STAATSMINISTERIUM
FÜR SOZIALES UND
VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ

Freistaat
SACHSEN

Die Staatsministerin für Gleichstellung und Integration

Orientation guide for asylum seekers in Saxony

Der Sächsische
Ausländerbeauftragte

Contents

Welcoming notes 4

1. General information 6
2. The borders of your residence area 6
3. How you reside and live 7
4. Learning German 10
5. Travelling by public transport 11
6. Constructive cooperation with the authorities 11
7. Managing your money 14
8. Medical care 15
9. Kindergarten – a good start 17
10. Attendance at school (for your children) 17
11. Training and career as a perspective for the future 18
12. Returning to your country of origin 19
13. Rights and obligations 19
14. General map of the Free State of Saxony 21

Welcoming notes

Petra Köpping
Saxon State Minister for Equality and Integration

Dear Readers,

I wish you a warm welcome in Saxony! You have now arrived in Germany following a sometimes extremely long and arduous journey. The places where you live now are mostly new to you. The culture and way of life here will be equally unusual for you. We would like to make things as easy as possible for you as you get used to your new environment. This orientation guide is intended as part of our welcoming work.

This brochure will provide you with an initial orientation guide and help you to quickly find answers to some of your questions. It contains the most important information on all areas of life in a simple and concise form. In addition, you will find here the contacts to advisors who will be delighted to help you. Please take advantage of these offers of support and assistance.

Only what you do not become familiar with is alien and strange. And living together in diversity always has to be practiced anew each time. The rules on living together in Germany include, for example, subscribing to the principle of equal rights for men and women as well as same-sex partnerships. Freedom of religion means that although everybody is free to live their faith, each person is also free to live without faith. Understanding, tolerance and respect are the key for a successful living together.

I wish you a good and successful arrival in Saxony.

Your

Petra Köpping
Saxon State Minister for Equality and Integration

Dear Readers,

You have now arrived in Saxony. With this booklet we would like to provide you with a first guide for the coming weeks and months in your new environment.

You have left your home and an environment you are familiar with behind you and committed yourself to an unknown future. We can hardly imagine what that means for you. Germany is a new environment to you, with new rules, different people. We would like to help you – both with your arrival and your settling down in a (still) unknown society!

Many questions will be running through your head: What rights and obligations do I have in Germany? What laws do I have to obey? What practical information will ease my arrival and settling down? What things should you rather not do in Germany?
We would like to answer some of these questions in this brochure. You will surely discover many similarities – as well as clear differences – compared to your home country.

Geert Mackenroth
Saxon Commissioner
for Foreign Nationals

The framework of our living together is formed by our Basic Constitution. It is the basis of our freedom and regulates the legal and political fundamental principles of the Federal Republic of Germany. Important fundamental principles include the freedom of opinion and religion, the equality of all people before the law and the commitment to human rights.

In practical terms this means: we tolerate all religions. Men and women are equal in every social area of our country, and we commit ourselves to peace among ourselves and reject all forms of violence. These rules apply to all of us who live in Germany.

In these 13 short chapters, we will introduce you to your rights and obligations as an asylum seeker and provide you with information on subjects such as language, work, medical care and access to education.

I wish for us that we will be able to live well together. I hope that you enjoy reading this brochure.

Geert Mackenroth
Saxon Commissioner for Foreign Nationals

Dear Readers,
This is a first helping hand for you, intended to assist you by providing you with the first tips and information for your daily life in Saxony. Although this information will only be able to answer some of your questions, after reading it you will certainly have found out enough to know where you can receive more detailed information, and whom you can address your questions to.

1. General information

There exists a series of independent, non-governmental organisations and advice centres available in Saxony to provide you with advice. Please do not be afraid of going to these centres. There are organisations active everywhere in Saxony as well as advice centres directly where you live.

When you leave your accommodation, always take your Aufenthaltsgestattung / Duldung (temporary residence permit / short-term permit) with you.

Before your type of residence permit expires, go to your Ausländerbehörde (Aliens' Registration Office), who will be glad to help you. In addition, you can obtain advice on all aspects of your residency directly at your advice centres. For example, young persons up to the age of 27 years can go to the Jugendmigrationsdienste (Youth Migration Services). Your assigned social worker will also be able to answer your questions.

The type of residence permit you possess will determine which social benefits and assistance you are entitled to receive.

If you should happen to lose your residence permit, please go immediately to the Aliens' Registration Office.

2. The borders of your residence area

There exists in Germany the law on restriction of movement, which confines you to a particular area. This means that for the first three months after having made your application for asylum you are permitted to move freely only in a particular area in Saxony. This area is the district of the Aliens' Registration Office (district or urban municipality) where the reception centre responsible for your reception is situated.

Once you have resided in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany for a period of three months on a continuous, allowed and permitted basis (Aufenthaltsgestattung - temporary residence permit), this residence obligation no longer applies and from then on you enjoy freedom of movement anywhere in the whole of Germany.

With a Duldung (Short-Term Permit), you also enjoy freedom of movement anywhere in Germany – provided that you have shown sufficient compliance with your obligation to cooperate or that you possess proof of identity.

Your residency remains in the district or urban municipality that you were allocated to.

IMPORTANT!

