

ASTRA Early Stage Researcher:
Host University:

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Eco-Social Sustainability:
Promoting Inclusive Participation of Women, Girls and LGBTQ

I. Summary

Goal/ Ziel	To gain insight into how women, girls, and the LGBTQ community of forced migrant backgrounds (refugees and asylum seekers) can participate, contribute, and increase their representation in dialogues concerning gender equality and eco-social sustainability.	Einblicke darüber gewinnen, wie Frauen, Mädchen und die LGBTQ-Gemeinschaft mit erzwungenen Migrationserfahrungen (Flüchtlinge und Asylsuchende) an Dialogen über Geschlechtergleichstellung und ökosoziale Nachhaltigkeit teilnehmen, einen Beitrag leisten und ihre Repräsentation
Objectives/ Zielsetzungen	<p>Provide safe space for women, girls, and the LGBTQ community of forced migrant backgrounds (refugees and asylum seekers) to share their inclusion/integration experiences- including needs, challenges and views on relationships with the environment and sustainability.</p> <p>Enhance knowledge and skills of women, girls and LGBTQ on participatory research to enable them to participate and control matters concerning their needs and interests.</p>	<p>Schaffung eines sicheren Raums für Frauen, Mädchen und die LGBTQ-Gemeinschaft mit erzwungenem Migrationshintergrund (Flüchtlinge und Asylsuchende), in welchem sie sich über ihre Erfahrungen mit der Inklusion in D. austauschen können - einschließlich der Bedürfnisse, Herausforderungen und Ansichten zur Nachhaltigkeit.</p> <p>Die Kenntnisse und Fähigkeiten von Frauen, Mädchen und LGBTQ im Bereich der partizipativen Forschung verbessern, um ihnen eine Teilhabe am Forschungsprojekt zu ermöglichen und sie dazu befähigen, diesbezügliche Angelegenheiten, die ihre Bedürfnisse und Interessen betreffen, zu kontrollieren.</p>
Target Area/ Zielgebiet	North-Rhine Westphalia and Berlin	Nordrhein-Westfalen und Berlin

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ASTRA - Applying Sustainability Transition Research in Social Work tackling Major Societal Challenge of Social Inclusion

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Target Group/ Zielgruppe	Women, Girls and LGBTQ forced migrant youth between 16 to 29	Frauen, Mädchen und LGBTQ-Jugendliche mit Fluchterfahrung zwischen 16 und 29 Jahren
Project Activities / Vorgehensweise	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Community Mobilization <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish linkages with partner organisations working towards social inclusion of women, girls, and LGBTQ with forced migrant backgrounds. Organisation of Peer Researchers (women & LGBTQ with forced migrant background) Capacity Building/ Learning and Development <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Orientation and Training on Peer Research Methods and Participatory Research Methodologies Data Collection and Analysis Advocacy and Networking 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilisierung der Gemeinschaft <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Aufbau von Verbindungen zu Partnerorganisationen, die sich für die soziale Eingliederung von Frauen, Mädchen und LGBTQ mit Fluchterfahrung einsetzen. Organisation von Peer Researchern (Frauen, und LGBT geflüchtete) Aufbau von Forschungskompetenzen <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Orientierung an Peer Research und partizipativen Forschungsmethoden Datenerhebung und -analyse Interessenvertretung und Netzwerkarbeit
Coverage/ Erfassungszeitraum	2021-2024	2021-2024

II. Background

A. Rationale

The transition to a sustainable society requires understanding environmental challenges and pursuing preventative and sustainable solutions. The goal should be to ensure that economic, environmental, and social progress is driven by social justice, solidarity, and an understanding that individuals, communities, and states are neither equal regarding vulnerability, responsibility, and accountability in times of crisis (Laurent and Pochet, 2015¹).

Global crises such as wars, protracted conflicts, climate change, environmental degradation, and the recent pandemic have highlighted society's divisions, intensifying inequality, exclusion, and vulnerability. Despite the emphasis placed on addressing these inequalities and the protection and promotion of human rights- for all, vulnerable populations, such as refugees and internally displaced populations, are often excluded from medium and long-term development plans (Denaro & Giuffré, 2021)². Another worth noting is that although gender equality and climate justice are emphasised in various global movements for sustainability, women, girls, and LGBTQ with forced migrant backgrounds continue to be underrepresented in public forums, events, and webinars tackling eco-social sustainability.

