



Final Learning Symposium of the VINCE Project

14. November 2019, Barcelona

Finalist of Vince Validation Prize 2019: Counselling Centre for Migrants in Vienna - AST-network and Check In Plus

Aleksandra Panek
Counselling Centre for Migrants in Vienna
Coordination of contact points for people who gained professional
qualifications abroad (AST)

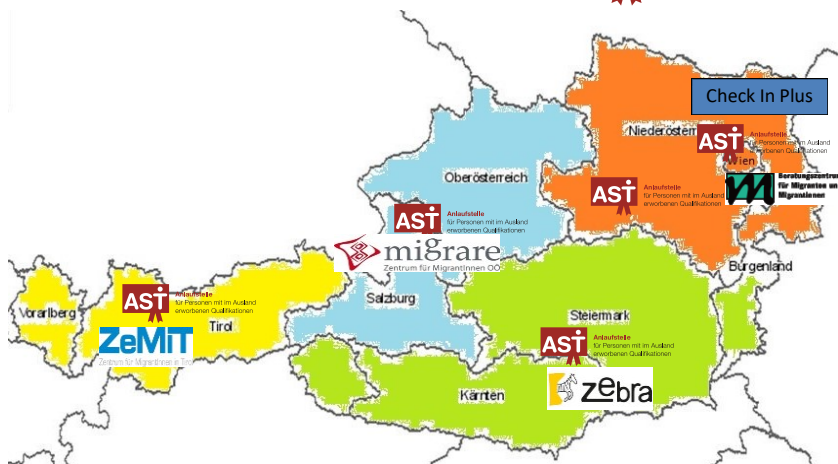
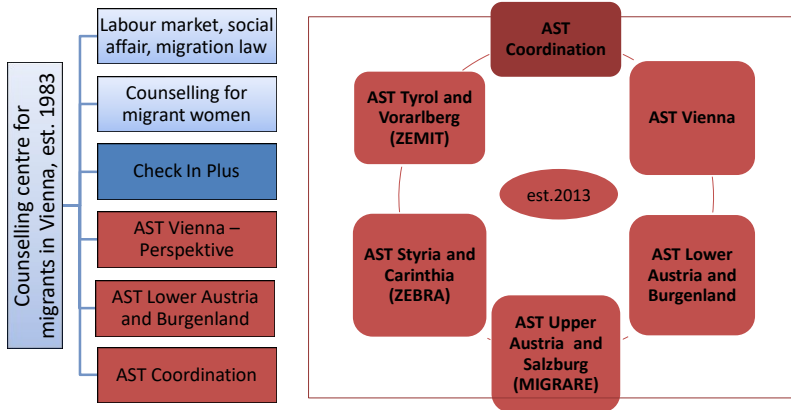


Content

- Counselling Centre for Migrants, AST-network, Check In Plus - who are we?
- Counselling on recognition - what we do and who is our target group?
- Few words about recognition of qualifications in Austria
- Our innovative services and strategies - workshops/meetings/networking



Counselling center for migrants and AST-network



migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at



Counselling Centre for Migrants in Vienna

- From a small association with two employees 1983 to a leader in the area of migration counselling in Austria
- Counselling in around 24 languages, more than 50 employees
- Labour market support programmes, migration law, social affairs, financing of recognition process (e.g. cooperation with Labour Market Services)
- A specialised counselling for female migrants
- **Projects for the recognition of qualifications gained abroad: AST and Check In Plus**

migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at



Main tasks of AST contact points (10 locations in Austria)

according to § 5 Recognition and Assessment Act (AuBG) 2016

- Multilingual counselling, free of charge, case orientated and personal
- Cost coverage of certified translations of documents (approx. 40% of our clients are using this service)
- Comparison with professional requirements in Austria
- Clarification of necessity and possibility of formal recognition
- Support by application for recognition and assistance during recognition proceedings
- Cooperation with recognition-authorities like Enic Naric et al.

migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at



Additional offer for recognition issues : Check In Plus (part of Counselling Centre for Migrants in Vienna)

