



Freiwilligen
Agentur
Marzahn-
Hellersdorf

THE WORLD ON OUR DOORSTEP

Intercultural Engagement
in Marzahn-Hellersdorf



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FreiwilligenAgentur Marzahn-Hellersdorf

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Ever heard of...?

Intercultural days, weeks and calendar



HELLO, glad you picked up our brochure!

In this booklet, we show you **ideas and opportunities** to help shape life together in your neighborhood and across the district. We introduce you to people and organizations that are committed to a friendly coexistence across cultural and linguistic boundaries.

As diverse as the people in Marzahn-Hellersdorf are, as multifaceted are the possibilities to get involved in overcoming foreignness and prejudice in your environment.

Have we aroused your curiosity? Do you have your own ideas that you would like to implement?

-----> **Then feel free to contact us!**


Have fun browsing and reading! The team of the **FreiwilligenAgentur Marzahn-Hellersdorf**



**Freiwilligen
Agentur**
Marzahn-
Hellersdorf

OPEN DOORS FOR **YOUR** COMMITMENT

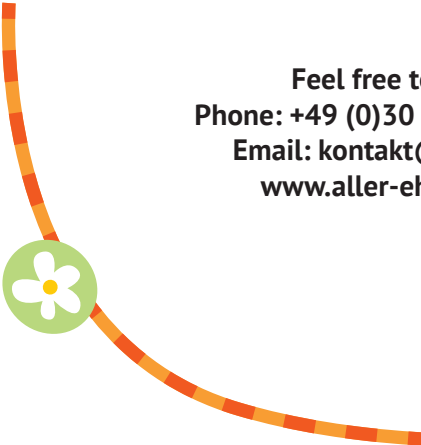
The FreiwilligenAgentur Marzahn-Hellersdorf



You want to get active and do something good?
We support and accompany you in your search
for a suitable engagement.

With us you get:

- ▶ Information and personal advice on engagement opportunities in our district and beyond
- ▶ A wide range of offers from planting to listening
- ▶ Placement of volunteer activities
- ▶ Access to training and events for volunteers and interested parties
- ▶ The possibility to participate in our projects and actions



Feel free to contact us:
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WHY IS COMMITMENT GOOD FOR YOU?

It is **fun** to actively and self-determinedly work for a matter or a certain cause. You get to know people with similar interests and have the opportunity to meaningfully contribute and develop in your desired field.

There are **many reasons** for intercultural engagement.



Photo: © S. Hermenau



**What are your
motivations to get
involved in cultural
diversity in our district?**


- 
- 
- ▶ Be part of a community
 - ▶ Feel useful
 - ▶ Make a difference
 - ▶ Helping to shape your own environment
 - ▶ Make new social contacts
 - ▶ Share and expand knowledge
 - ▶ Contributing to peaceful coexistence
 - ▶ Meet like-minded people
 - ▶ Looking beyond one's own nose
 - ▶ Working out solutions together
 - ▶ Helping to shape cultural diversity
 - ▶ Acquisition of linguistic competences
 - ▶ Build bridges
 - ▶ Give support



Photo: © S. Hermenau

WHAT ACTIVITIES SUIT YOU?

Craft / Design / Sport

Create together - design together.



Are you interested in handicrafts or do you like sports? Many projects can be realized with your hands, feet or even your whole body.

Communication / Contact / Networking

Language as the key to communication can be learned and developed through regular exchange.



Whether at a joint breakfast, reading aloud or joint excursions, language is learned and strengthened through speaking.

Nature and environment

What kind of diversity does the world in which you live offer?



When gardening, photographing or cooking together, you will learn a lot about others and yourself. Meet like-minded people and implement your own plans.





Photo: © S. Hermenau

Organizing / Planning / Supporting

Be the impetus yourself - take responsibility.

As a tandem, you offer regular support with homework or tutoring or help finding a place to live. Sometimes all it takes is one regular appointment, and bureaucratic hurdles are easier to overcome together.



You have your own ideas?

The FreiwilligenAgentur advises and supports you on your way to a suitable volunteer position!



THIS IS WHERE YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

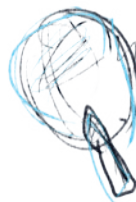


Cook together



The exchange of ingredients and recipes or special preparations brings people closer together. When you eat together, you get to know each other better and it tastes good, too.

