



WELCOMING SPACES

## INVITATION

### Welcoming Spaces Roundtable in Saalfeld (Germany)

**Agency, Entrepreneurship and Employment:**

**Learning from each other about and from migrants**

22 Sept. 2022: Jugend- und Stadtteilzentrum – Albert-Schweitzer-Straße 144 - 07318  
Saalfeld, Thuringia (Germany)

23 Sept. 2022: Excursion/ Field visit to Beulwitzer Quartier



Welcoming initiatives can contribute to the further development of shrinking areas while also offering space for the successful social inclusion of non-EU migrants in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (*'leaving no one behind'*). Often welcoming initiatives are run by cooperating actors from different societal fields, and their actions and impact depend on the local contexts.

Despite a lot of creative energy and good examples of welcoming culture, the welcome initiatives are experiencing growing challenges, but there are also encouraging practical experiences. This roundtable places v. That is why we bring together actors of the welcoming initiatives in Thuringia and Rhineland-Palatinate, besides sharing international experiences from Italy, Netherlands, Poland and Spain. The roundtable is organized in the framework of the international comparative and EU-funded research project 'Welcoming Spaces in Europe' ([www.welcomingspaces.eu](http://www.welcomingspaces.eu)).

## **Background of Roundtable**

The arrival of migrants from 2015 onwards was well managed in that migrants were directed to destinations, accommodated in houses and received other welfare policies. However, the work does not end there, as migration is a non-stop process, and sustainable (long-lasting) social inclusion requires more than the first assistance measures. New migrants are continuing to arrive. Every new war or major event can trigger a new important flow, as was the case with the Ukrainian conflict.

Continuing the efforts for effective social inclusion of migrants, enabling them to be agents of their successful emplacement and participants in the local revitalisation is a challenge every political actor, policymaker and social agent is confronted with.

Therefore, this roundtable understands that sustainable inclusion goes far beyond the first welcoming assistance, and it aims to discuss the challenges the political actors, policymakers, social welfare agents and migrants face in rebuilding their lives in a new environment aiming at long-time stay. For this reason, the participation of these actors at this roundtable is essential so that they can contribute and receive insights on how to make migrants an integral part of the strategies for demographic and economic revitalisation.

## **Objectives of the Roundtable**

The event aims at bringing together politicians, city councillors, public administrators responsible for migration inclusion, social policy workers and development planners at the local, district and state levels, as well as migrants, international researchers, and practitioners from social organisations/NGOs to share experiences, ideas and receive new insights related to the sustainable (long-term) inclusion of migrants and the development of their territories. The underlying question is: What entails sustainable migrant inclusion?

### **Objectives of the roundtable:**

1. Promote continuous network development with the encouragement of discussions and cooperation among actors from different political levels and various interest groups.
2. Share local, state, national and international experiences on inspiring projects that offer solutions to the successful inclusion of migrants, especially related to employability and entrepreneurship.

3. Share the challenges faced in implementing migrant inclusion policies, especially the ones that are intended to foster employment and entrepreneurship among migrants.
4. Raise awareness of the diversity of the migrant population and their potential for further development of shrinking regions.
5. Exert political influence to place the topic of participation of migrants on the political agenda at all levels, promote awareness of the current populism and discuss instruments to overcome xenophobia.

### Who do we want to reach?

- Actors from welcome initiatives in Thuringia and Rhineland-Palatinate
- The inhabitants and migrants of the addressed districts in Thuringia and Rhineland-Palatinate
- Actors of the municipal administration, welfare state organisations and other social institutions and associations that are committed to the inclusion of migrants
- Commissioner for Integration and Migration Thuringia
- Local and regional Integration managers
- Local and regional politicians and policymakers
- EU representatives
- Academics and researchers

## Programme

Time	Contents and who
	<b>Day 1</b> (Thursday, 22 Sept. 2022), Albert-Schweitzer-Straße 144, Saalfeld <b>Moderation:</b> Prof. Dr. Sabine Meier
<b>9:00 – 9:15</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Event Opening</b> (max. 5 min. each) Prof. Dr. Annelies Zoomers (Utrecht Utrecht), Representative of Welcoming Spaces Project Mr. Steffen Präger, Representative of Plattform e.V. Dr. Steffen Kania, Mayor of Saalfeld
<b>9:15 – 9:35</b>	<b>Keynote lecture</b> “Sustainable cooperation between immigrants, local residents and other actors is possible! A practical project introduces itself”, Syuzanna Fiberg, IWM GmbH
<b>9:35 – 10:45</b>	<b>Active welcome initiatives in Thuringia and Rhineland-Palatinate</b> Input from Rhineland-Palatinate: Places of welcome: Encounter cafés and initiatives of solidarity-based refugee work in the rural regions of Rhineland-Palatinate - <i>Okka Senst, Civi Kune RLP and Büchenbeuren Encounter Café</i>  Input from Altenburg: FACKtory – die Zukunftsfabrik (Social entrepreneurship): Valentin Rühlmann & Nazmi Jmo

Input from Saalfeld: Creativity & social entrepreneurship - Judith Skodlerak & Rafiat Owolarafe, SKODLERAK fashion design.

