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“FlüchtlingMagazin” (Refugee Magazine): A Syrian Social Business in Hamburg, Germany

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6.1 Country-Specific Information and Data

In the discussion about the specific conditions of refugees in Germany, it is important to examine the 2015 and 2016 figures and in particular to differentiate between the registration of refugees and the number of asylum applications.

For both 2015 and 2016, the new arrivals were counted in the EASY-System (EASY = Erstverteilung von Asylbegehrenden—First allocation of asylum seekers). The EASY-System figures tend to be higher than actual numbers, as there are issues of double counting due to misuse and further movement of refugees. According to EASY figure for 2016 there were 321,371 new arrivals, reduced by the Foreign Office of Migration and Refugees (FOMR) to a realistic guess of about 280,000 refugees, and for 2015 some 1,091,894, which was adjusted down to about 890,000 refugees. In contrast to these “registration figures”, the number of asylum applications shows a different picture, as it takes months and sometimes

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years for a refugee to be interviewed and thus apply officially for asylum. In 2016, the number of applications for asylum reached an all-time high, with 745,545 applications (both first and subsequent), rising from the 2015 figure of 476,649 applications (Federal Center for Political Education 2017). In Hamburg, the FOMR counted 12,437 asylum applications in 2015 and 17,512 asylum applications in 2016, as seen in Table 6.1.

In 2015, 158,657 Syrians applied for asylum. In 2016, 266,250 applications were counted by the FOMR. The overall numbers of Syrians coming to Germany since the start of the civil war increased to more than 600,000 (Media Service Integration 2017; German Federal Parliament 2015). The size of the split between the number of arrivals and the number of asylum applications can be illustrated in the figures from 2016, when 89,161 Syrians came to Germany (Pro Asyl 2017), in comparison to the 266,250 applications counted by the FOMR (Table 6.2).

While 99.7% of all Syrians were granted full refugee protection in 2015, only 57.6% received the same protection in 2016. Some 42% were granted only subsidiary shelter, which has the disadvantages of only a one-year residence permit and the prohibition of “immediate” family unification (Pro Asyl 2017).

The legal framework of whether refugees will be granted a work permit varies greatly between countries. In Europe, it is common practice that the member states of the Council of Europe allow participation in their labor markets after a certain length of stay (Chope 2012). In Germany, migrants from countries outside the EU, the EEA and Switzerland) are only allowed to work in Germany, if this is explicitly noted in their residence permit (Federal Foreign Office 2015; Federal Office for Migration and Refugees 2015b).

Table 6.1 Registration and asylum application figures in Germany, 2015–2016

	2015	2016
EASY registration	1,091,894	321,371
Estimated registration	890,000	280,000
Asylum applications	476,649	745,545
Asylum applications in Hamburg	12,437	17,512

Source: Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (2015a, 2016a, b)

Table 6.2 Registration and asylum application figures of Syrians in Germany from 2015–2016

	2015	2016
Registration Syrians (EASY)	428,468	89,161
Asylum application from Syrians	158,657	266,250

Source: Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (2015a, 2016a, b)

For refugees, one can differentiate between three main groups with different rights: asylum-seekers, tolerated persons (“Geduldete”, limited leave to stay and subject to review) and recognized refugees. Asylum-seekers have a right to stay for the duration of the process of granting the right of asylum. Tolerated persons do not have an official residence permit, but as long as they are not deported, they can stay in Germany. Recognized refugees (recognition with full refugee protection after Art. 16a GG [Grundgesetz] and § 3 AsylG [Asylum Law] or Subsidiarian Shelter after § 4 AsylG) get a (usually temporary) residence permit because of various specified reasons (Federal Ministry of the Interior August 2014, 2015). The extent of the permission to work varies according to the time already spent in Germany as well as the specific residence permit. Basically, there are three different possible options regarding labor market access: “Gainful employment prohibited”, which explicitly prohibits working; “With permission of Alien Department”, which provides subordinated labor market access; and “Employment permitted”, which gives full allowance to work. For refugees who stay in Germany for a period of less than three months, employment is generally prohibited. If they stay for more than three months and less than 15 months, a work permit can be granted “with permission of Alien Department”, which grants subordinated labor market access. In this case, work permission is only granted if the working conditions are good and if a theoretically a more privileged person is not available to take the job. The latter condition is posited in 133 of 156 districts of Labor Administration for three years from August 2016 (Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs 2016). For a stay that lasts more than 15 months but less than four years, a work permit is required, but will be granted. For persons who have already stayed for more than four years, employment is allowed. In the case of a general work prohibition, of course, the timeline does not affect the given status.