Support families



Open family groups / family center

Open family groups usually take place in the afternoon in a family center and are accompanied by social pedagogues. The activities are organized according to the needs of the visitors. For example, they do handicrafts, play basketball or table tennis.



Childcare during language course

During the courses, the children of the participants need to be looked after so that the women can concentrate on the lessons.





Experience art and culture

Support of festivals and events

For the organization and realization of intercultural festivals and cultural events, energetic supporters are needed, for example, to guide visitors, to assist at the entrance, or to supervise the booths.

Prepare cultural experiences

Volunteers are needed to arrange free cultural events, such as concerts and theater performances, and also to support the guest hotline.





Neighborhood places

Supervision of a café

A neighborhood café provides a space where people can get to know each other, meet to practice German, and drink good coffee.

Volunteers help to organize the weekly language café.

Establishment of a meeting café

Volunteers are needed to set up a meeting café in a shared accommodation for refugees.

The volunteers independently develop the meeting offer.

Joint excursions are also possible.





Dance, music and theater

Support of a puppet theater

Amidst people and puppets, volunteers experience more than just an entertaining time. The puppet theater is looking for creative support from stage construction to the implementation of performances.



Dance teacher for Hip-Hop

Many children and teenagers want opportunities to dance. Dance-loving volunteers can teach hip-hop dance steps. The premises are of course provided for this purpose.



Rehearsal and concert support

Volunteers support and accompany the choir rehearsals of children and young people from different cultural backgrounds and discover the world of music together with them.





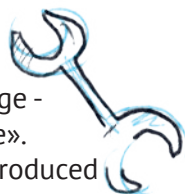
Work together

Ideas for the workshop

Anyone with manual skills and a love of crafts is wanted here. Committed people from different cultures contribute their ideas on how to use the workshop together with others.

Supervise bicycle workshop

It is not necessary to have extensive knowledge - in this place «everyone learns from everyone». Volunteer mechanics are gradually trained and introduced to the workshop. People in need also participate in the repair of bicycles.



Setting up a sports room

This is about setting up sports rooms in a shared accommodation for refugees. Volunteers install the equipment to create opportunities for fitness and sports for the residents.





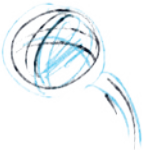
Active in sports

Exercise instructor for sports and exercise programs

Volunteer trainers offer young people sporting activities in a shared accommodation for refugees.
A room and a garden are available.
The participants are happy about breakdance, slackline or other ideas.

Football and Basketball

Volunteers implement recreational activities for children and young people at a reception facility.
Basic equipment for materials as well as a football field and basketball court are available.



Learn to ride a bike

People from countries where cycling is not very common experience learning to ride a bike as a sense of achievement and an extension of their personal freedom.
Volunteers help to ensure that people can become mobile with their own bicycle.





Accompany in learning

Accompaniment in everyday school life

Volunteers are needed to help young people with refugee experience with their homework and teach them basic knowledge in German. The most important thing is to enjoy learning and working with young people.

Encouraging school attendance

Volunteers help open up educational opportunities by regularly supporting young people in their learning. Tasks include teaching basic reading, writing and speaking skills, comprehension of texts from textbooks, as well as regional studies.

Accompaniment during education

The volunteers act as an accompanying confidant to a young person with refugee experience between the ages of 18 and 25. In this way, they support a young person on the path to adulthood.