The Aliens' Registration Office is entitled to severely restrict the region, in which you have freedom of movement, particularly if you have committed a crime or if measures for terminating your residency are pending. This also applies to tolerated persons and asylum seekers. If you want to leave your region of stay and travel to another region or another Federal State in Germany, then if you are subject to the residence obligation you need permission from the Aliens' Registration Office – the so-called "Urlaubsschein" (leave pass). There are only a few cases where this "leave pass" is not required (e.g. for court appointments). If, however, you are obliged to reside in a reception centre, you can apply to the Federal Office in Chemnitz for permission if you have compelling reasons.

You need the following documents in order to apply for a "leave pass" with your Aliens' Registration Office:

- A written invitation, for example from a person or association, addressed to you, which includes the name and the precise address of the person being invited.

- An application form or simple letter. In the case that a form is available, you will receive it at your Aliens' Registration Office or community accommodation building. A simple letter must include all the important information on the period, destination and reason for your travel.

IMPORTANT!

Please observe the "restricted obligation of residence".

If you are unsure about this, please ask at an advice centre or the Aliens' Registration Office, in which region you have freedom of movement. If you should leave the region applicable to you without permission ("leave pass" from the Aliens' Registration Office), you will then face a fine, and if you do this on a repeated basis, criminal charges may be brought against you, which can result in you receiving a condemnation, fine or even being sentenced to imprisonment. This, in turn, may have adverse consequences on your prospects of a secure residence status.

3. How you reside and live

Families enjoy a high status in Germany. The family nucleus comprises the father, mother and children.

You will normally spend the first three months in Saxony in the Initial Reception Centre in Chemnitz or in one of its satellite centres. Then, as an asylum seeker and tolerated person, accommodation will be provided for you. You will be accommodated either in a community accommodation centre or in an apartment. As a matter of principle, you are committed to live there.

The Jugendamt (Youth Welfare Office) is responsible for adolescents under the age of 18, who have entered Germany alone.

IMPORTANT!

During your asylum procedure, you must remain contactable for the Aliens' Registration Office, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees plus (in the case of legal proceedings) the Administrative Court by living at the address specified so that you are able to receive correspondence.

3.1 Information for living in community accommodation

Please note that in community accommodation you will be living together with many people of different cultural backgrounds in a confined space. This may lead to conflicts and misunderstandings. To prevent this, respectful behaviour among one another, mutual consideration and an observance of the everyday regulations is necessary.

When you move into a community accommodation or an apartment, a positive initial gesture would be, for example, to introduce yourself to your neighbours.

Please observe the periods of quiet and as far as possible allow yourself and those living around you the opportunity for peace and for being alone.

Please familiarise yourself with the house rules, which determine the regulations for all the residents of the community accommodation building. Have them explained to you and observe them.

During the day you are free to receive guests. Generally, however, guests are not allowed to spend the night in this accommodation.

3.2 Information for living in an apartment

If you would like to live in an apartment, you can apply for "decentralised accommodation" by writing a simple letter to the relevant authorities who will decide on your request. Particular consideration will be given to families or single parents with children, working persons and those persons suffering from a severe illness.

3.3 Information for redistribution (the wish to move within Saxony or to another Federal State)

If you would like to live in another urban municipality or district, you can apply for "redistribution" by writing a simple letter to your Aliens' Registration Office. The application must include pertinent reasons, such as family reunification, taking up employment or vocational training, and will only be granted in exceptional cases. The advice centres can provide you with assistance in making the application.

You can also apply to the relevant authorities for "redistribution" to another Federal State. There must also be very good reasons for your redistribution to another Federal State, which will also only be granted in exceptional cases, such as the need for care by other family members as the result of a serious illness.

3.4 General information

Post

- Pick up your post regularly.
- Read your post. If you have any difficulties understanding your post, have it translated or explained by a person you trust.
- There may be negative consequences for you if you miss appointments or deadlines, resulting from not reading or not properly understanding letters.
- Letters are only to be opened by the person they are addressed to. Nobody may open your post without your permission. In your turn, you may also not open somebody else's post – unless that person has asked you to open the letter.
- Ensure that your letter box (if you have one for yourself), has your name clearly legible on it.

IMPORTANT!

Yellow letters from the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees will pertain to your asylum procedure. If you have any questions, immediately go to an advice centre, to a person you trust or to a lawyer to receive help.

Saving energy in the apartment

Saving energy is important for the environment. Moreover electricity, water and heating costs in Germany are very high. Please observe the following:

- When you use the heating, please keep the windows and doors closed. Please heat cost-effectively.
- Do not use any additional heaters.
- Air the room(s) sufficiently. Switch the radiators off when you do this.
- Please be economical in your use of water.
- Switch off electrical equipment when not actually in use. If you are the last person to leave a room, please switch the light off.

Media and using them

- In Germany, every household is obliged to pay the television and radio license fee to the GEZ (Radio and TV Licence Fee Collecting Agency). It may be possible, however for you to obtain an exemption from the charge.
- When concluding contracts (for mobile telephone, magazines, etc.), please note that the contracts may be of a long-term binding nature. You are solely responsible for the costs incurred.
- We strongly recommend that you do not conclude any purchase or insurance contracts from door-to-door sellers. You may later regret it. You should only conclude contracts after receiving extensive advice from a trustworthy person who has knowledge of these matters.
- When using the internet, please note that the downloading of documents may cost money.

Waste disposal

For ecological reasons, waste in Germany is separately disposed of.

- Yellow bin: for packaging (including plastic and metal)
- Brown bin: for biological waste, such as food leftovers, or vegetable waste
- Blue bin: for paper and cardboard
- Black bin: for all other waste
- Glass bins: for all glass containers (the bins are installed in public places)
- Returnable bottles: you can return certain bottles to the supermarket and get money (deposit) back on them. The deposit amounts to 25 cents, 15 cents or 8 cents – depending on the type of bottle.

