

# EVALUATION REPORT

CulTrain – Cultural Orientation Training for Young Refugees

Project phases I-V, 2012-2017



IOM Country Office for Austria

February 2018

*This project was funded by the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs.*

## INTRODUCITON

In the the evaluation of the project CulTrain – Cultural Orientation Training for Young Refugees – covers the implementation period from 2012 to 2017. The project was offered nationwide integration support measures and was conducted by the Integration Department of the IOM Country offices for Austria

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

### CULTURAL ORIENTATION TRAININGS

The aim of the project was to support and strengthen the integration of young refugees, mainly through cultural orientation trainings. In these two- to three-day trainings the young refugees were given relevant knowledge about Austria in order to orient themselves independently in Austrian society. In the long term, the project increased the participation of young refugees



in Austrian society and strengthened social cohesion. Already from the beginning the cultural orientation trainings were evaluated by the participating young refugees. They expressed the wish to be able to apply learned knowledge in practice, but above all to establish contact with Austrian young people.



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### INTERCULTURAL EVENTS

In response to the participants' feedback during the training sessions, intercultural events were introduced in cooperation with local Austrian youth organizations as of project phase II (2013) in order to facilitate guided initial contact between the young refugees and Austrian society. By getting to know each other mutual fears of contact were reduced and ideally the young refugees became members in the youth organization.



### EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Also in response to feedback from the participants, starting with project phase III the knowledge imparted in the cultural orientation trainings has been applied and deepened in extra-curricular activities. Extra-curricular activities included, for example, a workshop on preventing violence and images of masculinity, studio work in an architecture center, rock climbing or visiting the Viennese Society and Economic Museum.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In the project phases CulTrain I to V, 787 young refugees took part in **80 cultural orientation trainings**. In addition, **13 intercultural events** took place in which 114 young refugees participated.

With a total of **12 extra-curricular activities**, 120 young refugees could be reached.

The young refugees participated in different project activities as part of the same project phase, for example, in cultural orientation trainings or extra-curricular activities. Since intercultural events support a sustainable exchange between young people from Austria and young refugees, as with the extra-curricular activities, it was possible to participate in several events within a project phase. However, it was not possible to participate in several cultural orientation trainings within a project phase.

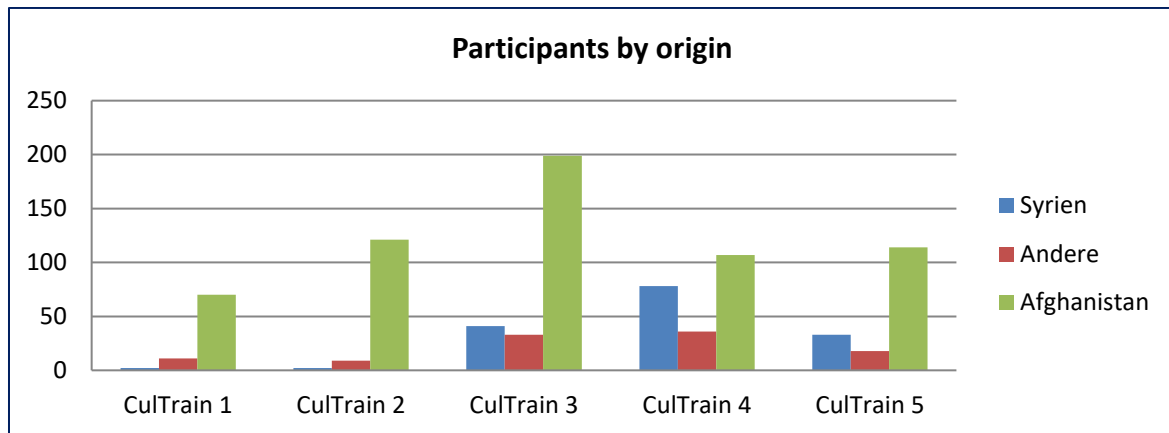


Taking all the project phases into account, a total of 874 young refugees were reached by the CulTrain project.



## PROFILES OF TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

The total of 874 participants of all project phases are shown in the following graphs, broken down by origin, residence status, age and gender.



Participants in **CulTrain I** were 70 Afghans, 2 Syrians, 7 Somalis and 4 participants from other countries of origin (Armenia, Guinea, Iran, Iraq).

In the second phase, **CulTrain II**, the ratio of 121 Afghans to 2 Syrians and 9 participants from other countries of origin (inter alia Somalia) remained relatively stable.

