

Intercultural City Guide

for Oldenburg

Übermorgenstadt Oldenburg. Good for the inquisitive.



Published by

City of Oldenburg, the Mayor The Integration Officer Dr. Ayça Polat in collaboration with Mareike Tudor and Nino Zautashvili

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Foreword



Foto: Thorsten Ritzmann

We live in the age of internationalism. This is now common knowledge, and even anti-globalists do not deny the fact, as they cannot be against something that does not exist. In spite of this, the term seems to refer to something a little remote, as if it concerns far-away places and has little to do with Oldenburg. This is, however, simply not true. Internationalism is not far away. It's right here, in our neighbourhood, on our doorsteps - and that's a good thing.

At first glance Oldenburg might not seem to be a 'melting pot of nations'. In fact, the number of non-German nationals in our city only accounts for six percent of the population. There are, however, more significant numbers. For example, 17.1 percent of our inhabitants have a migration background, i.e. not they themselves but their ancestors migrated from another country. In absolute numbers I'm talking about 10,000 people from well over 140 countries here – and they're all welcome in Oldenburg.

The idea of tolerance and integration fits in perfectly with our self-conception. Oldenburg regards itself as a modern city in a modern society. We appreciate the communication and mutual exchange with people from all over the world, we seek and keep friendship with them. In return, they contribute new views and insights to our community and make our city a better place. You can easily see this by leafing through the pages of this booklet. It gives a glimpse of what the people in Oldenburg are capable of – and how they share their cultural characteristics with society as a whole.

Why don't you explore our city? Discover its people, their backgrounds and heritages, their differences and similarities, their cultures and languages, their creativity and their knowledge. You won't regret it!

Prof. Dr. Gerd Schwandner Mayor



Foto: Cidgem Handschuch

Integration Officer of the City of Oldenburg

Integration is an interdisciplinary task and is becoming an increasingly important topic for local authorities. Due to the demographic developments, the City of Oldenburg has declared that political integration work is a central topic for local politics. One indication of this is the fact that the Integration Office has now been incorporated directly into the office of the

Mayor since 1 May 2008 and is therefore one of his top priorities.

Dr. Ayça Polat, Oldenburg's integration officer, is responsible for developing an overall strategy for integration work in Oldenburg in collaboration with the relevant departments of the city, and also to ensure networking of the various people and departments involved on a local governmental level. She is responsible for all basic questions of integration policies of the city of Oldenburg and is the contact for all relevant questions of social integration.

In addition she is responsible for informing immigrants about the competencies, procedures and services of public administration offices. A central element of her work is improving the education and training situation of children and young people with a migration background. The demographic development of Oldenburg shows that the city is dependent on the immigration of qualified workers from other countries. For this reason it is a particularly important aim of the Integration Office to promote an environment of tolerance and acceptance in Oldenburg.

Should you have any questions or suggestions, the Integration Officer would be pleased to hear from you.

Contact adress:

Integration Officer (Integrationsbeauftragte)
Büro des Oberbürgermeisters

Schlossplatz 25/26

26105 Oldenburg

elephone: 0441 235-3233 or 235-2188

Fax: 0441 235-3356

E-Mail: ayca.polat@stadt-oldenburg.de or

www.oldenburg.de/integration





Photos: City of Oldenburg

1. Advisory and contact offices

Youth Migration Service

The Youth Migration Service (Jugendmigrationsdienst JMD) is one of the 150 offices of the Christliches Jugenddorf Deutschland (CJD) association and was founded in 1989 to meet widespread demand for assistance by ethnic German repatriates. In 2005 the complimentary service was extended to include migrants from other backgrounds. In the neighbourhood of the "Cadillac" in the Huntestrasse 4 the JMD assists young migrants of twelve to 27 years of age in their social and vocational integration. "With three full-time workers who themselves have a migration background as well as a team of temporary workers and volunteers we want to help young people develop a long-term perspective and help them achieve their individual aims, for example to obtain school qualifications," explains Christine Stawowski, Head of the Youth Migration Service. This is a long-term scheme which is based on the voluntary motivation of the migrants.

The experienced and friendly advisors assist the young people in solving personal problems and also in questions concerning the recognition of a foreign school or training qualification, language training and in looking for a place to undergo vocational training. Apart from offices, the centre is also equipped with a computer

room to this purpose for IT training and a room which is used for language courses. In addition to providing personal advice to young people, the JMD projects also include an internet apartment in the Kennedystrasse and a girl's dance group. Around 220 young migrants find assistance at the centre every year.

Anyone interested in what the Youth Migration Service has to offer can simply come around to the Huntestrasse or make an appointment by phone.

Contact address:

Jugendmigrationsdienst Christliches Jugenddorfwerk Deutschlands e.V Huntestraße 4 26135 Oldenburg Telephone: 0441 17864

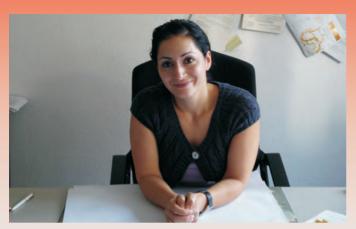


Photo: City of Oldenburg

coordinates low-threshold women's courses. The course is held in the form of a discussion group at the community centres in the respective districts and offers the women needs-based assistance and information to help them in everyday life in Oldenburg.

Initial Migration Advisory Service of the Arbeiterwohlfahrt (AWO)

The Migration Advisory Service of the Arbeiterwohlfahrt Kreisverband Oldenburg e.V. (AWO) serves as a contact point for initial counselling of migrants who have either just come to Germany or are in a crisis situation. The service is available to migrants from 27 years of age onwards or young people with typical adult problems such as lack of accommodation.

The current counsellor is the social education worker Türkan Tolan. She has a migration background and can empathise with other migrants, providing advice in German, English, Kurdish and Turkish.

