**Words connecting generations: good practice format**

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| **Identification of the practice/ project/ activity** |
| Short intro to good practice (max. 200 signs) | A book about the past, present and future, identity and development of German Czechs from after the Second World War up to the present as an example for everyday life of a minority in the Czech Republic. |
| Title (English and original language) | They stayed with us. Stories of Czech Germans in the Czech Republic.Zůstali tu s námi. Příběhy českých Němců.Bei uns verblieben. Geschichten tschechischer Deutscher in Tschechien. |
| Short description (max. 2.000 signs) | We chose to publish a book showing personal life stories of German Czechs, who, for different reasons, wanted or had to stay in the Czech Republic after The Second World War, and their children and grandchildren. Our interview partners were eager to talk about the topic und surprisingly open to share their personal experiences and thoughts. We could tell that most of them were happy to finally share their stories and get recognition and acceptance for being who they are.After conducting we selected the interviews we wanted to publish. We tried to show a wide range of different stories, which is why we have interview partners from three generations (youngest 21 years, oldest 90 years) and different socioeconomic backgrounds.Enabling the readers to empathise as much as possible with the stories of our interview partners, we choose to let the stories speak for themselves and tried to change only as little as possible while editing the interviews (just as much, that the spoken language is readable). For a better understanding of the topic itself and to put the interviews into a broader context we have three scientific introductions covering history, identity and language of the German minority in general. Also vice versa the interviews serve as proof for the scientific papers.To make the written interview more vivid, and for to make a bigger impression on the reader, we made professional portraits of the interview partners. To illustrate the stories we asked our witnesses to share pictures from their past with us.The expulsion of the Germans from Czechoslovakia after the Second World War is an important topic for today’s Czech society, also because “majority” and “minority” (social, ethnical, religious …) is a big topic within the merging of the European Union. The stories of the present-day German Czechs are part of those current issues and can help us to understand how difficult life as a member of a minority (not only the German) can be. |
| ICT use within practice | None so far (maybe later we will offer an eBook on our website) |
| Target group: who should be reached by the project? (speakers as well as audience) | Speakers: The German minority in the Czech Republic.Audience: Every member of the Czech and German society. |
| Which methods have to be used to reach them? | The German minority is organised in a lot of associations across the Czech Republic. From those organisations we got our first contacts, and after that we asked those people for further contacts.  |
| Objectives of the practice | 1. To give detailed insights into the personal history of German Czechs Those personal stories are representatives of the life as a member of a minority in the Czech Republic. It should lead to a better understanding of past and present problems in the Czech Republic.2. To overcome prejudices about the German minority: The interviews published in the book are meant to show the diversity of the German minority by choosing interview partners with different social and economic backgrounds3. The publication should raise the interest for the Czech history and initiate debates about problems of present-days minorities.4. The modern design and vividly told stories should be also appealing to people, which are usually not interested in the topic. |
| **Steps to take** |
| Financial resources | In total: 14.000€Funded by the Česko-německy fond budoucnosti (Czech-German Future Fund) and the German Ministry of the Interior (one half each). |
| Human resources:- Staff (paid, voluntary)- Needed partners / support for the project | Interviewer, editor, translator, lector, graphic designer – it is not necessary to employ them, better pay them an appropriate fee based on their work. Although it is a long-term project, each of the steps and the required profession is short term. |
| time and duration (Required time to prepare and implement the project) | In total: one yearTwo months: research and finding interview partnersTwo months: conducting the interviewsThree months: editing the interviewsTwo months: translationTwo months: editing, graphic design and printOne month: final accounting |
| **Effects of the practice /project**  |
| Quantitative results of the project (how many participants, how often..) | 1.000 books > 1.000 readersPlus: Public readings in the Czech and German Republic |
| Added value and learning outcomes for the participants | Giving the broad public insights in the daily life and struggles of the German speaking minority. |
| Added value and learning outcomes for the organization | Making more and more contacts within the German minority, enrichment of the organisations database (concerning interviews) and knowledge about the minority, income through selling the books (which will be used for further training courses and Project with the German minority) |
| Testimonies of involved persons (speakers or audience or organiser) | Annemarie Goschala (\*1934): “It was my fifth year in school when the upheaval happened. So we had to quit school – anyway there were so many air raid warnings, we spent more time in the cellar than in school.”Richard Šulko (\*1960): „We grew up under the communist Regime; we only had a Czech school, that’s why I make mistakes when I’m writing. It’s a deathly combination, to be German and Catholic – arch-enemy of the Czechs.”Ines Goschala (\*1987): “I don’t like it, if there are differences made between people of different nations, concerning positive or negative discrimination. Yes, there are differences, Germans and Czechs are different. But it is not like someone is better or worse …“ |
| **Summary** |
| Why is the project a good example? | The content is based on scientific research, bur at the same time easy to access and appealing to everybody through the personal and lively testimonies. It connects three generations (post-war, communist era, and after the velvet revolution) in one project. It offers a platform to the German Czechs, who are in public discussions or in the media usually mostly shown in a negative context.  |
| What works well? | Getting contacts and finding people who are eager to tell their story.  |
| What could be changed or improved? | With a little more time it would be possible to find more connections within the generations, e.g. grandmother, daughter and granddaughter, to be able to compare the differences and similarities throughout the generations between families better.  |
| **Identification of the organisation** |
| Name | Antikomplex |
| Location | Prague |
| Type of organization | Občanská společnost (NGO) |
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| Languages spoken within organisation | Czech, German, English |