A



Fun with reading

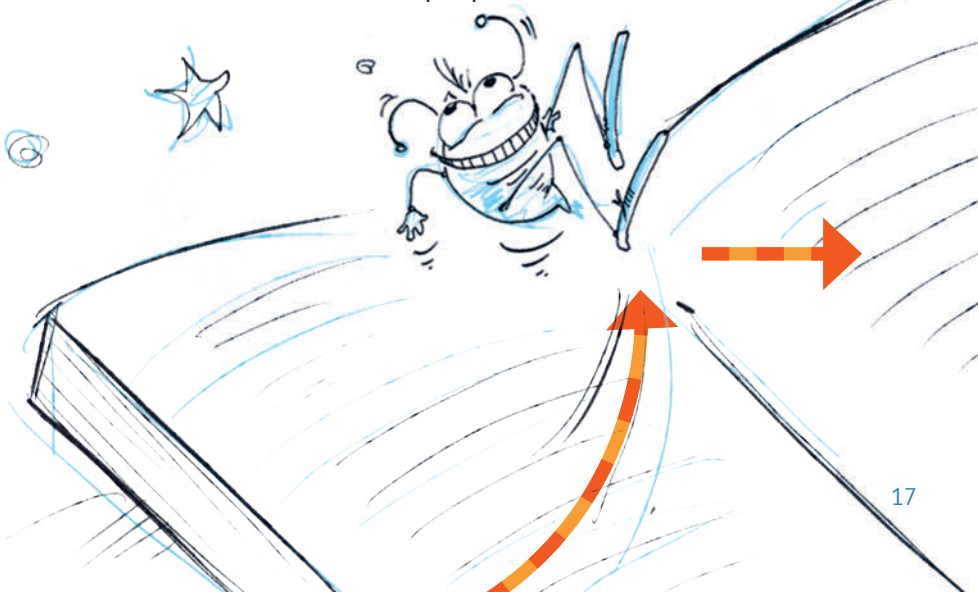
Read aloud


Readers meet regularly with children in public institutions such as libraries, schools or kindergartens to look at picture books, read from them or even listen to the children read aloud.

Reading mentorship

Reading mentors work in schools and daycare centers to instill an enthusiasm for reading.

In pairs or small groups, they read exciting stories with the children or for older people in senior facilities.






Accompaniment

Being there and standing by

Accompaniment during visits to authorities

-  Refugees need accompaniment to doctor's appointments or various visits to the authorities. Volunteers are especially needed here.

Support in finding accommodation

- Suitable apartments have to be searched for on the Internet and emails to landlords have to be written. Sometimes the volunteers also accompany people on apartment viewings.



Nature

Outdoors in the countryside

Gardening

Volunteers participate in the maintenance of public garden beds.
There are regular meetings with local gardeners.
They learn how to care for the beds and make the plants bloom
for the neighborhood.

Establishment of a walking group

Volunteers who enjoy walking form so-called walking groups
with people who have only recently moved to the neighborhood.
Duration and route depend on the personal wishes and
possibilities of the group.





Learning languages

German courses for women

Volunteers offer regular language learning opportunities for residents with very little knowledge of German in a shared accommodation.

Russian discussion group

A Russian discussion group, the so-called Tea-Cake-Talks, takes place weekly, where Russian-speaking neighbors can meet and exchange ideas. Volunteers supervise the group and plan the topics of conversation.





A WORD – IN CONVERSATION WITH COMMITTED VOLUNTEERS

In the following, committed people themselves have their say. We asked them what motivated them to become active and what motivates them to stay active.

Ute T.

volunteers for children and young people in a shared accommodation for refugees.

How did you find your way to volunteering?

In 2015, when many refugees came to Marzahn, I was already actively involved. I helped with setting up beds, in the clothing store and with handing out meals. I wanted to make myself useful and help people in need. When a community shelter opened on my street, there were people who spread fears about the new neighbors. But I thought we wanted to get along with the people and offered my help.

What are the positive moments of your involvement?

Since I offered my help, a very good contact has developed. Since I have worked as an educator for many years, the opportunity arose to contribute my experience to the institution. So, for the third year, we are doing projects for children during the non-school hours. We have fun on our field trips, as well as cooking, baking, crafts and sporting competitions. I can impart knowledge to the young people and also learn a lot about their lives. This is also a great way to get to know the families. The children like to come to the activities or tell me what they would like to do. In the residential area I am always greeted politely and respectfully.



What advice can you give to those interested in volunteering?

People who want to get involved should look for a task that they are good at and enjoy doing. Because if you are enthusiastic about something, then you can also inspire others. Then you still need advice where the activity is needed. That's where you can turn to the volunteer agency or a district center. Those who get involved are not lonely, have a sense of achievement, and new social contacts are made.

You can find out more about **housing for refugees on pages 35 to 37**. There are many ways to get involved.



Ahmad M.

(BENN Blumberger Damm),

fled from Afghanistan, lives in Marzahn since 2021

What motivated you, to become a volunteer in the intercultural context?

First of all, I should say I was totally new in Germany and started to live in Berlin. The first thing I saw that was missing with the new people, who are coming to Germany, was the language and answering the posts that they received from different offices. Therefore, I started to help them with their problems and that was my first step to work as a self-volunteer to help people to solve their problems. I would like to say motivation to help the people was the most important motivation factor to start volunteer work and day by day I started to be more involved with the organizations and join the volunteer work to help the people.

