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Research interests: social inequality, Europeanisation, attitudes and values, labour market and migration



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**Integration of refugees in Austria – First insights from an ongoing research project**

Austria belongs to a group of EU countries (including Sweden, Hungary and Germany) which received a large number of refugees in relation to its population size in 2015 and 2016. This added 125.000 people to the existing population of 8.4 million inhabitants. One urgent concern is the facilitation of these migrants' economic self-sufficiency by integrating them into the labor market and the educational system. Successful labor market integration depends largely on formal requirements, most notably recognized qualifications and language proficiency, but also on the extent of integration into other areas of society, including the integration into social networks or the identification with Austrian and European norms and values. This is the starting point for the present project, which started in December 2016. The project aims to investigate the labor market integration of refugees and the interrelation of economic, social, and cultural integration using a quantitative panel study. This will be combined with a number of expert interviews and problem-centered interviews among newly arrived refugees. Against this background, the InZentIM-paper discusses the integration of refugees using first results from our ongoing research project as well as existing secondary data and expert reports on Austria. Our findings can help to inform assessments about the integration potential of refugees into European host society. In addition, we will present valuable insights into fieldwork experiences and into the practicability of methodological techniques.