Regarding Question 142 from Baroness Redfern concerning the reasons why civic engagement and volunteering is more prevalent in the west than in the east, there are various possible explanations (as laid down in the ‘Deutsche Freiwilligensurvey’, the German Survey on Volunteering from 2014):

- weaker ties to church and religion in the eastern Länder and therefore worse infrastructure for correspondent civic engagement;
- economic factors influence the infrastructure for civic engagement (in the east there are fewer associations, less money for the funding of projects, less facilities and contact points for potential volunteers to turn to, etc.);
- socioeconomic differences in the population in the east and west of Germany, which have an impact on volunteer rates;
- different territorial structures: rural areas, which are more prevalent in eastern Germany, often register a stronger decline in population (also due to the ageing of society). This in turn also correlates with worse infrastructure for correspondent civic engagement.

Further key findings of the Fourth German Survey on Volunteering, also concerning the civic engagement of people with a migrant background, are to be found here: https://www.bmfsfj.de/blob/115604/2606f2c77c632efddd61b274644c2f06/vierter-deutscher-freiwilligensurvey---englisch-data.pdf

On the question on the naturalisation programme and in particular on a citizenship ceremony, I can confirm that the process of naturalisation is only formally completed with the delivery of a certificate of naturalisation. In most cities and municipalities the delivery of such certificate is done within the framework of a ceremony, where the naturalized person gets the certificate handed over by an administrator, the head of the district authority or the mayor.

More information on naturalisation can be found on the following website: http://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/for-qualified-professionals/visa/living-permanently-in-germany/naturalisation#who-is-entitled-to-naturalisation

Should you need more information on the work of the Federal Agency for Civic Education (BpB), these are two useful links to the English website:

http://www.bpb.de/die-bpb/138852/federal-agency-for-civic-education
http://www.bpb.de/die-bpb/138867/key-activities

In addition, the colleagues from the BpB wanted to draw your attention to their English publication called “Beyond Us versus Them: Citizenship Education with Hard to Reach Learners in Europe” (http://www.bpb.de/shop/buecher/schriftenreihe/236777/beyond-us-versus-them). This volume contains a broad variety of insights, both from practitioners’
reports and academic research, on how citizenship education can reach out to socially marginalised and politically hard to reach groups, including in Great Britain and Germany.