What are the positive things you experienced during this work?

Working as a volunteer is always full of experience for me. The special part of my volunteer work was helping people, this was a very nice factor for feeling energetic for volunteer work. It will be very real to say with volunteer work you can know more people. You build a network and be involved in things that are happening around you. You can know more about the people and their problems that they are facing with that. The best part is, that your part of solving the problems that people are facing. For me the always interesting part was in every volunteer work, to meet new people. Now I am working officially, but when I have time I will go to work sometimes as a volunteer to help the people.



What should someone know, who is interested in a volunteers work like the one you are involved with?

I would like to say the first thing is patience that can help a person to be involved in the volunteer work, because sometimes you find work which is difficult and that is the time you need patience. On the other hand, sometimes you will work with many people, then you must be patient. Before you want to decide to go and do volunteer work always think that are you ready to do that? Do you have that much patience to do volunteer work? Do you like to do any kind of work as a volunteer? And other questions that are more dependent on you. Finally, always be involved in volunteer work, especially when it is for helping people.

At **radio connection**, different people get involved.

You can get to know some of them in the following interviews and learn more about their path to volunteering.



Lida K.

has been living in Germany for a year and is involved in a radio project.



How did you get involved with radio connection?

The colleagues from radio connection meet once a week in our shared accommodation. That's how I got to know them and found friends and colleagues in them. Later, I found out that I could volunteer with them and decided to roll up my sleeves for another challenge in my life. Now I am happy to be a part of this dear family.

How do you benefit from your involvement?

I enjoy being with my fellow members and the atmosphere created by their presence. I always wait impatiently for the day of the weekly meeting. It is a pleasure to be with some of the professionals in the field of journalism, especially because they are so friendly and kind. Even though we come together with different languages and from different countries, I'm glad that we all have the goal of providing people with a good radio program.

What is the advantage of volunteering first when you are new to Germany?

By volunteering, I learn more about work processes in a new country, make more friends and can use their experience.



Shah H.

has been living in Germany for almost three months and is also involved in the radio project radio connection.

What do you get out of your commitment?

I have worked for more than twelve years in different parts of Afghan media; from first-class newspapers to large audio and video media organizations. Every Thursday, I go to meetings with indescribable motivation. I enjoy seeing people from different languages and cultures come together to work together. I enjoy it even more to see myself among them. The fact that I don't lose any of my expertise in the process and can learn something new each time is a benefit for me. I have the pleasant feeling that, despite having emigrated, I have not left my job and can still work in this field.

What is the advantage of volunteering first when you are new to Germany?

I think people should volunteer for some of their values. In Afghanistan, me and my friends did volunteer work from time to time. We helped migrants and participated in raising awareness for women and girls every three months or every six months. Now that I live in Germany, I like to meet new people and I learn from them. It is good that this work is in an area that interests me. I don't have any friends or acquaintances in this area. I am a complete stranger in the city. Therefore, meeting new people and building relationships in these first days is the most important benefit of my commitment.



WHERE INTERCULTURAL ENGAGEMENT TAKES PLACE

In Marzahn-Hellersdorf there are a large number of organizations, institutions and projects that are committed to cultural diversity and peaceful coexistence. Volunteers are cordially invited to join them and help shape their work.

Below we present some of them as examples.



BENN

BENN stands for «Berlin Entwickelt Neue Nachbarschaften» and is a program of the Senate Department for Urban Development, Building and Housing. It is implemented in close cooperation with the districts. Since 2022, there have been three BENN sites in Marzahn-Hellersdorf: BENN Blumberger Damm, BENN Marzahn-Süd and BENN plus Wittenberger Straße.

The BENN locations are intended to strengthen and promote neighborly coexistence. This happens, for example, when neighbors get to know each other who would otherwise not meet. This also includes neighbors with refugee experience.

To this end, the BENN team, with the support of committed citizens, offers a variety of activities, such as language cafés, joint activities in the neighborhood (e.g., designing green spaces, festivals), and cultural events.