- For unemployed (registered by Labour Market Service) clients of AST in Vienna and Lower Austria with recognition issues.
- **Goal 1: find and finance the supporting tailor-made measures** like bridging courses, internships - supplementing the individual recognition process
- **Assistance and guidance during the recognition process.**
In particular for regulated professions like medical doctors, dentists and other medical professions (nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists), but also teachers, lawyers...
- **Goal 2: complete the recognition and avoid deskilled employment**

migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at



Outcomes of Check In Plus

- Support for nearly 5000 academic/professional qualified migrants since 2012 – focus on refugees
- Development of unique measures and -sets for clients (courses, internships et al.) and financing of those as well as financing of recognition fees - funds of Labour Market Service

migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at



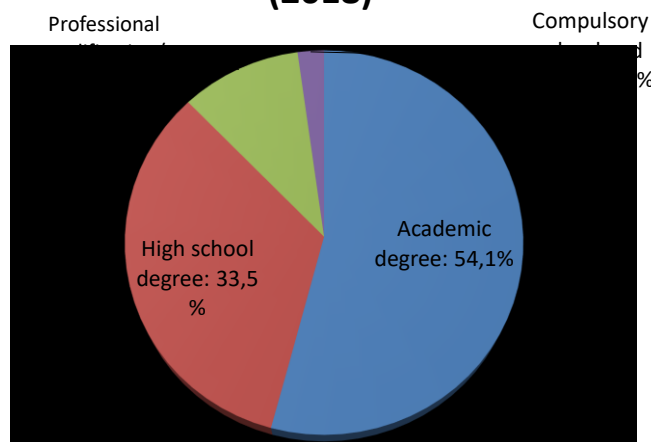
Facts and figures - AST

- 2018: AST-contact points provided support and assistance on recognition to 8.185 clients Austria-wide (about 50.000 since 2013).
- About 500 (5.000 since 2012) among them were also clients of Check In Plus
- 38,3 % AST-clients are residents of Vienna, followed by Upper Austria and Styria

migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at



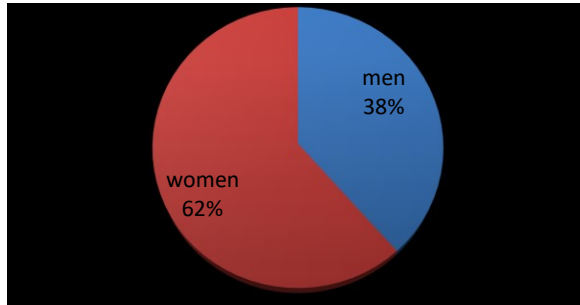
Facts and figures: Education of AST-clients (2018)



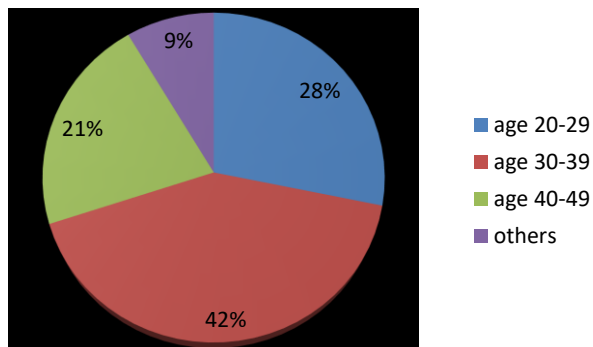
migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at



Facts and figures – 62% of AST-clients are women! (2018)

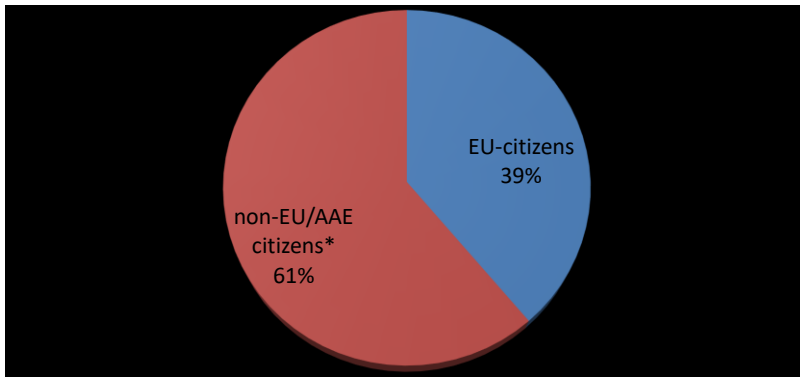


Facts and figures – 70% of AST-clients are younger than 40! (2018)





