

# The Integration Council

# The Integration Council would like to



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## *The members of the municipal integration council*

- to further promote and advance the peaceful and fruitful coexistence of different cultures in Bocholt.
- to form a forum for exchange and consultation with committed associations, institutions, companies, interest groups, citizens and the public administration.

## Guiding principles

The Integration Council is committed to ensuring that colourful diversity in Bocholt is recognised by the city and its citizens as a matter of course. In the long run, it should be taken for granted that all people in this city respect and recognise each other in their differences. They do not have to explain or justify their uniqueness, they are not seen as (cultural) strangers, but as members of a community, as Bocholters.

Different ways and styles of life, provided they are in conformity with the constitution, are perceived as an enrichment of living together. In order to put these ideas on a broad basis in Bocholt, the Integration Council supports actions and events in this sense.

The Integration Council sees it as necessary to guarantee access for all Bocholters with an international family history to important resources such as upbringing, education, training, work, culture, leisure, health. Likewise, participation in the spatial and social shaping of

the city should be possible for all, thus creating a common urban culture that does not draw artificial boundaries between people from different regions of the world and does not construct ethnically homogeneous groups. It is recognised that people's affiliations are diverse and have intersections with others.



**"Let us join forces in the field of integration work and together welcome all new fellow citizens with the statement Bocholt for all - Welcome".**



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## **Series: We in the IR!**

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We introduce the members of the Integration Council here at irregular intervals. We began the series in 2019 in the previous legislative period with **Juan Lopez Casanava**, Chairman of the Integration Council of the City of Bocholt.





**Ivan Mihalj** ►



**Memet Cinar** ►



**Sandro Dragone** ►



**José Abrantes Luís** ►



**Juan Lopez Casanova** ►



**Abdulkadir Kis** ►



**Dr Dimitrios Macheras** ►

## Tasks and responsibilities

- The Integration Council represents the interests of Bocholt's residents with a migration background.
- The Integration Council addresses their social, educational, professional and economic concerns,
- The Integration Council discusses ways and means of integration in Bocholt and makes public proposals

**Excerpt from Section 27 of the North Rhine-Westphalia municipal code:**



***"The Integration Council can deal with all matters of the municipality. At the request of the Integration Council, a suggestion or statement from the Integration Council must be submitted to the Council, a district council or a committee. The chairperson of the Integration Council or another member appointed by the Integration Council is authorised to participate in the meeting when this matter is being discussed; he or she must be given the floor at the request of the Integration Council. The Integration Council should comment on issues submitted to it by the Council, a committee, a district council or the mayor."***

## Faces: This is the Integration Council

## – What is the composition of the Integration Council?

The Integration Council is made up of **twelve directly elected representatives of people with an international family history from Bocholt** as well as **six city councillors**. All 18 members have voting rights on the Integration Council and elect a chairperson and deputy chairperson from among their number.

## – When is the Integration Council elected?

Like elections to the city council, elections to the Integration Council take place **every five years**. The current Integration Council was elected on 13 September 2020.

Are you interested in the results of the last Integration Council election? [Here is an overview of the election on 13 September 2020.](#) ↗

## – Who is on the board of the Integration Council?

**Juan Lopez Casanova** is the old and new Chairman. His deputies are now Ataf Chaudhry, Memet Cinar and Abdulkadir Kis.

### Chairman



**Juan Lopez Casanova**



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## Vice Chair



**Memet Cinar**



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**Abdulkadir Kis**



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**Ataf Chaudhry**



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## Integration Commissioner



**Bruno Wansing**

**Stabsstelle Soziale Planung,  
Quartiersentwicklung und Integration**



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## **Foreign languages**

Foreign language courses are offered in many languages by a wide variety of providers. Here you will find a selection of contact persons:

### **VHS Bocholt-Rhede-Isselburg**

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46397 Bocholt

Tel.: +49 (0) 28 71 25 22-0

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### **Klausenhof Academy**

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