Urban Diversity in Zurich – Governing Local Integration in a Federal State

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Swiss Federalism

26 cantons, 2’850 municipalities

Metropolis Switzerland

5.5m inhabitants (70%)
82% of working places
50 agglomerations
more than 1000 municipalities
15 cantons + 3 EU regions
Cooperative Federalism

Population Growth 2000-10
Zurich Metropolitan Area

2.85m inhabitants
563 cities and municipalities
8 cantons
Population growth: 300'000 persons
Growth Scenario 2010-30
Zurich Metropolitan Area

3.5m inhabitants

c. 500 cities and municipalities

8 cantons

Population growth:
600,000 persons

Core regions:
65% immigrants with higher education

Agglomerations:
37% immigrants with higher education

Periphery:
29% immigrants with higher education
Growth – challenges of Governance

Economy / employment
- education
- family policy
- housing market

Society / integration
- participation
- early education possibilities
- social integration
  (cognitive, socio-cultural, structural)

Settlement / infrastructure
- coordinated spatial planning
- mobility management
- innovative financing models

Facts and figures

• More than **20% foreign population** in Switzerland
  (85% live in urban areas)

• **Immigrants** from Italy, Spain and Portugal in the 70s,
  immigrants from former Yugoslavia and Sri Lanka in the 80s
  and 90s, later from Germany, EU north and overseas.

• More than **30% foreign population** in Zurich
  (39% are born abroad, 61% have a migration background)

• More than **35% foreign population** in case study area
  (18% from Germany)
**Swiss Policies on Diversity (1)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Subsidiarity</th>
<th>Organisational autonomy</th>
<th>Communal autonomy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal level</td>
<td><em>e.g.</em> migration law, refugees, free movement agreement</td>
<td><em>e.g.</em> integration regulation/programme, working permits, education</td>
<td><em>e.g.</em> integration strategy, welcome culture, community work, housing</td>
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<td>Cantonal level</td>
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<td>Communal level</td>
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**Swiss Policies on Diversity (2)**

- No explicit policy on diversity, but **different understanding** on federal, cantonal and communal level

- **Federal level and cantons** focus on economic integration and social cohesion (individual responsibility and equal opportunities), **cities** on social and cultural integration (individual potentials, welcome culture, added value of diversity)

- Policy steering through **financial incentives**, policy implementation on city level and through NGOs (enablers)

- Increasing resources, trends to cantonal harmonization, **mainstreaming** of diversity policies (“Regelstrukturen”)

- Public **housing policy** and community work in Zurich: social mix, 1/3 public housing/associations, against gentrification
Case Study Area (1)

District 4
- located in the city centre
- close to the main train station
- has undergone some significant changes: gentrification, from red-light district to popular nightlife district

District 9
- located at the city border
- formerly small farming villages
- Public housing/associations
Bottom-up Initiatives in Zurich

Towards social cohesion:
• Intergalactic Choir
• MAXIM Theatre
• Neighbourly Help District 9
• Brauergarten

Towards social mobility:
• Fit4Work
• Laureus Street Soccer
• Eldis – parents learn German in School
• QUIMS – Quality in multicultural schools

Towards economic performance:
• Base Camp
• Complino Time Exchange Factory

Conclusion

• Immigration is an big political issue in Switzerland: political elite and economy underline its importance for economic performance
• City and bottom-up initiatives understand the concept of diversity in a positive way and regarded as asset and enrichment to society
• Rural and suburban regions have voted against more immigration
• Initiatives often focus on ‘interculturality’ – on cultural dialogue and spaces of encounter and interaction, have a more pluralist and inclusive approach than government and administration
• The availability of public funds is crucial for the long-term existence of many governance arrangements – but this funding carries the risk of not being regarded as independent and non-governmental anymore
• The division of the public administration often hampers a systematic, sustainable support and funding of the initiatives – initiatives may not be assigned to a specific unit or different parts of a program rely on different funding
• Some initiatives miss an appropriate appreciation and support of their activities, their filling-the-gap is not adequately mirrored by public policies