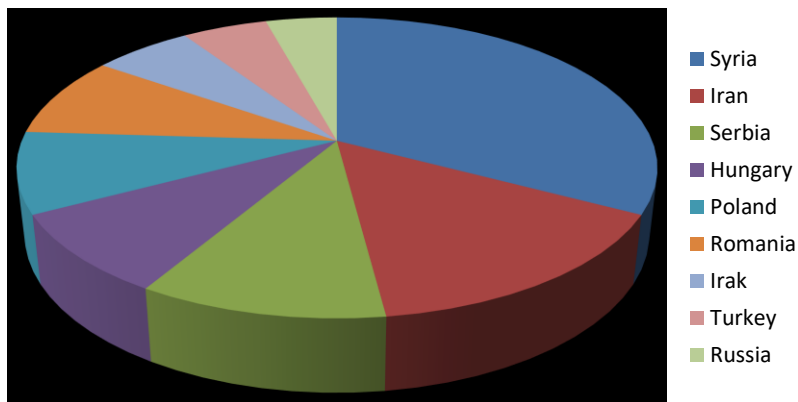
Facts and figures – 61,2 % of AST-clients are non-EU citizens (2018)



*About 23% of the clients among non-EU citizens are entitled to asylum or holding subsidiary protection status



Origin of the AST-clients (2018) – 10 major groups





Demographic structure in Austria (2018)

- 16,2% foreign citizens
- 23,3 % with a migration background (at least one foreign-born parent)
- Migrants work often overqualified – 23,5 % of foreign-born compared to 8,8% of native-born

migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at



Recognition of foreign qualifications

- No uniform system for recognition of foreign qualifications in Austria;
 - Focus on formal recognition
- Numerous laws and regulations concerning formal recognition within Austria - more than 100 authorities responsible for recognition
 - The value of non-regulated foreign qualification is being determined by the demand on the labour market and companies' requirements
 - Difficulties to gain professional experience in Austria

migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at



Challenges for counselling according to recognition of foreign qualifications

- Insufficient language skills and need for those skills during recognition
- Lack of system-knowledge and inadequate practice
- lack of information towards recognition and validation of professional qualifications and diplomas
- Long and complicated procedures of formal recognition
- Different qualification profiles in host- and in resident country

migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at



Who needs professional recognition?

- ✓ Purpose: further education or employment?
- ✓ Level: university degree, high school diploma, apprenticeship?
- ✓ Regulated profession or not?
- ✓ Country of qualification: third-country or EU/EEA state?

migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at



Other tasks of AST contact points - innovative services and strategies

- **Workshops/meetings/networking** for certain occupational groups or owners of specific degrees (doctors, dentists, nurses, etc.)
- Supporting learning groups
- Group counselling
- **meetings and events for stakeholder and cooperation partner**

migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at



Network-Meetings

- In all AST regional centres
- Started in 2010 with „Nurses from former Yugoslavia“, held in mother tongue
- Currently: doctors, dentists, construction engineer, psychologists, teachers, kindergarten teachers, economic and commercial professions, pharmacists, technical occupations...
- Also: „recognition“ of High School Certificate (Matura) for purpose of further education and study

migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at



Network-Meetings

- Information on recognition procedures;
- Getting know each other; avoiding social exclusion
- Share ideas, experiences and learning materials across members;
- Ex-clients whose qualifications are already recognized speak from personal experiences - role models;
- Contact with stake holder or relevant recognition bodies;
- Contact with potential employers, preparation for job-seeking;
- Information on existing training/courses and design and organisation of new educational offers

migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at

Professional arranged network meetings among our clients as a possibility to inform and meet others, who are just about to nostrificate too...



migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at



Last but not least – meetings and events for stakeholder and cooperation partners organized by AST coordination → recognition issues, international education systems etc.



migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at



The offers of AST-network and Check In Plus: benefits for society

- Informing and counselling on specific issues
- Matrix of recognition solutions for clients – depending on personal situation
- Translation of documents
- Facilitating employment
- Preventing „overqualified“ employment
- Developing new training/education options
- Awareness-rising of employers to the existence of available skills among migrants and refugees
- Encourage employers to rethink their current recruitment policies

migrant.at anlaufstelle-erkennung.at



Thank you for your attention!

Aleksandra Panek a.panek@migrant.at

AST Coordination/Anlaufstellenkoordination
Beratungszentrum für Migranten und Migrantinnen
Nordbahnstraße 36/2/2
A - 1020 Vienna

www.anlaufstelle-erkennung.at www.migrant.at

AST-network is supported by

 Federal Ministry
Labour, Social Affairs, Health
and Consumer Protection

Check In Plus is supported by