6.2 Personal History of Reasons for Leaving One's Home Country

I first interviewed Hussam al Zaher (Fig. 6.1) at his office space in Hamburg on March 2 2017, during which we spoke for an hour about himself, his business and his future. We met again on September 15 for lunch to discuss his story in more detail and had vivid Whatsapp discussions (September 22), in addition to another call on September 27. We agreed to categorize Hussam as a new-anticipatory-self-alienated refugee (NEW) due to the following reasons.

Hussam came from Syria to Germany, which defines him as culturally and ethnically different from Germans, even though it is up for debate whether the term “radically different” should be used. The development level of Syria is debatable as well, as Syrian culture as such is significantly developed. Still, there are big differences between the populations, both visual and cultural, and therefore we decided to categorize Hussam as NEW.

In terms of the categorization, the nature of Hussam's flight—whether it was acute or anticipatory—is also a question of weight. The reasons he left Syria are twofold: He would have had to join the military and he had lived in the Yarmouk Camp in the south of Damascus, where the oppo-



Fig. 6.1 Photograph of Hussam al Zaher

sition is really strong, and all people who visit or have contact with the region are suspected of being part of the opposition to the regime. Hussam returned to Damascus the end of 2014 from Yarmouk and stayed another eight months with his family in Damascus, as he had to take his university exam. He failed his first attempt and had to retake the exam in September, at which point, he left nearly immediately for Turkey. Even though this departure could be said to be acute, he had planned his departure beforehand, as he felt a sense of danger. He had a more or less orderly departure, even though he was only able to take one suitcase, filled with clothes, with him when he left Syria to travel to Turkey by plane. Based on this, we decided to categorize Hussam as ANTICIPATORY.

The reason for Hussam’s flight is both identified by the majority as well as self-alienated. The majority of Syrian men have to face the issue of being forced into military service, which has an extreme impact, especially on those families who do not agree with the regime. But the crucial factor in leaving Syria should be categorized as self-alienated. Hussam’s family had been living for a long time in the area of Yarmouk, a hotspot of rebels, but moved when it became too dangerous in that area. Unfortunately, Hussam learned that the apartment in Yarmouk, which his family still owned, was trespassed, and when he went there to check, he realized that the area had been closed off by the military for almost an entire year. Eventually, a cease-fire was negotiated, and the military allowed students and scholars to leave the area. Hussam returned to his family in February 2014, but from that time onwards, he feared every day that the military would pick him up to take him to prison. Only a month after that he passed his exam and received a bachelor’s degree in political science, he left Syria by plane and headed to Turkey, where he has some distant friends to offer support. For the latter part of his categorization, the sum of personal reasons and challenges he faced is weighted higher than the fear of military service, and therefore we decided to categorize Hussam as SELF-ALIENATED.

6.3 Personal Reasons for and Circumstances of Traveling to the Specific Host Country

Hussam al Zaher arrived in Germany in October 2015. His first residence permit, which he received after 10 months of waiting, was only valid for one year, until July 2017. Eventually, the residence permit was extended by two more years, until June 2019.

When Hussam left Syria, his first target country was Turkey. He flew to Ankara, but for unknown reasons he missed the friend he was supposed to meet at the airport and he decided to take another flight to Istanbul to seek support from other friends. He lived in Istanbul for about a year. He was working 15 hours per day in a clothing factory, with just one and a half days of weekend every week. He had no chance to learn Turkish and was aware that he would never have a chance to make a living without improving his language skills. After one year, his elder brother arrived in September 2015 in Istanbul, as his life as a journalist in Syria had also become too dangerous. As there was no way to return to Syria, they decided after in October 2015 that they must go to Europe. His brother brought up the idea of going to Germany, as Germany has many opportunities for building a new life, finding a job and working in freedom. Hussam was soon persuaded by this idea, even though neither of them knew anybody in Germany at that time. Hussam took his suitcase but had to leave it behind when they boarded the boat. They set off from Istanbul and traveled to Izmir. They then arrived at a Greek Island, passed Athens, Macedonia, Ukraine, Slovakia and Austria, and finally arrived in Germany. In Germany, within six days the police sent them from Munich to Nuremberg, and afterwards they had to move to Horst, Schleswig. They were finally able to apply for asylum in Hamburg, where they settled.

