

Max 2000 Zeichen

### **„What you need to know about me: 8 stories, 8 faces from Lustenau“**

Eight youngsters between 13 and 17 years old, living in Lustenau (Western Austria), who came to Lustenau as migrants, have written a short story about themselves. The writing took place during a workshop with young author Muhammet Ali Baş, who himself comes from a family which migrated to Austria from Turkey.

Even though the young people could choose any language to write in during the 2-day-workshop, all of them chose their second (or third) language German to express themselves. The stories that came out are as diverse as the young people who wrote them: stories about holidays, ideas and dreams for the future, home sickness, war, having to grow-up fast, family and friends.

To present the results of the workshop and to share the resources of these young people, we organised a professional photo shooting and built a special „tree“ to hang the portraits (on one side) and the personal story (on the other). The main aim was to raise awareness for the diversity of Lustenaus‘ youth. To highlight the story behind every person.

The exhibition was shown at the very lively „Market of Cultures“ and at the town hall. The young people and their parents participated in the opening of the exhibition and were obviously very proud, touched and pleased to be shown in such a prominent surrounding.

The message of the project was well read: WE are glad that you came to our town and we see YOU with your „whole story“, experience, personality and language skills as an enrichment for our community. The highlight of this project is that the participants could tell their story in their own words – we did not question which story they wanted to tell or correct their German, apart from spelling mistakes.

To reach more people, the stories and portraits were additionally published in local media.