Considering all these things, providing the marginalised population an opportunity to be heard and represented is essential in ensuring that the varying needs, challenges, and views will challenge a stereotypical sustainability narrative and promote inclusion. The advantages of bottom-up approaches grounded in broad participation, dialogue, partnership building, and transparent accountability ensure that social and ecological policies and programs promote inclusion and advance the principle of *Leaving No One Behind* (LNOB) envisioned in the 2030 UN Sustainability Agenda. It requires democratic actions that reflect long-term macro solutions and account for varying social realities, sectors, actionable policies, and support institutions- local, national, regional, and global (UNRISD, 2021³).

¹ Laurent, E. & Pochet, P.. (2015). Towards a social-ecological transition. Solidarity in the age of environmental challenge. In ETUI, The European Trade Union Institute. Retrieved 12:10, July 14, 2022, from <https://www.etui.org/publications/guides/towards-a-social-ecological-transition-solidarity-in-the-age-of-environmental-challenge>

² Denaro, C., & Giuffré, M. (2021). UN Sustainable Development Goals and the "Refugee Gap": Leaving Refugees Behind?. *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 41(1), 79-107. <https://doi.org/10.1093/rsq/hdab01>

³ UNSIRD. (2021). A New Eco-Social Contract VITAL TO DELIVER THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. Retrieved from <https://cdn.unrisd.org/assets/library/briefs/pdf-files/ib11-eco-social-contract.pdf>

B. Relevance to ASTRA Project objectives, themes, target sectors, and other priorities

The research shall contribute to the attainment of *ASTRA Project's* objectives by focusing on the issues and challenges of young people with forced migration backgrounds and investigating eco-social sustainability through their perspectives.

The project will also utilise a participatory approach where social work research methods will be co-created as part of the transition towards a sustainable and inclusive society. The proposed collaborative features will be incorporated into all project components.

The collection and processing of participants' personal data shall adhere to the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

C. Relevance to Specific Needs/ Challenges

The research project recognises a need to increase opportunities or avenues for participation in sustainability dialogues for women, girls and the LGBTQ community with forced migration backgrounds (refugees, asylum seekers). Through this project, the target group would be able to share their insights on how they understand and experience sustainability, climate justice and climate action. Through this, we wish to open up more opportunities to promote equal participation and improve the representation and leadership of women, girls, and LGBTQ-forced migrant youth in dialogues concerning eco-social sustainability.

III. Key Stakeholder Groups

The research project is exploratory and shall utilise a grounded theory approach to understanding identity formation, family and society dynamics, perceptions, expectations, and the “process” of inclusion. Using community-based research, the university researcher(s) will be collaborating with various stakeholders, including but not limited to non-government organisations in NRW and Berlin, Germany.

The study will also use a peer research method to make the study more “grounded” and facilitate active reflection and collaborative partnerships. This includes actively involving forced migrant youth as “co-researchers” in the entire research process, preferably from the start of the study and at every subsequent stage. This includes finalising the project design, data collection activities, data analysis and presentation of findings. This method is also an attempt to make the research more participatory and in support of the commitment to promoting young people's rights to have a voice in decisions and issues that affect them, including research, as is required under article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Peer researchers will be recruited based on specific criteria, undergo intensive training, and be active co-producers of tools and knowledge. Practical arrangement and support shall also be provided, including logistics, payments/ incentives, and constant assistance and supervision.

IV. Project Components

Component	Activities	Expected Results	Timeline
Community Mobilization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish linkages with partner organisations working towards social inclusion of women, girls, and LGBTQ with forced migrant backgrounds. The organisation of Peer Researchers (women, girls, LGBTQ with forced migrant background) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a Peer Research Team Present research concept to organisations working with the target group for possible collaboration 	Sept 2022-Feb 2023
Capacity Building	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Orientation and Training on Research Concepts (Gender Equality, Ecological/Climate Justice) and Participatory Research Methodologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer researchers are equipped with knowledge of preliminary research concepts and skills in conducting participatory research methods Final research design including methods 	Feb-Mar 2023
Data Collection and Analysis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Visual/ Art-based Methods (Photovoice, Collage, Drawing/Painting.) Group Discussions: FGDs, Community-based Oral Testimony Collaborative Focus Group Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer researchers will facilitate data collection using chosen participatory methods Research team will conduct collaborative data analysis with participants. 	Mar-Jun 2023
Advocacy and Networking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Communication Plan Development of Information and Communication Materials for online, social media, and face-to-face events (conferences, seminars.) Participation in webinars, conferences, inter-agency forums and working groups tackling issues on sustainability and social inclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research team, including participants able to contribute to the development of a communication plan for the dissemination of research results 	Jun-Jul 2023

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