In the third project phase, **CulTrain III**, an increase in Syrian participants is noticeable.<sup>1</sup> There were 199 Afghan, 41 Syrian and 33 participants from other countries of origin (inter alia 17 from Somalia, and 4 each from Iran and Iraq)

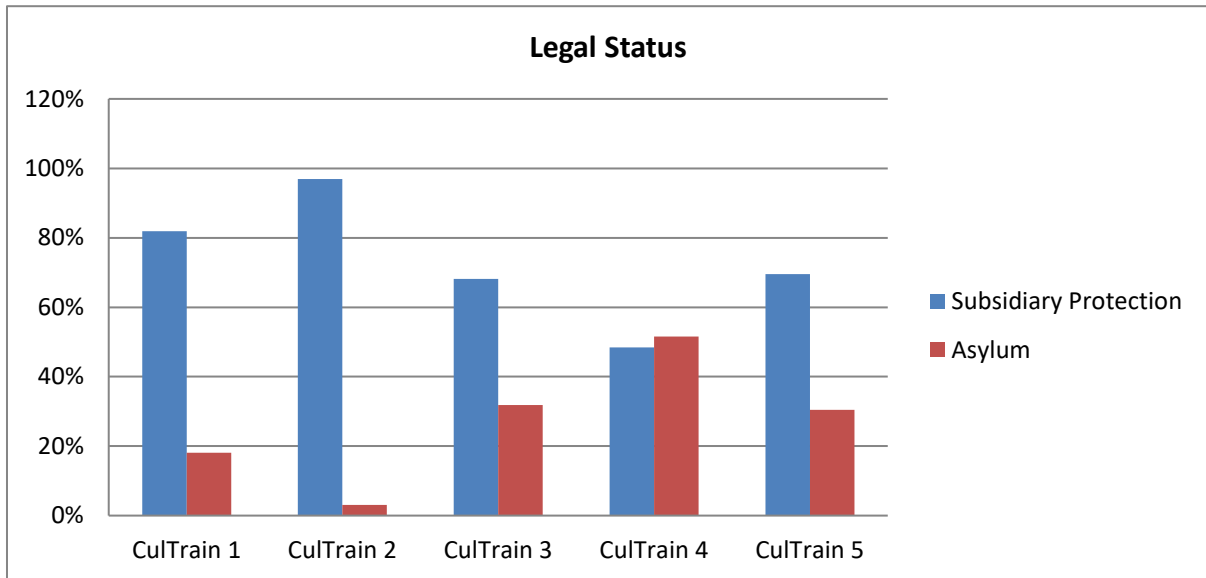
With regard to **CulTrain IV**, this development is even clearer regarding these 107 Afghans and 78 Syrians or 36 participants from other origins (inter alia 21 from Somalia, 3 from Iran and 4 from Iraq).

**CulTrain V** had 114 Afghans, 33 Syrians and 18 participants from other countries of origin (inter alia 11 from Somalia and 3 from Iran). This trend is similar to the experiences made during project phase III and IV.

***A total of 611 Afghans, 156 Syrians, 61 Somalis, 11 Iranians and 9 Iraqis participated in CulTrain.***

***Another 26 participants were from: Armenia and the Russian Federation (3 each), Guinea Bissau, Burkina Faso and China (2 each) as well as from Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Mongolia, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, the Yemen, Albania, Eritrea, Lebanon, Ukraine or were stateless (1 each).***

<sup>1</sup> From 2015 (CulTrain IV), the proportion of Syrian training participants increased significantly in line with the number of asylum applications in Austria. Cf. see: Asylum Statistics 2015 of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, URL: [http://www.bmi.gv.at/cms/BMI\\_Asywesen/statistik/files/Asyl\\_Jahresstatistik\\_2015.pdf](http://www.bmi.gv.at/cms/BMI_Asywesen/statistik/files/Asyl_Jahresstatistik_2015.pdf) [last access on 06.06.2017] or. Asylum Statistics 2016 of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, URL: [http://www.bmi.gv.at/cms/BMI\\_Asywesen/statistik/files/Jahresstatistik\\_Asyl\\_2016.pdf](http://www.bmi.gv.at/cms/BMI_Asywesen/statistik/files/Jahresstatistik_Asyl_2016.pdf) [last access on 06.06.2017].



In the **CulTrain I** 15 participants had asylum and 68 participants subsidiary protection.

In the **CulTrain II** the divergence between 4 participants with asylum and 128 participants with subsidiary protection became even bigger.

The proportion of participants with asylum increases during **CulTrain III** with 80 asylum-entitled participants. In addition, 171 participants held status of subsidiary protection.

In relative terms, most participants with asylum took part in **CulTrain IV**.<sup>2</sup> 113 had asylum, 106 subsidiary protection and 2 participants had the RWR Card Plus.

