



## Program

- 11:00** Welcome address
- 11:15** Scenes from »Der Pinke Schal«  
A play about bureaucracy and compassion, written and performed by the refugees, students and citizens of Potsdam.
- 11:45** Introduction: »Development of refugee policies in Brandenburg«,  
*Almuth Berger, former Ausländerbeauftragte Brandenburg and board member of the Förderverein Brandenburgischer Flüchtlingsrat*
- 12:15** Special guest address  
*Gunter Fritsch, President of the Brandenburger Landtag*
- 12:30** Lunch & time for informal exchange
- 13:30** Pecha Kuchas  
Short summary presentations on the topics:
- › EU borders
  - › Racist attacks and anti-racist defense
  - › Cash or vouchers
  - › Living in refugee centers
  - › Civil society initiatives
- › Refugee self-organization
  - › Deportation and the right to stay
- 14:30** World Café  
Parallel, open discussions on the Pecha Kutcha themes
- 16:00** Coffee, tea and informal exchange
- 16:30** Panel Discussion  
»Welcome to Brandenburg?! – Prospects for a different refugee policy«  
*Andrea Kothen, Pro Asyl*  
*Sebastian Kochs, Grand Hotel Cosmopolis, Augsburg*  
*Sylvia Lehmann, Member of the Brandenburger Landtag and social policy spokesperson of the SPD*  
*Tannaz Bidary, winner of the 2012 Band für Mut und Verständigung 2012*  
And other guests....  
Moderated by: *Beate Selders, Flüchtlingsrat Brandenburg*
- 18:00** Closing remarks  
– End of meeting around 18:30 –

## 20+1 Jahr Flüchtlinge in Brandenburg – The time for a vision is not over yet –



**1. September 2012**

11:00 – 18:30

Haus der Brandenburgisch-Preußischen Geschichte,  
Am Neuen Markt 9, 14467 Potsdam

## 20+1 Jahr Flüchtlinge in Brandenburg

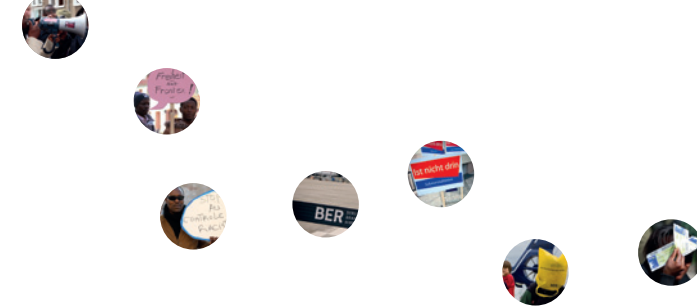
When the first refugees were »placed« in the new state of Brandenburg, an all-German racist campaign with the slogan »The boat is full« was already in full swing. In 1991, about 6,000 refugees arrived in Brandenburg and in 1992 the number was already 12,000. The Landkreise were not at all prepared to provide housing or any other support for the refugees. Most of them were »placed« in buildings that the Flüchtlingsrat later denounced as »jungle camps«. Refugees were not allowed to leave their assigned Landkreise and their children were denied schooling. Since 1993, they did not receive any cash allowance, only food from specially established warehouses. From the very beginning, local residents in many places tried to support the newcomers. But the general attitude of the people was skeptical or even hostile. Refugee camps and individual refugees were attacked, also in Brandenburg.

Over the last twenty years, things have changed. Europe closed its doors to refugees: By the end of 2010, only 3200 asylum seekers and »Geduldete« were living in Brandenburg. Many »jungle camps« have been closed for lack of occupants. After a long struggle, the »Residenzpflicht« for most refugees was extended to Brandenburg and Berlin since mid-2010. The warehouse supply system had been replaced by the still discriminatory vouchers. In the meantime

these vouchers were also discarded in most Landkreise. At present, only three Landkreise maintain a voucher system. Härtefallregelung and Kirchenasyl have successfully prevented deportation in several individual cases.

Although the federal government decides on the refugee policy, the localities influence how the policy is implemented. Therefore, the improvements in the living conditions of the refugees were and are always the results of the courageous commitments of a variety of initiatives, associations and refugee organizations. Their actions and perseverance have a decisive influence on the lives of refugees in Brandenburg.

Even though there have been some improvements, much remains the same and the time for vision is not over. »21 years of refugees in Brandenburg« is a good occasion to remind ourselves what has been achieved and to think about what still needs to be done. It is also an occasion to renew old contacts, establish new ones and make future plans.



The conference is sponsored by Sebastian-Cobler-Stiftung, Solidaritätsfonds of Hans-Böckler-Stiftung, Heidehof-Stiftung, the Integrationsbeauftragte Land Brandenburg and Brandenburger Landeszentrale für Politische Bildung.

Heidehof  
Stiftung



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## Information about the conference

**Participation in the conference is free of charge.**

### Reimbursement of travel expenses:

Refugees and participants with very low incomes may ask for reimbursement of travel expenses for their Brandenburg / Berlin trip to the conference site.

### Languages:

The conference is in German. For conference presentations the Flüchtlingsrat provides simultaneous interpretation in English and French. Translation of group discussions cannot be provided and have to be self-organized.

### Documentation:

We plan to document the conference and make this documentation available to the participants and through our website.

### Accessibility:

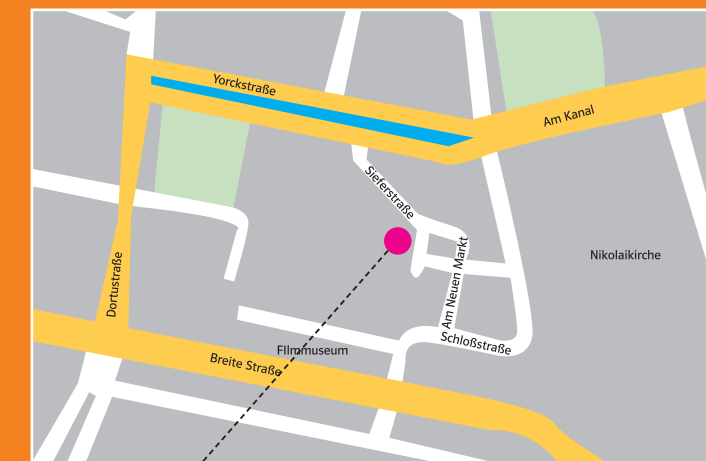
The Haus der Brandenburgisch-Preußischen Geschichte is wheelchair accessible.

### Information tables and walls:

On the walls and the entrance to the hall, you may present information about your activities. If you would like to avail of this opportunity please get in touch with the Flüchtlingsrat within the first week of August.

**Contact:** Gabriela Jaschke: [gabi.fluechtlingsrat.bbg@gmail.com](mailto:gabi.fluechtlingsrat.bbg@gmail.com)

**- Please make your registration by 15. August 2012 -**



Haus der Brandenburgisch-Preußischen Geschichte,  
Am Neuen Markt 9, 14467 Potsdam

Public Transportation: about 10-15 minutes walk from  
Potsdam Hauptbahnhof  
Travel by car via B1 or B2