All the remaining household waste goes into the black container. Please note that special items, such as batteries, chemicals, paint as well as technical equipment (e.g. televisions or defect furniture) are disposed of separately. In this regard, please ask a competent person, such as the caretaker, building warden or staff at the Aliens' Registration Office. Glass, glass bottles etc. are disposed of in public glass containers.

In some communities, you are obliged as the tenant of an apartment to regularly put waste bins out on the side of the street to be emptied by the refuse collection service. Please enquire of your neighbours or the relevant authorities of the collections times.

4. Learning German

Learning the German language is very important for your life in Germany. You can find out details and possibilities for free language courses (plus, if needed, literacy courses) at the advice centres or your local integration and/or aliens' commissioner.

The free brochure "99 Wege zur deutschen Sprache" (99 Ways to the German Language), provided by the Sächsischer Ausländerbeauftragte (Saxon Commissioner for Foreigners), will give you more ideas to learn German. This is available for download on the homepage of the Saxon Commissioner for Foreign Nationals.

Persons under 27 years of age have other possibilities to learn German than those over 27. If you are under 27 years of age, you can, for example, take part in the "Preparation classes with vocationally related aspects in Berufsschulzentren (Vocational Training Centres)". More information on this is to be found in Section 10.

Please find out about the possibilities available to learn German – either at your advice centres or from your assigned social worker. Sometimes there are also special free language courses available, e.g. for women only.

There are free, job-related language-support courses available for a specific category of persons. These last about six months and end with a language examination.

If you are interested in this, please contact the Saxon Refugee Council, Dammweg 5, 01097 Dresden; Tel. 0351-87451710;
Email: bildung-arbeit@saechsischer-fluechtlingsrat.de.

5. Travelling by public transport

You need a valid ticket when using public transport (e.g. train, bus, tram).

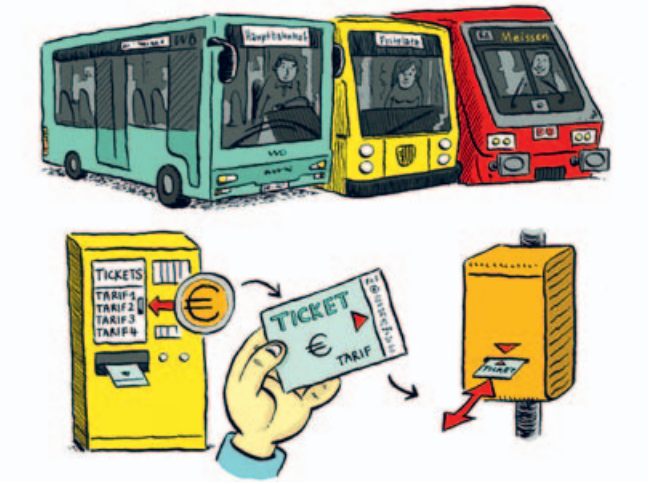
You can buy tickets:

- at a ticket machine at a bus/tram stop,
- at a ticket machine in the bus or tram,
- from the bus driver (occasionally also from the tram driver)
- in a public transport service centre.

In some cases, as an asylum seeker you can also obtain tickets at reduced prices – the "Dresden Pass", for example.

IMPORTANT!

Some tickets also have to be validated after buying them. There are special machines for this purpose. Tickets can also be subject to time and distance restrictions – for example, you can only use them at a certain time and/or in a certain area. You must be aware of these restrictions. Please ask somebody for help if you are unsure of buying the right ticket.



If you travel without a valid ticket and are controlled, you will normally have to pay 60.00 Euros. If this happens several times, criminal proceedings may be taken against you, which may have a negative impact on your subsequent residence permit status.

When you travel by train, you must buy the ticket before getting on the train at a ticket machine or the railway service counter. Please check every time whether the ticket also has to be validated.

There are many (long-distance) coach providers available in Germany.

6. Constructive cooperation with the authorities

6.1 General information

Please always use the polite form of address in German ("Sie") with persons that you are not related to or not on friendly terms with. The person you are talking to should also focus on this. Politely point out to him if you do not wish him to use the familiar form of address in German ("Du") with you without mutual agreement. If this does not result in any change in behaviour, you should consult a person you trust on this subject.

The staff of public bodies and other institutions are not allowed to accept gifts. This is severely punished in Germany. So please understand that your gift cannot be accepted. The person you are dealing with will, however, appreciate your gesture.

If you receive a letter for an official appointment at a public body, then take the letter with you when you go there. For urgent matters, though, you can go to the authorities without an appointment.

For appointments at public bodies, only the person named in the appointment should attend. You are, however, free to request a person you trust to accompany you.

The official language is German. If you need help with the language, then bring an interpreter with you.

Always keep your appointments or cancel them by telephone in good time. If you do not come on the appointed date and have not cancelled it in advance, there will be adverse effects for you, for example, you will not receive your money.

Punctuality and keeping appointments make our living together easier.

You can contact the Aliens' Registration Office at any time for all questions relating to your stay. Don't be afraid of asking questions. Requests and enquiries can and should be made at any time. The responsible staff will be glad to answer your questions.

You are obliged to actively cooperate with the authorities and present the required information, documents and certificates.

IMPORTANT!