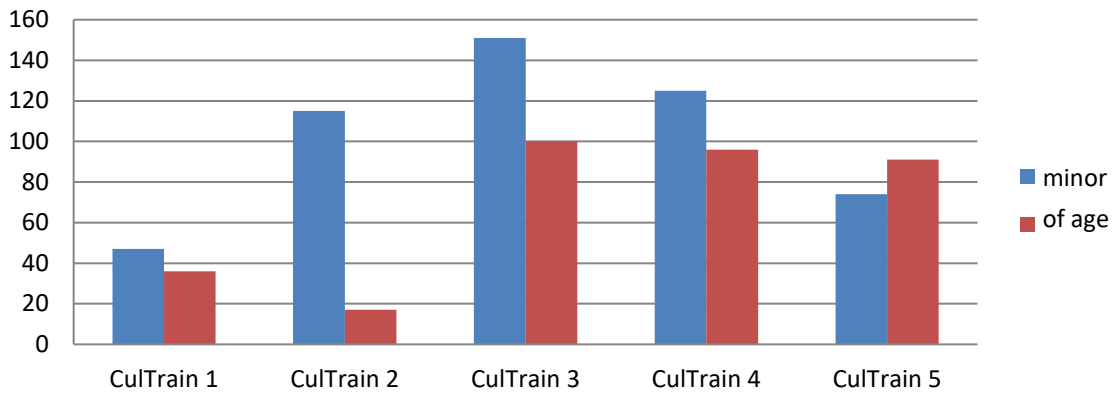
**CulTrain V** was attended by 50 participants with asylum, 114 participants with subsidiary protection and one participant with Austrian citizenship.<sup>3</sup>

***A total of 270 participants with asylum and 601 participants with subsidiary protection status participated over the entire project implementation, plus one participant with Austrian citizenship and 2 participants with RWR Card Plus***

<sup>2</sup> The rise in Syrian participants resulted in an increased number of participants with asylum status. See also breakdown of participants by country of origin.

<sup>3</sup> Only the participants with asylum status or subsidiary protection are shown in the graph, participants from other categories were represented in too little numbers (2 participants with RWR card plus and 1 participant with Austrian citizenship) and thus had no graphic relevance.

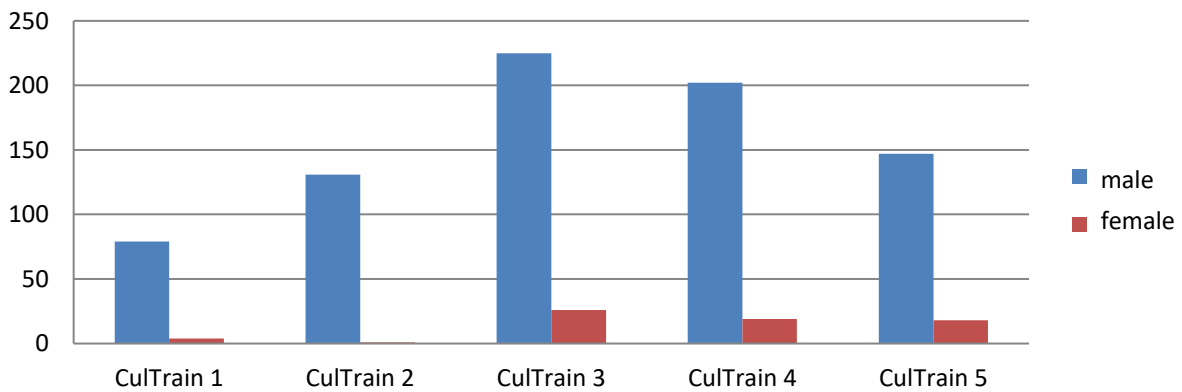
### Participants according to Age



There were 47 minor and 36 young adult participants in **CulTrain I**, 115 minor and 17 full aged participants in **CulTrain II**, 151 minor and 100 full aged participants in **CulTrain III**, 125 minor and 96 young adult participants **CulTrain IV** and 74 minor and 91 full aged participants in **CulTrain V**.

***A total of 528 minor participants and 346 young adult participants***

### Teilnehmer/innen nach Geschlecht



There were 79 male and 4 female participants in **CulTrain I**, 131 male and 1 female participants on **CulTrain II**, 225 male and 26 female participants on **CulTrain III**, 202 male and 19 female participants on **CulTrain IV**, and 147 male and 18 female participants on **CulTrain V**.

