

## The solution of the 12:

### Federal office for mentorships instead of expensive and grueling asylum procedures.



On the 15th of October 23, 12 randomly selected people had to solve the following problem in 90 minutes:

#### **Costly and grueling processes of dealing with refugees and people seeking asylum:**

#### **What measures and regulations could make the process more efficient and humane?**

(If Switzerland were attacked and you had to flee, what kind of process would you want)?

*The solution of the 12 was summarized in collaboration with Andreas Sommer and Ainhoa Martinelli, 2 of the 12 from the 1st show:*

We state: The whole complex procedure of admission at the national border is nonsense, inhumane, costs enormous sums of money, and does not slow down immigration.

It is also absurd to try to define why a person has fled. Whether it is war, misery, non-livable circumstances: the fact is that we are faced with a human being, a family, i.e. people who need our help or are looking for a better life.

Based on these findings, we conclude:

No more resources should be wasted on distinguishing "real" refugees from "fake" ones. Instead, all resources, human and financial, should flow into building a new asylum culture that seeks to:

1. provide immediate security.
2. help the refugee to quickly lead a normal life. Language training, which is rigorous and demanding, is a priority.
3. a roof over the head, a job, if necessary, an education and an accompaniment to the local living conditions.

This needs money. Sure. For example, the money that is currently being spent on all the processes, procedures and control points that would be eliminated to a large extent.

But above all, it needs people who offer direct, personal support and assistance.

Who are these people?

Each one of us, who lives here privileged, can be. He or she can become an A-godfather or godmother. A for asylum.

Our new asylum culture is one that grows out of civil society.

Contingents? No. The number of A-godfathers and mothers is the benchmark of our welcoming culture.

Those who want to become godfathers and godmothers are trained by the new Federal Office for Godparents or its A-delegates in the communities.

If the godmothers and godfathers are dependent on it, they will get paid for their hours as well.

Who are the A-delegates? For example, retrained employees who controlled and rejected in the former (current) asylum system. The A-delegates have money and time, support the godfathers and godmothers as needed, and thus work hand in hand with them in the communities and at eye level with the refugees.

"Because in the community should bloom what should glow for the country."

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Together they introduce the refugees to their new life in Switzerland. They make sure that the children start school right away. Provide roof and warmth or help to find a suitable place to stay. They help to obtain education, jobs and psychological or other counseling when needed. Help with official procedures. Always pragmatically and straightforwardly supported by the A-delegate in the community.

The godmothers and godfathers are helpers and friends who make their own social network accessible to the people in their care. This way they also help to reduce prejudices and fear.

For at least two years, they remain connected to their godfathers and godmothers in this capacity. (Except, of course, for traumatized refugees, who require other forms of support).

This ensures sustainable integration and the opportunity to learn from each other.

But it is also clear that the refugee must want to get involved with his helpers, the country and its customs. What we mean by this will be written in a contract. In it, we say what we offer, but also what we expect. And the newcomer says what he wants to offer. And what he needs.

The refugee has to be active. We expect diligence. Curiosity. Openness. He/she doesn't have the truth. Neither do we.

Along the way, this also creates a new development aid. DEZA is now only responsible for emergency aid. Switzerland's aid projects will be carried out differently in the future. How?

We know that people who dare to flee are often the strongest and most capable one's.

Their country loses them and their energy. And that is why our training and education always aims at ensuring that they will later - voluntarily! – return to their country with their new skills. Those who return will be supported with money so that they can create jobs in their country, launch projects and set developments in motion.

Further the government is to limit the export of war material and to contribute so (in)directly to the fact that humans must flee because of war at all!

Is this concept bulletproof and well thought out? No. Of course not. It is a first sketch. Now it needs to be refined and developed. Clear regulations are needed.

And then we can decide whether we want to take the risk.

And ask whether this country can provide enough godmothers and godfathers. It will be the moment of truth. And it won't be the evil "other party" that is preventing a modern, humanistic immigration culture. No, it's us, the all-too-many lazy and complaining people.

Nevertheless: We believe that 30,000 godmother and godfathers can be found. Maybe even 50,000 or 80,000?

Perhaps the following question can help: What would you wish for if you had to flee?

So, when do the first training courses for godfathers and godmothers begin?

On April 21, 2025, competently organized by the new Federal Office for Godparents.

Sincerely, he 12.