This advice includes assistance with integration and language courses, structures in Oldenburg, vocational options, legal matters, questions of nationalisation and individual problems. The greatest hurdle to be overcome by newly-arrived migrants is the lack of language skills, and for this reason they often contact the office with incomprehensible letters from the local authorities. In order to be able to provide help in concrete situations, the migration advisory service works closely with the social welfare offices, the registration office, the aliens registration office, the job centre (ARGE), community centres and social housing associations. In addition to providing advice and contacts to migrants, the AWO advisory service also

Contact adresse

Arbeiterwohlfahrt Bezirksverband Weser-Ems e.V. International Advisory Service Bahnhofsplatz 2a 26122 Oldenburg Telephone: 0441 9258335



Photo: City of Oldenburg

Integration Bureau of the Diakonisches Werk Oldenburg Stadt

The Integration Bureau of the Oldenburg Diakonie welfare organisation is one of four migration assistance offices in Oldenburg. The Diakonie has already been working with migrants for a number of decades, and has extended its initial activities working with Greeks and ethnic German repatriates (Aussiedler). This assistance is co-funded by the state of Lower Saxony and provided for all people with a migration background, i.e. refugees, foreigners, ethnic German repatriates or Germans with a foreign background.

The aim of the Bureau is to help people feel at home in Germany and to provide advice in legal and social matters. The Diakonie helps with problems with authorities, filling out forms and understanding correspondence. "Even if people have good knowledge of German, legal language can still prove to be a problem as it is not part of their everyday language," explains the consultant social education worker Ulrich Schleppegrell.

"Most people with a migration background are very well integrated." However, as the general public frequently has a distorted view of facts, it is an important aim of the Integration Bureau to work against the prejudices and false perceptions by presenting facts and figures, he continues. "The aim is to establish cultural sensitivity."

The Bureau contacts schools, for example, to discuss how to organise parents' evenings so that as many parents as possible can benefit from them. In addition the Diakonie assists institutes and organisations in intercultural questions. Furthermore the Bureau offers regular consultation hours, alternating with the other migration advice centres at the Aliens Registration Office (Ausländerbehörde).

Cooperation and networked collaboration are important elements of integration work. The Integration Bureau of the Diakonie is therefore integrated into the cooperative migration work of Lower Saxony and various other local working groups.

The Bureau is open during the following hours and appointments can be made if assistance is required:

Monday and Friday 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday 2 to 4 p.m. and upon appointment

Contact address:

Diakonisches Werk - Oldenburg Stadt Ulrich Schleppegrell Dobbenstraße 26 26122 Oldenburg Telephone: 0441 9709316



Photo: City of Oldenburg

Integration Pilot

The Integration Pilot project co-funded by the state of Lower Saxony was also introduced in Oldenburg in 2007 by the Oldenburg Volkshochschule (Community Education Centre). Integration Pilots are people with and without a migration background who work voluntarily to assist migrants in everyday life. This assistance ranges from general practical help with everyday tasks such as shopping, registration for language courses and filling out forms through to long-term assistance for individuals.

To this purpose a 48-hour basic qualification course is held at the Community Education Centre. The course informs future Integration Pilots on legal matters concerning non-German nationals and also teaches them communication skills and intercultural competencies. It is important for the coordinator of the project, Yasemin Kocatas, that the Integration Pilot Group is made up of people who come from different backgrounds, and that they are of different ages and have different standards of education. The project is very well received by immigrants who take advantage of the scheme. The volunteers also profit personally from their assignments.



Photo: Tobias Frick

Education Mentors

"Bildung für alle!" (Education for everyone!) is a cooperation project between the Integration Officer of the City of Oldenburg, the :ehrensache agency, the Oldenburg Volkshochschule (Community Education Centre) and several Oldenburg primary schools. The project trains volunteers to act as mentors and to accompany individual primary school children with a migration background.

The mentors help the children with their homework and assist in organising their free time in a manner which is aimed at promoting their social skills and helping them build up networks in their district of the city. Education mentors also play a role as communicators between the school and the children's families, and convey important information to the parents about the German education system. With the scheme each child is given intensive and individual support tailored to its needs and interests.

Volunteers are recruited at regular intervals for both projects. Anyone who is interested in participating in the scheme can contact Yasemin Kocatas at 0441 235-2020.

Contact adress:

Koordinierungsstelle Integrationslotsen/Bildungspater Agentur :ehrensache Peterstraße 3, 26105 Oldenburg Telephone: 0441 235-2020





Photos: Katja Kaboth

International Student Office

The International Student Office (ISO) of the Carl von Ossietzky University in Oldenburg looks after both international students wanting to study in Oldenburg as well as German students looking to study abroad. Currently around 900 foreign students from around 100 countries are currently studying at the Oldenburg university. Most come from the Russian Federation, China, the United States, Poland, Ukraine, Cameroon and Turkey. "The ISO is the first contact point for migrants who are interested in studying," explains Jenka Schmidt who heads the office. The advisors, who themselves often have spent time abroad, provide assistance in compiling documentation and informing students about funding options, scholarships, university courses and entry requirements.

However, the ISO not only provides help with the paperwork but also assists international students with general organisational problems and everyday matters. For example, the advisors offer information on finding accommodation, residence permits, shopping facilities, waste separation and other relevant questions which arise when they are living in Oldenburg.

So-called "buddies", mainly students from Oldenburg, mentor the foreign students at the beginning of their studies and are

available as a contact person when they need help, for example finding somewhere to stay when they first arrive.

In addition to assisting foreign students, the ISO also organises cultural events. Students at the university are given the opportunity to present themselves and their country at special "national evenings" or the international summer festival. Furthermore the ISO cooperates with various migrant student organisations and helps them with projects and events. The ISO therefore also supports international students beyond the beginning of their studies.

Contact address:

International Student Office Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg 26111 Oldenburg Telephone: 0441 7982479



Photo: City of Oldenburg

families in particular can take part in group activities in all Community Service Centres which are tailored to their needs. These include parent and toddler groups and playgroups as well as the "Griffbereit" and "Rucksack" language training schemes.

2. Community Service Centres

Community Service Centres (Gemeinwesenarbeit) are central contact points in the various city districts. They are meeting points where residents of all ages and nationalities of the district can meet, do things together and shape life in their district. Advice, counselling and assistance are also offered.

In Oldenburg there are Community Service Centres in the districts of Ohmstede, Kreyenbrück, Bloherfelde/Eversten and Dietrichsfeld. All four Community Service Centres are funded by the Youth, Family and Schools Office (Amt für Jugend, Familie und Schule) of the City of Oldenburg.

The Council Resolution of March 1996 states that community service work is a socio-political task which encompasses all generations and nationalities in its activities.