6.4 Business Data and History of Setting up the Business

When Hussam came to Hamburg in October 2015, he soon started to be active in different social networks, such as Facebook and “Start with a Friend”. He wanted to meet German people to start learning the lan-

guage and to learn about the German culture. He received some replies to his postings, which turned out to be very important.

One friend, Peer Fischer, whom he met after living for three months in Germany, agreed to be in contact and he found the Hussam’s ideas about intercultural exchange fascinating. This friend owned an agency that creates websites and content, and he offered to build Hussam a website.

Another friend, Babette Hnup, is a journalist herself and introduced him to the German way of writing articles. For many months, they only met once in a while, talking about cultural differences, communication and intercultural challenges. It is “a real friendship on level playing field” (Festring-Hashem Zadeh 2017).

Therefore, FlüchtlingMagazin was started in June 2016. At the beginning, it was simply the idea of supporting integration of refugees by telling Germans about who these refugees really are, in the sense of giving insights into their culture and informing them about Syria and Syrian customs. What started as a rough idea became more concrete when Hussam learned about the program “MoveON”, executed by the social startup “leetHub St. Pauli e.V.”, based in Hamburg. Hussam learned about the program via Facebook. As soon as he read about it he applied, and after a certain selection process, he was invited to join, based on his idea of an intercultural magazine from refugees for Germans. Work began in earnest on FlüchtlingMagazin in October 2016. After completing the program, the first edition of FlüchtlingMagazin launched on February 14 2017.

FlüchtlingMagazin is a social startup with no interest in turning a profit. All “colleagues” work as volunteers on a non-financial basis. As a social business it does not receive financial support, as the process to obtain public funding is long, complicated and, for a refugee with German on the B1/B2 level, simply not doable. Therefore, the magazine was started with low expectations. Hussam said: “I don’t know, if I will be able to earn money with FlüchtlingMagazin, not sure.”

The business idea of FlüchtlingMagazin started when Hussam was living in a refugee camp in Hamburg, where he noticed many misunderstandings between Germans and refugees. He thought that these misunderstandings mainly originated from the difference in cultures and conjectured that these misunderstandings could be solved by encouraging discussion about both cultures. He thought that he could create a

magazine about culture—both Syrian and German culture—to share, explain and discuss ideas, thoughts and values, in order to create a basis on which both cultures could live. In Hussam’s magazine, refugees from all over the world can tell their story. Furthermore, the magazine reports about different projects conducted for and by refugees. Another reason for establishing this magazine was that Hussam noticed that some Germans tended to be afraid of refugees, mainly, in his perception, because they had not yet had contact with any refugees. His idea is to establish an initial point of contact with these people through the magazine, to reach out, inform and speak about refugees, and he hopes that “maybe, by getting to know us, they won’t be afraid anymore”. In his opinion, there are too many stereotypes about refugees. “We are all different and have different personalities” (Festring-Hashem Zadeh 2017).

Creating a website was considered to be the most direct, easiest and cheapest way to communicate the ideas of FlüchtlingsMagazin. The owner of FlüchtlingsMagazin is Hussam al Zaher, and he receives support from a core team of five volunteers, plus some additional support from about five other volunteers, who support him on an occasional basis.

From Hussam’s family, the elder brother is the only one to have joined him in Hamburg. Due to language issues, his brother is only helpful in Arabic contexts. The rest of Hussam’s family is still in Damascus, Syria, or in other parts of Germany and Sudan, so they can only offer emotional support.

When investigating information sharing tools about Germans and refugees, Hussam found that there were many magazines and journals created by Germans for refugees, but not any publications aimed at Germans from the refugee community. FlüchtlingsMagazin directly targets Germans, seeking to offer information and help them understand about Syria, Syrians and the Syrian culture. As Syrians have now been in Germany for over two years, they have learned about Germany and German culture and wanted to return the favor. Therefore, FlüchtlingsMagazin is only published in German. There are three main target groups.

The first target group is the German volunteers, who have offered support and for (often Syrian) refugees, as they are interested in Syrians and Syrian culture. The second target group is elderly

people, as Hussam found that they tend to be scared of refugees. The third target group is right-wing voters. FlüchtlingMagazin tries to make contact with conservatives, as Hussam believes that these people only have issues with refugees because they have not yet had any contact with them.

