

## **Subject Technical Sheet**

- **Participant ID:** P-01 (Pseudonym: "Hassan")
  - **Demographics:** 28 years old, Male, Syrian.
  - **Arrival:** 2015.
  - **Legal Status:** Subsidiary Protection (1-year renewable).
  - **Housing:** Shared Refugee Housing Facility (Container).
  - **Family:** Single in Germany (Parents remain in Syria).
  - **Setting:** Interview conducted in a park near the housing facility.
- 

## **Interview Transcript: Integration Experiences P-01**

**Interviewer:** Hello Hassan. Thank you for meeting with me. As we discussed, this interview is about your life in Germany and your mental well-being. To start, can you tell me about your current living situation?

**Hassan:** Hello. Yes. Well, it is difficult. I have been in Germany since 2015, but I am still living in the "Heim" [refugee housing facility]. It is a container village. I share a room with three other men. I don't know them well. One is from Afghanistan, two are from Iraq. There is no privacy. If I want to call my mother in Syria, I have to go outside in the cold because it is too loud inside.

**Interviewer:** How does living there affect you?

**Hassan:** It destroys you. Slowly. You know, when I first arrived, I had motivation. I wanted to learn German fast. But now... I feel stuck. I sleep bad every night. The noise, the police coming sometimes... it makes me feel like I am in a prison, not a home. I feel lethargic, like I have no energy to start the day.

**Interviewer:** You mentioned feeling "stuck." Can you tell me more about your legal status?

**Hassan:** That is the biggest problem. I only have "subsidiary protection" [subsidärer Schutz]. It is not full asylum. I get a residence permit for one year, then I have to renew it. Every time the expiration date comes close, I get panic attacks. I am scared they will send me back. How can I plan my life? How can I start a 'Ausbildung' [vocational training] when I don't know if I can stay? This uncertainty... it is the most dangerous feeling. It is heavier than the war memories sometimes.

**Interviewer:** That sounds incredibly stressful. Are you currently working or looking for work?

**Hassan:** I am not working. I am sitting. I go to the Job Center, they give me letters I don't understand. The bureaucracy is like a machine, "tac tac tac," paper after paper. I feel like they don't see me as a human, just a file number. I want to work, I was a mechanic in Syria! But here,

my certificates are missing, and they say my German is not good enough. So I sit at home. And when you sit and do nothing, the dark thoughts come. You feel you are not important anymore.

**Interviewer:** Do you have friends here? Do you spend time with Germans?

**Hassan:** Not really. Germans are... polite, but distant. Cold. It is not like in Syria where neighbors visit each other all the time. Here, you need an appointment to see a friend. I am afraid to talk to them sometimes because I think they look at me and just see a "refugee." I saw the protests, the AfD posters... I don't feel safe. So I stay mostly with other Syrians. But even with them, it is hard. Everyone is depressed. We only talk about problems, about the war, about who got a passport and who didn't. It is a negative atmosphere.

**Interviewer:** How do you cope with all this pressure?

**Hassan:** To be honest, I spend a lot of time on my phone. I play 'PUBG' [a mobile video game] for 6 or 7 hours a day. It is the only way to stop my brain from thinking. And I check Facebook for news about my village in Syria. I am obsessed with the news. My body is here, but my head is still in Syria. I worry about my parents every minute.

**Interviewer:** Thank you, Hassan, for being so open.