

Mapping Places of Empowerment and Participation for Newcomers in Berlin

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Introduction

As follows a project is introduced, which is designed in order to support empowerment structures for refugees. The anticipated project aims to connect to existing community empowerment places. The raised research question in this context is: How to strengthen the access of marginalized groups in an empowering community infrastructure to support their participation?

Identifying the Problem: In Relation to the rising numbers of refugees, who came to Berlin different offers have been developed recently to provide essential information for newcomers in succinct manner. The idea was to map relevant drop-in centers of different kind, though the mapped infrastructure fulfills its function the presented information, however is nearly exclusively limited to drop-in centers of the health care and legal advice.

Assumption: For an active participation in the social and cultural life it is assumed that, especially, for marginalized and minority groups the access to safe spaces of art - and cultural places and connections with community-based projects are needed.

The concerned human rights project is called „*A Mapping of Berlin - Participation and Empowerment places for young fled New-Berliners*“. It is a social-cultural project by the organization Each One Teach One e.V. (EOTO), which is a community-based education and empowerment project in Berlin, which started in 2014. It aims at the development of people of African descent and provides a library exclusively with literature of the African Diaspora. It is an important meeting place for Afro-Germans.

Objectives of the Project: The project is aiming to close the gap of mapping information, which is just limited to health care and legal advice services. The initiative follows in the process but also in the results the specific and articulated needs of refugees, who are considered as racialised young people to offer them places in Berlin, which encourage and empower them. These places

are framed to be able to offer (to some extent) security and or the places give the youth space to actively develop their own scope of action.