Always make your applications in writing and make a copy (or alternatively, have a copy made) of all the documents you have to provide. It is important that you keep all papers and letters from the authorities filed away in a safe place.

When you receive a notification from the authorities (e.g. the Aliens' Registration Office), you can – as a matter of principle – appeal against it. As there will be deadlines associated with such an appeal, please contact an advice centre as soon as possible.

In Germany the police is present to protect your safety and defend your rights. The police will help you in the event of an emergency, e.g., if you have been threatened, robbed or attacked.

6.2 Deciding on your request for asylum

IMPORTANT!

If the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees sends you notification of their decision to reject your application, then, as a matter of principle, you are required to leave Germany within one month. Starting on the day the notification of rejection is delivered to you, you have two weeks to appeal to the Administrative Court and one month to justify your appeal.

IMPORTANT!

If your asylum request is rejected as being "offensichtlich unbegründet" (manifestly unfounded), you are required to leave Germany within one week. In this case, you only have one week to make the appeal. In addition, in the same time you must also request the administration Court for temporary legal protection against your deportation and justify it.

Which court is competent for your appeal and what deadlines apply to you, you will see from the last page of the notification of rejection in the "Rechtsbehelfsbelehrung" (advice on the right of appeal).

If you do not observe the deadlines, then your application for asylum will be definitively rejected. You can receive advice from an advice centre for refugees (free of charge) or from a lawyer. Although the latter generally costs money, you may be able to obtain exemption from the costs. For this purpose, you must apply for (and receive) a "Beratungshilfeschein" (legal aid voucher) at your respective District Court.

7. Managing your money

Every month, you will receive a fixed sum as "pocket money" for your personal needs, such as tickets for public transport or telephone costs, which you are free to use as you choose.

In addition, you will receive benefits for food, clothes, articles for health and body care and the like.

Any income you may earn from gainful employment plus any assets you have available will be offset from your monthly allowance. The relevant office will determine an exempted allowance amount, which you may additionally keep.

IMPORTANT!

You are obliged to immediately notify the Sozialamt (Social Welfare Office) of any extra income gained from work. If you do not do this, the excess amount of benefits will be reclaimed. You may also be liable to a fine, and in the worst case this will constitute a crime, which in the event of a conviction may result in a fine or imprisonment. This may also lead to a negative effect in relation to your residence status.

More information on the subject of work is available in Section 11.

Find out from the relevant authorities when and where you will receive your monthly money allowance. If the date should change, you will be notified of the new date either at the time of receiving your previous monthly allowance, or by a poster on the notice board in your community accommodation or by letter.

It is possible that in special cases further benefits may be granted. These include the special needs of children (such as first clothes for the baby), school materials, costs for a school trip, as well as assistance for pregnant women and integration support for disabled children. Please enquire at your local authority for details.

If you are ill and therefore unable to come to receive your money, please provide evidence of this in the form of a doctor's certificate. You will then receive your money later.

IMPORTANT!

Your benefits may be reduced if you do not comply with your obligation to cooperate. This will happen, for example, if you do not demonstrably contribute to clarifying your identity or do not react in due time to letters from the authorities. Your benefits will also be cut if your asylum request has been rejected and you do not comply with the order to leave Germany. Social benefits can also be cut if you do not accept a community service assigned to you by a Social Welfare Office / Aliens' Registration Office.

As an asylum seeker or tolerated person, you will receive a discount on some services, such as tickets for public transport and cultural events. Please enquire at the Social Welfare Office or the Aliens' Registration Office whether you are entitled to such discounts.

Please manage your money carefully and only buy those things you can afford. If you get into debt, then you can seek advice at a migration advisory debt counselling centre.

8. Medical care

In Germany you basically enjoy the free choice of a doctor, so that you may go and see any doctor registered in the district or urban municipality you live in. The following points are addressed to those who do not possess a chip card issued by a health insurance company.

- If you are ill and have to go to the doctor's (e.g. dentist), you will need a Krankenschein (health insurance certificate) or Behandlungsschein (medical treatment voucher) issued by the relevant authority (e.g. Aliens' Registration Office or Social Welfare Office)

- Überweisungen (referrals) from one doctor to another specialist doctor first have to be approved by the relevant authority. They will issue you with another health insurance certificate for you to take to the specialist doctor.

- It may take several months for you to see a specialist doctor. This is normal. Please be patient.

- Specific medical treatments are subject to checks by an Amtsarzt (public medical officer). In this regard, please obtain advice if you have any questions.

- In an emergency, you can go to the doctor's without a medical treatment certificate. In this case, however, following the emergency treatment you are obliged to obtain a medical treatment certificate from the relevant authorities, which you must then give to the doctor who treated you.

- In the event that you need emergency treatment when travelling, you can go to doctor's wherever you are.

IMPORTANT!

If you do not have a health insurance certificate, you will have to pay for the medical treatment yourself.

Health care:

- In Germany there are various medical examinations possible for the purpose of checking your health. These include preventative check-ups for small children, school entry check-ups as well as check-ups for the early detection of cancer.

- If you possess a chip card, you may also attend health maintenance courses such as yoga, autogenic training, and be reimbursed for a large part of the costs. Please enquire at your health insurance company if you are interested. Expectant mothers, in particular, have an unrestricted right to all preventative medical check-ups, childbirth services, midwife assistance, etc.

Treatment of diseases:

- If you are aware that you have an infectious disease, such as HIV, hepatitis B, an active form of tuberculosis or similar, go and see a doctor immediately. If your child has such a disease, obtain a doctor's certificate for the school or kindergarten you child goes to.

