Integration by Education. Internationales Symposium der Vodafone Stiftung Deutschland zus. mit der Beauftragten der Bundesregierung für Migration, Flüchtlinge und Integration, Auswärtiges Amt, Berlin 20. 12. 2007 (Medienbeilage der Vodafone Stiftung, Jan. 2008)

How to pool the private and public sector

Four theses on integration | By Klaus Bade

alking about the conditions of successful integration means dealing with an ambiguous umbrella term branching social processes as well as political concepts. On the on hand there are the frame conditions and prospects of integration. On the other hand there are political concepts that accompany and enforce these processes by shaping framework conditions for successful integration. Political and private actors need to share these tasks. Let me clarify this by four theses.

Firstly: the price of non-controlling. Migration and integration are two sides of one coin. It has become evident that successful integration policies are connected with targetoriented migration control. Or, vice-

versa, a laissez-faire attitude in migration policies might lead to considerable problems in integration and may lastly fuel social conflict. So the key task is to find a golden mean between steering migration and promotion integration.

Secondly: upgrading the integration mission. Canada and Australia put the integration mission on the top of their political agenda at a very early stage. In Europe, integration, step-by-step is enjoying the higher socio-political status it deserves. The German road from the immigration law passed in 2005 to the integra-

tion summit in 2006/07 is a good example for demonstrating that and how even rather late course corrections can be made.

Migration needs a reliable framework

Thirdly: education as a durable investment. For OECD countries human capital is a crucial factor of production, especially with regard to immigration and integration. So finally, the OECD community is gradually considering integration and education policies as a durable investment. Or, in other words, the social follow-up costs of insufficient integration policies are incomparably higher than early investment in edu-

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cation and professional qualification measures that promote integration.

Fourthly: the benefit to private actors. Today, everybody is aware of the tendency towards demographic aging and a shrinking of populations in most OECD states. All long-term operating enterprise leaders are sensitive to the related economic and corporate challenges awaiting them, especially in view of the growing competition for skilled workers. So enterprises are all the more facing the medium-term task to qualify their shrinking human capital as best they can to secure efficiency in their own interest. Far-sighted enterprises have long known that own qualification and integration measures are absolutely necessary.

But then again, enterprises and

foundations prepared to invest depend on a clear and reliable framework that the state has to provide. And state actors concerned with integration and education would be welladvised to take advantage of private actors who are willing to contribute to qualifying both their immigrant and non-immigrant workers alike.

At this point, Max Weber would talk about a "strong community of common interest" ("intensive Interessengemeinschaft") between public and private actors the key concept of which today is called Public Private Partnership.