

Eritrean Diaspora Academy

Exile-Eritreans take matters into their own hands

7. - 9. April 2017, Rote Fabrik Zurich

The Eritrean Diaspora Academy (EDA) is an empowering art project – a field laboratory. It all starts with our dream: What the Swiss State fails to make accessible to young Eritreans, becomes reality: A graduation with a Diploma.

Dive into the atmosphere of this unique Institution - feel the euphoric ambience of the Diploma Celebration on Friday, listen to the prominent podium speakers during the lecture series on Saturday or be part of the diverse seminars on Sunday.

Prior to this weekend 50 young Eritreans will have participated in an intensive education week and lived through a first prototype of the academy. From 7th-9th April then, they will get together with the audience and together create a study plan that will encourage them to stand the difficulties of the Eritrean Diaspora in the exile together.

The EDA wants to provide the means for an active communication in our society. It is built in the same way, that knowledge is: *shared knowledge* will sum up to *collective intelligence* during lectures series. On Sunday we will build on our results and constitute *shared dreams*.

It is the future students of the academy who will take matters into their own hands and create a basis, upon which they can build a self-determined future.

Friday, April 7, 2017 – Diploma celebration

18:00 Uhr Door Opening, Aperitif

18:30 Uhr - 24:00 Uhr Diploma Ceremony, Concert with Abrar Osman

Imp!act for refugees round 1

Self-thinking, acting self-determined, self-responsibility - this is a first prototype of the academy. In advance of the event, 50 young Eritreans have come together and discussed the core questions of the life in the diaspora. This emancipatory contrast program to the Eritrean national service ends with this impressive diploma celebration.

Diploma celebration

Enjoy a moving diploma celebration. Speeches of prominent personalities are followed by the distribution of diplomas and the unforgettable image of the flying oxford caps. Then it is time to celebrate: The famous, legendary Exile singer Abrann Osman makes the audience dance to his retro pop sounds.

Saturday, 8. April 2017 – Lectures

14:00 Uhr Door Opening

14:30 Uhr Opening Speech

15:00 Uhr - 22:00 Uhr Lecture Series – Analysing problems of the Eritrean Diaspora, Movies

19:00 Uhr Eritrean Gastronomy

20:15 Uhr Intercultural theatre by FutStep: F.E.A.R.

Lecture series: Analysing problems of the diaspora.

Follow the lecture series: Well-known public figures from different fields analyse the obstacles and chances that Eritreans have in Switzerland, specifically with an outlook at the future academy.

Presenter: Katharina Morello, www.morello.ch

Media & Biases

Male, lazy, dependant on social welfare and not integrable. The way in which media displays Eritreans is undifferentiated and discouraging. The signals that such report send, create prejudices and distance between Swiss and Eritreans, which significantly hinders integration of the latter. But it should be possible: Through face-to-face communication where listening to each other and giving Eritrean Men, Women and minors a public voice is standard. How can we create such a platform, that enables people to talk to each other instead of about each other?

Strong Women

The impression, that only men migrate to Switzerland is deceptive: Although the discussion is usually delimited to only male refugees from Eritrea, there is an almost even number of women among the temporarily admitted refugees and migrants with a residency permit. Women looking for asylum will certainly experience multiple discrimination: as a refugee and as a women, within the society and aloof media presence How can we make the needs of these Eritrean women visible? Empowerment and the equalisation of men and women is up to discussion.

Law & Power

The Eritrean embassy has been shut down in several western countries. The dutch government talks about integration being hindered by the long arm of the Eritrean dictatorship. Integration is aggravated by the uncertain neutrality of the asylum translators, the 2% taxes for the Eritrean government collected with pressure and additionally the structural barriers in the country of asylum. What is true and to what extent? And, is Switzerland affected?

Integration & Culture

Often Eritreans suffer from low self-confidence and are disillusioned by the reality when reaching their favoured country of asylum. They are deprived of basic rights and their diplomas and abilities are often not acknowledged. Furthermore the Eritrean Diaspora has been divided by the discrepancies between the generations of Eritrean migrants. Concerning the obstacles and difficulties of integration: What can Eritreans do and what help the Swiss population facilitate?

Short film

YONAS and CHRISTIAN, SRF „Club“ hosting the Eritrean Media Association. Rico Jauch, 15 min. ger., engl., HSLU Art & Design, Lucerne 2016

Short film

SPITZBUBEN von AESCHI, Suddenly one day Kokob the bakery employ loses her job, her access to education and her rights. A story about losing residency permit. Dekan Baran, Christian Fischer, EMBS, Zurich 2017

Short film

EXILE GUYALA two young artist challenge the Eritrean music scene of Switzerland to a discourse through a web project. Bilder & Freunde, ZHdK Cast, Zurich 2017.
www.exileguyala.com

Theater

F.E.A.R. (Facing Everything And Rise) the intercultural theatre group FutStep presents its second stage piece. Many people face a certain kind of fear of Fremdes. This fear though is based on Gegenseitigkeit. How does fear emerge and how can it be overcome?
www.facebook.com/futurestep.soSonntag,

09.04.2017 – Seminars

13:00 Uhr Opening Speech , Registration for seminars

13:30 Uhr - 18:00 Uhr Seminars

18:00 Uhr Closing Speech and Eritrean Dinner

Seminars

Innovative methods and tools inspire the participants to together create self-empowered future. Join in these diverse and personal seminars, which take up the findings of the prior day and subsequently form the basis of the learning plan for the next semester. Ideaholders provide workshops with practical exercises, sharing their visions on-site and parallelly on social media.

Transfer your knowledge, be part of the debate, include your ideas!

At the end of this experimental weekend we will know:

What are the needs of Eritreans in Switzerland?

How can we make a self-paced life possible, despite having limited rights?

What should the ideal Eritrean Diaspora Academy provide, to be the most efficient possible?

If you're not willing to learn, no one can help you.

If you're determined to learn, no one can stop you
Tibetan saying

Free entry - collection

For further information visit:
www.eritrean-diaspora-academy.org

Coordination
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Supported by:
Stiftung Corymbo Stiftung, Gertrud Kurz, WOZ, Paul Grüninger Stiftung, Stadt Zürich
Stadtentwicklung, Kanton Zürich Integrationsförderung, Zürcher Spendenparlament,
Reformierte Landeskirche Zürich