The centres are used by visitors as contact points to meet people in similar circumstances, take part in various activities together and to support one another in parenting questions. To this purpose the centres organise breakfast cafés, offer advice and support in all life issues, offer courses and organise meetings for creative work. Young

Contact addresses

Gemeinwesentreff Bloherfelde/ Everster Bloherfelder Straße 173 26129 Oldenburg Telephone: 0441 5601165

Kulturzentrum Rennplatz Kurlandallee 4 26125 Oldenburg Telephone: 0441 381424 Fax: 0441 381566

Stadtteiltreff Dietrichsfeld Alexanderstraße 331 26127 Oldenburg Telephone: 0441 5707892

Stadtteiltreff Kreyenbrück
Stadt Oldenburg/Jugendami
Gemeinwesenarbeit
An den Voßbergen 58
26133 Oldenburg







Photo: City of Oldenburg

3. Recreation and community centres/youth centres

There are currently seven recreation and community centres in Oldenburg. The youth centre "Offene Tür" (Open Door) is sponsored by the Evangelische Gesamtkirchengemeinde Eversten, and the Arbeiterwohlfahrt KV Oldenburg - Vechta e.V. is the trustee of the "Frisbee" recreation centre. All other centres are run by the City of Oldenburg.

Although the youth centres are open to all citizens of the district, young people mainly use the facilities, many of whom have a migration background. These centres are an important interface between the world of the young people and the municipal institutions such as schools or other institutions in the respective city district.

Young people between the ages of twelve and 21 are able to use the so-called "open area" in the afternoons and evenings, playing billiards, table football or other board games or simply to sit in the café. The recreation and community centres play an important role in the lives of the young people in the district, offering them facilities to spend their free time in a meaningful manner and also providing support in general everyday matters.



Photo: City of Oldenburg

Contact addresses:

Jugendkulturzentrum Cadillac Funded by: City of Oldenburg

Adress: Huntestraße 41, 26135 Oldenburg

Manager: Paulo Silva Telephone: 0441 235-3800

E-mail: info@cadillac-oldenburg.de

Jugendfreizeitstätte Bürgerfelde Funded by: City of Oldenburg

Adress: Alexanderstraße 209, 26121 Oldenburg

Manager: Michael Lenartz Telephone: 0441 8850508

-ax: 0441 9833458

E-mail: FST-buergerfelde@stadt-oldenburg.de

Funded by: City of Oldenbur

Adress: Brandenburger Straße 38, 26133 Oldenburg

Manager: Erhard Drobinski Telephone: 0441 44105

E-mail: fst-krevenbrueck@stadt-oldenburg.de

Freizeitstätte Ofenerdiek

Funded by: City of Oldenburg

Adress: Lagerstraße 34, 26125 Oldenburg

Manager: Axel Meltl Telephone: 0441 60195

F-mail: juzofenerdiek@t-online de

Jugendfreizeitstätte Osternburg

Adress: Kampstraße 22, 26135 Oldenburg

Manager: Thorsten von Blanck

lelephone: 0441 258 ⁻ax: 0441 9572746

E-mail: osternburg@gmx.de

Jugendbegegnungsstätte "Offene Tür"

Funded by: Ev.-luth. Kirchengemeinde Eversten

Adress: Bloherfelder Str. 170, 26129 Oldenburg

Manageress: Roswitha Walther-Vogt

elephone: 0441 51898 ax: 0441 5708897

E-mail: OT_Bloherfelde@web.de

Jugendfreizeitstätte der AWO

Funded by: Arbeiterwohlfahrt KV Oldenburg-Vechta e.V.

Adress: Dwaschweg 281, 26133 Oldenburg

Manager: Kai Hotzinger-Varnhorn

Telephone: 0441 4853663

-ax: 0441 4853663

E-mail: Jugendzentrum.frisbee@ewetel.net

Social group activities (Soziale Gruppenarbeit)

at various sites

Funded by: City of Oldenburg

Adress: Berastraße 25. 26122 Oldenburg

Telephone: 0441 235-2406

Fax: 0441 235-2154

E-mail: jugend@stadt-oldenburg.de



Photo: The Mädchentreff (Girls' Club)

The Mädchentreff (Girls' Club)

The Mädchentreff is a recreational and educational facility focusing on young women and girls from the ages of 8 to 21 from all social and cultural walks of life and educational levels. The girls and young women come to the Mädchentreff for a number of reasons. They can find friends, be creative, listen to music, find an open ear, surf on the web or simply have fun and use the facilities for their own projects. Two experienced educationalists assist and support them. Advocating the rights of girls is the main focus of the organisation.

The activities on offer are varied. In addition to public advocacy work for girls, the Mädchentreff offers computer and internet courses, housework assistance, self-assertion courses, creative activities, support in career and life planning, weekend seminars, holiday programmes, projects at schools and courses on nutrition, heath as well as craft work and technology.

The pleasant and cosy rooms of the Mädchentreff in the Cloppenburger Strasse 35, which are suitable for wheelchair access, are open during term time on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 7 p.m.. The activities on offer and the facilities of the club can be used free of charge during this time. In addition the homework group meets twice weekly. Apart from these regular opening hours, a

number of other activities and events are on offer which are advertised in the press and by means of flyers at the schools.

The organisation is funded by the organisation Mädchenhaus Oldenburg e.V. The other groups organised by the Mädchenhaus are:

Hort Schülerinnentreff (after-school care girls' club)

Telephone: 0441 64246

Flexible Hilfen (flexible assistance)

Telephone 0441 12854

Contact and Information Desk

Telephone: 0441 12864

Contact adress:

Mädchentret

Barbara Haff (manageress)

Cloppenburger Straße 35

26135 Oldenburg

Telephone: 0441 6142:

E-mail: maedchentreff.oldenburg@t-online.de www.maedchenhaus-oldenburg.de



Photo: IBKM

4. Intercultural education and training schemes and research institutions

IBKM Interdisciplinary Centre for Education and Communication in Migration Processes

The Interdisciplinary Centre for Education and Communication in Migration Processes (Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Bildung und Kommunikation in Migrationsprozessen, IBKM) is a scientific institution of the Carl von Ossietzky University in Oldenburg. It is made up of a pool of scientists from a wide range of fields and faculties. "The centre focuses on research questions which arise from migration processes. These mainly concern living in the host society and aspects such as language and education," explains the current deputy head, Winfried Schulz-Kaempf.

