

INTERVENTION BY BÜRGERBEWEGUNG PAX EUROPA

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Working Session 1 Fundamental Freedoms I Preventing aggressive nationalism

Warsaw, September 23, 2013

National Minorities – Integration

It is important to point out the practices that support effective integration of national minorities. To this end, I would like to mention Austria's inclusive policy of providing access to goods and services – such as extensive language course financed by the taxpayer – provided to its national minorities, newly arrived immigrants, and others.

However, despite all the financial support extended, certain groups display a persistent inability to integrate into the host society.

In addition to tax money, numerous other policies are in place to promote successful integration. The question thus remains: why do certain national minorities find integration so challenging?

We therefor recommend to ODIHR that a working group be established tasked with understanding what additional reasons, e.g. cultural and religious reasons, there might be for the lack of successful integration.