



Voluntary Services for Persons with Disability/Impairment
Workshop at Hirschluch 08.02.17

bezev – Our work

- *bezev* → Disability and Development Cooperation
- Since 1995, in Essen
- Non-Governmental Organization and institute
- Educative work, campaigns, projects abroad
- Developmental voluntary service „weltwärts“ and Competence Center for the Inclusion of Volunteers with Impairment/Disability within the weltwärts-program



Content

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- Background and Sensitization: Inclusion, disability etc.

PART II

- Status Quo: Inclusion in international voluntary services
- „Good practice“ experiences within the weltwärts- program
- Videos

PART III

- Discussion and exchange: Barriers and „good practices“

PART I

Background and Sensitization

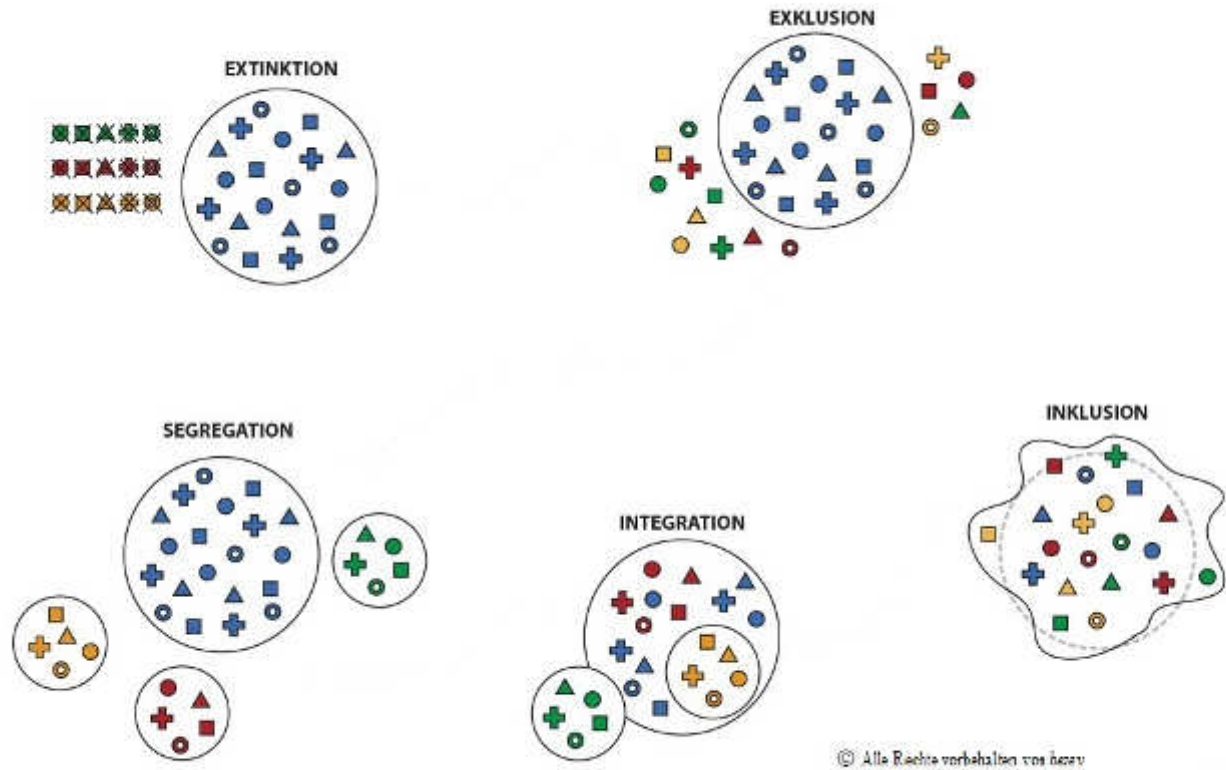
Inclusion as Human Right

- At 3rd of May 2008 the UN- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ran into force through the ratification of 20 states (including Germany: 26th March 2009)
- Participation and inclusion in all areas of human life is a human right; e.g. right to
 - Participation in development cooperation (art. 32)
 - Participation in life-long learning (art. 24)
 - Accessible information about possibilities of voluntary commitment in appropriate formats (art. 9)