The topics of migration and integration touch a large number of disciplines which the IBKM unites: Pedagogics, social sciences, German as a foreign language, religious studies, political sciences and sports science. Projects such as the girls' football project "Mädchen kicken mit" (MICK), aimed at promoting the integration of girls with a migration background, are therefore now also included in the work of the centre. The IBKM was founded in 1994 as an independent insti-

tute and in addition to carrying out research work was also responsible for planning intercultural studies for university degrees and teaching training courses. As part of academic reforms the institution was renamed as a scientific centre in 2003. No longer responsible for study courses, the centre focused on planning and implementation of research projects, other schemes and further education courses in the fields of migration, integration and intercultural training.

For example the IBKM focuses on questions such as educational success by creating variety in teaching networks and cooperation projects, the living situation of young people with a migration background, experience of racism and also qualification courses for professional and voluntary workers in the field of integration. The projects of the IBKM are often initiated by local officers and organisations such as the integration officers, counselling centres and schools.

One example of practical research is the extremely successful model of the "Intercultural Education and Counselling" further education course of studies aimed at highly-qualified migrants. As immigrants only have limited opportunities on the German labour market in spite of vocational qualifications and good knowledge of German, a special course of studies was developed for this target group. "Integration means equal participation in social and political life in the Federal Republic. This also includes equal training and vocational opportunities," explains Winfried Schulz-Kaempf. The IBKM also feels committed to this aim in the future.

More information on the IBKM is available at: www.ibkm.uni-oldenburg.de.

Contact adress:

Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg IBKM Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Bildung und Kommunikation in Migrationsprozessen Ammerländer Heerstraße 114-118, 26129 Oldenburg Telephone: 0441 798 4009



Photo: City of Oldenburg

Intercultural Centre for Research, Documentation and Counselling IBIS

The Intercultural Centre for Research, Documentation and Counselling (Interkulturelle Arbeitsstelle für Forschung, Dokumentation und Beratung e.V., IBIS) was founded in 1994 by graduates of the Intercultural Pedagogics course. "We recognised gaps in previous intercultural work," says Uwe Erbel, Head of the IBIS. One important topic for the founding members was therefore to promote more openness in society for the topics of integration and cultural diversity. "Our mission statement is to lead migrants to a life of equal opportunity in Germany," he comments.

The Intercultural Centre is committed to promoting the integration of migrants and respectful cohabitation of all people with all their individual and cultural differences and similarities. IBIS e.V. traditionally works in several fields; the association offers a wide range of language courses for migrants, some tailored to the needs of women and people with literacy problems. Free child care enables course participants to learn in a quiet, undisturbed atmosphere. In the CAFE IBIS visitors are able to find out what the IBIS has to offer and meet others to enjoy tea, coffee and cake.

At the weekly Refugee Café refugees read news from their homeland, learn German or find advice. The refugee counselling office can visited to obtain comprehensive information on applying for asylum, residence rights and social or health-related questions.

The anti-discrimination office at the IBIS provides independent advice in compliance with the General Equality of Treatment Act (AGG). IBIS is the founding member of the Anti-discrimination Association of Germany (Antidiskriminierungsverband Deutschland) and is networked on a cross-regional scale with other institutions working in this field. The association also supports people who work with migrants professionally, offering specialist seminars and training courses on intercultural competence.

The IBIS offers people with a migration background further education courses such as "Qualification of Migrants in the Heath Sector", a one-year full-time course in culturally-sensitive care. Since its move to the Oldenburg Klävemannhalle, IBIS has been able to stage cultural events such as the "come-together" series with music, cabaret and theatre from Portugal, Africa, Russia and Iran.

IBIS has its own printing shop and a publishing house which publishes material for the promotion of intercultural work. The IBIS e.V. can also print small and medium editions for other associations, clubs and individuals. IBIS is one of the largest organisations in Oldenburg which deals with the topics of interculturalism and migration.

Contact adress:

IBIS e.V. Hauptgeschäftsstelle Klävemannstraße 16 26122 Oldenburg Telephone: 0441 21706861



Photo: International Flight Museum

sociation are invited. Other cooperation partners of the association are schools and universities, museums, remembrance and educational institutions and church organisations. The association regards human rights as the centre of its work – irrespective of political, ideological and religious views. Once a year the association stages a "Vereinssuppe" event which has become a traditional meeting point for Oldenburg clubs and associations.

More information on the association is available at: www.fluchtmuseum.de.

International Flight Museum Support Association

The International Flight Museum Support Association (Förderverein internationales Fluchtmuseum e. V.) was founded in 1999 and is a documentation, information and training project. The topics of migration, flight, displacement, asylum, integration and participation are focused on at exhibitions, lectures, readings, film shows, campaigns and in publications. The association also focuses on racial discrimination, xenophobia, racism, foreign development politics and fair trade, intercultural education and training and also the question of moral courage.

"We combine history with the present so that flight and the reasons for flight are not forgotten, and provide assistance with project concepts within the scope of our material and organisational resources in keeping with our articles of our association," explains Ulrich Hartig, member of the association's board. This applies in particular to people with flight, displacement or migration experience.

A public members' meeting is held at least every six months to which cooperation partners such as the Ecumenical Centre of Oldenburg (Ökumenisches Zentrum Oldenburg e. V.), IBIS Intercultural Centre (Interkulturelle Arbeitsstelle für Forschung, Dokumentation und Beratung e. V.) and the Gedenkkreis Wehnen remembrance as-

Contact adress

Förderverein internationales Fluchtmuseum e.V. Cloppenburger Straße 109 26135 Oldenburg



Photo: City of Oldenburg

materials in several languages are available at the community work meeting points.

The "Rucksack" project is aimed at mothers and fathers with children of four to six years of age. The multilingual parent assistants and Oldenburg kindergarten staff work together to develop activities to promote language and educational skills. With the active involvement of the parents they become partners of the nursery teachers to promote the general development and language skills of their children. There are child care facilities which are involved in the Rucksack programme in the districts of Bloherfelde, Bümmerstede/Krusenbusch, Dietrichsfeld, Kreyenbrück and Ohmstede.

"Griffbereit" and "Rucksack"

The development of a child during the first few years of its life are often decisive for its future and this is therefore an important time for personal furtherance. It is also the focus of the "Griffbereit" and "Rucksack" projects. Both projects are aimed at mothers with a migration background who have small children. The comprehensive educational and learning programme helps children to learn the German language but also promotes skills in the language of the country of origin of the immigrants. Fathers and German-speaking parents can also participate in the nine-month programme which takes place once a week.

