



Respectful coexistence in the municipality of Moosseedorf

Information sheet



Background

Moosseedorf is known for its diversity and as a place where individuals and groups with different mother tongues from various geographical regions with distinct religions, mentalities, ways of life, languages, preferences and needs all contribute to the community they share. But this also raises a range of demands, expectations, values, attitudes, as well as conflict potential, which means the municipality's specialised offices, political parties, associations, institutions and organisations must be able to face complex challenges. The municipal council is committed to tackling these challenges and thus has launched the project on respectful coexistence.

Idea and purpose of the project

Moosseedorf is and intends to remain a diverse and attractive residential community. It therefore aims to address its challenges jointly, convince its residents and administrators to commit to making it a pleasant centre with a long-term orientation, build respect for all community members across generations, and be in contact with fellow residents. It also means coordinating services within the community, pooling resources and involving residents in the project. In terms of the project, participation means not only giving us as the population the right to participate in our shared life but also exercising this right actively and becoming involved – for the community, for our shared causes, and for our future. After all, the respectful coexistence project and its offers, findings and measures have a common theme that connects all community levels and population groups, while being part and parcel of the community establishment so that everyone can identify future challenges accurately and tackle them jointly.

Introduction and implementation

The project was launched in December 2021 and ran until the end of March 2023. The project committee, whose members represent key areas (government, education, environment, security, leisure, culture, church, economy) of the community, has focused intensely on the principle of respectful coexistence by hosting workshops, taking surveys, and getting members to vote. This has resulted in a **fanfold** laying out the **key principles, values and attitudes** for respectful coexistence within the municipality and that forms the cornerstone in this regard at Moosseedorf:

Respect

We respect differences and show appreciation in our conduct.

Encounter

We value personal encounters.

Care and responsibility

We take responsibility for our surroundings.

Participation

We contribute actively to community life.

The "*Moosseedorf coexistence*" **slogan** was also created as a reminder for respectful coexistence. The fanfold was translated into several languages and distributed among residents, specialised offices, leaders and network partners. This information sheet, too, is available in different languages. An **Action Month on respectful coexistence** is scheduled for the first time in May 2023 and will be held annually. Action Month is a networking event in which all interested parties – associations, commissions, political parties, specialised offices, institutions and private individuals – are encouraged to participate. The community centre and the regional office for child and adolescent services ("*rekja*") take the lead in running the Action Month for the first time.

Not only residents as private individuals, but all specialised offices, associations, parties, institutions and organisations are called upon to adopt and practice respectful coexistence internally and make it part of their daily activities! The municipality of Moosseedorf also has a range of support options for its residents. Its website explains all the services that the specialist offices and contact points offer in connection with questions and support: <https://www.moosseedorf.ch/de/gemeinde-politik/soziales/>

The **community centre (BeMo)** also has meeting facilities and serves as an information centre. So far, various events have been held and offers have been completed. The BeMo has also launched the Neighbourhood Festival in connection with respectful coexistence. You can visit the municipality's website or contact the BeMo directly for detailed instructions, information about materials, and practical tips. A further sub-project of the respectful coexistence initiative is the **Key Persons project**. Key persons include those who can open doors for others and thus help with integration. They know the ways of life in Switzerland and a particular country of origin and are well connected in the community. The BeMo is also the home of the **Family Issues – Early Childhood** office, which helps parents raise their children by providing information, advice and preventive measures. It is open to all residents and welcomes ideas and suggestions for further development.

We look forward to benefiting from respectful coexistence and building a community in which we live jointly rather than separately.

The Respectful Coexistence project committee