

Beat: Technology

## HOW DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY SOLVE SOME PROBLEMS TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

### AN APP TO TAME GERMAN BUREAUCRACY

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**USPA NEWS** - "Bureaucrazy" is the new digital key to help out the Syrian refugees, who have to face the German bureaucracy, after they are trying to settle in. The new app, provides documents, addresses and above explanations on procedures, typically Kafkaesque, for housing, social security. Expected January.

Endless queues, paperwork and tight unpronounceable words: face the German bureaucracy discourage any newcomer but there is now an application to figure it out, developed by six Syrian refugees. Expected next January, "Bureaucrazy" provides documents, addresses and above explanations on procedures, typically Kafkaesque, for housing, social security coverage or a bank account. "When I arrived, I had to wait two weeks for a paper called Kostenübernahme + + (support costs) which allows to live in an apartment or a hotel" at the expense of the state, says one of the developers Omar Alshafai 30 years.

ReDI SCHOOL OF DIGITAL INTERGARTION IN BERLIN TECHES REFUGEES TO CODE -----

"When I signed the document - it was in German - I had no clue what it was," the young man, who arrived in Damascus in April 2015 and trained as his comrades to ReDI School of Digital Integration in Berlin that teaches refugees to code and start a business. The project of this school, which is non-profit, was launched in autumn 2015, after the arrival of hundreds of thousands of migrants in Germany. The first students began in February they were 42, and 35 of them have completed their training program four months later. Happened last Christmas in Berlin from Damascus, Ghaith Zamrik, 19, joined the program in February ReDI. He said that at the first session, newcomers discussed their difficulties "and how technology could solve." "We had two problems, first language and then the bureaucracy, because we did not understand how the system works here," he adds. The vocal contortions required to begin a life in Germany still sell their cries of pain, "Mietschuldenfreiheitsbescheinigung" - certifying the absence of lease liability - enthroned at the top of this demonic vocabulary. The recent misadventures of a Chinese tourist, twelve days stuck in a refugee center for filling without understanding an asylum shortly after arriving in Germany have shown the power of this formidable bureaucracy, not just for Refugees. -----

"We hope to help all migrants, or newcomer in Germany," said Ghaith Zamrik which, like the rest of the team Bureaucrazy, had no computer experience but intends to show that refugees can make to the economy. Anne Kjaer Riechert, co-founder and director of ReDI, asylum seekers represent a pool through which Germany can hope to fill its 43,000 vacancies in the technology sector. Even untrained in this area, "they are what can be called extreme users + + mobile technology because the smartphone was vital" in exile, both as a navigation tool and connection with their relatives, said Ms. Riechert.

ReDI now works with major German companies such as Mercedes, to place qualified asylum seekers in their innovation departments, which is "long-term more beneficial for everyone" that confine the assembly lines, she continues. Companies founded by migrants employed 1.3 million people in Germany in 2014, up more than a third compared to 2005, while the number of foreign entrepreneurs climbed at the same time a quarter, to 709,000, according to a recent study by the Bertelsmann Foundation.

BUREAUCRAZY INTERESTED IN THE GERMAN MEDIA AS IT GROWS REGARDING THE REFUGEES-----Bureaucrazy interested in the German media a growing concern around climate refugees, just after the series of attacks in July with asylum seekers in the south, two of which were claimed by the Islamic State organization . Ghaith Zamrik says he was comforted in the wake of the attacks, the tone of Chancellor Angela Merkel and her optimism about the chances of integrating the 1.1 million refugees who arrived last year in Germany. This has indeed repeated late July despite criticism from his own conservative camp credo for the integration of migrants: "Wir schaffen das!" ("We will get there"). "It reminded me of the feeling I had when leaving Syria, and why I was told I could choose Germany to establish myself" if he recalls. Team Bureaucrazy, who unveiled a first version of the application in June during a start-up salon, appealed to the funds on the page <https://www.betterplace.org/en/projects / 47346-support-bureaucrazy-simplify-german-bureaucracy> to pursue its development. Source AFP

**Article online:**

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