

Cornelia Caseau

Ethno-banking, microfinance and societal integration of immigrant communities

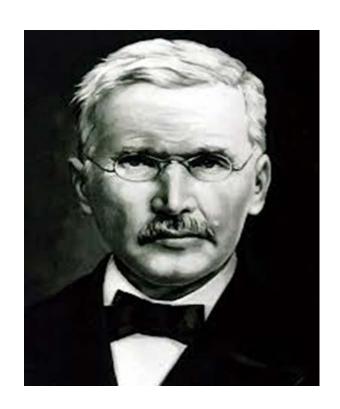
The case of the Raiffeisenlandesbank of Lower Austria and Vienna (RLB NW)



One of the pioneers of the microfinance movement

F.W. Raiffeisen (1818-1888)

Principle of granting small loans encouraging the self-help of the poor people →
One of the pioneers of the microfinance movement in the Third World (Arnold/Lamparter, 1985)



The Raiffeisen idea and the RLB NW

Willkommen!

Dobro došli!

Hoşgeldiniz!





The origin of the logo



The Raiffeisen logos today

The traditional gable cross since 1980

The crossed hands since 2011 (only in Vienna)





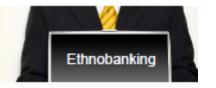
Integration by ethno-banking and microfinance: RLB NW and the Turkish community

- Hypothesis:
- The ethno-marketing and ethno-banking strategies of the RLB NW further the societal integration of the Turkish community in Vienna

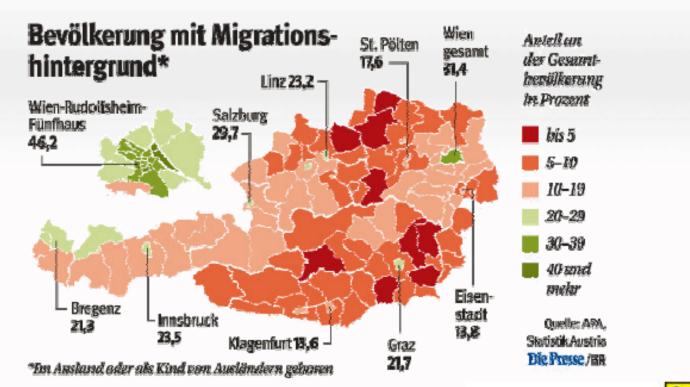
- Research questions:
- Do the ethno-banking services favour societal integration?
- Does the microcredit offer help with social inclusion?

Some elements illustrating the context

Was ist Ethnomarketing?



1,6 Mio. Menschen mit Migrationshintergrund



B2B Diversity Day 2011

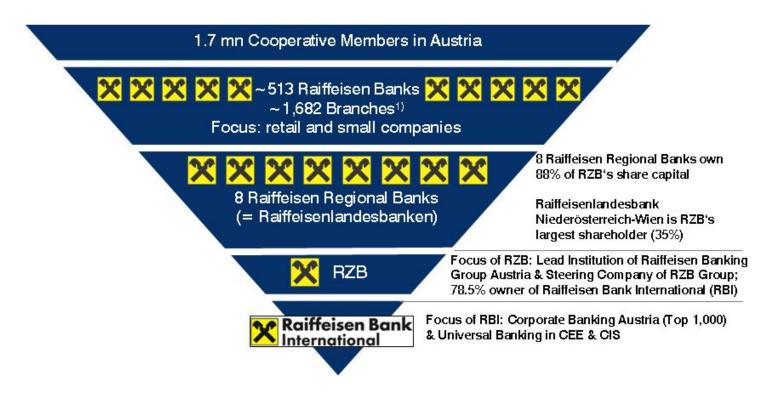


Some elements illustrating the context



Structure of the Raiffeisen banking group in Austria

The bottom-up ownership pyramid of the Raiffeisen sector in Austria – RLB NW is RZB's largest shareholder (35%)



Literature review (I)

Ethno-banking and societal integration?