The content of FlüchtlingMagazin is created by both Germans and refugees, and all work is done on a volunteer basis. The creation of the website was also conducted with voluntary support, as one of Hussam’s new friends offered to create a website for FlüchtlingMagazin free of charge. Earning money by integrating advertising has not yet been attempted.

Until now, FlüchtlingMagazin has not acquired business partners. As the business is still officially an informal initiative, it is complicated to agree on official business partnerships. Hussam intends to establish a relationship with a journalistic organization, such as the Zeit Stiftung, to hold presentations on a professional level.

To evaluate the success of FlüchtlingMagazin, Hussam refers to two different level of success. The first level of success is, of course, about using the magazine to earn money. Even though he has many ideas, he struggles with having enough time to execute them, as he is participating in an integrational project with the Hamburg Media School for vocational integration of refugees in media jobs. But even without these constraints on his time, Hussam perceives a need to invest money first so as to earn money later. This initial capital is very hard to obtain, as getting public or private funding in German requires a profound knowledge of the funding market, a lot of time and an extensive bureaucratic process. Progress on this front might be made from October onwards, even though Hussam has to complete a three-month, full time internship and will therefore again face timing issues. Regardless of circumstances, Hussam and his team will continue to work for FlüchtlingMagazin on a volunteer basis, to help it grow and to enlarge the awareness level. According to Hussam’s experience in Damascus, it takes six months to set up a journal and another full year to make it successful. This would include financial success that would enable him to live independently of the JobCenter, the German Labor Agency.

The other level of success is expanding the reach of *FlüchtlingMagazin*. The publication has 4100 followers on Facebook, but the target is 1 million followers by next year. These numbers can only be reached in one year if an enormous amount of time is invested. The media has started to show interest in Hussam and his magazine; Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR, Northern German Radio), Hamburg1 and SpezialInfo have already scheduled interviews within the first three months of *FlüchtlingMagazin*'s existence. Therefore, Hussam expects that it will take 1.5 years of work until he make a livelihood from *FlüchtlingMagazin*.

Even though Hussam aims to be independent from the JobCenter, as a journalist, his main aim is that “*FlüchtlingMagazin* shall work, with or without money”. He wants the cultural exchange to enable different cultures to live together, as this is the main aim of *FlüchtlingMagazin*.

6.5 Individual Enablers and Constraints

Hussam's personal drive can be seen in many facets throughout his journey to his current situation. Even as early as the start of his journey, he chose to schedule his flight according to the examination dates of university so that he could leave with a degree. He began working directly after reaching Turkey, but recognized after one year that the conditions in Turkey were not conducive to a self-determined life. Reaching Hamburg, his first endeavor was to join and use social networks, especially Facebook, to get make contacts, meet people and find a way into the new society. He tried to contact newspapers for internships and to establish networks and contacts, and has already completed an internship at the *Zeit*. On Facebook, only three months after he arrived in Germany, he posted in a group of supporters: “Hi, I am Hussam, I am in Germany for three months, I would love to get in touch with Germans to learn German.” This personal drive brought him in contact with his new friends, as mentioned above.

During his first year in Hamburg, he lived with his brother in the crowded “First arrival Camp Schnackenburgallee”, where the brothers shared a one-room apartment. Last autumn, Hussam found a private apartment in Schanzenviertel, which he shares with his brother as well

(Festring-Hashem Zadeh 2017). Taking steps to leave the refugee camp so soon speaks volumes about Hussam’s personal drive. “Hussam is visionary and a thought leader”, says leetHub-CEO Julia von Weymarn (Festring-Hashem Zadeh 2017).

Hussam studied political science in Damascus and had worked already as journalist for different magazines and newspapers, for example, for the weekly newspaper “Aldabur”. When Hussam came to Germany, he immediately began to learn German, as he knew that his passion for writing, exchange and discussion could only be pursued on a vocational level if he had really good language skills. The motivation to seek these new language skills was driven by his existing skills journalistic skills.

The willingness to take risks can also to be found at different stages of Hussam’s journey. Being employed in a bad job in Turkey, even though it was secure, was not enough, so Hussam took the risk of traversing the Mediterranean Sea to look for a better life in Europe. Arriving in Germany, he took the risk of putting himself directly into society, not holding back and waiting. For his whole business case, he took the risk of starting his business, without waiting for the possibility of public funding. He still is not sure whether he will be able to earn money with his social startup, but nevertheless, he invests all the time he has to grow his magazine to hopefully be able to make a living with it one day.

