Projekt “Wiener Charta. Zukunft Gemeinsam Leben“ (City of Vienna – Municipal Department 17 - Integration and Diversity)

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Large cities are diverse and heterogeneous, and diversity increases with internationalisation. Therefore, it is crucial that everyone living in a city is able to deal with this diversity calmly, objectively, and without fear, but also with a critical and open mind. This is indispensable for us to feel comfortable and increases the individual quality of life. It is just as important for social cohesion and solidarity. It was in this context that the City of Vienna launched the Vienna Charter project, an initiative that is unique in Europe. People of all ages, and with different outlooks on life, ethnic backgrounds, professions, and opinions came together to discuss and develop the Vienna Charter. The Viennese themselves chose the topics and participated actively in the development of the Charter. The Vienna Charter is a mutual agreement between all people living in the city. The city defined its role as that of an initiator and enabler of a process rather than the sole manager – a completely new way of establishing a partnership with civil society, whilst the main responsibility in the problem-solving remains with the people concerned. The Viennese themselves chose a total of 1,848 topics and participated actively in the development of the Charter in discussions, which were published on the project website. The people were able to participate both online and offline. Based on the input provided, the Advisory Committee identified three aspects to be addressed: behaviour, attitude and space.