Contact
Bezirkliche BENN-Koordination
Email: BENN@ba-mh.berlin.de



<https://www.berlin.de/ba-marzahn-hellersdorf/politik-und-verwaltung/aemter/stadtentwicklungsamt/staedtebaufoerderung/artikel.776856.php>



Social district centers in Marzahn-Hellersdorf

The doors of the district centers are open to all people who are at home in the respective district. Offers for cultural, creative and sporting leisure activities are organized here. There are numerous meeting places that invite people to exchange ideas and get together. The team also provides advice and support for social or legal problems, as well as for questions about pensions or integration. People who want to get involved in a good cause in their living environment or locally in the district center will find open ears here.

You can find more information about the ten district centers as well as the current event dates and offers here:

Contact

Bezirksamt Marzahn-Hellersdorf

Stadtteilkoordination

Phone: +49 (0)30 90293-4970

Email: Sozialamt@ba-mh.berlin.de



<https://stadtteilzentren-mh.de>

radio connection

radio connection is an association that enables people with and without refugee or migration experience to produce a multilingual radio program together every week.

The topics are determined by the producers themselves: From arriving and living in Germany, the job and housing market, exciting initiatives to asylum and deportation policies and racism in Germany, they report on everything that is important to them.

This can also be different traditions, festivals or music.

Currently, more than 15 people from six countries work regularly on the broadcasts in more than five languages. The team includes both trained journalists and people with no previous journalistic experience, and they support each other.

Regardless of whether you already have experience in reporting and creating audio contributions or are simply curious, everyone is welcome at radio connection.

Contact

radio connection e.V.

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Email: info@radioconnection-berlin.de



<https://www.radioconnection-berlin.de>



MIGRANT SELF- ORGANISATION

There are many committed people working in migrant self-organizations for whom good coexistence in cultural diversity is important. The goals are the promotion of culture and language as well as support in education, integration and peaceful coexistence.



MIM e.V.

The association Migrantinnen in Marzahn (MIM e.V.) is committed to intercultural work for and with women and girls in the district of Marzahn-Hellersdorf.

Important goals of the organization are the strengthening of self-efficacy and mutual solidarity among women and girls with and without migration history. With its emancipatory offers and participatory approach, the association wants to contribute to the reduction of ethnic, cultural and gender-specific discrimination. Its work is implemented by an intercultural team, to which volunteers also make a valuable contribution. Its projects include the women's meeting place HellMa, the intercultural women's meeting place ROSA, the counseling center for domestic violence Marzahn-Mitte, the supervised youth living for girls, and the women's creative workshop.

Contactt

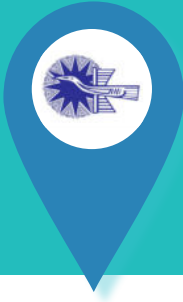
MIM – Migrant:innen in Marzahn e.V.

Phone: +49 (0)30 5425057

Email: info@mimev.de



<http://www.mimev.de>



Reistrommel e.V.

Reistrommel e.V. is committed to the idea of social justice. The association pursues the goal of improving the living situation of Vietnamese fellow citizens who came to Germany as migrant workers and their family members as well as asylum seekers. In this sense, the association stands up for the rights of these people and promotes their participation in society, in which they can exercise their rights and duties.

These are realized among other things by:

- ▶ Social counseling and implementation of measures for integration (language courses/migration counseling)
- ▶ Public education and political lobbying about the living situation of Vietnamese migrants
- ▶ Implementation of project days, training events, public festivals, etc., to promote Vietnamese culture and intercultural understanding

Contact

Reistrommel e.V.

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INVOLVEMENT IN REFUGEE ACCOMMODATIONS

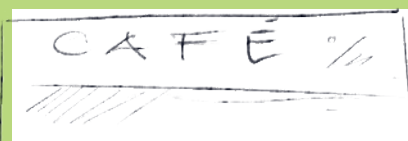
There are several supervised facilities in the district where asylum seekers and homeless refugees are temporarily housed.


These facilities are called reception facility and shared accommodation.

They are usually accommodations with shared toilets, shower rooms and kitchens. Most shelters have recreation rooms that can be used for various activities.

Each house is different because the buildings were not always newly built (like the so-called «modular shelters»), but served other purposes in the past.

A roof over one's head and a temporary right to stay are just the first steps on the way to a new life.





**Volunteers can help
by giving their time to
individual refugees or to
group activities.**

Proven offers include low-threshold language cafés where people can try out the German language, accompaniment to authorities, doctor's appointments and parents' evenings, or services such as tutoring and homework help for children.