- Information on prescriptions are available from your health insurance company or the relevant authorities.

Therapy in the case of traumatisation and mental health problems:

- If you, or somebody you know, is suffering from strong fears, nightmares, depressions or similar, please go and see a doctor you trust. He will be able to help you with a suitable therapy.

- In Leipzig, Dresden and Chemnitz, it is possible to use the services of language mediators when undergoing therapy – e.g. the Language Mediator Pool in Chemnitz or the Gemeindedolmetscherdienst (Community Interpreter Service) in Dresden.

- You can apply to the relevant authorities to have your interpreter costs met for the therapy. For the costs of the therapy sessions at a registered psychotherapeutist to be met, you need a health insurance certificate from the relevant authorities. It may be the case that a public medical officer will be required to assess your need for treatment.

- The Medinetz Dresden e.V. human rights initiative provides free medical help for refugees and migrants without any residential status on an anonymous basis.

Please feel free to contact any of the following contact points:

Atendi Project
Project for Counselling and Support of Refugees in Saxony
Chemnitz Office: Henriettenstraße 5, 09112 Chemnitz
Telephone: (0371) 903133
Email: info@saechsischer-fluechtlingsrat.de
Dresden Office: Dammweg 5, 01097 Dresden
Telephone: (0351) 87451710
Email: info@saechsischer-fluechtlingsrat.de

SprInt-Leipzig
Intermediary Service for Language and Integration Mediators
RAA Leipzig e.V.
Sternwartenstr. 4, 04103 Leipzig
Telephone: (0341) 99995770
Email: sprint@raa-leipzig.de
www.raa-leipzig.de

Medinetz für Dresden
IBZ (International Meeting Place) Heinrich-Zille-Straße 6
01219 Dresden
Mobile phone: (0177) 1736781
Email: medinetzdresden@gmx.de
(free first-time advice every Wednesday
in the IBZ from 6 pm to 8 pm)

Traumaambulanz (Trauma Outpatient Clinic)
Klinik und Poliklinik für Psychotherapie und Psychosomatik
(Clinic and Polyclinic for Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics)
Telephone: (0351) 4587094 or (0351) 4582070
Email: Julia.Schellong@uniklinikum-dresden.de

Mosaik Leipzig e.V.
Psychosoziale Beratung für Flüchtlinge
(Psychosocial Counselling for Refugees)
Eisenbahnstraße 66
04315 Leipzig
Telephone: (0341) 92787712
Email: fb@mosaik-leipzig.de
Web: www.mosaik-leipzig.de

In the event that you are the victim of xenophobic verbal or physical attacks, in Saxony you can also contact the Office of "Regionale Arbeitsstellen für Bildung, Integration und Demokratie in Sachsen e.V." (Regional Centres for Education, Integration and Democracy in Saxony).

Their contact details are:

- in Dresden: telephone: (0351) 8894174;
  email: opferberatung.dresden@raa-sachsen.de
- in Leipzig: telephone: (0341) 2618647;
  email: opferberatung.leipzig@raa-sachsen.de
- in Chemnitz: telephone: (0371) 4819451;
  email: opferberatung.chemnitz@raa-sachsen.de

There are confidential advisory services available if you have experienced domestic violence. Women, in particular, can contact special contact points. Both men and women, who have been or are victims of domestic violence and/or stalking, will receive advice and support in the Koordinierungs- und Interventionsstelle gegen häusliche Gewalt und Stalking (Coordination and Intervention Centre against Domestic Violence and Stalking - KIS). There is also special sheltered accommodation available for women, men and children.

Some centres, including migration advisory centres, offer special counselling on pregnancy, addiction or drug problems.

9. Kindergarten – a good start

In Germany children from the age of three have a legal right for a place in a kindergarten. You too can (and should) register your child in a nearby kindergarten. Your child will quickly be able to learn the German language and develop contact with other children. The earlier your child learns the German language, the easier it will be for him/her to understand school lessons later.

You can apply to the relevant authorities to have the costs of the kindergarten place met. Food and drinks will be provided for the children in the facility itself. You can also apply to the relevant authorities for these costs to be partially met. In the case that your child should or may not eat certain kinds of food, please speak to the care providers in the kindergarten directly. They will certainly pay attention to your child's special needs.

Children under the age of three will usually receive a place in a day nursery. You have a right to this for children who are one-year-old (or older).

10. Attendance at school (for your children)

In Germany, all children over the age of six must go to school.

This is called "compulsory education". This also applies to your child, who has the right and the obligation to go to school, as soon as he/she has reached the age of six. Attending school will enable your child to quickly learn German and broaden his/her future prospects. Please support your child with all your strength. Attendance at state schools is free of charge in Germany.

As a parent, it is your duty to register your children for school. School registration is made at the regional offices of the Sächsische Bildungsagentur (Saxon Educational Agency).

In a "special educational counselling" session, it will be decided which school your child can attend and whether he/she will go into a preparation class. The purpose of this preparation class is to provide children who cannot (or hardly) speak German yet with lessons in the special subject "Deutsch als Zweitsprache" (German as a second language) from a teacher specialising in individual support, so that the children in this class will be able to participate in normal lessons as quickly as possible. The cost of your child's travelling to this school can be met by the relevant authorities (on application).

In Saxony, children who are brought up bilingually or multilingually, have the possibility to pursue their education in their native language. In this regard, please contact the regional offices of the Saxon Education Agency or ask the teachers in the preparation classes.

