

Historical facts about migration in Potsdam

The state of Brandenburg - including Potsdam - has been characterised by migration since the Middle Ages. The area, which was inhabited by Slavs at the time, was first settled by German princes, followed in the 12th century by predominantly Christian immigrants from western Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

After the 30 Years' War, the Great Elector Frederick attempted to counteract the loss of population with his "Edict of Potsdam" by deliberately settling people of different origins and faiths. Huguenots from France, Jewish immigrants from Austria and numerous other people found a new home in Brandenburg. The majority of these immigrants came from Europe and enjoyed numerous privileges. People from Africa and Asia also came to Brandenburg, but as war prisoners, slaves, court servants or soldiers.

Even today, more than 20,000 people from various nations with different residence statuses live in Potsdam. Then as now, there were discussions about immigration and integration. After a wide-ranging discussion, the city of Potsdam adopted a new tolerance edict in 2008 that continues the idea of tolerance and opens up ways to live together in solidarity.

The Migrant Advisory Council actively participates in the public debate and advocates at the political level for the successful integration of all immigrants in Potsdam.

Contact

Migrant Advisory Council of the State Capital
Potsdam State Capital Potsdam
Friedrich-Ebert-Strasse 79-81
14469 Potsdam
1st floor, house 1, room 148, entrance Hegelallee
Tel.: 0331 289-3346
Fax: 0331 289-843346
E-mail: Migrantenbeirat@Rathaus.Potsdam.de

Public transport: Tram 92
and 96, stop: Am Nauener
Tor

Migrant Advisory Council of the State Capital Potsdam



The Migrant Advisory Council

Since its foundation in 1992, the Migrant Advisory Council of the state capital Potsdam has been advocating for an equal coexistence of migrants and natives in the city.

The advisory board is a democratically elected representative body for all immigrants and refugees from Potsdam who have been living in Potsdam for at least six months. The members of the advisory board are elected every five years by migrants of legal age who reside in Potsdam.

The advisory board is a non-partisan body. The members of the advisory board work in a non-partisan manner for the social, political and legal equality of immigrants and refugees and represent their interests vis-à-vis the mayor, the city council and the city administration.

In their monthly meetings, the members of the advisory council exchange views on topics relevant to migration and integration. They draft statements and recommendations for the city administration, the mayor and the city council and participate in the work of various committees and working groups within and outside the city administration.

The city council in turn undertakes to consult the migrants' advisory council in the process of defining and fulfilling integration tasks.

Goals

The Migrants' Advisory Council is committed to

- The social, legal and political equality of immigrants and refugees in Potsdam.
- the promotion of peaceful coexistence in our culturally diverse society
- the reception and integration of refugees and the improvement of their living conditions
- improving the situation of children and young people with a migration or refugee background in kindergartens, schools and in training
- the improvement of school or training achievements
- the promotion of multilingualism in the administration and in educational institutions.

The Migrant Advisory Board achieves these goals by taking into account the needs of immigrant and refugee migrants who do not have the same opportunities and possibilities to participate in society in cooperation with the Migrant Advisory Board:

- all clubs and associations in the city that are active in migration work;
- the Commissioner for Migration and Integration of the state capital Potsdam and the state of Brandenburg;
- Self-organised migrant organisations;
- Representatives of parliamentary groups of the StVV;
- Employees of the municipality

Tasks and rights

The Migrant Advisory Council is the municipal representation of Potsdam's migrants. The members represent the interests of these groups vis-à-vis the city council and the mayor of the state capital Potsdam.

The advisory board advises the city council, its committees and the city administration on all migration and integration-related issues and has the right to submit its own proposals.

The chairperson of the migrants' advisory council or an A member appointed by him/her can take a stand on specific issues that affect the interests of Potsdam's migrants in the meetings of the city council or the committees.

Together with the representatives of the StVV, the Migrant Advisory Board annually awards the Integration Prize, which is given to projects and initiatives that are active in the field of integration.

The monthly meetings of the Migrant Advisory Board are usually open to the public. Interested and committed people are cordially invited to attend these meetings. Contact the office of the advisory board to find out the dates of the meetings. Or use the QR code.

Publisher: State Capital Potsdam The Lord Mayor | 2021 Responsible: Migrant Advisory Council
Friedrich-Ebert-Straße 79/81 | 14461 Potsdam Design: Vivien Taschner, Press and Communication
Fig: ©melita - stock.adobe.com/Taschner