So far, Hussam has no financial support or access to financial capital. As FlüchtlingMagazin has been established as a social business with only subordinated profit motivation, Hussam cannot get money from a bank. His family in Syria are not able to provide monetary support for the business. To get public funding, you “need to write a lot of paper”, as Hussam correctly says. For the acquisition of private money, such as crowdfunding, one needs a lot of time and language skills. As Hussam said: “You always need some money upfront, so you can start to earn money with your idea.” As this money is still lacking, Hussam and his team have already started work on a voluntary basis. This phenomenon is unique to the social context, where the profit motivation is subordinate to the higher goal.

Hussam himself sees his language skills as non-sufficient. In his opinion, his English is weak, and his German is stuck at a level close to B2. As

his product, *FlüchtlingMagazin*, is written in German, he suffers, as he is still not able to express his thoughts and feelings adequately to express himself. Although he knows that he will make his way, he is impatient about the slow progress he is making.

As already mentioned, the use of social networks is essential for Hussam. He uses Facebook and other social networks for his purposes.

As Hussam's family is not particularly wealthy, Hussam did not feel that his flight has robbed him of his assets. Of course, he left behind the family apartment, but due to bombing and robbery, it has been totally destroyed. He lost the support of his family, as his parents and elder siblings offered a lot of support when he was physically present in Syria. On top of that, he lost the journalist networks in Damascus and also experienced the "normal" losses of refugees: home, work, friends, family support and the personal feeling of security—in sum, their normal life (Gregorian 2017). According to Hussam, he and most of the refugees simply suffer from loneliness.

Hussam does not seem to be traumatized as much as some other refugees. But especially at times when insecurity rises above "the normal refugee level", he says he cannot sleep at night. This is not a phenomenon he faces every day, but for a few months he needed medication. Even though his journey went comparable well, there are still traumatic thoughts which are hard to endure at night.

"While you are a refugee, you cannot ever be secure", Hussam says. Even though the legal status of being a refugee in Germany is better compared with other countries, even European ones, just through challenges with language, vocational integration, or German culture, a refugee is always in a weaker position. The life of a refugee is totally unpredictable because it is affected by frequently changing regulations stemming from the complex bureaucracy and a certain arbitrariness of different directions and guidances between various cities. With only subsidiary protection, residence permits are limited to one year, and permit extensions could render it valid for two years. Having such a short time of residency puts a lot of pressure and insecurity on the individual.

6.6 Community Enablers and Constraints

Access to a (local) market is not too complicated for an online magazine. Through the friend that Hussam found on Facebook who offered to build him the website, Hussam was able to enter the market by writing and publishing his articles and the articles of his coauthors on Facebook page.

Hussam receives communal support mainly through his new friends. Babette helped him with German writing, editing and other journalistic skills. Peer Fischer, the website-creator from the Drama-Agency (www.thedrama.de), supported Hussam by creating his website. Julia von Weymarn, CEO of leetHub St. Pauli e.V., was always willing to go the extra mile to help with specific issues. Additionally, Hussam has received countless feedback from his core team and other volunteers who support him and FlüchtlingMagazin.

Participation in the program MoveON was a key factor in the success of Hussam's magazine. The association who led the program, leetHub St. Pauli e.V., was originally funded by the agency leetBoys Ideenwerft Hamburg (www.leetboys.de), who offered full support for one full year. The program design process, as well as the start of the first cohort of the program, went smoothly, until the agency went bankrupt. For the last two months of the first run of MoveON, the City of Hamburg had to step in to facilitate the successful completion of the course. To continue the second cohort of MoveON from October 2017 onwards, leetHub St. Pauli e.V. launched a crowdfunding campaign and fortunately won the first prize of the Schöplin foundation.

The idea of MoveON is to support highly qualified refugees with good ideas on their way to becoming an entrepreneur in Germany (leetHub St. Pauli e.V. 2017). The six-month program consists of coaching, feedback and support at different stages throughout the process of becoming self-employed and was hosted by two people from leetHub St. Pauli e.V., Julia von Weymarn and Sven Mangels, supported by an external entrepreneur trainer, Roland Becker.