The focus is on the cooperation between volunteers and refugees.

Successful cooperation is characterized by the fact that they meet on a friendly, trusting basis and at eye level.

Volunteer coordinators help volunteers find meaningful activities within the existing structures.

They are on site every day and know the residents of the refugee accommodation. They are helpful in organizing support services that take place on a volunteer basis. And they offer targeted counselling to volunteers to prevent misunderstandings.

**Bezirksamt Marzahn-Hellersdorf
(district office Marzahn-Hellersdorf)
Koordination für Flüchtlingsfragen
(coordination for refugee issues)**

The team of the Integration Office works on topics of accommodation, integration and anti-discrimination of refugees in the district of Marzahn-Hellersdorf.



Contact

**Bezirksbeauftragter für Partizipation und Integration
Koordination für Flüchtlingsfragen
Bezirksamt Marzahn-Hellersdorf von Berlin
Phone: (030) 90293-2062 /-2019
Email: integrationsbuero@ba-mh.de**

**Do you want to get involved
and help in a shared
accommodation?**

We support you!



DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR PARTICIPATION AND INTEGRATION

Marzahn-Hellersdorf

The District Advisory Council is the official body in the district in which all people interested in integration and migration policy issues at the district level can get involved. Its task is to advise and support the district office in all questions of participation, integration and equal participation of people with migration history. The basis for this is § 19 of the «Law for the Promotion of Participation in the Migration Society of the State of Berlin» (PartMigG).

Through its work, the advisory council is to help preserve and further develop Marzahn-Hellersdorf as a «place of diversity», i.e. to ensure an intercultural and peaceful coexistence of all people in the district characterized by respect and tolerance. It also networks with the advisory councils of the other districts as well as with the state advisory board for participation.

The voluntary members of the advisory council, most of whom have their own migration history, have expertise and experience in the field of participation, integration and migration, and are well networked within the colorful landscape of numerous associations and projects in the district, meet once a month for a public meeting, which is also attended by the district mayor. In addition, there are thematically oriented working groups in which individual issues are examined in depth and prepared for decision-making by the entire advisory council.



Both the advisory council and its working groups receive technical and logistical support from the integration office of the district office. Anyone who is interested can attend all advisory council meetings without prior registration and is welcome to participate as a guest.

Contact

Bezirksamt Marzahn-Hellersdorf von Berlin
Bezirksbeauftragter für Partizipation und Integration
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<https://www.berlin.de/ba-marzahn-hellersdorf/politik-und-verwaltung/beauftragte/integration/partizipation/artikel.823368.php>



THE ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY AND TOLERANCE

at the Place of Diversity
Marzahn-Hellersdorf



Marzahn-Hellersdorf is a place of diversity - and must remain so. The district offers all people - regardless of their gender, age or religious confession, their origin, sexual identity or social situation - space to freely develop their personality. The alliance advocates this through a wide range of activities. It is made up of participants from civil society as well as politics and administration. The alliance meets every two months. If you would like to become an active member of the alliance, please send a short letter of motivation by e-mail. Members attend the alliance meetings and can participate in various working groups and activities. One can also come to the meetings as a guest.