Input from Weimar: Social Farming - Agriculture as a path of inclusion - Claudia Schneider, Thüringer Ökoherz

Input from Saalfeld: ThINKA Saalfeld – Presentation of the ThINKA project in the social areas of Gorndorf and Beulwitz & Current situation and focal points of work - *Marcel Sachse/ Mandy Gora*

Debate

**10:45 – 11:15** *Coffee Break*

**11:15 – 13:00** **Roundtable: Governance, Welfare and Development Pathways of Social Inclusion:**

Mrs Mirjam Kuppa - Thuringia State Integration Office Manager (Ministry of Justice, Social and Family): “Migrants’ integration policies in the state of Thuringia: challenges and outcomes”

Mr Rolf-Henryk Thalmann - Saalfeld-Rudolstadt District Head of the Department of Youth and Social Affairs: “Measures for the reception of immigrants in Saalfeld”

Mr Volker Liebelt - Altenburg Caritas’ manager: “Arrival and moving on of immigrants in Altenburg: Challenges and results”

Mr Herbert Petri - Major of Jugenheim, Rhineland-Palatinate: “Welcome initiatives in Jugenheim, Rheinhessen: Challenges and results”

Ms Juliane Corredor Jimenez, M.S. - Saalfeld-Rudolstadt District Sustainability manager and Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at the University of Erfurt: “Economic and development planning in the context of sustainable, inclusive and viable development: What role do migrants play?”

Debate

**13:00 – 14:15** *Lunch*

**14:15 – 15:50** **Inspiring welcome initiatives in Spain, Italy and the Netherlands**

Alberto Alonso Fradejas, University of Utrecht: “The influence of the socio-spatial context on (non-EU) migrant welcoming initiatives in ageing and marginalized EU areas”

Input from Spain - Dr Keina Espiñeira, University La Coruna: “Innovative models of migration governance and emplacement in local shrinking Spanish municipalities”

Input from Italy – Dr Alice Lomonaco: “Welcoming and generative local reception as an agent of territorial development in Italian shrinking areas”

Input from the Netherlands – Dr Sara Miellet, Utrecht University: “Welcoming initiatives, regional revitalisation and links to care infrastructures and energy transition: insights from Dutch localities”

“Employment guidance in rural areas” – Carmen Ayllon Medrano & Irene Almazan, Fundación Cepaim

Debate

**15:50 – 16:00** Event Closing

**18:30** Happy hour / Dinner

### **Day 2 (Friday, 23 Sept. 2022)**

**9:00 - 10:15** **City Tour** (Guided by Martin Spitzer)

**10:15-10:30** Transfer to Beulwitzer Quartier

**10:30 - 12:15** **Field visit Beulwitzer Quartier:** Martin Spitzer

During the guided tour through the Alte Kaserne/ Beulwitzer Quartier, the participants will learn more about the project and their vision for the future. The tour is guided by Martin Spitzer / local resident with international roots.

**12:15 – 14:00** **Lunch** at Jugendzentrum

Departure for people from Rheinland-Palatinate, Altenburg, Erfurt... (if they wish)

**14:00 – 15:30** **Welcoming Spaces Meeting & Closing**

Moderator: Annelies

#### **Venues:**

- Jugend- und Stadtteilzentrum – Albert-Schweitzer-Straße 144 - 07318 Saalfeld
- Beulwitzer Quartier – Excursion/ Field visit

**Arrival: 21.05.2022** (in the afternoon/evening)

**Wednesday evening** – informal happy hour and dinner together at *Alte Post Restaurant* from 19.30

**Airports:** Berlin & Frankfurt (and then train connections via Erfurt)

#### **Trains:**

Frankfurt Airport to Saalfeld (Saale): 3:40min, with connections in Frankfurt Hbf and Erfurt Hbf.

Berlin airport to Saalfeld (Saale): 3:37min, with connections in Berlin Hbf and Erfurt Hbf.

Utrecht Central train Station to Saalfeld (Saale): 7:36 min., with connections in Frankfurt Hbf and Erfurt Hbf.

**Stay** - suggestion for the hotel:

**Tanne Hotel.** Reservations and contact: Mrs Saier - [info@hotel-tanne-saalfeld.com](mailto:info@hotel-tanne-saalfeld.com)

#### **Confirmation and information:**

Kathrin Funke von Plattform e. V., Erfurt: [ann-kathrin.funke@deine-plattform.info](mailto:ann-kathrin.funke@deine-plattform.info)