

PROJECT REPORT

„Mosaïque funkt über Heimat“- Mosaïque.fm at Radio ZuSa

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A House for Everyone: Be a Part of the Mosaïque! (FSL)

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1. Introduction

First, I'd like to introduce our project which we worked on throughout the summer semester in 2018.

We got together as a group of five girls on the second day of our first seminar weekend. The day before, we got introduced to all the different projects however, all of us decided it would be very interesting to host our own radio show even though, none of us has ever done a radio show before. Our task was to fill one hour at the "Bürgerrundfunksendung" on Radio ZuSa.

We were very lucky, because a group of students already did the same project the year before. So when we started to think about how a radio show could be done, we had the chance to have a look at their project file from last year. This gave us an idea of how our own radio show could look like.

As the radio show was part of our seminar '*A House for Everyone: Be a Part of the Mosaïque!*' we knew, we had to find a topic for the show which would be informative as well as interesting for the listeners. So the day the group was formed, we started exchanging ideas for the content. A milestone however, defined the decision on which date the show should take place. The radio show from last year's seminar was broadcast before the *Mosaïque* was opened earlier this year. During that show they talked about how the founders envisioned life in the *Mosaïque*. Naturally, our first idea was to talk about how things have developed since the opening of the *Mosaïque*. In addition, we thought about the journey of the people who live and volunteer at the *Mosaïque*. The final title we chose for our radio show was "*Mosaïque funkt über Heimat*". In order to collect our information, we interviewed people from the living project, which either live or volunteer in the *Mosaïque*, we recorded poems in different languages about the topic 'home' or 'feeling home' and lastly, played songs which we or the people we've interviewed connect to the feeling of being home.

As I mentioned before, we were working as a group of five girls, so the easiest way to get everything organised was to take on different roles and to assign the tasks.

My part, which I shared with Theresa, was to be responsible for the content. However, since we realised that finding a topic and content was such an important task, in the end we all worked together on the decision making process about the shows content. Because of that, I

decided to help Astrid with technical requirements. The main task for us was to work on the interviews. Firstly, we had to figure out what equipment we would need to record the interviews. When the process of recording was done, Astrid and I started to cut the data on one of the computers on campus. The program we used for cutting was called “audacity”. We first had to get to know it, because neither Astrid nor I had worked with this kind of program before.

Because I supported Astrid with the technical issues, we went to two radio shows before our own to see the studio and all the technical equipment inside. Bruno was so kind to show us around before the show he took over from Lennart. He told us everything we needed to know.

2. Importance of the project

I see the importance of the project in reaching people, which either haven’t heard of the *Mosaique* or don’t know what it exactly is or what it stands for. It was important to us that people became aware of the *Mosaique*. Since the whole house relies on people who want to get involved and do something good for others the house seems to do its name (“a house for everyone”) justice and thus is what it is supposed to be.

The *Mosaique* depends on voluntary work, hence voluntary workers are always welcome and needed in order to keep the project alive. As you can hear *Radio ZuSa* in Lüneburg and nearby, it is definitely a good opportunity to promote the *Mosaique* and use it as a tool to reach open minded people who would like to get involved.

For us it was important to tell people about the living project, which no one of our group members have heard about before we started attending the seminar. By choosing the topic “Home – Mosaique funkt über Heimat”, and talking about the feeling of being home, we thought this would be a good way to make the listeners aware of the living project. In addition, we were able to introduce people and their stories of having to leave their homeland to the listeners.

In order to live in the *Mosaique*, the residents do not have to meet any specific criteria. However, they are expected to be interested in participating in an active role in the community and being involved in different kinds of projects. Once in six month the residents organise an event or project in which everyone must participate.

In total, there are five flats in the house above the public place, where everyone is welcome. The flats are of different sizes and are there for different people to live in. The house holds spaces for people from different countries, cultures, social backgrounds and generations who are supposed to live in the upstairs flats.

Integration is a very important topic in the *Mosaïque*, as lots of different people with mixed cultural backgrounds, ages or work share this space. It is especially important for the people who had to leave their home countries, as it is vital to get a fair chance for integration. But as Lucy Hovil says: “*Local integration [...] can only take place if people have freedom of movement and freedom to make their own choices of where to live, how to support themselves, how to best utilize the limited resources that they have and which markets to access.*”¹

3. Goals, target group and cooperation partners

Our goal was to produce a radio show that promotes the *Mosaïque* and to present the idea of the *Mosaïque* to those who have never heard of it before. We wanted to do that by talking to people during our radio show who are involved in the project. Besides the interviews, we played songs and poems in different languages which dealt with the topic “home”. With help of that, we wanted to show the diversity of the *Mosaïque*, particularly with regards to the different social, religious and cultural backgrounds of the people in the *Mosaïque*. If one looks up the word “home” in a dictionary or internet you can find many different definitions for it. For example, the *Duden* explains the German word “Heimat” as a “*Land, Landesteil oder Ort, in dem man [geboren und] aufgewachsen ist oder sich durch ständigen Aufenthalt zu Hause fühlt (oft als gefühlsbetonter Ausdruck enger Verbundenheit gegenüber einer bestimmten Gegend)*”². That means that home is a region or a place in which someone is born and raised or feels home through a continuous stay and it is often used as an emotional expression. For us it seemed important to show how different the understandings of “home” can be. In addition, it is important to give the interviewed people enough space to share their story and their feelings about this topic.

¹ Hovil, 2004, p.7.

