

maiz' Media Network

Building a Network to Facilitate Media Participation Among Migrants in Austria



Programm für
lebenslanges
Lernen

June 2013
Kim Carrington

maiz
Autonomes Zentrum
von & für Migrantinnen



maiz- Autonomous Center by and for Migrant Women

- **maiz** is an independent organization by and for migrant women.
- Our goal is to better the lives and work situations of migrant women in Austria
- To promote our political and cultural participation
- To transform the existing unjust social conditions

maiz- Autonomous Center by and for Migrant Women

- Target groups for our activities:
 - Migrant women
 - Migrant youth
- maiz builds alliances and works with an array of cooperation partners
- maiz carries out a broad range of **projects** at local, regional, national and international levels

maiz- Autonomous Center by and for Migrant Women

- Our areas of work include:
 - Education (Migrant women and youth)
 - Counselling
 - sex & work
 - Research
 - Cultural work
- We continuously strive to interlace the activities of the individual areas of work with each other

Building a Network to Facilitate Media Participation

- Media plays a crucial role in a democracy
- The promotion of media access and participation therefore promotes strengthening democratic participation
- We aim to build and to expand a network to facilitate media participation among migrants in Austria

Building a Network to Facilitate Media Participation

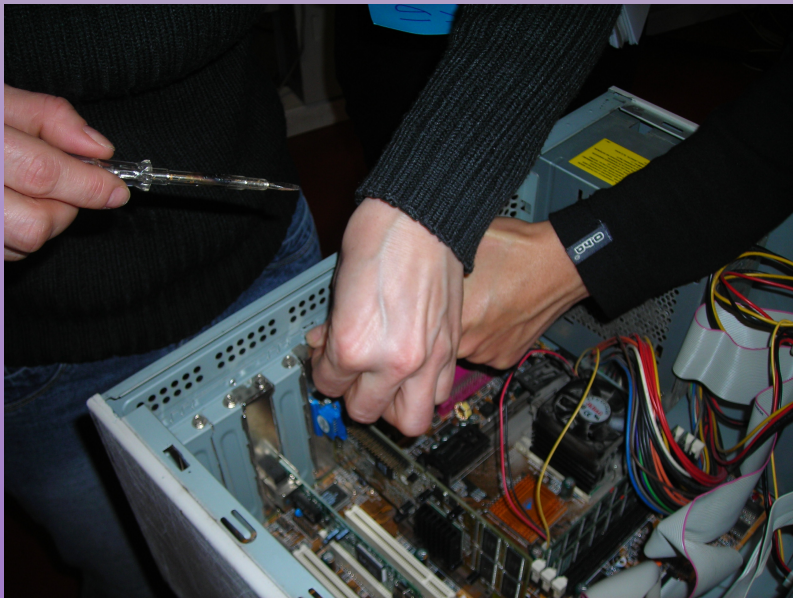
- We focus on using information technologies to create spaces for individual and collective empowerment and to promote democratic ideals of participation
- Through our democratic approach to media and our diverse media projects we advocate, emphasize and support migrant perspectives
- The following illustrates the various forms of media access and the network that maiz has built to facilitate the participation of migrants in Austria:

Focus on Media Participation - „Web accessibility“

- We aim to increase accessibility to our website
- We strive to adapt to the needs of our target groups whose first language is not German
- Since language is a barrier to participation, we have „translated“ the main sections of our website using „**Plain Language**“ (in German only)
- Plain Language means writing and designing written information so that it is easier to understand
- It is a work in progress

Focus on Media Participation – ICT in our courses

- All of the courses we offer contain basic ICT modules
- We use and promote Open Source software



In one workshop, the participants deconstruct a computer to learn about its components and their functions.

Focus on Media Participation - „Moodle“

- A web-based plattform that can create a virtual learning environment for course participants
- An interactive teacher2teacher communication tool (course journals, lesson plans etc.)
- Learning is extended beyond the classroom
- Ideally used for blended learning and collaborative projects

Focus on Media Participation - „Migrazine“

- A multilingual online magazine for all migrants
- **Migrazine** is published by maiz on a quarterly basis
- To make critical migrant voices more audible and to fight against clichés about migrants
- Feminist and anti-racist
- Migrants are involved in the entire production process - from web design to editorial

Focus on Media Participation - „Migrazine“

- Contains a mix of reporting, analyses, interviews and commentary covering selected areas of interest
- Not strictly migrant-specific topics
- Our perspective is characterized by our experience and social positioning as migrants
- Cooperation with other alternative media such as:
- **an.schläge, MALMOE & Frauensolidarität**

Focus on Media Participation - „MaizOne“

- **MaizOne** is a print magazine written and produced by migrant youth
- Activities are facilitated by teachers and professionals in print media
- To voice migrant youths' perspectives on a variety of issues that affect them
- To be visible and claim public space

Focus on Media Participation - „Mi_Fanzine“

- A project to promote critical media literacy among migrant youth
- To promote media participation and production among migrant youth
- A workshop series dealing with media coverage in Austria with respect to migration, gender, discrimination and participation

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Focus on Media Participation - „Mi_Fanzine“

- Workshops are discursive, analytical, creative and participatory
- To produce a fanzine and a short video as mediums for migrant youths' voices

Focus on Media Participation -

„Self-DefenceIT“

- An action research project with an International partnership:
 - maiz- Autonomous Center by and for Migrant Women
 - ESCODE (ES)
 - Antigone (GR)
 - University of Education – Freiburg (DE)
 - Openhead CIC Fossbox (GB)
 - University of Manchester – School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures (GB)

Focus on Media Participation - „Self-DefenceIT“

- Migrant women defend themselves against violence (racism, sexism, homophobia, etc.) in new media
- Focus on social and technical needs in using digital media
- We offer specialised counselling services: „Media-Family-Counselling“
- Workshop series „Setting Limits in New Media“

Focus on Media Participation - „Self-DefenceIT“

- A video produced by media artist Lisbeth Kovačič in cooperation with the women who attended the workshops:
 - Sex and Racism on the Internet
- Publications:
 - Self-defenceIT International Analyses
 - Between Motherhood and Agency

Focus on Media Participation - Community Radio & TV

- We perceive the roles and responsibilities of community radio and TV as a part of democratic institutions
- As cooperation partners they support us in strengthening collective processes in the fight for more (media) justice and against discrimination
- They are non-commercial media and promote user-generated content:
 - Radio Fro: <http://cba.fro.at/44340>
 - DorfTV: <http://www.dorftv.at/videos/maiz?text=maiz>

Links

- Pangea – Interkulturelle Medienwerkstatt
<http://www.pangea.at/>
- Servus – a cultural network-based initiative
www.servus.at
- The Internet in Society: Empowering or Censoring Citizens?
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uk8x3V-sUgU>

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This presentation was created within the framework of the Grundtvig Project:

„Active Citizenship“ - Citizens' skills for a better democracy in the digital era.

<http://in-progress.fcforum.net/active-citizenship>



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Thank You!



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