

How to create Tolerance



Master Program

Understanding the other religion – building a tolerant society

Psychology of Religion and Mediation

Christian Solidarity Austria - dedicated to religious
freedom and interreligious dialogue

Problems (mostly muslim and eastern country immigrants)

- Parallel societies in European cities
- Religious rules more important than secular law (Sharia, treatment of women)
- No interaction of religious groups
- Enemy image of the other religions in society
- No participation in democratic systems



Problem group I - WOMEN

- No language
- No rights
- No freedom
 - of speech
 - for search for partners
 - for choice of jobs



Problem group II CHILDREN

- Education
- No contact with children outside of one`s own communities
- Language
- Religious indoctrination
- Knowledge of
 - democratic structures
 - cultural traditions
 - school and education programs



Problem group III - MEN

- Education and language
- No contact with persons outside one`s own communities
- Violence instead of dialogue
- Religious indoctrination
- Missing identification with
 - democratic structures
 - cultural traditions
 - basic human right traditions and laws



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Solutions ?

- **None**
(nearly no
best practice in Europe
for integration of minorities)
- education
- language courses
- work contacts, school contacts



Solutions !

- **active integration**
- **active respect for traditions of immigrants**
- Grassroot mediation inside the minority groups
- Obligatory language courses asap especially for women!
- Living information about other groups and political process
- Cultural and democratic mediation



How to!

- o education of mediators
- o language courses
- o cultural interactions
- o long-term projects
for self-confidence



Hosting Universities

- University College of Teacher Education of Christian Churches, Vienna/Krems
- Alma Mater Europaea, Campus Vienna
- Pontifical University Benedict XVI. Heiligenkreuz - Vienna





Associated Organizations

- CSI-Austria (Christian Solidarity International)
- Institute Friede (Islamic Gulen Institute)
- Jewish religious community
- Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome
- Orthodox Church, Metropolis of Austria
- Buddhist religious Community (Soka Gakkai)
- City of Vienna – Vienna Charta talks

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Structure:
120 EC/6 semesters

Part 1: Certificate

30 EC, 2 semesters

- **General Information** and Introduction combined with visits to Jewish, Islamic, Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox Communities. Tolerating the other.
- Basic concepts of **organizing discussions** with stakeholders referring to „Charta Wien“ (grassroot talk techniques)



Structure:
120 EC/6 semesters

Part 2: Master of Arts

90 EC, 4 semesters

Intensified academic preparation

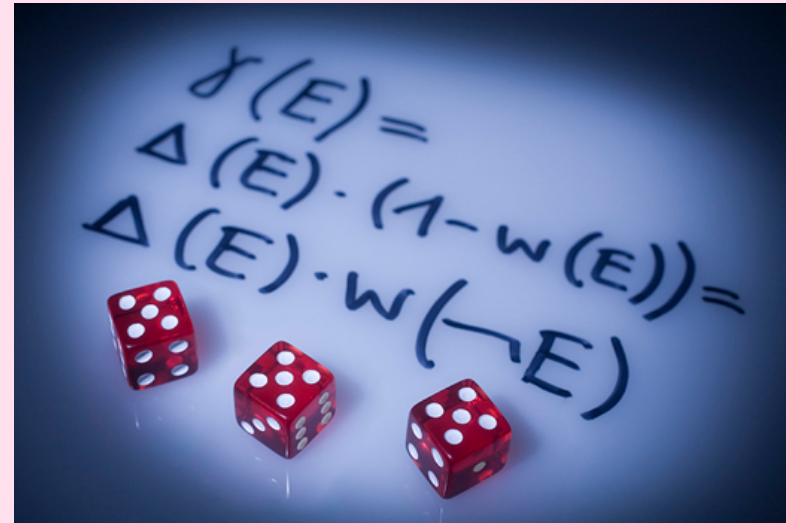
- **deeper religious knowledge**, areas of agreement between religions, respecting the other, learning from one another
- **stays abroad studying** in partner universities in Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist and Christian cultural sites.

Details I

- o **Psychological** elements of the different religions

 - Commonalities and differences
- o **Sociological** Elements

 - analyzing situations in the countries of origin
 - encountering the European culture
 - social frameworks and value systems



Details II

◦ Mediation

- methods and intercultural communication skills
- Marketing
- motivation to participate to take part in round tables

◦ Excursions

- understanding the different cultural and sociological environment of the countries of origin which determine the immigrants



Goal:

religious freedom in
tolerance and respect
and under the democratic
European structures

- **Educate Mediators**
- **Commit them to
immigrant groups**
(grassroot work with women and children)
- **Support of Austrian Secretary of State for
Integration and City of Vienna**
- **Multiplicate mastercourses in religious
mediation in major European cities**



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THANK YOU

GRACIAS
ARIGATO
SHUKURIA
JUSPAXAR
DANKSCHEEN
TASHAKKUR ATU
YAQHANYELAY
SUKSAMA
EKHINET
BIYAN
SHUKRIA
GRAZIE
MEHRBANI
PALVES
GOZARNAKHITA
EPCHABETO
BOLZİN
MERCİ