



### **The bem-vindo project and its scientific support**

In August 2016, the project bem-vindo (portuguese for *welcome*) started to implement an interdisciplinary network in three elementary schools in Bielefeld and one in Bünde to support refugee children and their families and improve their educational chances.

The project was a reaction to the increasing migration to Germany caused by the Syrian war since 2015. It was developed to secure refugee children's right to education. Refugee children who are coming to Germany should receive good education as well. Therefore they need to be socially and emotionally integrated in everyday school life and receive full health care services according to their needs with special regard to their migration experiences.

While there are many opportunities and resources in Germany available for this, it is difficult to access them. The bem-vindo project aims not only to make the relevant actors and their offers in education, health care and the cultural sector visible, but also to connect them. This will create a social environment for refugee children and their families in which they can achieve their full potential.

The general idea is that even after the project has ended, the networks and forms of cooperation will continue to exist on their own and will be made accessible for all other children and their families in each school.

The project is funded by the Stiftung Wohlfahrtspflege and is carried out by the AWO OWL e.V. in three elementary schools in Bielefeld and one Bünde with four staff members working on it. The project will end in August 2019.

The ZPI of Bielefeld University is responsible for scientific support and monitoring. There will be an evaluation in April 2018 which will contain good practice recommendations on how to successfully establish cooperation between families, schools and extracurricular organizations. The recommendations are based on an analysis of interviews with teachers and bem-vindo employees among others.

We are looking forward to informing the audiences around the world on science and research.