

Bavarian research & innovation



Bavarian Research Cooperation "Migration and Knowledge"

LEARNING TOGETHER & FROM ONE ANOTHER

University rankings, Pisa-Studies, innovation potential, competitive capacity – our globalised world is competing for knowledge in many fields. The modern knowledge-based economies are, to a very high degree, dependent upon the maintenance and transfer of this resource, and are able to benefit from the increasing mobility of human beings. The German media and public unfortunately assume, often times, an attitude of negativity regarding the debate revolving around migration and integration, and the resulting discussion does not do justice to the significance and politically explosive nature of the topic. A modern society can reap considerable benefits from the world-wide mobility of people, and it is remarkable that this phenomenon is attracting so little interest. The Bavarian Research Cooperation "Migration and Knowledge" is examining how multi-faceted knowledge through migration among societies is exchanged and re-applied in a new way.

Migration and Integration in Bavaria

Every fifth German has foreign roots. Statistics have documented the significance of migration for Bavaria as well; in the year 2007, the proportion of foreign nationals in Bavaria was 9.5%, while the proportion of individuals with a migration background (individuals and their children who have immigrated since 1950) remains at a noteworthy 19.2%.



The development of Bavaria to an industrial society and, subsequently, to a service and information society, was considerably influenced by immigrants: from the Huguenots to Sudetenland Germans to the "guest workers", immigrants have contributed directly to the growth and development of Bavaria. And to assure that Bavaria can continue to be able to assert itself in the future in light of ever-increasing national and international competition, more than just integration is required. The accomplishments and talents of these groups of immigrants must be recognised, supported and utilised. What at first appears to be foreign is capable of providing vital and innovative impetus for the success of a modern society.

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Funded by the Bavarian Ministry for Science, Research and the Arts with a grant of 1.35 million € for three years.



RESEARCH TOPICS

Human beings and cultures, societal development and creation of knowledge are not statistical facts; rather, they are multi-faceted processes that influence one another. The ability to comprehend these while avoiding, in the process, the tendency to monitor only individual interest groups is a challenge for any society.

The Bavarian Research Cooperation ForMig is examining migration as a resource for knowledge with the goal of better understanding and utilising its hidden potential.

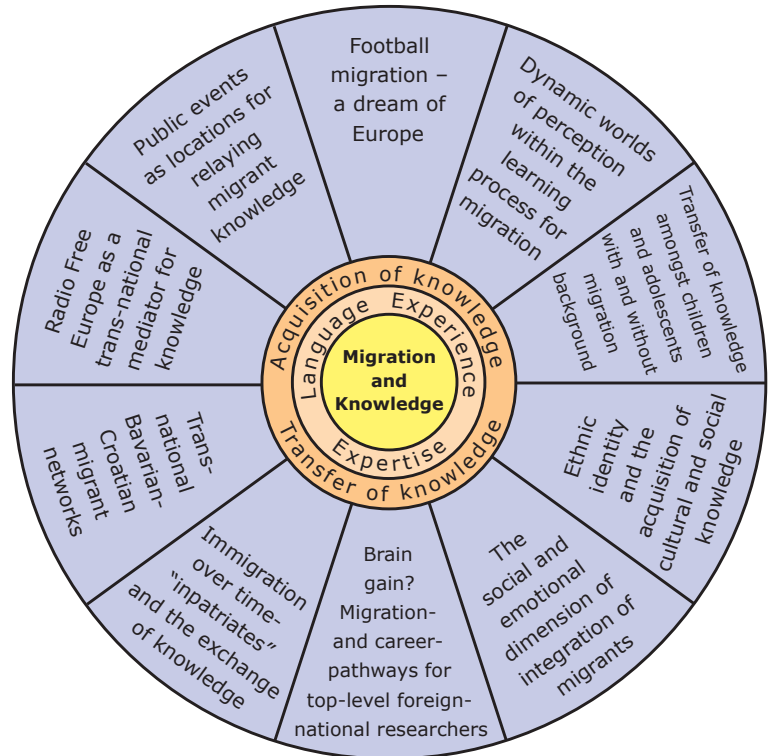
The three fields of work "migration", "integration" and "knowledge transfer", previously separated and analysed in various other disciplines, are referenced to one another in the cooperation and assessed within specific contexts.

A few of the important issues are:

- What various forms and applications of "knowledge" are effective in the field of migration?
- How do Bavarian enterprises benefit from the migration of highly-qualified employees?
- What advantages are provided by the host society's willingness and competence as regards assimilation and utilisation of migrants' knowledge?
- What special learning processes do migrants (particularly the younger generation) experience?
- How do children and adolescents, both those with a migration background and those without, exchange knowledge in their daily encounters?
- How does the migration of professional football players influence the perception of both foreign nationals in Germany as well as Europe's external image?

Perceiving immigration as an opportunity – recommendations for sustainable migration and integration policies

- How can we advance public awareness regarding migration pathways, migrant biographies, migrant knowledge and the respective benefits for our domestic society?
- How can we better recognise and utilise the special insights, talents and potential of migrants?
- How can the willingness to recognise and assimilate migrant knowledge be strengthened within enterprises and social institutions?
- How can our perceptions of migrants in schools, enterprises and society be liberated from prejudices?



Academic Partners:

University of Bayreuth:
 Chair of Operational Human Resource Management and Administrative Studies
 Chair of Ethnology
 Chair of Social Anthropology
 Chair of the Sociology of Culture and Religion

University of Regensburg:
 Chair of History of Southeast- and East Europe

University of Bamberg:
 Junior Professorship in the Sociology Department
 European Forum for Migration Studies e.V. (efms)

Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg:
 Department for Empirical Educational Research

Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich:
 Chair of General Pedagogy and Educational Research
 Chair of History of East- and Southeast Europe
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