² Duden: Heimat

For the broadcast of our radio show, we had no specific target group. As I mentioned before, we wanted to reach people who had not heard anything or very little about the *Mosaïque* yet. As the theme “home” is a very open topic we thought this would be a topic that everyone can relate to. We hoped to reach many different people with an open minded world view since the *Mosaïque* stands for diversity. Ideally we hoped that people would develop and interest in the project and that they would like to become involved in it.

Our cooperation partner was the community radio station *Radio ZuSa*. *Radio ZuSa* is a non-commercial radio station which is located in Lüneburg and Ülzen. It reaches out to the region Heide, Wendland and Elbmarsch in Lower Saxony.³

As previously mentioned, *Radio ZuSa* is a community radio which means that anybody who would like to run a show, gets the possibility to do so. Whether as an individual, a group, an institution or an organisation, everybody gets the opportunity to produce their own radio show.⁴ There is no limit to the choice of music nor to the content of the broadcast. However, one has to keep in mind that technical equipment needs to be operated by yourself. In addition, in order to be allowed to use all the technical equipment at *Radio ZuSa* you have to receive technical training. This training is which is offered by the radio station. We have been lucky enough to have Lennart on our side, who helped us during the broadcast. He previously completed the training which we did not have time to get.

4. Results and Reflexion of the Project

The first thing to say is that we ran a successful radio show. We planned and ran a show for the first time, so we did not expect everything to be perfect. However, after the show we were all very happy with it.

Our radio show was successfully broadcasted on the 26th June 2018 on *Radio ZuSa*. We had written a detailed timetable in advance because we knew we would be very nervous before the show. The timetable helped to strengthen our confidence. The timetable included information about who was presenting, how long the presenter was going to speak, what the presenter was going to say and the different types of content for instance pre-or post-presentation,

³ Cf. Radio ZuSa: „Was ist ZuSa?“.

⁴ Cf. Radio ZuSa: Bürgerfunk - „Was ist das?“.

interviews, music or poem. Before the show we met twice to talk over the schedule and to practise our radio show. During those meetings we recorded the time of each part, so we would exactly know how much time we needed to perform the show. What also made us feel more confident was the fact that we recorded all the interviews and poems beforehand and cut the data. The only thing we were performing live were our speaking parts and the switching between microphones and audio data, which Lennart did for us. All the measures we have taken in advance have made our time management easier.

As mentioned before, everyone was doing a radio show for the first time, that is why we had two little thing which didn't work out the way we thought they would. The first one is that the sound wasn't as good on the radio as it was during our practising. At some points it was even quite poor. We really don't know how this happened, because Astrid and I spent a lot of time to cut the audio data and listened to it over and over again and couldn't hear it before. The second thing is that Astrid and I cut the audio data so that it ends right after the last word. When we played it during the radio show the media player was set to repeat, so the file started again from the start before we could switch to the next song or poem.

All in all we had a great mix of content and entertaining and invested a lot of time in the project. We had three interviews representing people from the *Mosaique*, five poems in five different languages representing the diversity of people from different backgrounds with different understandings of "home". The last thing to say is, that I'm very happy with the result of our radio show.

5. Reflection of the seminar and group work

The seminar "A House for Everyone: Be a Part of the Mosaique!" was one of the most interesting seminars I have ever participated in. It made me see topics in a different light. It was a very diverse seminar, which made me understand many things more clear. We talked about topics that I felt I already knew everything about, but because of the seminar I realised that this wasn't the case. One example is the differences between terms such as forced migration, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people.

What particularly made me think a lot about the word "refugee" was the text "We refugees" by Hannah Arendts, which we read and discussed on the first weekend seminar. I feel that it is a word that, nowadays, you can hear everywhere. For instance on the radio, on TV or even on

the bus as people are talking about it. Hannah Arendt says in the text, that after the Second World War many Jewish people refused to call themselves refugees, because they just wanted to be recognised as normal citizen. She believed that this wasn't a successful strategy. She says that people should rather remember what made them special as refugees.⁵ Even though this text was first published over 70 years ago, it is still very up to date.

The atmosphere in the seminar was very good. Everyone was very interested and the discussions were very interesting.

One of the reasons why I enjoyed the seminar as much as I did was because of my group. We were a group of five girls and it was so much fun working together and to see that everyone was as passionate about this project as I was. We had no communication problems during our work. We could rely on each other and if we had any kind of problems with anything there was always someone we could ask for help. We had a WhatsApp group in which we were very active. We have always updated each other by sending voice messages, which was the easiest way, I think. To share our documents, notes and protocols of our meetings we used Google drive.

In the beginning we worked more closely together, but after knowing the content and the different tasks, we got more into working separately or in small groups like Astrid and I did for cutting the audio data.

6. Conclusion

The experience of participating in the seminar has enriched me a lot. It was not only the topics that we discussed in the seminar that I found very interesting, but also to learn so much about the *Mosaïque* in general. Without the seminar, I would probably be aware that the *Mosaïque* exists, however I would not have gained the specific background knowledge that I did now. One example of that is, how long the process of planning took until the actual opening day. Secondly I would not be aware of the amount of people who are getting involved and would not be able to appreciate the diversity of the program.

⁵ C.f. Arendt: 1994.

Not only did I learn about the *Mosaique* and about the current situation of refugees, integration possibilities, opportunities and challenges, but I have learnt how to plan, organise and implement my own project. This will definitely help me in the future, working on a different project.

Despite the success, I feel that there should have been more advertising for the show, in order to let people know about it and give them the opportunity to listen to the radio show.

Hopefully the project in next year's seminar will have more listeners, so it feels a little more that all the work was worth it. However, we all are very happy with the results of our own project.

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