

# Developing an information brochure for Occupational Therapists working with Refugees and Asylum Seekers in German-speaking Europe

Markus Kraxner, MSc.<sup>1</sup>, Mag.<sup>a</sup> Dr.<sup>in</sup> Ursula Costa<sup>2</sup>, Hannes Aussermaier, MSc.<sup>3</sup>, Dr.<sup>in</sup> Margret Jäger<sup>4</sup>, Stefanie Kälber, MSc.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Carinthia University of Applied Sciences (m.kraxner@fh-kaernten.at) | <sup>2</sup> fhg - health university of applied sciences tyrol | <sup>3</sup> IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems | <sup>4</sup> SFU University Vienna/Linz | <sup>5</sup> ERGO AM RING - Practice for Occupational Therapy

## Project Background & Context

The „European migration crisis“, ongoing since 2010, but notably peaking in 2015, facilitated an examination of the topics *migration, flight* and *refugees* in the context of Occupational Therapy (OT) and Occupational Science (OS) throughout Europe, in the areas of OT/OS-practice, -education and -research through various and diverse means and methods.

Being students in a master's degree program in Austria in 2016 – and fueled by the strong desire to contribute something to the amelioration of this human and societal crisis – Stefanie Kälber and Markus Kraxner used a project-based seminar trying to translate and culturally adapt an Australian publication called „The idiOT's Guide to working with Refugees“.

This translation effort marked the first of two project phases, that led subsequently to a process in which an information brochure for Occupational Therapists was conceptualized, developed, researched, written and published in cooperation with the Austrian association of Occupational Therapists (Ergotherapie Austria).

## Project Phase 1 – Timeline & Results

The MAIN GOAL of this phase was defined as an „authorized and culturally adapted German version of the 'idiOT's Guide to working with Refugees' in the form of an (in terms of content) structured document for further processing through Ergotherapie Austria (encompassing e.g. copyediting, layout and publication) until the end of 2016“.

### TIMELINE AND PROCESS

- **Preliminary Work 03/2016–06/2016:** initial conceptual and administrative work in the context of the master's degree program, initiation of contact with the author of the idiOT's guide, project proposition and funding possibilities with Ergotherapie Austria, recruitment of additional team-members and external expertise.
- **Translation/Adaptation Work 06/2016–09/2016:** text extraction and recognition from the idiOT's guide via technical means, translation and cultural adaptation (including integrating feedback from recruited experts), document structure and preparation for further processing.

### RESULTS

The publication of the generated document turned out to be **not possible**. In late summer 2016 contact was lost with the original author of the idiOT's guide, re-establishing contact was tried through various means and channels, but proved unsuccessful in the end.

A **final report** was written and presented in the master's program, additionally the project was orally presented at the **Austrian OT-Conference** in March 2017.

## Project Phase 2 – Timeline

The MAIN GOAL of this phase was defined as „the design of an information brochure with a maximum of 32 pages, which provides a comprehensive overview of Occupational Therapy work with people with refugee experience“. Various aspects of background-knowledge, OT-practice, competencies, fields of work and a „primer“ on Occupational Science-terminology and -context were also included.

### TIMELINE AND PROCESS

- **Preliminary Work 09/2016–12/2016:** evaluation of project phase 1, discussion and decision if (and how) to proceed with the generated material of phase 1 and the time-investment, conceptual and content-related redesign, adaptation of project proposition and funding possibilities with Ergotherapie Austria, recruitment of additional core team-members and setup of processes.
- **Content-related Work 01/2017–04/2018:** research and writing of the first three chapters, acquiring additional authors for practice examples in chapter four in Switzerland and Austria, networking and collaboration with OT-Europe. Brief supplementary materials (not a direct part of the core-brochure) on special topics (migration in Europe, intercultural competencies, CMCE & enablement skills, relevant OS-terminology, best-practice in OT) were also researched and written in this time period.
- **Copyediting, Layout and Finalization 05/2018–03/2019:** in constant exchange with Ergotherapie Austria, encompassing steps like: implementation of internal and external feedback, function definition (accessibility of the supplementary materials and chapter-wise sources), acquiring of suitable pictures, licensing under Creative Commons-terms, ISBN, detailed layout feedback, function-testing of the web-hosted brochure, pre-print-production and -release.

## Final Results and Outcomes



- The information brochure itself was finalized and published in the planned scope of 32 pages. It is available both online (free of charge) and as a printed edition (via Ergotherapie Austria for a small printing fee). The team is especially proud of the usage of a **Creative Commons-license** which secures broad accessibility and availability. Additionally, the **supplemental materials and sources** are easily available, in print via the scan of QR-codes, online via QR-codes and clickable links (see QR-codes to the brochure and the bundled supplementary material below).
- **Presentation of the brochure at the Austrian OT-conference 2019.** A part of the project team presented the brochure as an oral presentation, through the collaborative work with Ergotherapie Austria, it was possible for the conference participants to receive a printed copy directly at the conference. The conference- presentation is also available for download (see project report QR-codes below, German and google-translated versions).
- **Project entry on the website of the OT-Europe Special Interest Group „OT working with displaced people“.** The aforementioned working group has created a website that gives an overview of the results of their work. Part of these results is the collection of projects and initiatives of colleagues all over Europe (and beyond) on an interactive map, including contact possibilities and short descriptions (see QR-code to project-website below).



BROCHURE (DE, PDF)



SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL (DE, PDF)



PROJECT REPORT (WEB, DE)



PROJECT REPORT (WEB, EN)



OT SI-GROUP (WEB, EN)