The "Griffbereit" project is aimed at mothers with children of one to three years of age who meet with a group at a specific venue. The group is led by multilingual parent assistants from the same district of the city who are also mothers. The participants themselves then teach the children what they have learnt at the group meetings, as parents are the most important language role models for their children. With "Griffbereit" they learn to regularly involve their children in communication and language games. Group activities with practice

Contact adress:

Amt für Jugend, Familie und Schule Tamara Bunjes Cloppenburger Straße 73 b 26135 Oldenburg Telephone: 0441 2176 684





Photos: City of Oldenburg

5. Religious and community centres

The DITIB Turkish-Islamic Community in Oldenburg

The Turkish-Islamic Community in Oldenburg (Türkisch-islamische Gemeinde zu Oldenburg e.V.) is a member of the national Colognebased umbrella organisation DITIB (Türkisch-Islamische Union der Anstalt für Religion e.V.) and was founded in 1982 by Turkish migrant workers.

The Turkish Community in Oldenburg works closely with the mosques in the Lower Saxony/Bremen districts. "We tend to the religious concerns of all Moslems and are also socially active," says Tuncay Dincer, member of the organisation's managing board. The rooms at the mosque in the Emsstraße are open to the around 170 members for meetings and prayer. There is also a tea room. The imam, the community's prayer leader, is also accommodated at the mosque premises.

In addition to Friday prayers, which are mainly attended by the male Moslems, believers also attend other meetings at the Turkish Community. Both girls and boys meet in groups for religious instruction and to discuss various topics. Women often meet to cook or bake together.

It is very important to the Turkish Community that it is open to the general public. For example, a woman's language course is held at the mosque which is open to anyone who is interested. In addition to the Islamic faith the members of the community also focus on maintaining Turkish traditions. Once a year the DITIB Community works with other Turkish associations in Oldenburg to organise the traditional Turkish children's festival with up to 600 children.

Contact adress:

DITIB Türkisch-islamische Gemeinde zu Oldenburg e.\ Emsstraße 13 26135 Oldenburg - · · ·

elephone. 0441 882393



Photo: City of Oldenburg

Yazidi Forum

The Yazidi Forum (Yezidisches Forum e.V.) was founded in October 1993. It serves to promote and publicise the Yazidi religion and culture and acts as a bridge between the German society and Kurdish migrants. The Forum also carries out community work by bringing together people who have left their homeland. It offers support in all areas of life and with different kinds of problems: Youth work, social work, women's work, parenting, mediation in conflicts, organisation of celebrations and mourning counselling, cultural events and language courses. Furthermore the association is a contact point for all Kurdish migrants from all over Germany.

Since 1999 the Yazidi Forum has been operating as a state-certified institution. The work is carried out by voluntary workers and mainly funded by members' contributions. The Forum offers low-threshold women's courses, advisory services and everyday assistance. Families receive individual support and are also given spiritual guidance if required. Furthermore the Yazidi Forum supports projects such as "Migration and Mobility". Within the framework of this cooperation with the University of Oldenburg and the Kreyenbrück Community Service Centre, it organises sports courses for women and cycling courses

"The Forum also carries out important supplementary integration work by conveying local values and customs to the target group and providing orientation in making education decisions and when choosing a profession," says Behiye Tolan, member of the board of the Yazidi Forum.

Since December 2009 the Yazidi Forum has been cooperating with the Diakonisches Werk - Oldenburg Stadt in backing the project "KING – shaping competent integration". As part of this two-year project three team members will implement measures which promote both intercultural dialogue and also the competencies of various active local integration workers.

The Forum also organises a holiday programme with various recreational activities and trips. Young people are also able to use the youth café at the Forum all year round. Great emphasis is placed on being a positive role model for the young people and including them in the Forum's work. The Yazidi Forum also offers seminars and workshops on various cultural topics and also inter-religious dialogue. Annual conferences are held on the history of the Yazidi community to which academics and philosophers are invited. The Forum also carries out invaluable cultural work by the documentation of oral recitations of old texts. The Forum aims to promote voluntary work, publicise the work of migrants and promote its recognition. The Yazidi Forum is incorporated in a widespread network of non-profit organisations.

More information on Yazidism and the work of the community is available at: www.yeziden.de

Contact adress:

Yezidisches Forum e.V. Eidechsenstraße 19 26133 Oldenburg Telephone: 0441 4850555

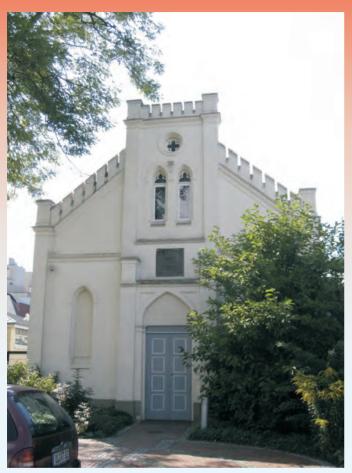


Photo: City of Oldenburg

Jewish Community

The Jewish Community (Jüdische Gemeinde) was founded in Oldenburg in 1992. It now has more than 300 members, 90 percent of which have emigrated from the former Soviet Union.

The Jewish Community is the co-organiser of various cultural events such as concerts, readings and theatre performances. Other activities including a social counselling office, choir and discussion group are only open to members of the community. There are also two Jewish cemeteries in Oldenburg, including an historic cemetery.

Tours through the synagogue can be organised for groups and schools upon request.

The rabbi Alina Treiger took over the leadership of the Jewish Community in November 2010. She is the first woman rabbi trained in Germany since 1935.

More information on the Jewish Community is available at: www.juedischegemeinde-zu-oldenburg.de

Contact adress:

Jüdische Gemeinde zu Oldenburg Wilhelmstraße 15-17 26121 Oldenburg





Photos: City of Oldenburg

Ecumenical Centre/Fair Trade Shop

The Ecumenical Centre (Ökumenisches Zentrum e.V.) is a Christian, non-denominational association. It was formed in 1997 as a result of the conciliar process which is committed to justice, peace and the preservation of creation. The main focus of the association is on promoting ecumenical life and teachings, creating intercultural contacts between local residents and immigrants and development-related training.

To this purpose the centre stages events, for example, for schools and confirmation groups, on foreign development policies. "Climate policies are also an important topic," says Ro Alognon, the education officer of the Oldenburg Ecumenical Centre. Lobby work for fringe groups is also an important activity.

The Ecumenical Centre then opened its own "Weltladen", the fair trade shop, which only sells products from fair trade projects.