Inclusion as Guiding Principle, Vision and Process

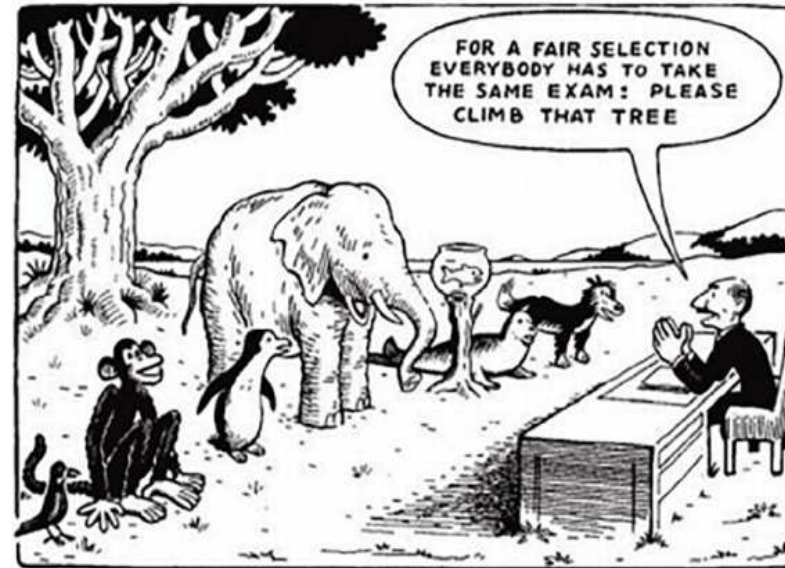
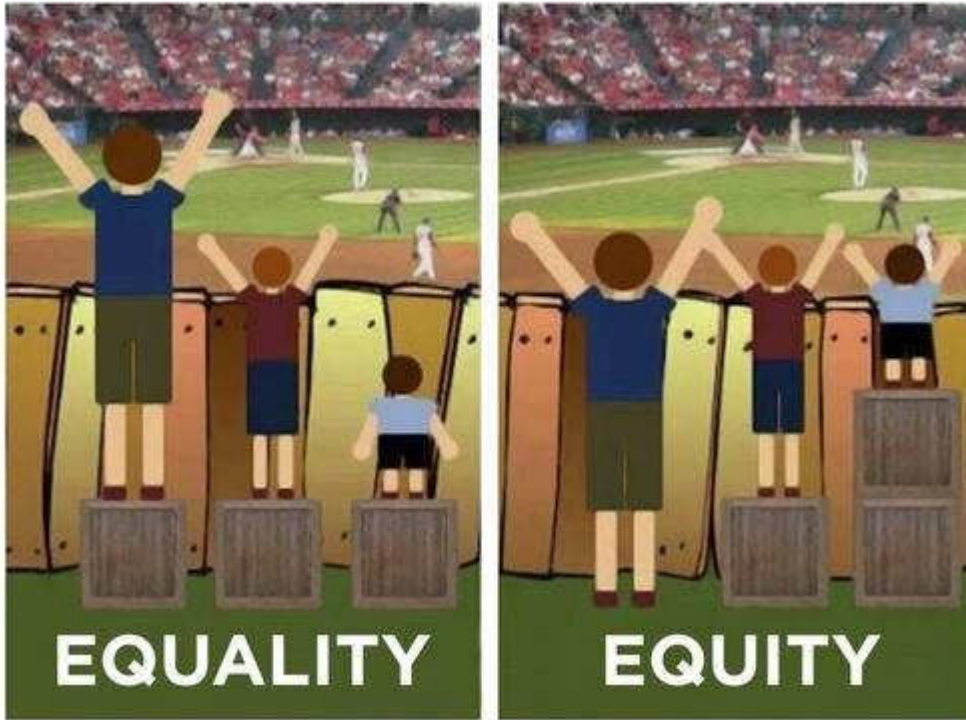
- Inclusion as full and effective participation of persons with impairment/disability in all areas of social life.
- Necessity to broaden the term and include all marginalized groups (e.g. UNESCO definition for inclusive education)
- Basic assumption: All humans are different but of equal worth. Diversity is normal.
- Focus on resources not on deficits.
- Inclusion demands from society and its institutions an adaptation to the „normal diversity“ of all humans.

From Extinction to Inclusion



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Inclusion, Equity and Norms



Target Groups of Inclusion?

- Contradiction or necessity?
- Specific focus on the way to inclusion for all
- Intersectional thinking!

What is Disability?

Social model according to UN-Convention and ICF

Disability = Interaction between impairment of a person and barriers within this person's surrounding

Disability = Socially created product (prevented participation) not a personal feature (impairment)

→ lack of cultural aspects

Disability/Impairment within weltwärts

- Wide range of possible impairments, e.g.
 - disabilities acknowledged in line with the German Social Security Code SGB IX
 - not officially acknowledged impairments
 - cronical diseases and past long-lasting diseases
 - (not acute) mental deseases,
 - learning difficulties
 - non-permanent impairments...
- Wide range of possible certificates for impairment

Status Quo of Inclusion within International Voluntary Services

- Participation of persons with impairment/disability in this area is hardly recorded.
→ recorded data from EVS?
- Just the *weltwärts*– program collects data upon participation of volunteers with impairment/disability (evaluation report 2011 and results of volunteers questionnaire 2013).
- It can be assumed, that in other international voluntary service programs and formats of voluntary commitment inclusion of persons with impairment/disability is similarly low.

