



Hochschule Neubrandenburg
University of Applied Sciences

Social Work with Refugees

Different notions of the integration of refugees

—

A reflection on a pilot study in
Neubrandenburg, Germany



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Neubrandenburg

- 60.000 inhabitants
- third biggest city in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- 6,1% of inhabitants in Neubrandenburg are foreigners





Research team

**Prof. Dr. Steffi
Kraehmer**
Economics
of social
institutions

**Prof. Dr.
Robert
Northoff**
Law &
Psychology



Stanley Findeisen
Bachelor Social
Work

Lena Kriege
Master Counseling

Swetlana Torosyan
Master Counseling

Rebecca Janoska
Master Social Work



**Research
project**

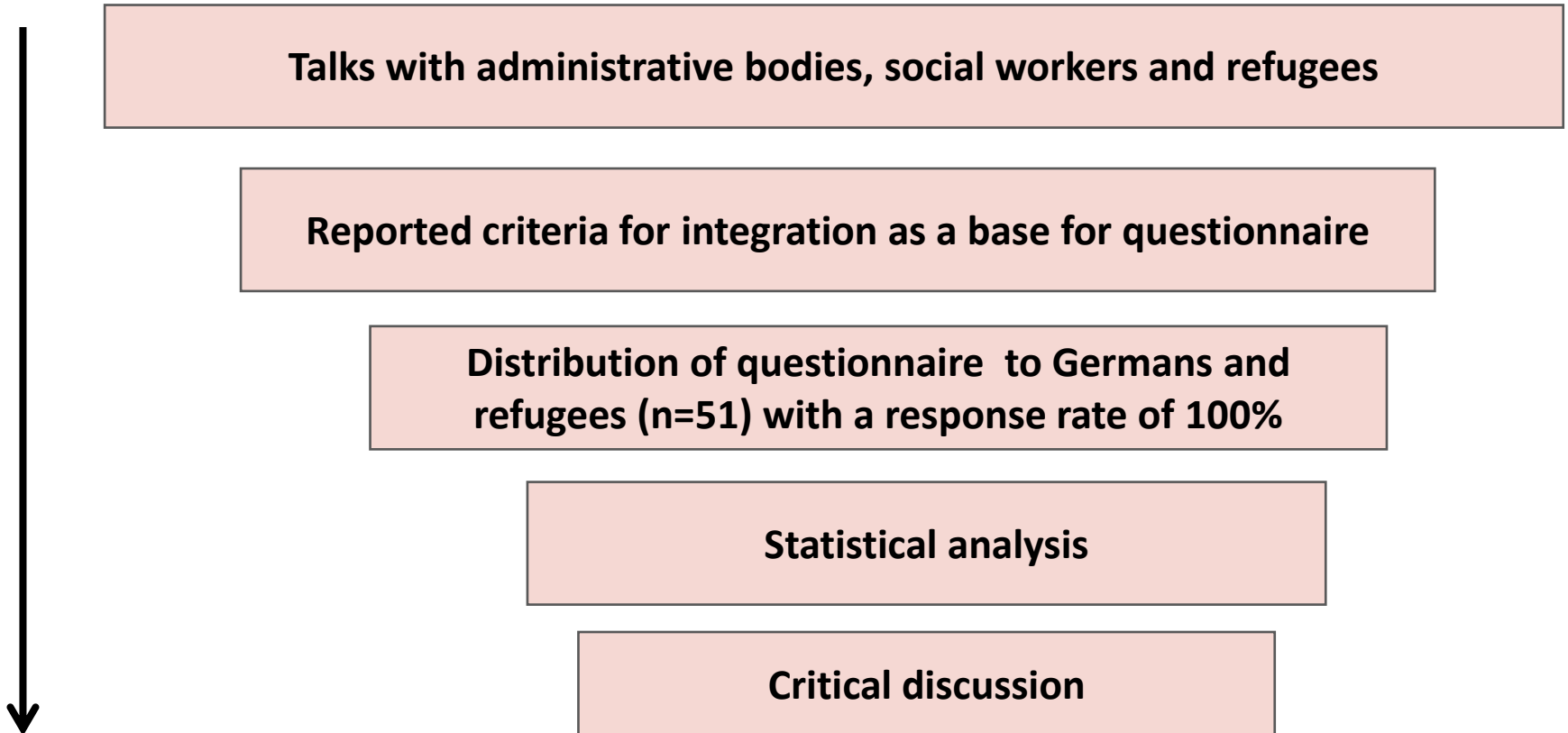


Background & research question

To what extent do the notions of the integration of refugees differ between Germans and refugees ?



