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Abstract:

CHALLENGES OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION BY DEVELOPING REGIONAL NETWORKS FOR INNOVATING INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

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Since 1985, the first Regional Centers for Foreign Children (in Germany: RAA) were put into practice in Northrhine-Westfalia as pilot experiment. These centers had the important function of integrating young migrants into the school system but also focus on a close relationship between school, family, and community. After five years, these regional centers turned out to be highly effective: They were no longer pilot schemes but had to meet all the expectations of intercultural learning for native as well as for migrant students. Also the close relations with migrant parents have been more and more promoted by employing social pedagogues with a special intercultural training. Meantime, these regional centers (RAA) play an innovative part not only in Northrhine-Westfalia but all over Germany.

For future prospects, new strategic networks have to be invented by these centers to overcome everyday appearances of racism and violence among gangs of youths. In order to win recognition in their socio-cultural environment. This seems to become most relevant in those terms of reference which have been caused by actual tendencies of militant conflicts between hostile cultures.