Status Quo of Inclusion within *weltwärts*

- 68% Women
- 97% with highest level of school certificate (eligibility for university) or academic background
- Privileged social background
- Less than als 1% of the volunteers which were sent abroad with the weltwärts-program had an officially acknowledged disability (about 0,05%) (weltwärts evaluation report, 2011)

Status Quo of Inklusion in National Voluntary Services (Germany)

According to the evaluation report of the voluntary service „IJFWD“ „FSJ“, „FÖJ“ and „BFD“ (BMFSFJ 2015: S. 75 f.):

Volunteers with disability:

- below 27 years 1%,
- above 27 years 15 %.

PART II

Experiences within Inclusive Voluntary Service Program weltwärts

Successes within *weltwärts* since 2012

- Pilot project „weltwärts for everyone!“ (2012 – 2014)
 - Competence Center for Inclusion of Volunteers with Impairment/Disability within the weltwärts-program (since 2015)
- So far about 55 sendings of volunteers with impairment or further need in different areas:
- Hearing
 - Seeing → with different sending organizations
 - Motorics
 - Learning → in different working areas and countries
 - Mental
 - Medical
 - Further

Successes within *weltwärts* since 2012 Cont.

- Services e.g. in following countries: Cameroon, Ghana, Thailand, Nicaragua, Mexico, South-Africa
- Services e.g. in following projects:
 - Day care center for children with impairment/disability,
 - Lectures at a deaf and blind school,
 - Empowerment and self-representation of persons with impairment/disability and of women,
 - Environmental Protection

- Library
- Radio station



Successes within *weltwärts* since 2012 Cont.

- Building up a network of about 25 close cooperating sending organizations and about 90 generally interested organisations
- Adapted funding guidelines for inclusion (financing of additional costs for higher needs, increased age limit, discussion about better cost effectiveness of short voluntary services)
- Consultation of persons with impairment/disability about „ways towards abroad“ + forwarding of their applications
- Consultation and workshops for sending organizations
- Events for the acquisition of the target group volunteers



Implementing Inclusion

Instrument: Index for Inclusion (since 2002)

- For districts/cities, for the (pre-)school sector, for education general, for organizational development
- For international voluntary services (English, German, Spanish, French)



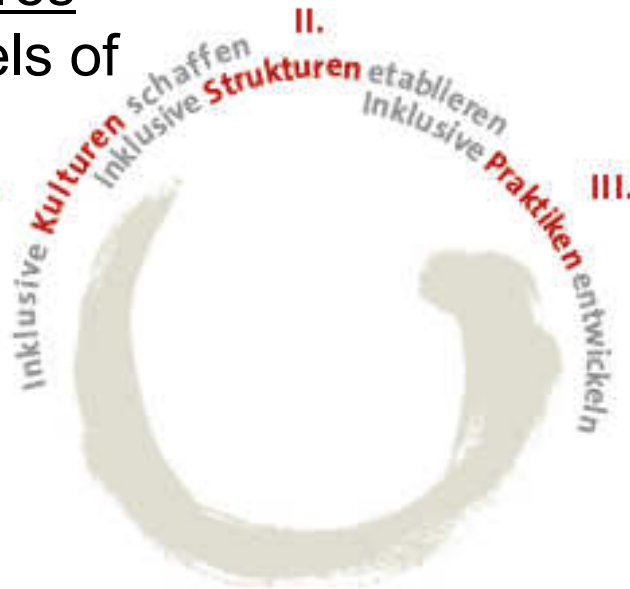
Levels of Inclusion according to the Index

II. Inclusive Structures

Inclusion on all levels of an organization, its work structures^{I.} etc.

