



Programm für lebenslanges Lernen

## Immigrants Past and Present ; Towards Greater Integration?

Heritage Centre Letter ( board 3) : At home in Seelze and in Turkey

Güener Özkan Chirinian was born in Bursa which lies in the north-west of Anatolia. Her father worked there in an agricultural undertaking, run by his parents. She has two brothers and two sisters.

G.Ö. goes to Secondary School until she reaches O-level, then learns how to make dresses, tailoring and the design of modern clothes. Thereafter, she works as a secretary in a textile firm in Bursa.

In 1965 she applies for a job in Germany und is employed in a factory producing uniforms in Gronau/Leine.

As she disagrees with the group accommodation in hut camps, she is offered a private room with a family. After a while she changes the factory and starts work in a textile plant in Hanover-Döhren. Later she finds another job as a tailoress in Hanover's Opera House. In 1967 she opens her own business in Hanover.

In 1969 G.Ö. marries a Turkish welfare worker and both move to Wuppertal where their two children are born. In 1983 the family moves again; this time to her husband's home in Turkey. In contrast to their mother, the children feel at ease there. The parents divorce and G.Ö. returns alone to Germany in 1997.

That same year she marries for a second time and opens a new tailor's business in Letter in 1998 which she has kept until now.

For the last five years G.Ö.Ch. has been a German citizen. She feels fine in Germany and is accepted by the local people.