Methodical approach





Results I

Interviews with administrative bodies, social workers and refugees



Criteria for integration

Administrative bodies:

- legal status of residence,
- ability to speak German
- compliance with German legislation
- access to education

Social workers:

- ability to speak German
- a job that also fulfills personal interests and skills,
- social contact and support
- acknowledgement of foreign degrees

Refugees:

- ability to speak German
- openness and acceptance by Germans
- social contacts and support
- access to medical care and education

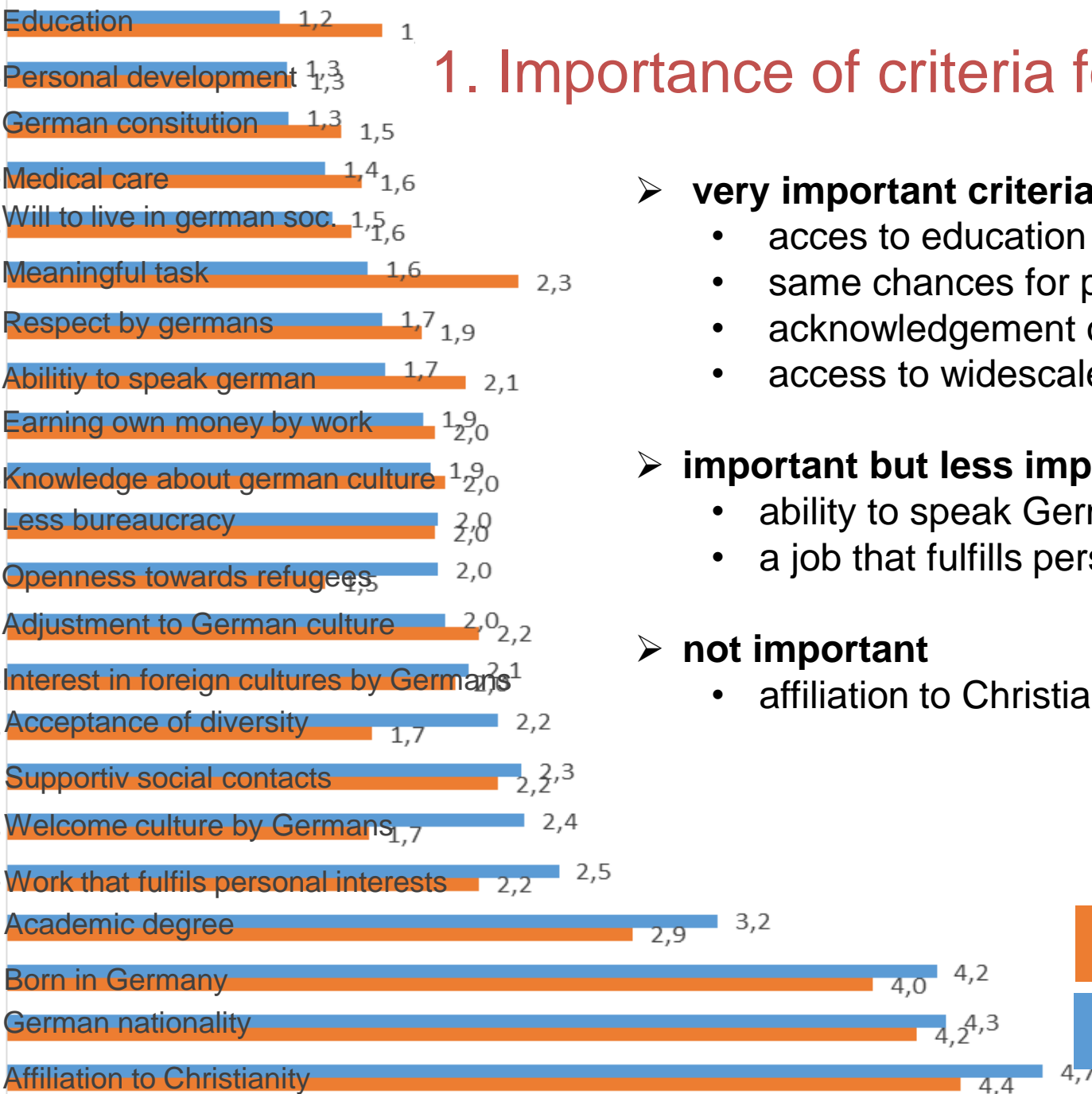


Results II

Quantitative survey with Germans and refugees (n=51)

1. Importance of criteria
2. Difference between Germans and refugees

1. Importance of criteria for integration



- **very important criteria for integration:**
 - acces to education
 - same chances for personal developement
 - acknowledgement of German constitution
 - access to widescale medical care

- **important but less important**
 - ability to speak German
 - a job that fulfills personal interests and skills

- **not important**
 - affiliation to Christianity



2. Differences in notions between Germans and refugees

Mainly almost identical notions

Some differences found:

- access to education
- having a meaningful task
- openness and
- welcoming culture by Germans towards refugees and migrants





Conclusion I

The criteria differ between the professions

- Administrative bodies value legal issues as more important
- Social workers value social support and individual approach
- Refugees value openness and acceptance by Germans as very important



Conclusion II

Mainly, notions of the integration of refugees do not differ between Germans and refugees

- Partly refutation of our hypothesis that Germans and refugees have very different views about integration
- Can be a good initial base for a successful process of integration within the society of Neubrandenburg
- What can be discussed: possible bias due to societal expectations



Conclusion III

The differences we found show us that paying attention to cultural sensitivity as a methodical approach is needed

- translation of questionnaire
- no assumption of too much knowledge about German system

Professional and personal benefits



research skills



theoretical knowledge



discussion / communication skills



english language skills



cultural sensitivity



Discussion

How do you define integration considering your specific situation in Jordan?

Which methods can you recommend for building bridges with refugees from the arabian culture?



References

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