For many refugees, it is fairly unlikely that they will join the labor market in Germany by finding a "normal" job, internship or an opportunity to study here, as many of the preconditions for these types of activi-

ties might not be fulfilled. As many refugees have certain experience in the field of entrepreneurship, the idea was born to create a program to support their first steps in this process, because the process of establishing a business is very complicated. During the six-month incubator program, the participants are granted a laptop, working space at leetHub, workshops and networking activities, including public relations (PR) training. The eligibility requirements have been increased to a B1 German language level and a residence permit that is valid for three years (leetHub St.Pauli e.V. 2017).

In Hussam's case, he is still able to use his working space in the leetHub office, even though he had finished the program by the end of April 2017.

Hussam received a lot of encouragement and guidance through his participation in the MoveON program. Julia von Weymar, as his direct coach, tried to support Hussam on different levels based on his specific needs. Even though she was, of course, not always available, she gave Hussam feedback, guidance and support, especially in networking activities. She was trying to help Hussam apply for support from Stadtkultur Hamburg, but they were unfortunately not successful. Now they are checking for other options, evaluating the ten best fitting offers for funding. Julia's support is very valuable for FlüchtlingsMagazin. The other two coaches, Sven Mangels and Roland Becker, offered support mainly through insights into Germans and Germany, as well as guidance about formal business establishment processes.

In Germany, according to Hussam, he does not feel physically threatened. Neither in Hamburg nor in Germany has he felt threatened in any instance. He feels some concern about hardcore right-wing extremism, but is not seriously concerned about xenophobia.

Even though Hussam has already received some xenophobic comments on his website and his post (e.g. "GO HOME, nobody asked you to come here!"), he describes them as only "small things". He talks about women, who are scared to offer guidance when asked for directions, or misunderstandings based on language skills and habits, for example, the use of the word "please". Furthermore, he has noticed that, as he says, "it needs a lot of time to earn their [Germans] trust."

6.7 Institutional Enablers and Constraints

So far, Hussam has received support from the JobCenter, as he has the right to receive social welfare. On top of that, there is no support from international or local agencies besides the emergency support of the MoveON program after leetBoys’ bankruptcy. The idea to seek out public money to support the social startup is still a “work in progress”.

Even with a residence permit that offers only subsidarian protection, Hussam has the right to work three months after arrival.

Hussam is working on founding an official association for FlüchtlingMagazin, but has not yet started the process. He is not sure whether he has the right to found a business yet. After consultation with Julia von Weymarn, he is now (with the additional two-year extension to his residence permit) allowed to found a business. In my opinion, it is symptomatic of German bureaucracy that refugees are not sure about their rights, especially in the field of business.

On a general level, the City of Hamburg supports many initiatives for and by refugees. In any case, Hussam only has access to these publicly offered opportunities and he does not have access to public services or money. The same can be said for access to private services, as Hussam is still at the very beginning of his fundraising journey.

Due to the need to have a business plan to show your potential income, Hussam does not have access to apply for a credit from a bank. The access to public funding is also difficult to tackle—as Hussam has already learned, one has to fill out a great deal of forms, which is currently out of his reach.

Hussam does not have any issues with proving his identity as he came here with all documents he needed.

Hussam complains that the level of bureaucracy involved in the process is essentially discrimination against foreigners. This is simply not doable for people who still have issues with the German language and bureaucracy as such. The authorities are mainly good people; as Hussam says, “there are nice people who try to help you, and there are really unfriendly people, who don’t.”

Even though Hussam still only has subsidarian protection and is insecure about what might be happening in two years' time, he does not fear detention or deportation. But he says that the permanent insecurity of not having his family here and having no planning reliability greatly complicates the process of integration.

6.8 Conclusion

Our experience with Hussam has shown us that, as a refugee and a social entrepreneur, you have to be able to face at least three challenges at one and the same time: the standard challenges of entrepreneurship (founding a new business), the challenge of being a refugee entrepreneur (founding a business in a foreign country without close networks and access to assets) and the challenge of social entrepreneurship (pursuing hybrid targets, such as creating social and economic value). Starting FlüchtlingsMagazin as a volunteer social initiative while receiving ongoing support from the JobCenter and simultaneously creating a stable financial business model is challenging. Nevertheless, it is inspiring to see such determination and the will to succeed—and the capacity for resilience perhaps growing as a result of migration experiences, which in this case may have helped the process of starting a new life as a refugee social entrepreneur in Germany.

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