These products are bought from producers in Asia, Africa and Latin America for a fair price. This small, brightly coloured and varied shop sells items such as the Oldenburg coffee from Mexico, tea, coffee, chocolate, honey and bananas. Artisan work is also on offer in the Weltladen, which is run by volunteers.

The Ecumenical Centre and the Weltladen are places where people from very varied backgrounds meet. Direct advisory services and further contact information is also given if necessary.

Contact adress:

Ökumenisches Zentrum e.V. Kleine Kirchenstraße 12 26122 Oldenburg Telephone: 0441 2489524



Photo: Maryam Moschee

Islamic Cultural Association - Maryam Mosque in Oldenburg

The Maryam Islamic Cultural Association was founded in Oldenburg in 1998. The mosque has been in the Alexanderstrasse 74 since the beginning of 2009. The Maryam Mosque is a free association which is not affiliated to any umbrella organisation. The around 50 members and large number of visitors are from up to 30 different nations, mainly from Arab countries, but also include many people from Africa and Asia. Amer Kalac, the Chairman of the association, says that people get on well together at the mosque "as in Islam all people are equal".

The Friday prayers are held in Arabic and German. Religious instruction is also given for non-Arabic speaking Moslems, and an Arabic course is held at the mosque. At the weekend women and young people meet to read the Koran together and discuss various topics. The mosque is also frequently visited by school classes and other groups wishing to find out more about Islam. "The door is open, those wishing to learn more are welcome," commented the prayer leader. "We want to overcome prejudices, and this is only possible if you reach out to others."

Contact adress

Tarek Hazaa

Maryam Moschee

slamischer Kulturverein e.V.

Alexanderstraße 74

26121 Oldenburg

elephone: 0441 9503808



Photo: Bahá'í-Community Oldenburg

The Bahá'í Community in Oldenburg

"The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens." This central belief of the Baha'i faith as well as the activities of the Bahá'í community characterise the life of the Bahá'í. There has been a community in Oldenburg for around 50 years which unites a wide variety of people from many different backgrounds in keeping with the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh and his vision for humanity.

Variety and unity are not opposing concepts in the Bahá'í community: "Each flower has a different charm, a peculiar beauty, its own delicious perfume and beautiful colour. ... Yet all these flowers, shrubs and trees spring from the self-same earth, the same sun shines upon them and the same clouds give them rain."

However, growing awareness for the unity of mankind and the inspiration to act accordingly do not simply fall from heaven. Recognising the importance of behaving fairly and in an upstanding manner to improve human society and translating these insights into concrete actions is the core of the work of the Bahá'í community in Oldenburg. There are children's classes for education of the youngest generation, junior and youth groups for the 12 to 15 year-olds, study groups for young people and adults as well as devotional meetings. These are all based on the principle of the independent search of

each individual for the truth and the conviction that each person is a "mine rich in gems of inestimable value."

The German Bahá'í community was founded in the year 1905. Many German men and women were inspired at the time by the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892), the founder of the Bahá'í faith, on the unity of humanity. In the fifties the community experienced a wave of migration from Iran, where its faith originated. Due to the persecution which is still ongoing today, a large number of its members came as refugees.

The Bahá'í faith does not recognise any clergy. The affairs of the community are discussed every 19 days in the community and deliberated on intensively in the Spiritual Council, where decisions are made. The elections to the Bahá'í institutions are not only democratic, but also do not recognise any candidature or election campaigns. All adult members of the community, both men and woman, are entitled to vote and be elected.

Contact adress

Bahá'í-Gemeinde Oldenburg Hossein Panahi Kurt-Schumacher-Str. 15b 26131 Oldenburg Telephone: 0441 5949947 www.bahai de



Photo: City of Oldenburg

6. Cultural events and activities

Lappanoptikum

The Lappanoptikum theatre workshop was founded in 2005 as part of the EU LOS integration project, which focuses on social funding for social purposes. Since then the seven Jewish puppeteers, all from Russian-speaking regions, have been entertaining audiences of all ages with creative plays that they have written themselves. The migrants, who have been living in Germany for between twelve and five years, took part in the project as they wanted to try something new.

The members of the theatre group create and make their own stick puppets and stage backdrops by hand with loving and detailed skill. The artists even compose their own music for the plays, and in doing so work with the German language and deal with its culture.

The success of the first children's play which the group wrote itself, "Princess Koschka's Invitation", motivated the Lappanoptikum to write another play for an adult audience.

The theatre venue is at Stau 25/27, 26122 Oldenburg. The group can be booked for external performances.

Contact person

Aarina Kushni

Salbeistraise 20

26129 Oldenburg

Telephone: 0441 594786



Photo: City of Oldenburg

International Women's Group

Three women with different migration backgrounds met at an Integration Pilot course at the Oldenburg Community Education Centre and found out that they all wanted to found a discussion group for female migrants – and the idea of a multicultural women's group was born.

Since the spring of 2008 around ten women from various countries meet every Thursday evening to talk about life in Germany and Oldenburg, discuss current topics and participate in communal activities. The most important aspect of the meeting is the networking aspect, allowing contacts to be made and experiences and information shared. The discussed topics are often chosen without any complex preliminary planning. Communal activities such as trips, museum and cinema visits, cycle tours and dancing are always enjoyed together. However, fun is not the only aim of the group and mutual support is very important to its members.

Women of any nationality who are interested in the International Women's Group are very welcome.

Contact

The International Women's Group can be contacted through the Dietrichsfeld Stadtteiltreff community centre (Telephone: 0441 5707892).



Photo: Integration e.V.

Integration e.V. works on a national and European scale and is involved as a cooperation partner in several EU projects with France, the UK and Italy. Every year Integration e.V. organises the "African Nation's Cup" football tournament. At the tournament 8 to 12 teams play against one another under the motto of "Stop Racism".

More information on Integration e.V. is available at: www.integration-ev.com

Integration e.V.

The realisation of the fact that there are gaping holes in the integration of African migrants and refugees led to a group of African academics coming together to work towards furthering the interests of African migrants. Since 2006 Integration e.V. has been acting as a non-profit organisation headed by Mr Cyrille Lobe Ndoumbe.

The main areas of focus of the association are: Social advice to refugees, promotion of education and training opportunities for African children and young people and the organisation of reintegration aid for returnees. The organisation also helps with translation, accompanies people on visits to authorities, provides assistance with everyday problems as well as advice in cases of racism or discrimination. Regular celebrations are also held. If necessary the organisation acts as an intermediary with cooperating language and integration course organisers. In the event of deaths the organisation assists families with the funeral arrangements either here or in the respective country of origin.