The school system in Saxony begins with the Grundschule (Primary School), which lasts 4 years. This is followed either by a Oberschule (Secondary School) culminating in the certificate of secondary education, or a Gymnasium (Grammar School) culminating in the Abitur (A-levels, general qualification for university entrance). Following this, the Berufsschule (Vocational School) is then possible to obtain the vocational Abitur and/or vocational qualification. Further information is available at the specialist advisory centres.

You may possibly be able to apply to your relevant office for educational and event participation benefits for your children. By this means, the costs for school trips, lunch, homework support, learning assistance, attending kindergarten and similar items can be partly reimbursed or completely met.

Children can receive supervision in a Hort (after-school care centre) after school up to the end of their fourth year at school. There they will perform their homework in groups and also take part in sport and games. Please clarify beforehand whether and from which authorities the costs for the after-school care centre will be met.

In the interest of your child, please take advantage of the Elterngespräche (parent-teacher discussions) / Elternabende (parents' evenings) offered at school. If you don't feel confident enough of your German to understand what is going on, then take somebody with you who will help you. If you have any questions, or you need something explained, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the individual support teacher in your child's preparation class.

The "special educational counselling" ensues until the child reaches the age of 27. Educational possibilities will be explained to you, and with previous experience gained in "preparation classes with vocationally specific aspects", integration into vocational training centres is possible. If applicable, you can also have your school leaving certificates or the number of years of school attended in your country of origin recognised or acquire a further school leaving certificate. If you are under 18, then you are of vocational age. This means that you must either participate in vocational training or attend a vocational school. In this regard, the Youth Migration Services will be happy to advise you.

11. Training and career as a perspective for the future

Once you have been living in Germany for three months, you may possibly be allowed (with the approval of the Aliens' Registration Office) to take up work or start a training. You are not permitted to work if your residence document contains the entry "Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet" or "Beschäftigung nicht gestattet" (employment not allowed).

Also after living in Germany for three months, you can register at the Agentur für Arbeit (Federal Employment Office) as "arbeitssuchend" (a jobseeker) and receive advice on training and employment.

If you wish to undergo dual training, you need a Beschäftigungserlaubnis (employment permit). This permit is not required in the case of a school-based training.

Make sure that you receive advice on vocational or academic (school) development at an early stage. For this purpose, please contact the Youth Migration Service, the Coordinator for Migration at the Sächsische Bildungsagentur (Saxon Training Agency), or the Handwerkskammern (Chambers of Crafts).

The projects "RESQUE PLUS 2.0" in Leipzig and "RESQUE continued" in Dresden and Chemnitz offer counselling, training courses, etc. on career perspectives especially for refugees in Saxony. The advice you can receive there includes the subjects of special language courses and training development opportunities.

In order for you to receive support and advice within the framework of this project, you must not have been banned from employment.

On existing school or vocational qualifications from your country of origin and the possibilities to have this qualification recognised in Germany, then in Saxony you can obtain advice from the IBAS (Information and Counselling Centre for Recognition Saxony). Please make an appointment in advance.

Informations- und Beratungsstelle Anerkennung Sachsen (IBAS)
(Information and Counselling Centre for Recognition Saxony)
Telephone: (0351) 43707040
Email: anerkennung@exis.de

If you work without permission, you face the risk of fines and imprisonment. If you do not cooperate with the authorities in acquiring your papers, you face the risk of not being allowed to work.

You can, as appropriate, take up an Arbeitsgelegenheit (work opportunity) for 1.05 Euro an hour in your accommodation building. You do not need a work permit for this work. Maybe you can offer homework supervision, or look after a reading room or persons who have just arrived to live there. For this purpose, please contact the accommodation building supervisor or the relevant authorities.

12. Returning to your country of origin

For those who wish to return to their own country, possible financial assistance is available provided by the "Reintegration and Emigration Programme for Asylum-Seekers in Germany" (REAG).

The requirement for financial support for this purpose is that you do not possess sufficient funds either yourself, from dependent relatives or from other sources for returning.

A further requirement is that the person concerned did not get previous assistance from a voluntary return programme in the past.

You can apply for reimbursement of the costs for your return to your own country via the programme. For specific countries, you can also apply for Starthilfe (an initial payment) to get you going when you return home.

For more information on this, please apply to the relevant authorities. In addition you will also receive advice from the following addresses:

Caritas Leipzig – Beratung für Rückkehrer (Advice for Returnees)
Contact partner: Kristin Kunath
Elsterstraße 15
04109 Leipzig
Telephone: (0341) 9636111
Email: k.kunath@caritas-leipzig.de

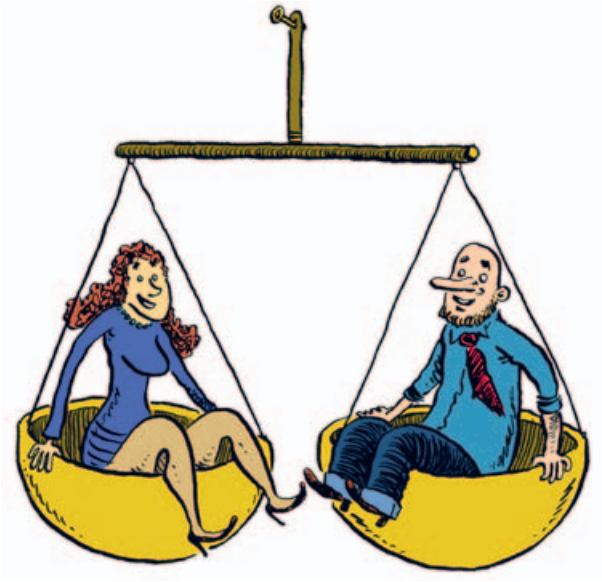
DRK Beratungsstelle für Auswanderer und Weiterwandererberatung im DRK Kreisverband Chemnitzer Umland e.V.
(German Red Cross (DRK) Advice Centre for Emigrants and Further Migration Counselling)
Eleonora Kalmbach
Zwickauer Straße 432
09117 Chemnitz
Telephone: (0371) 8420812
Email: kalmbach@drk-chemnitzer-umland.de

