

Integration Council Committee Work

During their regular meetings, Integration Council working group members deal with the following topics: culture and sport; refugees, cross-cultural centres and civic engagement; education and career; senior citizens, health and social affairs as well as general issues with regard to foreigners, inter-cultural openness and anti-discrimination matters

Mr. Tayfun Kelttek is the Chairman of the Integration Council.

His **deputies are:** Mr. **Ahmet Edis**, Mr. **Antonella Giurano**, Ms. **Figen Maleki**, Mr. **Eli Abeke** and Mr. **Stefan Mitu**

Other directly elected members are:

Mr. Ibrahim Alici, Mr. Ahmet Altinova, Mr. Mehmet Cambaz, Mr. Mehmet Ayata, Mr. Abdullah Aydik, Mr. Nebil Bayrakcioglu, Ms. Barbara Brunelli, Ms. Gülgün Durdu, Mr. Ali Esen, Ms. Sevil Inal, Mr. Lillo licco, Dr. Eugene Litvinov, Mr. Turan Özküçük, Ms. Stella Shcherbatova, Mr. Ibrahim Toure, Mr. Silvio Vallecoccia

Members delegated by the Cologne Council:

CDU: Mr Martin Erkelenz (migration policy speaker), Ms. Ira Sommer and Mr. Stephan Pohl

SPD: Ms. Conny Schmerbach (migration policy speaker), Mr Christian Joisten, Mr. Malik Karaman and Mr. Klaus Schäfer

Bündnis 90/Die Grünen: Mr. Firat Yurtsever (migration policy speaker), Ms. Marion Heuser

Die Linke: Ms. Güldane Tokyürek (migration policy speaker),

FDP: Ms. Katja Hoyer (migration policy speaker)

The Integration Council is a political body representing the interests of immigrants in the city

The Integration Council of Cologne consists of

- 22 directly elected citizens from Cologne with a migrant background
- 11 members of the City Council
- Institutions, associations and initiatives as members with advisory capacities.

The Integration Council is re-elected every five years on the day of the local elections. The next election will be in autumn in 2020.

All members of the Integration Council work as volunteers.

The Integration Council meetings are open to the public and take place at the Cologne City Hall.

Meeting documents and protocols are available at:

<https://www.stadt-koeln.de/leben-in-koeln/soziales/integrationsrat/>

The Integration Council of Cologne's office can be visited at the following address:

Kleine Sandkaul 5, 50667 Cologne;

The Managing Director is Mr. Andreas Vetter.

Phone: 0221/221-23195,

Integrationsrat@stadt-koeln.de

The Integration Council of Cologne is a member of the National Integration Council of North-Rhine Westphalia

<https://landesintegrationsrat.nrw/>

Cologne, December 2019

INTEGRATIONS RAT
Köln



EQUAL
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR EVERYONE

INTEGRATIONS RAT
Köln



38.2% of all Cologne citizens have a migrant background. 19.3% of all Cologne citizens have a foreign passport. At the municipal level, the city of Cologne's integration council represents the interests of immigrant citizens and monitors changes in the city caused by immigration. Its goal is to increase awareness of the realities of immigrants' lives in the city's politics and administration and to learn to understand and accept that immigration is quite a normal occurrence that contributes to our pluralistic society.

The political committees of the Integration Council are committed to exploiting the resulting opportunities for the benefit of the entire city.

The Integration Council makes specific policy and administration proposals and invigorates them to ensure equal opportunities and political opportunities for minorities in the Cologne city community.

The City Council and the Integration Council

The City Council is the supreme body for political decision-making in Cologne. It is elected by all Cologne citizens who are eligible to vote and is responsible for all of the municipal administration's affairs.

The City Council transfer decisions on certain matters to other committees such as, for example, the urban development committee, youth assistance committee, building committee, social committee, transport committee etc., so that certain topics may be discussed more intensively and Council decisions can be prepared.

The Integration Council is the City Council's board of experts which is responsible for issues such as migration, equal opportunities and the participation of immigrants in the city's politics on the basis of equal rights.

The integration Council is committed to the following objectives:

- introduction of the right to vote in municipal elections for all non-EU citizens who have lived here for a long time
- Equal, political, social and cultural participation of immigrants in our city should be self-evident
- Promotion of cross-culture orientation and City administration hospitality and openness in a city that is home to people from many countries
- Implementation of projects that prevent exclusion, discrimination or racism in our city
- Creation of a differentiated and true picture of migration in our city including its causes, effects and opportunities
- Financial support and promotion of cross-cultural centres and migrant organisations in the city
- Decent accommodation and care for refugees in our city

The Integration Council has the right ask questions to the city administration and to formulate proposals to implement concrete projects.

Integration Council initiatives

- Establishment of an Office for Integration and Diversity
- For candidates who apply for jobs at offices of the City of Cologne, intercultural competence is now a criterion in the selection of suitable applicants.
- Adoption of the Key Issues Paper regarding the integration of immigrant children and young people in Cologne's schools
- The municipal budget now includes an integration budget
- A monument to the victims of the NSU attacks in Keupstrasse and in Probststeigasse is planned
- An Immigration Society House will be established in Cologne
- For the first time a budget has been created for the establishment of 22 bilingual groups at nursery schools
- The City Council funds interpreters, translators and integration advisors for immigrants
- The City of Cologne belongs to the registered organisation "European Cities Coalition Against Racism"
- The Cologne Association of European Primary Schools was founded
- The Multilingualism and Integration Centre was founded in Cologne
- A Health Guide for migrants will be created
- In addition, the Integration Council regularly organises various events on topics such as multilingualism, racism prevention, etc...