Contact adress:

Cyrille Lobe Ndoumbe Integration e.V. Eichenstraße 19 26131 Oldenburg



Photo: City of Oldenburg

Turkish Music Conservatoire and Cultural Association

The Turkish Music Conservatoire and Cultural Association was founded in 1999 and since then has offered music courses for children and young people. Professional musicians work together with several groups of children and young people and offer singing, violin and guitar instruction. Courses for learning how to play the saz, a Turkish stringed instrument, are also available.

The association carries out supplementary integration work by promoting musical skills. The main target group is children and young people. The choir also has a number of adult members. In addition to teaching music the association also offers its members regular meetings, communal meals and celebrations. Performances take place in and outside Oldenburg, for example in Ganderkesee and Bremen. A number of young people are involved in the board's work, organising events for their peers and focusing actively on youth work.

A large number of young people take advantage of the music lessons. The music school currently uses the facilities of the Paul-Maar-Schule in Oldenburg.

Contact adresses

Irfan Karacan Weißenmoorstraße 285 26135 Oldenburg Telephone: 0441 67981 or 0175 7092909





Photos: City of Oldenburg

Intercultural Gardens

After the neighbourhood gardens met with enthusiastic response in New York, Toronto, Berlin and many other German towns and cities, the idea of "Intercultural Gardens" was also taken up in Oldenburg in 2008. Upon the initiative of the Integration Officer Dr Ayça Polat, the garden activist Dr Elisabeth Meyer-Renschhausen worked with committed volunteers and residents in the various city districts to set up three intercultural gardens in Oldenburg.

Although Oldenburg is generally a very green city, many residents in apartment blocks do not have gardens to live and work in. The green areas around the houses are mostly grassed areas which are hardly used. These so-called "green separators" between several apartment blocks in the Kreyenbrück and Bloherfelde districts have been turned into vegetable and flower gardens. They are designed to return a piece of nature to city dwellers. The community beds were created by the residents themselves.

The first intercultural garden was created, however, on the premises of the Central Immigrant Authority (ZAAB) in Blankenburg. It was made by Elisabeth Meyer-Renschhausen together with several refugees, social workers of the ZAAB and volunteers at the beginning of 2009.

The gardens are intercultural as the residents in these districts are very heterogenous. People from all different cultures and nations work side by side and communicate in an informal atmosphere. Working on a joint project makes it easier to make contact and communicate with one another. The lack of language skills only plays a negligible role.

Location of the garden in Bloherfelde:

Behind the apartment block in the Kennedystrasse Bloherfelder Straße 173, 26129 Oldenburg

Contact for the garden in Bloherfelde:

Treffpunkt Gemeinwesenarbeit Bloherfelde Telephone: 0441 5601165 E-mail: kennedyviertel@stadt-oldenburg.de

Location of the garden in Kreyenbrück: An den Voßbergen 58, 26133 Oldenburg

Contact for the garden in Kreyenbrück: Stadtteiltreff Kreyenbrück. Telephone: 0441 235-3292



Photo: German-Polish Society

this reason we organise trips which are not only great fun for the participants but also offer an insight into modern Poland."

Children already get used to international communication from an early age at afternoon play groups. In cooperation with a kindergarten the DPG OL makes use of the opportunity to teach Polish and the Polish culture to children from four years of age onwards. The DPG meets in an informal atmosphere at the monthly regular night out at which non-members are always also welcome. The meetings are dedicated to various topics related to Poland.

More information about DPG OL is available at: www.dpg-oldenburg.de

Oldenburg German-Polish Society

The Oldenburg German-Polish Society (DPG OL) was founded on 11 May 1983. Since then it has been committed to working with both Germans and Poles of various ages and professions who are interested in the Polish culture, business and way of life. The society acts as a forum for the exchange and distribution of information on economic, cultural and social matters. "We want to help Germans and Poles come together," says Agnieszka Adamczak-Waschow, Chairwoman of the DPG. "Our motto is Bring Poland Closer." For this reason all interested parties are taken on a journey through the Polish culture at cultural events, for example. Visitors can get to know classical and contemporary Polish literature, films and music at events dedicated to various Polish artists and performers or individual works. Lectures are held for anyone who is interested, directing visitors to important topics which can be discussed in a group. The DPG OL provides information on interesting exhibitions in Germany and Poland and organises exhibitions on various topics and different areas of life in Poland

In addition the DGP organises study trips to Poland. "The best way to get to know a country and its people is to go there yourself and experience it first-hand," says Agnieszka Adamczak-Waschow. "For

Contact adress:

Deutsch-Polnische Gesellschaft Oldenburg e.V. Leffersweg 20 26135 Oldenburg Telephone: 0441 36148905

E-maii: kontakt@dpg-oldenburg.de



Photo: City of Oldenburg

regards friendly relations with other clubs as a sporting achievement

Every year at the end of the season the football club stages a youth competition to which teams from the Oldenburg region are invited. In addition the FC Medya cooperates with various migrant organisations, the Yazidi Forum and is also involved in events organised by the city of Oldenburg, such as the international football competition "Variety wins" (Vielfalt gewinnt).

The club uses the sports ground in Kreyenbrück at the Brandenburger Straße for training.

7. Migrants' sports clubs and projects

FC Medya

The FC Medya sports club was founded in 2001, mainly by Kurdish football players who were already active members of other clubs. The name of the club, "FC Medya", is derived from the Medes, an ancient people from whom the Kurdish people descended. "The intention of the club was not to cut itself off, but to be open in all directions," explains Emin Tolan, the president of the club. Its openness to outside communication has succeeded very well, as today around 70 football enthusiasts, most with a migration background from a number of different nations, play in the three teams of the FC Medya.

In addition to football, the club is planning to extend its range of sporting activities to include people who do not have any close ties to sport. In addition to football, the social aspects are also important for FC Medya. Supporting young people and an open ear for a wide range of problems is an important matter for the club. Direct communication among another in the club aids the integration of its younger members. Playing together creates a feeling of community among the members who come from a varied range of backgrounds. In addition to successful competition, FC Medya also

Contact adress:

FC Medya

Justus von Liebig Straße 15 26133 Oldenburg

Telephone: 0441 4853384



Photo: City of Oldenburg

TSV Oldenburg

The Turkish Sports Club (TSV) in Oldenburg was founded in 1984 by 15 Turkish migrant workers, several of whom are still active members today.