III. Inclusive Practices

Activities of daily practice (experiences of „good practice“)



I. Inclusive Cultures

Common basic principles and basic values



Inclusive Structures

Inclusive implementation of all steps of a voluntary service:

- Acquisition of the target group
- Application process
- Matching with the project post (as well as tasks abroad)
- Organizational preparation & implementation of the service
- Pedagogical guidance before, while and after the service
- Reporting, evaluation and guidance of returnees

Consideration of all dimensions of accessibility

Social, economical and further institutional, physical, informative-communicative

Chances

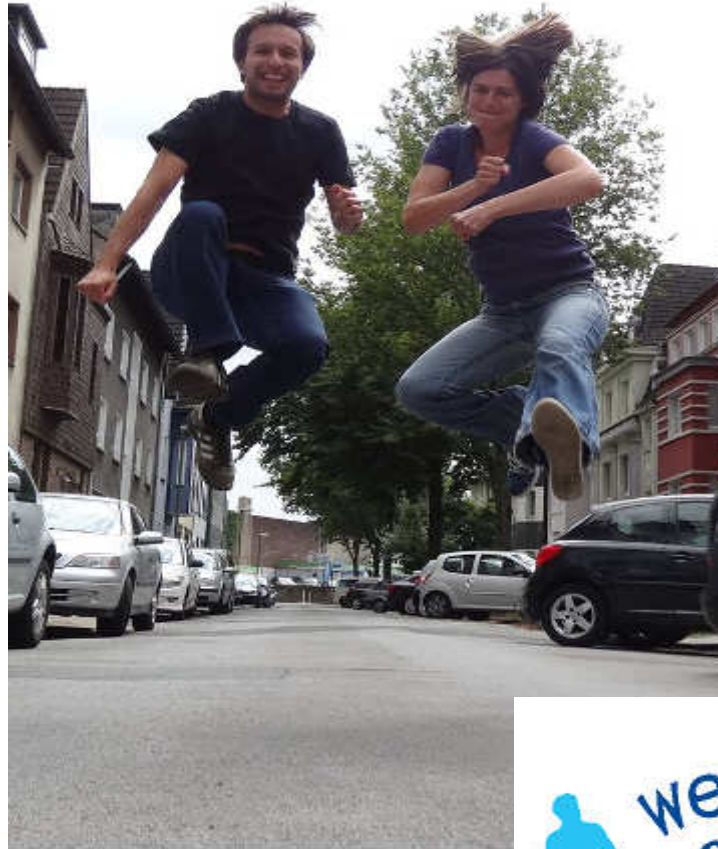
- Numerous experiences of partner organizations
- Great openness of partner organizations
- Central: motivation and skills of the volunteers
- Numerous motivating examples of volunteers with impairment

Insights in Inclusive Practices

Videos of weltwärts- volunteers with different impairments/needs for support

- 1) Julia and Til: Acquisition of the target group (German)
- 2) Lena: Stay abroad from partner perspective (partly English)
- 3) Marlene: First deaf weltwärts volunteer in Ghana (English)

**The experiences show:
Kicking away barriers is possible!**



PART III

Discussion and Exchange

Guiding Questions/idea:

What are your questions regarding good practices?

Discussion and exchange about own experiences!

Interest in Networking and Cooperation?

Steps within the Voluntary Service

- Acquisition of the target group
- Application process
- Matching with the project post (as well as tasks abroad)
- Organizational preparation & implementation of the service
- Pedagogical guidance before, while and after the service
- Reporting, evaluation and guidance of returnees

Organizational Issues

Possible Higher Needs

- Equipment
- Insurance
- Medical prevention and care
- Flight
- Visa, work permit
- Toll
- Project post
- Living/ Accommodation
- Mobility
- Leisure time
- Emergency
- Learning foreign language
- Ressources (Persons, expertise, time...)

Pedagogical Aspects

Social Inclusion

- Mentioning impairment and higher needs
- Preparation of involved persons/pedagogical staff
- Cultural views on impairment/disability
- Communication
- Methods for inclusive seminars

Possible Barriers and Appropriate Accommodations

→ e.g. for higher needs in following areas:

- Hearing
- Seeing
- Motorics
- Learning
- Mental
- Medical
- Further

→ e.g. in following areas

- Physical
- Juridical
- Communicative-informative
- Social
- Structural (within the weltwärts programm)

Organizational Issues

Possible Higher Needs

- Equipment
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Conclusion and Way forward

- Away from deficit- oriented view on specific feature (impairment)
 - To a resource oriented view on the whole person with all its features, competences and interests:
 - Put abilities and interests in the center of attention
 - Prove programs regarding existing chances (e.g. which project posts are already accessible for which needs/impairments)
- Long-term: Erasing barriers; short-term: Reduction of environmental and attitudinal barriers

Conclusion and Way Forward

- All existing formats of international (youth-) mobility have to be proved regarding needs of this new target group and have to be adapted
 - A true choice/possibility to select has to be created for persons with impairment/disability
- just 1/3 of the persons with impairment/disability asking for consultation of *bezev* want to make a weltwärts- voluntary service

Thank you very much for your kind attention!

And thank you very much to the artist Phil Hubbe
for allowing us to use his cartoons!