***A total of 806 male participants and 68 female participants***

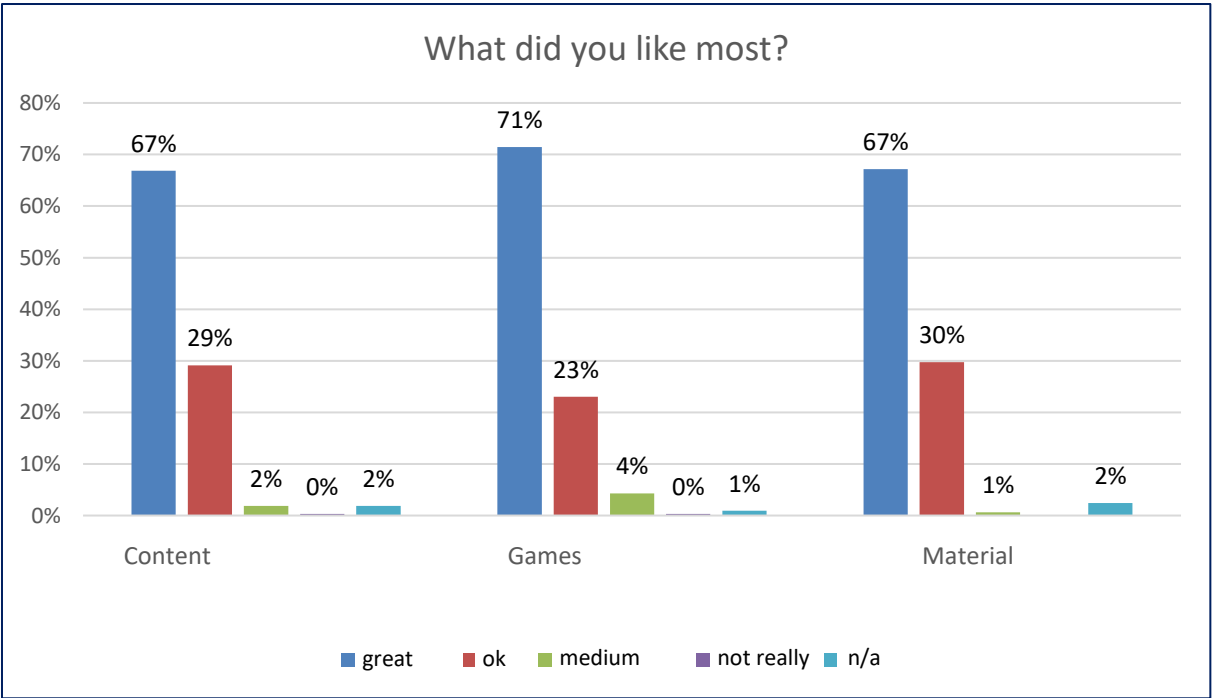
# EVALUATION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

## EVALUATION BY THE PARTICIPANTS

The feedback sheets for the written evaluation of the project were in all project phases handed out to the participants after the training (CulTrain I-V), provided enough time and sufficient knowledge of German were given. In each case, verbal feedback from the trainees was obtained. In addition, an online questionnaire was sent to trainees in the project phases CulTrain I-IV in the summer of 2016.

In the course of all project phases (CulTrain I-V), 326 participants completed a feedback form.

The analysis of the **326 feedback forms** showed great satisfaction of the respondents with the training. The answers clearly show this on the basis of an ordinal scale. The vast majority rated all scaled questions as 'very good'.



The evaluation of the answers to open questions in the feedback form shows similar result. Even open questions that encourage negative criticism were used for positive criticism.

The selective survey through online questionnaires for trainees of the project phases Cultrain I-IV reinforced the positive feedback. A total of 5 participants completed this online questionnaire. They say the training helped them a lot and they would also recommend other young refugees to take part in such training. Though, they would want more time to discuss the contents.

## EVALUATION BY THE REFUGEE AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

A total of 17 accommodation facilities as well as youth organizations have completed the online questionnaire. The evaluation showed that they were very satisfied with the project offer and the execution of the training. However, there was potential for improvement in public relations as well as in relation to networking meetings.

## RESULT

From the positive result of the evaluation it is to conclude that in all five project phases (CulTrain I-V) the project CulTrain has been successfully implemented and was of great benefit to the target groups. The content and methods of the trainings were adapted on the basis of their feedback and even new project activities, namely the inter-



tercultural events and the extra-curricular



activities, were designed and included in the project measures. This participatory approach made it possible for the trainees to be extremely satisfied with the content, methods and materials of the training over the entire project period. The facilities in which the young refugees are looked after and housed, as well as the Austrian youth organizations whose members were involved in the intercultural events, underline the great added value of the cultural orientation training as well as the additional project activities for all participants.