- Integratio (lat.) = the creation of something whole, supposing the constitution of an entity, presuming that there are different parts of the 'whole' (Essser, 2001)
- 'Integration' in the past applied to handicapped people, today nearly exclusively used in the context of immigration. Different concepts of integration: sociological, societal, political, etc.→leading to various types of discourse (Zauner, 2012)
- Ethno-marketing segments the market into target groups → reinforcement of segregation? (Schuchert-Güler/Eisend, 2007)
- Does ethno-marketing (and ethno-banking) hinder integration? (Hanappi-Egger, 2011)

Literature review (II)

Microcredit and financial inclusion

- Micro= for the small credit amounts and the limitation to a small operation field →close contact between borrower and lender→confidence (Berg, 2011)
- 'Credit' (lat. credere) = 'trust'= the borrower is considered trustworthy by the lender (Berg, 2011)
- Money as a 'remedy' against social exclusion (Berg, 2011) and a compensation for a lack of social acknowledgement (Vohs, 2009)
- Money as a medium of a relationship between people (Simmel, 1996)

Research methodology

- Study of Raiffeisen documents (annual reports, internal firm documents, websites)
- Semi-structured interviews carried out:
- at the headquarters of the RLB NW
- in ethno-banking branches of the RLB in Vienna
- with an ethno-marketing agency working for the bank
- with the association 'Wirtschaft für Integration' (Economy for Integration) founded and sponsored by the bank

Interview guidelines

- Ethno-banking measures undertaken for a better integration of Turkish immigrants in Vienna
- Awareness training of the collaborators
- Regionality and personal contact
- Language and culture
- Product adaptation/ microfinance offer
- Microfinance and inclusion



The headquarters of the RLB NW



I. Ethno-banking measures1. The training of the collaborators



2. Regionality and personal contact



3. Language and culture





4. Traditions and religion



Raiffeisenbank çay-keyfi

Tarih: 13.06.2012 Saat: 15:30 – 19:00 arasi Yer: Raiffeisenbank Favoritenstraße 104 1100 Wien



Raiffeisenbank in bir ilk olarak düzenlemiş olduğu çay keyfinde aramızda görmekten mutluluk duyanz.

Gelin, merak ettiğiniz soruları ve danışmak istediğiniz konula keyfinde görüşelim.



5. Wedding credit (Hochzeitskredit)





II. Credit options1. Wedding credit

WEDDING CREDIT ('Hochzeitskredit')	
Aims	Financing of the costly Turkish weddings
Conditions	Same as for a classic consumer credit Primary residence in Austria Austrian citizenship = no
Amount	Same as for a classic consumer credit Generally 10,000 – 15,000 euros Primary residence in Austria Austrian citizenship = no
Guarantee	A fixed salary and life insurance
Loan term	5-8 years

2. Microcredits

MICROCREDITS 'Mikrokredit' (are being finalized by the bank)	
Aims	Material and immaterial investments
Conditions	Not mentioned on the information sheet
Amount	30,000-50,000 €
Guarantee	AWS (Austria Wirtschaftsservice)
Loan Term	7-10 years

3. Small loans

VIENNESE SMALL LOANS ('Wiener Kleinkredit')	
Customer's benefit	Reinforcement of liquidity
Target	People with a trade license or practicing an entrepreneurial activity in Vienna
Maximum credit amount	€5,000 per client
Handling charge	€100 flat rate
Period and repayment	Two options: A. up to a 36-month term, a monthly rate with three months interest-free, B. quarterly rates
Securities	Recommendation from the bank: life insurance of the borrower, etc.
Use of the credit	Investments or means of production
Periods	After presentation of the complete application documents: decision by the bank within three working days; preparation of the loan within one week.

Results (I)

- Concrete actions visible only in the field of ethno-banking
- Extremely limited information about microcredits offered by the RLB NW. Figures for the immigrant community are confidential.
- Conclusion: No real conclusions about the financial inclusion of the immigrant community.

Results (II)

But:

- Recognition of the values and habits of the immigrant community by ethno-banking
- Integration = the constitution of an entity → ethnobanking measures = small steps
- Close relationship with the clients → confidence and self-esteem
- Credit = trust = a remedy against social exclusion
- The microcredit offer → creation of a business activity = better integration in the host-society

Conclusion and further areas of study

- Integration = a daily preoccupation in the ethno-banking branches of the RLB NW
- Integration and inclusion = a principle of its founder, F.W. Raiffeisen = still a topical question today

Further areas of study:

The reception of the commitment of the RLB NW by the Turkish immigrant community.

Video Österreichischer Integrationstag 2012

Thank you for your attention!