13. Rights and obligations

You have rights and obligations just as everybody else living in Germany. The restrictions that asylum seekers and tolerated persons are subject to are more comprehensive. Nevertheless, you should stand up for your rights (albeit in a reasonable manner) if you see them as being limited.

You have the following rights:

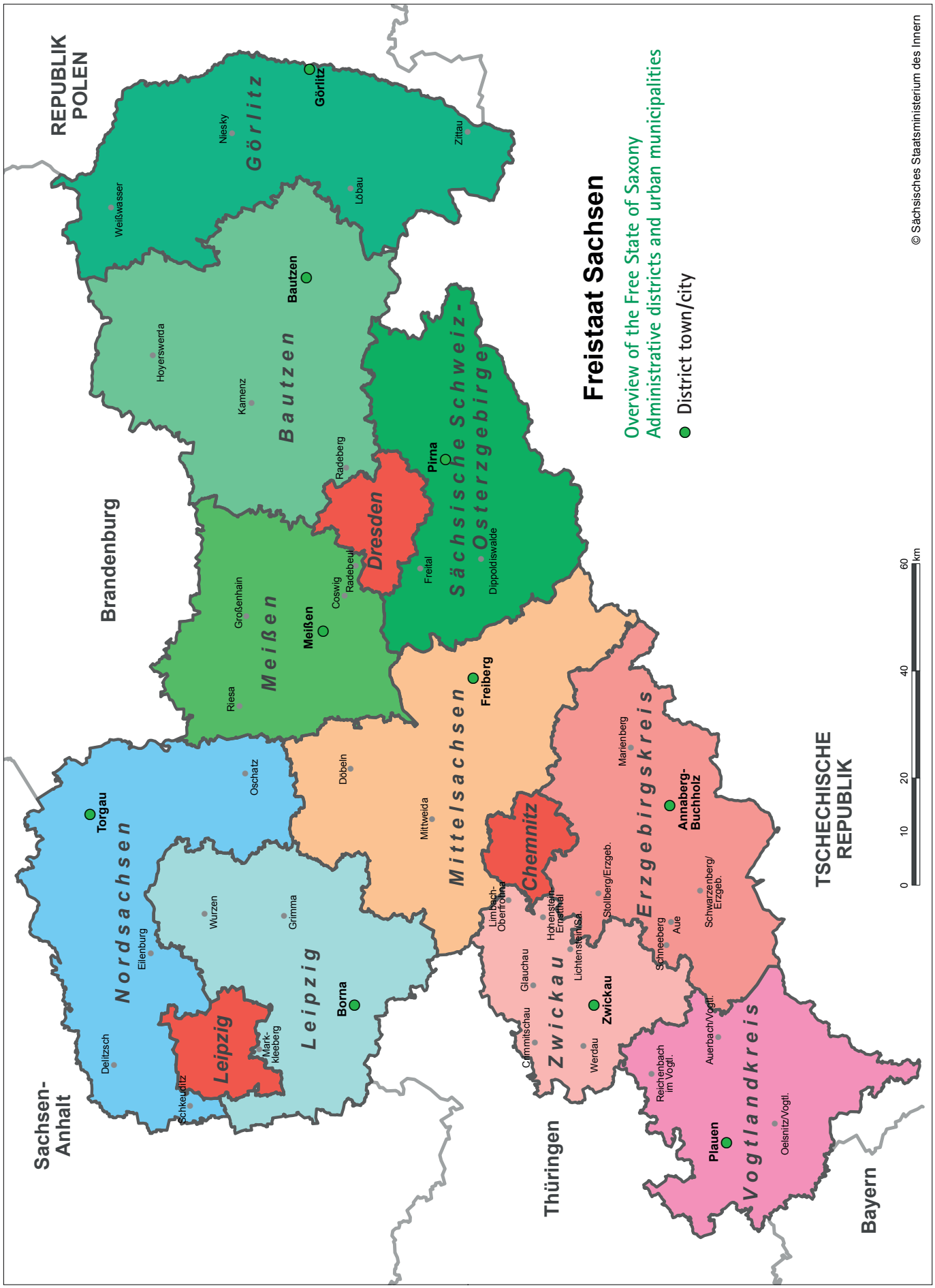
- Germany is a constitutional state, in which no arbitrariness is permitted. If, however, you perceive such, contact the advice centres or your local Aliens' and/or Integration Commissioners.
- Women can also give orders in public bodies and other institutions and make decisions. These have the same status as those from men.
- The courts and authorities function reliably. If the processing of your enquiry/application seems to be taking too long in your perception, then follow it up with them.
- Everybody has the right to exercise his religion as he chooses. That applies to you and your fellow human beings within the framework of the Constitutional Law.
- Men and women are equal before the law in every social field. In the event that you (have to) make different experiences, please do not hesitate to contact the local Equal Opportunities Representative.
- Children enjoy particular protection. Every personal injury suffered by blow on a child is a criminal offence and is punished by a fine or imprisonment. The Youth Welfare Office provides assistance and support in dealing with children in difficult situations.



