

## „Gastarbeiter“ and „Gastarbeiter\*innen“ in Finkenwerder

The former Elbe island of Finkenwerder, as well as the neighboring districts of Neuenfelde and Cranz, were also the scene of the recruitment of "guest workers" from the 1961 recruitment agreement until the 1973 recruitment ban due to their proximity to industry, the port, and agriculture.

Family reunification further increased the number of immigrants. Today, the children and grandchildren of this generation are an integral part of Finkenwerder life. According to the Hamburg Statistics Office, the proportion of Finkenwerder residents with a migration background is currently 36%, and 53% among those under 18. This is almost the Hamburg average.

### Experiences of Success and Failure

The largest group in Finkenwerder are immigrants of Turkish descent. Women and men of the first and second generation of "guest workers" give their views on this in a film project by the Finkenwerder History Workshop. We are pleased to share some of their experiences here.

It is always about universal experiences of abandonment, new beginnings, strangeness, longing, success and failure.

*"In the beginning, the Germans welcomed us well. Whether that was based on sympathy or whether they were happy that someone was doing the hard work, I don't know."*

Hasan (74)

*"We'll work here, save up, and then return. That was the plan. But then things changed. The children were born, started school, and then this and that..."*

Muhammer (75)



*"I was active and full of energy in Turkey. Here, I felt like only half a person, without a language. I felt lonely."*

Fadik (60)

*"When I smell the water in Finkenwerder on the Elbe, it reminds me of my childhood in the village near Bandirma. What a blessing."*

Emine (72)

*When I'm here, I feel like I have to go back to Turkey again. But then I can't stand it there for long; I want to go back... I grew up with two homes."*

Mehmet (60)

*"There was a football team there, Cosmos-Cranz, made up of Germans, Turks, and other nationalities. That was the first time I felt at home."*

Ertugrul (56)



*"I had been looking for work in Turkey for a long time before coming to Germany. I simply couldn't find any there. Now we have become a part of Finkenwerder. Please don't exclude us."*

Celalettin (84)



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