

Moveurope interview series.

Local group Osnabrück interviewed local group Munich.

The following interview was conducted by the members of local group Osnabrück with the local group Munich as a part of the Moveurope interview series.

Interviewers: Tauqeer, Lena, Parwana (Local Group Osnabrück)

Interviewees: Jasmin, Annika, and Carmen (Local Group, Munich)

Tauqeer: Hello everyone, I know you all are excited about today's interview, and I am sure you have lots of things to share with us. I would like to start with a quick icebreaker. Please share with us if you are famous, what would you be famous for? :D

Jasmin: Well, I would be famous for food because I love to cook. :P

Annika: I would not be famous for food but for my love for food :D Actually, I have an Instagram account too for famous food spots in Munich.

Carmen: For me, I would be a very good writer, especially when it comes to romance and love. I have read a lot of literature about love and history from my childhood, so I think I can be a good writer too :D

Lena: Wow! That's super cool, and thanks for sharing. Let's start with some general questions, then. Firstly, would you like to tell us about the work you are doing in your project with Moveurope currently? Like, what is it about? And What exactly are you guys doing?

Annika: Well, currently we are working on some informative videos to help the mobility of refugees within Europe. Actually, Refugees normally find it hard to move within Europe freely because of some legal barriers but still there are many ways of which they are unaware, and through our videos, we want to spread more awareness e.g: what are the visa requirements and job opportunities if someone wants to move to Germany. The main idea is to show them the right path and to make it easier for them to move, and search for opportunities. Apart from that, our long term project is to help Maya, a 16-year-old girl from Syria and her family. We are currently searching for an Ausbildung for her, so she can get an extension for her stay

Perwana: That's really amazing what you guys are doing. I am really inspired by your work. But I think it must be challenging because you are fighting for the visa extension and bringing a family here for settlement which is not an easy task I believe?

Jasmin: Exactly, and German asylum law is chaotic too, therefore we want to figure out the ways, so she can stay longer. It is so hurtful to see, there are jobs available, and they are not giving visas to the people who can fit into those jobs. For Maya and her likes, there are plenty of jobs but due to the legal and bureaucratic barriers, she cannot work. We want to break those barriers for her with legal and social support

Perwana: What other challenges have you faced so far while implementing your project?

Annika: One of the challenges was to provide financial support for Maya, as they reduce the amount of money after some time, and it's just basic with which she cannot even eat what she wants. Also, communicating with the Maya's family was a bit challenging, they are living in the countryside with poor internet access. We had problems when we wanted some documents from her family because they couldn't send them online.

Jasmin: Regarding other challenges, yes, sometimes we have a lot of stress because we are doing this project with our university work. We have to take care of our grades and the work we are doing simultaneously. It's quite challenging for us, and we knew from the beginning that it wouldn't be easy, but we decided to do it together and so far we are doing well.

Tauqeer: How did you guys meet and decide to do this project together?

Jasmin: Actually we knew each other already, well most of us I would say. We met at the Refugee law clinic and started talking about it, and everyone liked the idea. Initially, we were five, but now we are a team of six people.

Lena: How do you tackle the conflicts or disagreements within your group during work?

Carmen: We are good at handling disagreements, actually. We decide things mutually after discussion. We never had big conflicts because we all know each other for a long time and study together. Annika: Well, we all are studying law and conflicts are our daily business. :D We just talk about it and when somebody doesn't like the idea, we discuss it more until we reach a mutual agreement. Jasmin: We love to discuss this because we are studying law as mentioned by Annika. And also, the discussion is important for the quality of work. I think that makes our work more productive in the end.

Perwana: What is your motivation behind the project?

Annika: We are already working with refugees in a legal way, but now we want to help them in a social way too. So I would say for me, it's essential to engage with them both legally and socially.

Carmen: For me, the idea and concept of the project sound great. I am Spanish, basically, and I know how things are going in Spain and other European countries when it comes to refugees. I think Germany has a lot to offer, so I decided to be a part of it.

Jasmin: I saw people seeking help in a Refugee law clinic, and when I see people in such desperate situations, it motivates me to help them more. We have all the freedom to do whatever we want, so I want to give the same freedom to the refugees because every human deserves to live peacefully and freely.

Tauqeer: That's great to know! Would you also like to share some successes so far, if you think there are any?

Carmen: We are currently working on the videos. We have already collected the relevant information for the content of the videos. I think we are doing good, and we are positive about our video project. :)

Jasmin: Never stop trying, that's what we have learned from Maya's story. We don't really see a chance, and we think the family has to go back at some point, but we think we have some opportunities too and if we seize them at the right time we can achieve our goals.

Annika: Also the positive thing is, Maya is still here, and we will fight for her in all our capacities.

Lena: That's really inspiring. Would you also like to share the long term impact of your project?

Annika: Our long term goal is to support Maya's education and her stay, also to bring her family, so they can live together here in Germany. Secondly, we want to get in touch with more refugees through our videos who are currently seeking help. Carmen: We want to increase awareness about the opportunities for the mobility of refugees within Europe.

Lena: Lastly, I also want to ask how you guys run your social media accounts, as we just started our social media pages, and we are struggling to get followers.

Annika: Rebeca is our social media expert, and she is handling it. We follow vibrant and influential people. To post and do stories and repost others stories is a great strategy I think. Jasmin: Also, it's really important to post the stories from our private accounts because each of us has many followers. That helps in getting more attention. Also liking other famous pages like Amnesty International etc.

Tauqeer: Thank you so much for your time. It was great to know about your project. It's really inspiring what you guys are doing, and we hope that you will achieve all your objectives soon. Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors. :)



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