

Project description "Hörwürfel - prostitutes tell ..." "listening cube/station – prostitutes tell.."

Diary texts of sexworkers/ prostitutes

Promoter:

Caritas for people in need

Counseling center LENA, for prostitutes/sexworkers

[www.lena.or.at](http://www.lena.or.at)

Short description:

There are many fears, many unspoken questions, many questions around the topic of prostitution / sexual service and social work with this addressee group.

Legal and social exclusion, discrimination, stigmatization and criminalization make it almost impossible for those affected to speak openly about their situation, their concerns and their problems.

About the actual life and working conditions of people who work in Austria in the sex services, there is hardly factual information. Therefore, sexworkers and their life situations are still largely ignored or reduced to a victim status, which they are even more limited in their ability to act.

Clichés and taboos on the subject of prostitution / sexual services and to create space for reflection, is the intention of this event and also the task of the counseling center LENA.

Quotation from a diary: "... do not think that the fact that we do not come out with the fact that we are enslaved ...".

These texts were recorded on media players and are now made available in the form of a "Hörwürfels" (listening cube) / a listening station at various publicly accessible venues an interested audience.

Objective and project focus:

Gain respect and tolerance / acceptance for the addressee group.

To counteract the prevailing stigmatization, discrimination and criminalization of sexworkers and to provide the addressees with a protected framework to communicate anonymously to society.

Project development, implementation and -Result:

Sexworkers/ prostitutes are rarely given space and space in order to communicate without prejudice to society. They are often presented and felt as a social problem. The challenge lies in the respectful and factual discussion on the topic.

Providing sexworkers with the opportunity to use the diary texts to address the society that marginalizes them was a valuable first step in this direction

Repression and isolation to counter. And in this way, it is possible to give those affected a "voice", to support and promote their need for communication by themselves.

### Organization and financing:

In May 2018, the “Hörwürfel”/listening station was first shown at LENA's 20th anniversary event in the Old Town Hall in Linz, where it was available to an interested audience (mostly tourist groups) in the foyer.

The cube/station can also be easily discussed with additional, new, up-to-date mp3 diary texts or can also be made available to another addressee group.

The awarding of the listening station with the diary texts of sexworkers is provided free of charge by the counseling center LENA. It is primarily of interest that the texts can be made available to a wider and wider audience. The hearing cube offers a mouthpiece function for the addressee group.

Transport and liability for any damage to the cube are borne by the borrower.

Any re-discussion of the media players inside the cube/station with new texts from sexworkers would incur costs and these could no longer be borne by the LENA counseling center. The acquisition cost of the cube/station with headphones and back wall amounted to: Euro 3.619,00

The costs for further recordings by the actress are no longer acceptable for the counseling center.

With prize-money the texts could also be updated again.