

Edited Version: moveurope! Leipzig interviewed by moveurope! Hamburg

This interview was recorded on Tuesday, May 25th in 2021.

TEXT

moveurope! Hamburg / **Zeynep**: Welcome everybody! Who are you?

moveurope! Leipzig: We are Leonie, Clara, Kathi, Magda and Lucie. Good to see you!

moveurope! Hamburg / **Zeynep**: We are looking forward to this interview. We're here tonight, live from Hamburg, Hameed, Alessandro, Johannes and me, Zeynep. Let's start! What is the story behind your group? Who started having the idea?

moveurope! Leipzig / **Leonie**: Alexis, who is part of your group in Hamburg now, and I were going to school together. He did an apprenticeship in Bologna and Karla from migration_miteinander asked him if he wanted to start a group. He asked me if I would like to co-found this group. And then I also asked some of my friends and classmates. Although group members changed a bit, that's the story behind our group. For example, unfortunately Alexis moved to Hamburg again but we hope to see him in the future.

moveurope! Hamburg / **Zeynep**: What is your motivation as a group?

moveurope! Leipzig / **Clara**: Our main motivation and goal is to support refugees, fostering mobility possibilities throughout Europe which is also the main goal of the overall moveurope! network. We really want to use the opportunities that already exist and get people connected to these opportunities.

moveurope! Leipzig / **Leonie**: I just want to add that instead of only promoting the idea of the moveurope! network project, we really wanted to do something practical. For example, to support a refugee to come to Leipzig and do a voluntary service. For this reason, creating a network and getting in touch with organizations which offer voluntary services is our motivation.

moveurope! Hamburg / **Zeynep**: What about your biggest hope? What are you hoping to achieve?

moveurope! Leipzig / **Magda**: I think we all hope that we can create a big network in Leipzig and support people who would like to do voluntary service here. We want to connect with different organizations such as Salam e.V., another association, where Leonie, Lucie and Clara are members.

moveurope! Hamburg / **Zeynep**: We hope you can achieve that! How would you describe moveurope! Leipzig? When other people or yourselves think of your group, which words come to your mind?

moveurope! Leipzig / **Leonie**: Friends. I think the atmosphere in our group is really great. That's what holds this group together.

moveurope! Leipzig / **Kathi**: Definitely. Also, in line with the project, I would add mobility, support and network as important words to our description.

moveurope! Hamburg / **Zeynep**: What have been the funniest or most creative moments in your project?

moveurope! Leipzig / **Clara**: A creative moment of our group was when Alexis came up with the idea of initiating a line of protest in Leipzig with regard to migration law and European migration politics. It did not happen yet but I think it was a great vision at least. When the situation with Corona is better, we would like to come back to this idea.

moveurope! Hamburg / **Zeynep**: Great Idea! Moving to other questions: What are you concretely doing in the next few weeks?

moveurope! Leipzig / **Lucie**: We are working a lot with the transcultural organization Salam from Leipzig. It might also be that moveurope! Leipzig becomes a part of Salam, which is already a registered association. We want to initiate longer lasting projects and Salam is a good partner for that.

moveurope! Leipzig / **Leonie**: Tomorrow we're probably going to discuss this with a few partners. We are eventually planning to build a small scale partnership and an interregional network with the organization Universo from Bologna, Italy, potentially including other interesting organizations. This will facilitate the application for funds and make us structurally better. This merger with Salam could also attract more members, as there are always new people interested in their activities.

moveurope! Hamburg / **Alessandro**: From an "external perspective", there is so much you achieved when I hear you talk about it. That's a lot and it's a huge success. We as the local group in Hamburg also learned a lot from you when it comes to searching for internships and voluntary services.

moveurope! Leipzig / **Leonie**: Yes, it is also a question of how to measure success. I think most of what we have done was to build and strengthen our group as well as acquiring knowledge and skills. With Salam we aspire to reach out to even more people and then effectively help more people to get a place for a voluntary service.

moveurope! Hamburg / **Johannes**: Did you already get feedback for your work?

moveurope! Leipzig / **Leonie**: We as a group always encourage each other, as we are so close to each other. And it is also very good to be backed by people like Karla from the moveurope network. Additionally, there's a woman that works for the organization offering cultural voluntary services in Saxony and she said that it's a great initiative. Earlier, she wanted to make voluntary services accessible to other, less privileged groups, but she only had the resources for a pilot project. She was surprised and happy to hear about moveurope!'s work which supports her ideas to make voluntary services more accessible for refugees, to make them less elitist. We have been happily collaborating with her.

moveurope! Hamburg / **Zeynep**: That's very nice feedback and another additional motivation to work on these projects!

moveurope! Hamburg / **Hameed**: How can people follow your activities?

moveurope! Leipzig / **Clara**: We have an Instagram and a Facebook page that you can follow and use for contacting us as well as a public Facebook group. At the moment, we're not that active but that will change soon.

moveurope! Hamburg / **Zeynep**: Are you guys searching for new members? If there's a new person that wants to participate in your group or in the can they contact you via these pages?

moveurope! Leipzig / **Clara**: Yes, we definitely are. You can always contact us via these channels!

moveurope! Hamburg / **Hameed**: How is the situation of refugees in Leipzig?

Clara: Maybe I can say one thing: One of the reasons why our friend Malek created Salam is that there are many offers for refugees in Leipzig but people don't really know about them. He felt that especially the Syrian community was not reached by these offers.

moveurope! Hamburg / **Johannes**: As we're approaching the end, I would like to share that I really enjoyed this interview. It's so nice how we can learn from you. And maybe you as a group learned a few things from our or from other groups. That's the great strength of the moveurope! network. You did so many things already!

moveurope! Hamburg / **Zeynep**: Yes, you're an inspiring group! A word that we should add to your group description. Keep up the good work and I'm sure you will do more and more until the next time we see each other.

moveurope! Leipzig / **Lucie**: We've just been existing for one year now as a group. And looking back, we really did some things, just as the whole European moveurope!-network did. There are so many active groups and that always feels really inspiring and motivating. When you see that, that's a real outcome and a lot that happened within only one year.

moveurope! Leipzig / **Leonie**: Thanks for interviewing us. And as you said Zeynep, we'll see each other again, you can always come and visit us! We also have a lake here close by, which is just 15 minutes by bike.

moveurope! Hamburg / **Zeynep**: Wow, that sounds cool. You know that we're recording this, so we'll have to plan a trip to Leipzig!

End.