The twelve teams of the TSV, including three for girls, are today no longer only manned by Turkish migrants but also by Arabs, Germans, Italians, Iranians, Iraqis and Africans. Today the TSV is therefore more a multicultural than a purely Turkish sports club.

In addition to sport, networking is also very important to the president of the club, Erdal Sarigül: "We take on young members, integrate them and help them solve their problems." The club therefore offers its members far more than just the opportunity to play football, as various people meet and communicate and make new friends.

The TSV now has a growing fan base, and also enjoys a reputation among other clubs for playing fair, disciplined football. The club has chalked up a number of major victories such as the regional league championships and the Atatürk Cup, a national football competition.

Although the TSV does not yet have its own club house, it trains almost daily at the sports ground at the Brandenburger Straße in Kreyenbrück. Anyone interested in football is very welcome.

Contact adress:

TSV Oldenburg Erdal Sarigül Gewerbepark 7-9 26209 Hatten Telephone: 0171 33392



Photo: Tobias Frick

and are integrated into their communities as a result. The girls are introduced to football in the familiar environment of their schools and in this way also to their local sports association. As female contacts are decisive for the girls, but are seldom found in football clubs, the football assistant training module was integrated into the project. Teenage students are trained as football assistants as part of the project so that they can help instructors at primary school work groups or head a girls' team in sports clubs.

For further information on the project "MICK – girls on the ball" visit www.fussball-ohne-abseits.de and www.integration-durch-sport.com

MICK – girls on the ball

In the Oldenburg district of Ohmstede the concept of the "Ohmsteder Model" was already conceived 10 years ago. A football club was founded in cooperation with the school and sports association which was aimed at furthering the integration of schoolgirls with a migration background into the world of football. In 2006 the successful implementation of this idea inspired the German Football Association to adopt the concept and extend it to other towns.

After its resounding success throughout Germany, the idea returned to its place of origin at the beginning of 2008. Since then the City of Oldenburg has been collaborating with local sports clubs to promote women's football for girls with a migration background. Girls from immigrant families in the Oldenburg districts of Nadorst, Ohmstede, Dietrichsfeld, Bloherfelde, Kreyenbrück, Bümmerstede and Krusenbusch are able to chose football as a sports option at school. In addition the city sponsors girls' primary school football tournaments and also training courses for young women as football assistants.

As the result of this collaboration of school and sports clubs, girls' football as an option at primary schools, the organisation of local school football tournaments and girls' football camps, girls with a migration background are encouraged to join in sporting activities

Contact adress:

Management and scientific direction: Dr. Ulf Gebken F-mail: ulf gebken@uni-oldenburg de

Kerstin Poßiger

E-mail: kontakt@fussball-ohne-abseits.de Institut "Integration durch Sport und Bildung" an der Carlvon-Ossietzky-Universität Oldenburg

Marie-Curie-Straße 1 26129 Oldenburg

Frauenbüro der Stadt Oldenburg:

Kornelia Ehrhardt

Telephone: 0441 235 2759

F-mail: frauenbuero@stadt-oldenburg.de

8. Statistics on non-German nationals in Oldenburg

Table 1: Non-German nationals in Oldenburg according to the number of the most frequently represented nationality

valid on 10.2011

| Country of origin | Non-German nationals in Oldenburg | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--|
| Turkey | 1768 | |
| Iraq | 841 | |
| Poland | 744 | |
| Russian Federation | 519 | |
| Italy | 322 | |
| Netherlands | 246 | |
| Ukraine | 217 | |
| Vietnam | 204 | |
| Lebanon | 187 | |
| Serbia, Republic of | 180 | |
| Spain | 156 | |
| Greece | 153 | |
| Romania | 151 | |
| Great Britain, United Kingdom | 150 | |
| United States of America | 148 | |
| China | 137 | |
| Iran | 136 | |
| Syria | 133 | |
| Kazakhstan | 131 | |
| France | 121 | |
| Unknown | 113 | |
| Austria | 109 | |
| Latvia | 91 | |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 89 | |
| Pakistan | 89 | |
| Other countries | 2141 | |
| Total | 9276 | |

Table 2: Age levels of non-German nationals in the realm of the "Ausländerbehörde STV Oldenburg"

valid on 10.2011

| | Under 16 years of age | Between 16 and under 21 | Between 21 and under 35 | 35 and more |
|--------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Male | 591 | 306 | 1521 | 2249 |
| Female | 554 | 325 | 1514 | 2216 |
| Total | 1145 | 631 | 3035 | 4465 |

Source: Ausländerzentralregister (AZR), ausgewertet durch Landesbetrieb für Statistik und Kommunikationstechnologie Nds. (LSKN)



9. The City of Oldenburg internet service for migrants

Currently more than 27,000 citizens of Oldenburg have a migration background. The largest groups come from Russia and Poland, Turkey and the Arab countries. The English, Russian, Turkish as well as the Dutch and Chinese websites of the City of Oldenburg are provided for these Oldenburg citizens.

These websites are designed to act as an orientation aid to new arrivals to the city in their new home. These new citizens will find, for example, information on advisory services and useful contact information. The websites also contain information on the services of important municipal offices. In addition, internet users can find important information on learning German, ranging from courses at child care centres to integration courses and job-related language courses.

In addition to German language skills, it is decisive for immigrants to be aware of educational and training opportunities to enable them to settle in their new home. For this reason the websites also include information on child care facilities and schools, activities and support for women and families, vocational training, looking for jobs, setting up a business and more.

Recreational and leisure activities are also included. The websites feature a host of tips for the cultural and intercultural life of the city, covering a wide selection of topics ranging from the Jewish community to the city library, the mosque to playgrounds and museums to music schools.

Visitors to the German website of the City of Oldenburg at www.oldenburg.de can access the multilingual pages by clicking the respective flags. It is also possible to access the pages directly at:

- → www.oldenburg.de/gb (English)
- → www.oldenburg.de/rus (Russian)
- → www.oldenburg.de/tr (Turkish)
- → www.oldenburg.de/nl (Dutch
- → www.china.oldenburg.de (Chinese

The City of Oldenburg internet service for migrants

The multilingual web pages of the City of Oldenburg can be accessed at:

- → www.oldenburg.de/gb (English)
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- → www.oldenburg.de/nl (Dutch)
- → www.china.oldenburg.de (Chinese)