



# The Migration Laboratory

Going beyond “us” and “them”: Towards a Migration that benefits all

## Insight Report 1 Together Understand

31 Change Agents, representing the public, private, and civil society sector from 18 countries met at the Sharehaus Refugio in Berlin, Neukölln, to kick off the first meeting of the Migration Laboratory from 19th to 22nd October 2017. The main goal of the Migration Lab is to enable new perspectives and co-create ideas and practices towards a migration that benefits all actors in society.

The first Migration Lab meeting was designed to introduce the theme, the facilitators – Peter Garrett and Jane Ball, the Lab methodology, and the participants to each other. The different modes of conversation – ranging from monologue to generative dialogue – were introduced and utilized, in order to create an awareness for how the way we interact hinders or fosters good quality results and to generate a common understanding of the challenges in the field of migration.

Together, the Lab group explored the following topics:

- Drivers of migration
- Migration pathways
- Contributions of migrants

In that sense, the location for the first Lab at the Sharehaus Refugio in Berlin, provided the perfect setting and surrounding, not only because it was perceived as an innovative and safe space by the participants but also in relation to the Lab topic. More than 40 people from all over the world occupy five floors of the house. They live and work together in addition to searching for a new life and meaningful community. The Sharehaus Refugio runs a coffee shop, provides a catering service, organizes events for locals and newcomers to meet, and helps the newcomers learn German and integrate on all levels.





## Interkular and Bantabaa

Based on the Global Leadership Academy's principles on learning immersions, the first Lab meeting included encounters with two organizations dealing with issues of migration, Interkular and Bantabaa. Interkular is a social enterprise, which finds and promotes the potentials of young people of all origins by cooperating with local offices, employers, neighborhoods and the civil society. A special feature of Interkular is the engagement of so-called “perspective coaches” in order to avoid intercultural misunderstandings. Perspective coaches are persons who came to Berlin a while ago as migrants or refugees and are now employed by Interkular to coach other migrants and refugees. The second organization the Lab participants visited was Bantabaa, an integration project that serves as a meeting point for refugees around Görlitzer Park in Berlin Kreuzberg, focusing on education and jobs in the catering sector. In both encounters, the Migration Lab participants engaged in conversations with migrants working with the organisations, allowing them to get first-hand experience and insights on the drivers and motivations of migrants and refugees throughout their migration process.

The learning immersions with migrants in Berlin were complemented by an encounter with Berlin citizens working in the political and administrative field of migration: State Secretary for Integration Daniel Tietze (Left Party), Stephan von Dassel (Green Party), Mayor of the District Berlin Mitte, and Cordula Simon, Director Innovation and Integration, District Authority of Berlin Neukölln. Together with the Lab participants, they discussed good practices for successful integration of migrants into the local community.

## The musical “Hoch Hinaus”

The Lab program also included the musical “Hoch Hinaus”, a co-creation of German teenagers and refugees living in Germany, implemented by the group PluralArts.

As the first Labmeeting came to a close, participants prepared the bridge phase up to the second meeting in March 2018. Amongst others, they proposed thematic clusters to address specific migration issues in their home countries. These included:

- Improving conditions of migrants within every phase of the migration cycle
- Impacting the migration and development narratives
- High skilled migration
- Domestic migrant workers
- Linking diaspora, startups, and entrepreneurship

Other participants will engage and involve people locally on the issue of migration and organize learning immersions and dialogues in order to understand different perspectives on migration in their home countries as well as to tackle the different narratives on migration.



**More information about the Lab:**

[www.we-do-change.org/what-we-do/the-migration-laboratory](http://www.we-do-change.org/what-we-do/the-migration-laboratory)