

ABSTRACT

One of the main topics at the heart of social and political debates is immigration of refugees. The year 2015, was a decisive time in Austria's refugee policy, when the country underwent a substantial inflow of refugees. Within this population, young refugees are an important group, who arrived in Austria either unaccompanied or accompanied by their families. Labour market integration of this target group, in particular young female refugees, who are becoming a valuable part of the population; could drive the society towards a fairer structure, which not only supports with the transition towards social sustainability, but also allows this target group to contribute to an economy that is in need of labour force.

Indeed, on their journey towards labour market integration, these young women, are faced with different barriers that are not only related to the labour market in general, but also to their personal lives in particular. Here, 'governance' plays an important role and within the governance actors, non-governmental organisations are important facilitators in addressing the challenges faced by this target group. Based on a case study analysis of an NGO in Austria, called Lobby 16, and the interviews conducted with young female refugees, this thesis comes to the conclusion that there is a need for more initiatives like Lobby 16 within the society; while at the same time it is crucial for the Austrian companies to look at the values, skills set and cultural intelligence that this target group brings with them into the host community, to see their employability and to consider them as potentially valuable members of the society.