

BfR calls for the vocational integration of refugees and is expanding its multi-lingual range of risk communication

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The Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is committed to helping refugees in Germany with various measures. Depending on demand, the BfR is offering five to ten internships this year to refugees who have a good chance of remaining here. The goal of the offer is to facilitate entry into professional life in Germany. The internships are aimed above all at natural scientists and offer individual further advancement options, such as language courses and specialised advanced training. To date, refugees from Syria and Pakistan have succeeded in gaining qualifications in scientific consumer health protection.

The BfR has also joined the newly established network “Unternehmen integrieren Flüchtlinge” (Enterprises integrate refugees). The goal of this nationwide network is to support companies’ commitment to providing refugees with internships, training and employment.

A further goal of the BfR is to make selected risk communication measures available to refugees in their native language. “Hygiene Rules in the Catering Sector”, a leaflet which is in great demand, is already available in Arabic and can be downloaded free of charge from the BfR website. A translation of the leaflet into Persian (Farsi/Dari) is in preparation along with other translations of the flyers “Breastfeeding recommendations for pregnant women”, “Breastfeeding recommendations for infancy” and the leaflet “Food infections in private households”.

The BfR will be providing internships to refugees this year in line with demand. The programme, which started at the end of 2015, is intended to facilitate refugees’ entry into working life in Germany in the field of science and research. The programme is open to representatives of all scientific disciplines that are relevant to consumer health protection. In addition to natural scientists, graduates with a degree in human or veterinary medicine, social science and information technology can apply to join the programme. It offers individual further training options, which include language courses as well as specialised further training. The prerequisites for a three-month internship are good knowledge of English and registration in Germany as an asylum applicant. The residential status should permit an internship in Berlin. To date, applicants from Syria and Pakistan have started an internship at the BfR.

The BfR has also joined the newly established network “Unternehmen integrieren Flüchtlinge” (Enterprises integrate refugees). The goal of this nationwide network is to support companies’ commitment to providing refugees with internships, training and employment. It offers companies which have committed themselves to helping refugees, or which intend to do so, information on legal issues, integration initiatives and honorary work. It also offers practical tips on the integration of asylum seekers into training and employment schemes and enables the exchange of experiences and cooperation between companies. The network is an initiative of the German Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK), supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi).

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households". Flyers published by the National Breastfeeding Committee are already available in several languages. The "Breastfeeding recommendations" are to be found in English, French, Italian, Russian and Turkish. BfR flyers and leaflets can be procured free of charge from the website www.bfr.bund.de.

More detailed information on the internship programme can be found at:

<http://www.bfr.bund.de/de/stellenanzeigen-53700.html>

More information on the network "Unternehmen integrieren Flüchtlinge" (Enterprises integrate refugees): www.unternehmen-integrieren-fluechtlinge.de.

Leaflet "Hygiene Rules in the Catering Sector" in Arabic:

<http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/350/hygieregeln-in-der-gemeinschaftsgastronomie-arabisch.pdf>

Other BfR publications, some translated into several languages:

<http://www.bfr.bund.de/de/publikationen.html>