You commit an offence or crime in Germany if you – amongst other things: ...

- ... physically attack, physically or sexually molest other persons.
- ... leave your stay area you have been designated without official "permission" ("restriction of movement").
- ... falsify certificates.
- ... work without permission.
- ... do not send your child to school.
- ... travel on public transport (bus, tram or train) without a valid ticket.
- ... damage the property of others or the furnishings in your accommodation.
- ... drive a car without a driving licence.
- ... possess or deal in illegal drugs.

14. Overview of the Free State of Saxony



The fundamental rights enshrined in the Basic Constitution (excerpt)

Article 1
(1) Human dignity shall be inviolable. To respect and protect it shall be the duty of all state authority.

Article 2
(1) Every person shall have the right to free development of his personality insofar as he does not violate the rights of others or offend against the constitutional order or the moral law.
(2) Every person shall have the right to life and physical integrity. Freedom of the person shall be inviolable. These rights may be interfered with only pursuant to a law.

Article 3
(1) All persons shall be equal before the law.
(2) Men and women shall have equal rights.
(3) No person shall be favoured or disfavoured because of sex, parentage, race, language, homeland and origin, faith, or religious or political opinions. No person shall be disfavoured because of disability.

Article 4
(1) Freedom of faith and of conscience, and freedom to profess a religious or philosophical creed, shall be inviolable.
(2) The undisturbed practice of religion shall be guaranteed.

Article 5
(1) Every person shall have the right freely to express and disseminate his opinions in speech, writing and pictures, and to inform himself without hindrance from generally accessible sources. Freedom of the press and freedom of reporting by means of broadcasts and films shall be guaranteed. There shall be no censorship.
(2) These rights shall find their limits in the provisions of general laws, in provisions for the protection of young persons, and in the right to personal honour.

Article 6
(1) Marriage and the family shall enjoy the special protection of the state.

Article 16a
(1) Persons persecuted on political grounds shall have the right of asylum.

Article 17
Every person shall have the right individually or jointly with others to address written requests or complaints to competent authorities and to the legislature.

Herausgeber
Sächsische Staatsministerin für Gleichstellung und Integration
beim Sächsischen Staatsministerium für Soziales und Verbraucherschutz
Bautzner Str. 19a
01099 Dresden
pressegi@sms.sachsen.de
www.sms.sachsen.de

Der Sächsische Ausländerbeauftragte
Bernhard-von-Lindenau-Platz 1
01067 Dresden
saechsab@slt.sachsen.de
www.offenes-sachsen.de

Redaktion
Geschäftsstelle des Sächsischen Ausländerbeauftragten in Kooperation mit den Kommunalen Ausländer- und Integrationsbeauftragten Sachsens, der Abteilung Ordnung des Landkreises Sächsische Schweiz – Osterzgebirge, dem Sozialamt Dresden, dem Sächsischen Flüchtlingsrat e. V., dem Jugendmigrationsdienst der Caritas Dresden und dem Geschäftsbereich Gleichstellung und Integration beim Sächsischen Staatsministerium für Soziales und Verbraucherschutz

Illustration
Mamei Illustration & Comic

Gestaltung
Atanassow-Grafikdesign

Satz und Druck
S-Print GbR, Annaberg-Buchholz
www.sprint-net.de

Version
Englisch

Stand
18.09.2015

Zentraler Broschürenversand der Sächsischen Staatsregierung
Hammerweg 30, 01127 Dresden
Telefon: +49 351 21036-71 oder +49 351 21036-72
Telefax: +49 351 2103681
E-Mail: publikationen@sachsen.de
www.publikationen.sachsen.de

Verteilerhinweis
Diese Informationsschrift wird von der Sächsischen Staatsregierung im Rahmen ihrer verfassungsmäßigen Verpflichtung zur Information der Öffentlichkeit herausgegeben.
Sie darf weder von Parteien noch von deren Kandidaten oder Helfern im Zeitraum von sechs Monaten vor einer Wahl zum Zwecke der Wahlwerbung verwendet werden. Dies gilt für alle Wahlen.
Missbräuchlich ist insbesondere die Verteilung auf Wahlveranstaltungen, an Informationsständen der Parteien sowie das Einlegen, Aufdrucken oder Aufkleben parteipolitischer Informationen oder Werbemittel. Untersagt ist auch die Weitergabe an Dritte zur Verwendung bei der Wahlwerbung.
Auch ohne zeitlichen Bezug zu einer bevorstehenden Wahl darf die vorliegende Druckschrift nicht so verwendet werden, dass dies als Parteinahme des Herausgebers zu Gunsten einzelner politischer Gruppen verstanden werden könnte.
Diese Beschränkungen gelten unabhängig vom Vertriebsweg, also unabhängig davon, auf welchem Wege und in welcher Anzahl diese Informationsschrift dem Empfänger zugegangen ist. Erlaubt ist jedoch den Parteien, diese Informationsschrift zur Unterrichtung ihrer Mitglieder zu verwenden.

Copyright
Diese Veröffentlichung ist urheberrechtlich geschützt. Alle Rechte, auch die des Nachdruckes von Auszügen und der fotomechanischen Wiedergabe, sind dem Herausgeber vorbehalten.