

In 2015 a chamber for clothes for refugees was set up in Bad Hersfeld in relation to the project "Hand in Hand". As there were less and less people in the emergency accommodation "Herkules" and therefore less necessity, the chamber entered a "stand-by"- modus. The endowment as well as the partition and structuring of the rooms were particularly good, but no more used.

Therefore, people gathered in a group in order to go on using these rooms and to enlarge the so-called „chamber for clothes“ into a sort of „shop without paying“. Here everybody can take or contribute clothes or (according to needs) take or give other objects when they are still well kept. Five objects a week can be taken, a rule, which everybody considered reasonable. User-agreements, informations and labels in different languages are components, which contribute to the functioning of the open concept of the FREiraum (FREEspace). People, who use the FREEspace, become co-designer, can initiate offers and carry them out and are responsible for their organization. There is a plenary every two weeks, in which everything is discussed. It is always open for new people, who want to participate or who want to realize a project.

The plenary takes decisions upon questions, which must be decided. Decisions taken, agreements or rules can always be changed or abolished, in principle they should be oriented according to the needs of those who are active and use the FREEspace. The FREEspace presents the possibility, to enter in a self-organized form, to take responsibility and to put into practice own ideas. It develops thus with people, who enter as active participants.

Besides the idea of giving and taking, which is practiced in the shop without pay and in the chamber of clothes, the FREEspace includes further possibilities of use: room for repairing, sewing, sitting room respectively room for meetings, library, youth-room, rehearsing- and music-room.

In the beginning many refugees and migrants used the supply of the shop without paying or the chamber of clothes – after a short while they turned into active people in the FREEspace and often were acting as translators or mediators. Everyone entered to participate with his or her abilities and skills. The FREEspace develops according to the needs of the people who are acting in it. Who are the users and active people? They are refugees, migrants, financially „weak“, but also people, who like the critical aspect towards consumption as well as those who were active in the chamber for clothes. As different people, who participate in the design of the FREEspace, concept and offer is in a permanent process of development...

**Osthessen News 09.12.16** – A concept recently developed by the Association for the Promotion of Culture and Environmental Education e.V. has taken shape. In the rooms of the former Book Café a special room was created in the last months, whose name FREEspace is its program. Timo Schadt from the Association for the Promotion of Culture and Environmental Education e.V. accompanied the guests on Wednesday, the day of the open door, through the rooms, which are at the disposal for different uses.

<sup>1</sup> <https://osthessen-news.de/n11546669/freiraum-eroeffnet-menschen-sollen-selbstorganisiert-aktiv-werden.html> Vgl. Cited from Antonia Roesner: Selbstverwaltete Initiativen von Geflüchteten und Deutschen, Inklusion durch Gründungsberatung, in: VFSOE ed.: Die ökonomische Dimension des Friedens: SSÖ, Kassel 2017.