



Programm für lebenslanges Lernen

## **Immigrants Past and Present ; Towards Greater Integration?**

Heritage Centre Letter ( Board 2 ) : From Southern Italy to Letter

In 1940 Carmelo Rappoccio was born in Reggio di Calabria, the southern part of the Italian peninsula. He has got two sisters who still live in Italy.

At the age of 16 Carmelo Rappoccio begins as a tailor's apprentice, a job that does not please him too much.

In order to learn more and to earn better money he leaves to take up work in a tailory in Milano where he finishes his apprenticeship.

At the age of 21 he returns to Reggio where he has to complete his military service in the Navy. Thereafter, he leaves once again for Milano.

In 1964 C. R. comes to Germany. He first works at Krupp's in Duisburg – Rheinhausen , then for Müller-Wipperfürth, a textile mill.

For a short time he is employed as an ironer, soon gives up this work and is offered a job at a tailor's in Hanover-Linden by the Labour Exchange. He works there for 11/2 years before – together with his godfather- he opens a tailor's shop.

In Letter he founds his own firm so as to be self-employed.

Following his wife's wishes to give up this enterprise, Carmelo starts work in a local industrial plant until he retires.

Since 1972 C.R. has been married to a Spanish lady and they have a son and a daughter.

Letter has become their new home.

Carmelo is fond of his activities in sports. He has joined the Social Democrats and in 1996 was elected (as a member of the European Union) into the local council.

Whenever the weather permits, he spends his time in his garden.

A hoisted Italian flag betrays his presence there.