Integration activities
The Norwegian Red Cross

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The Norwegian Red Cross is a part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Present in 189 countries worldwide

Nationally, the Norwegian Red Cross is the largest non-governmental organization in the integration and migration field

400 local branches

9000 volunteers in migration activities

Partnership agreement with the Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi)
Integration challenges

- Many migrants feel lonely and isolated
- Language barriers
- After ended Introduction program, many struggle to find employment
- Unemployment among immigrants are three times higher than for native Norwegians
- Integration is a two-way process → can not be the sole responsibility of the state
The refugee guide program

- **A buddy system** where a volunteer and a newly settled refugees is brought together for a 9-month “guiding period”
- **Meet regularly** and engage in various activities that they both enjoy
- **Voluntariness= Mutuality**: new immigrants get familiar with their local community and volunteers learn about the immigrant and his/her life.
- **The matching** criteria can be age, gender, family situation, hobby, profession etc.
Today

- The Refugee Guide is the largest migration activity within the Norwegian Red Cross.
  - Present in 87 places
  - 1300 refugee guides
  - 1400 refugees

- Both the guides and the refugees find participation both valuable and rewarding.
- Contributes to integration, natural language comprehension, knowledge about the local area and the Norwegian culture.

Røde Kors
Norwegian Training

- Volunteers organize sub-groups according to participants’ skill level.
- The activity is a supplement to the regular language classes.
- Focusing on improving participant’s spoken language skills – something which many migrants feel is lacking in the more formalized language programmes.
Today

- The activity has proven very popular and engaging, for participants and volunteers’ alike.
- 48 groups nationwide
- 3000 participants (every week)
- 600 volunteers
«To the Top»
Activities for women
Other integration activities
How we are funded

- National lottery
- Membership fees
- Private and corporate donors
- Partnership agreement with the Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi)
- Partnership agreements with the municipalities

Challenges: project support vs. operating costs
www.rodekors.no