in Damascus, as well as by students in the "Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy" (SEEP) master programme coordinated by Judith Kohlenberger from the Department of Socioeconomics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. Initial results of the survey are expected for January 2016.

The researchers participating in this study, among them Wittgenstein Award laureate and VID director Wolfgang Lutz, are hoping that the survey findings will contribute to an improvement of the evidence base for the social debate on refugee integration.

INQUIRY INFORMATION:

Sven Hartwig, Dipl.-Soz.

Head of Public Relations & Communication

Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW)

Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna

T +43 1 51581-1331

sven.hartwig@oeaw.ac.at

SCIENTIFIC CONTACT:

Dr. Isabella Buber-Ennser

Deputy Head of Research Group "Demography of Austria"

Vienna Institute of Demography (VID)

Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW)

Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU)

Welthandelsplatz 2, 1020 Vienna

T: +43 1 31336-7726

isabella.buber@oeaw.ac.at

Dr. Judith Kohlenberger

Program coordinator of the MSc program "Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy"

Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU)

Welthandelsplatz 1, 1020 Vienna

T: +43 1 31336-4847

judith.kohlenberger@wu.ac.at