Kontakt

**Koordinierungsstelle für Demokratieentwicklung
Marzahn-Hellersdorf**

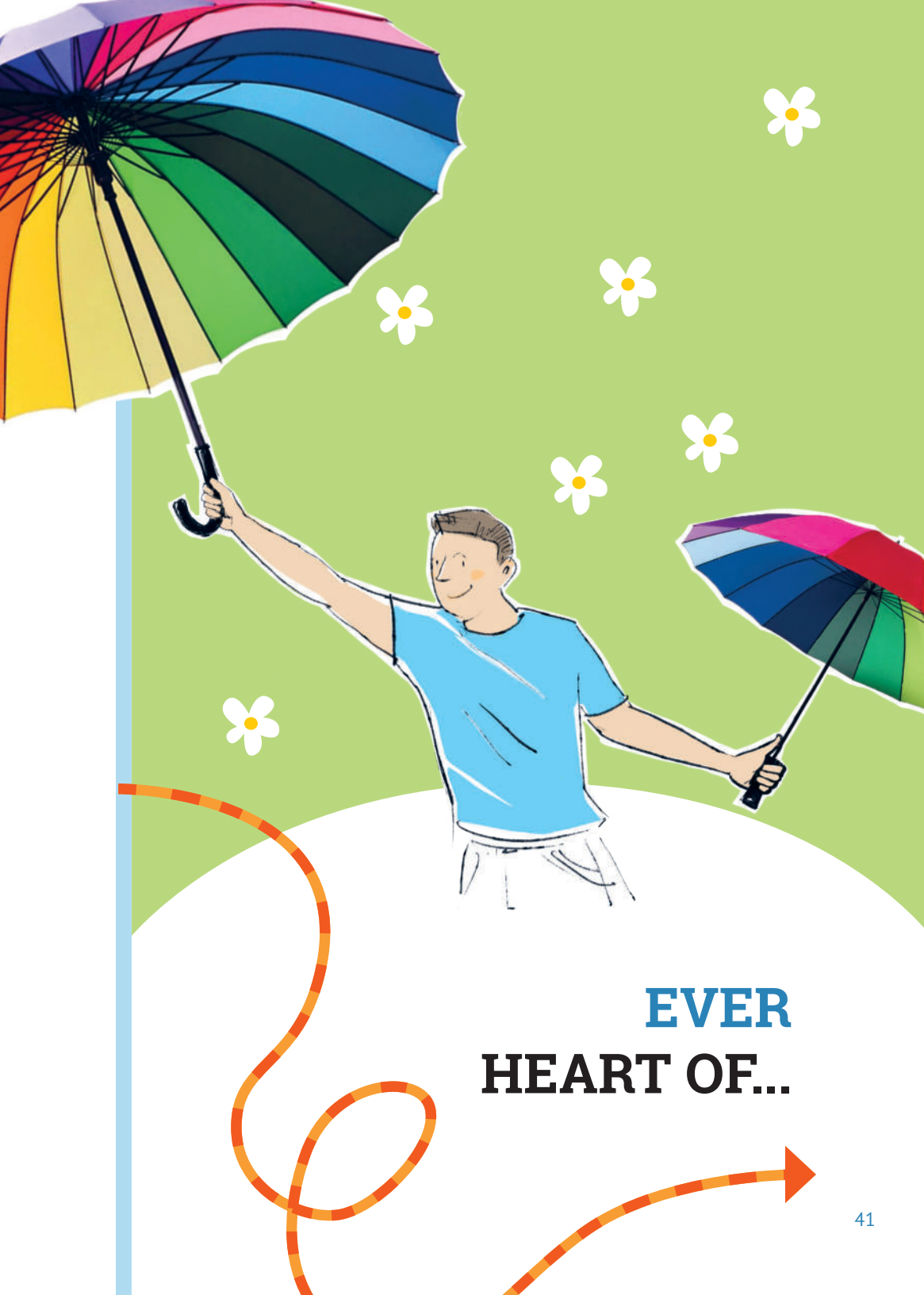
Telefon: +49 (0)30 92257140 und +49 (0)176 85917638

Email: buendnis_mh@web.de



<https://buendnis.demokratie-mh.de>





EVER
HEART OF...

Intercultural days in Marzahn-Hellersdorf

The three-week series of events «Interkulturelle Tage in Marzahn-Hellersdorf» (Intercultural days in Marzahn-Hellersdorf) offers an extensive program of events for young and old with numerous festivals, interesting facts, cultural events, culinary delights and activities to participate in. The opening event is traditionally the festival of democracy «Schöner leben ohne Nazis» (Live more beautifully without Nazis) on Alice-Salomon-Platz.

Intercultural Week Berlin

The «Interkulturelle Woche» (Intercultural Week) is a Berlin-wide event. With festivities, panel discussions, church services, cultural events and interesting happenings, the organizers are committed to a peaceful and just coexistence and to a dialogue at eye level.



<https://www.interkulturelle-woche-berlin.de>





Intercultural calendar

The Intercultural Calendar provides an overview of the most important holidays of different cultures and religions. It is available for download at the following address:



<https://www.berlin.de/tb/intmig/service/publikationen/interkultureller-kalender>



COLORFUL AND DIVERSE

as the people from your neighborhood with their different origins is the voluntary commitment with and for each other in Marzahn-Hellersdorf.

**WHERE AND HOW
YOU CAN BE ACTIVE,**
we've put together for you.

Your team of the
FreiwilligenAgentur Marzahn-Hellersdorf

