



Diesterweg-Scholarship

Utilizing family support – We encourage both children and parents

A joint project of the Stiftung Polytechnische Gesellschaft (a private foundation), the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the Ministry of Justice, Integration and Europe of the federal state of Hesse, the Department for Education and Women of the city of Frankfurt, the Office for Multicultural Affairs, the “Marga und Kurt Möllgaard-Stiftung” in the Foundation Association for German Sciences

Background

A significant group of primary school children have a high potential for education, talent and achievement but, as a result of linguistic shortcomings and inadequate support at home, have little chance of entering a higher school education and therefore cannot develop their academic potentials.



Project Objectives

Primary school children with a high intellectual potential but lack of German language knowledge shall be supported to master and successfully continue their secondary school education. Parents shall be encouraged to actively accompany their children’s education and engage in school and social activities together with their children.

Structure of the Scholarship Programme

The „Diesterweg-Scholarship” is awarded for 2 years during grades 4 and 5 to children and their parents. It comprises: An Academy-Program for the students, their parents and their brothers and sisters consisting of six to eight Saturday-Academies in educational institutions in Frankfurt covering the following subjects: German Language, Science and Technology, Music, Literature and Media, Mathematics, Theatre, Arts and Nature, Excursions with the families to Frankfurt and the immediate vicinity, up to 600 Euros per child and year for materials related to education, parent meetings to discuss current school and educational issues as well as opportunities for participation and engagement in the schools and society in general, regular consultation hours for the families for intensified support, and - upon request - participation and support for parent-teacher meetings at school.

Students of the first Generation (2008-2010)

10 girls and 12 boys came from 21 families living in 19 Frankfurt districts. The students attended 20 different primary schools and - after fourth grade - 19 continuative schools of the German school system: 14 in gymnasiums, 6 in integrated comprehensive schools and 2 in secondary schools. All children finished grade 5 successfully and continued their education in the chosen school in grade 6.

The families came from 13 different countries (*Morocco, Turkey, Germany, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Serbia, Bosnia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Poland, China, and Romania*). Many of them have complicated family biographies and live under difficult circumstances.

Our Experience

Students, their brothers, sisters and parents attend the activities regularly, reliably and almost always in complete number. They are very interested in the programs and vividly participate in the respective activities and discussions in spite of some language problems. Thus, children gain self-confidence, present themselves better in school and boost their courage. Parents become more aware of school matters and engage in related activities. Some of them already act as “mediator” and find themselves coaching their children’s education with increasing intensity.



Results of the Academic Evaluation

The *European Forum for Migration Studies* (*europäisches forum für migrationsstudien – efms*) confirmed in a scientific report (October 2010), supervised by Prof. Dr. Friedrich Heckmann, that all objectives of the program were achieved in the first Diesterweg generation. The participation in the program supports the successful transition of the children to a high level school, positively influences their familiarization with and continuance in the new schools and encourages parents to care about their children's education. Parents contact teachers more often. Additionally, the great majority of the families are more dedicated to Frankfurt after the two years and feel more integrated.

■ The second Generation (2010-2012)

Thanks to a greater number of program sponsors 30 families (129 persons) could be inaugurated to the program in October 2010 with 32 students, 18 girls and 14 boys, from 27 primary schools in 20 Frankfurt districts. The families originate from 16 countries: *Turkey, Morocco, Sri Lanka, Rumania, Pakistan, India, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Germany, Moldavia, Chile, Hungary, Lithuania, Iran, Portugal, and Eritrea*. During the last summer vacation 14 students participated in the "Deutsch-Sommer 2010", a summer camp with a focus on teaching the German language sponsored by the Stiftung Polytechnische Gesellschaft. All children with their parents were recommended for the scholarship by their respective primary school teachers. Students and families were selected in close cooperation with the primary schools.

■ Project Character

The Diesterweg-Scholarship is a genuine family scholarship focusing on education. Its main characteristics are: accuracy, attentiveness and sensibility, promoting potentials instead of looking for deficits, trusting in the power of family ties. It fosters intensive and lasting contact with the families, provides constant consultation and is effective by its continuity and reliability. It keeps close ties with the participating schools, the principals and the teachers, tries to constantly exchange views, accepts suggestions and sustains a continuous process of improvement and refinement.

The Diesterweg Scholarship operates effectively at the centre of the triangle family – education – school and tries to bring all participants closer together.



Diesterweg-Stipendium
Für Kinder und ihre Eltern

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