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Europe/EDI

65th anniversary of the German-Turkish recruitment agreement: event at the LernWerk

Event on 6 December 2026 at 2 pm // The German-Turkish Society of Bocholt, together with its partners, invites you to attend

On 6 December 2026 at 2 pm at the LernWerk, the 65th anniversary of the German-Turkish labour recruitment agreement will be celebrated. The programme includes a talk by the expert Rasim Marz and a panel discussion with representatives from Turkey and other countries with which recruitment agreements were concluded decades ago. This will be followed by a relaxed get-together.

The year 2026 marks the 65th anniversary of the German-Turkish labour recruitment agreement. On 30 October 1961, the Federal Republic of Germany and Turkey agreed on the recruitment of Turkish workers. This historic event marked an important chapter in Germany's post-war history and also had a lasting impact on social development in Bocholt.

To mark this occasion, the German-Turkish Society (Deutsch-Türkische Gesellschaft e. V.) in Bocholt, together with several partner organisations, is organising a commemorative event featuring talks. Under the theme of remembrance, recognition and social cohesion, the event aims in particular to honour the lifetime achievements of the first generation of migrant workers.

Stories of new beginnings

Back then, many people came to Germany with high hopes and often with nothing more than a single suitcase. They left their homeland, their families and their familiar surroundings to work in Germany, support their loved ones and build a new future for themselves. For many of them, Bocholt also became their new home.

However, making a fresh start was not always easy. Homesickness, loneliness, language barriers and being physically separated from their families were part of everyday life for many first-generation migrants. At the same time, through their work, their commitment and their personal dedication, they made an important contribution to Germany's economic and social development.

Bocholt, too, has been transformed by this immigration. People from diverse backgrounds have started families here, developed career prospects and become actively involved in community life. Today, they are a natural and vital part of Bocholt's community - and the same applies to people from other countries.

Event on 6 December at the LernWerk

The anniversary event will take place on Sunday, 6 December 2026, at 2 pm in the event hall of the LernWerk, Industriestraße 1, in Bocholt. Mehmet Özgün Arman, Consul-General of the Republic of Türkiye in Münster, will also be attending.

The programme includes musical performances, welcoming speeches and a talk by historian Rasim Marz. A particular focus will be on a subsequent panel discussion featuring first-generation migrants. This will include people of Turkish origin and representatives from other countries. The aim is to provide a space for personal experiences and memories, and to shed light on the history of labour migration from an individual perspective.

Afterwards, over coffee, tea and cake, there will be an opportunity for personal exchanges and intergenerational encounters.

Taking joint responsibility for the future

For the organisers, the 65th anniversary is not merely an occasion to look back on the past. Rather, the event is also intended to help raise awareness of the importance of integration, mutual respect and participation in society.

%$'165 years of labour recruitment agreements are a special occasion to say thank you'%$, is the organisers' message. Their thanks go in particular to the first-generation migrants from various countries of origin, their families, and to all those who have facilitated encounters and promoted harmonious coexistence.

Bocholt sees itself as a cosmopolitan European town in which diversity, tolerance and mutual respect form the cornerstones of community life. The event is therefore also intended to send a message of solidarity, recognition and peaceful coexistence.

The event is organised by the German-Turkish Society (Deutsch-Türkische Gesellschaft e. V.) Bocholt in cooperation with EUROPE DIRECT Bocholt, the City of Bocholt, the Europa-Union Bocholt e. V., the Committee for Equal Opportunities and Integration, and representatives of various foreign cultural associations.

Registration and further information

Those interested can register by telephone with Kadir Kis on 02871 / 123 48 or by email at a.kadir.kis(at)t-online(dot)de; alternatively, via the booking link: anny.eu/book/65-jahre-anwerbeabkommen-turkei-deutschland. Further information is available from EUROPE DIRECT Bocholt ateurope-direct(at)bocholt(dot)de.

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