

URBACT National Dissemination Point Bi-Annual Report for Germany and Austria



GmbH

Gesellschaft des Deutschen
Verbandes für Wohnungswesen,
Städtebau und Raumordnung mbH



European Union
European Regional Development Fund

Connecting cities
Building successes



BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

A new urban development tool: the Bremen example

Within the last years, inner cities and centres of the borough all over Europe suffer from unoccupied shops, abandoned, dirty and unattractive pedestrian zones and a rising concurrence of shops in huge shopping malls in the outskirts. At the same time municipalities have less money to ameliorate the situation by public investments. Private engagement has become crucial to help inner cities and centres of the borough out.

Therefore, in some German Länder (federal states) since the last recent years a new urban development tool is applied: The Business Improvement District (BID). The idea of a BID was born in Northern America as an urban development tool. In 1970 a BID was inaugurated in Toronto (Canada) as a public-private-partnership for the first time.

BIDs provide services, such as cleaning streets, providing security, making capital improvements, and marketing the area. The services provided by BIDs are supplemental to those already provided by the municipality. In 2004 Hamburg has created a BID-law as the first German Land, other Länder have followed and now the first BIDs are under implementation. The BID-laws prevent the so called free riders problem: If property owners get involved to upgrade their quarter there could be the problem that some property owners don't participate but benefit from the results. Within the BID-laws of the Länder it is written that if the majority of the property owner wants to build a BID also the others have to participate and pay their contribution. To build up a BID a bottom-up commitment by the property owner is needed. The state can't oblige them to do so. There are different steps to a BID:

1. determination of area, measures, amount of financing, responsible body
2. application at the municipality,
3. public discussion and "BID-to-come"-periode: information of the property owners and possibility to deny to the BID (for instance in Hamburg, if 1/3 of the property owners are against, no BID will be created)
4. foundation of the BID and start of the measures' implementation.

A good example is the BID "Viertel" in Bremen. The BID is a street with a length of 1,5 km with a distance of 1 km to the historic inner city. It consists of 280 shops and 27,000 square meters sales floor. The Viertel is a multifaceted area with ateliers, cafés, bars and various small shops. Since 2006 the first ideas to build up a BID were born and the property owners and shopkeepers decided to create a BID. From September 2008 until Mai 2009 they agreed about the area and the determination of measures, amount of financing and responsible bodies. In Mai 2009 it was applied at the municipality of Bremen. After a disagreement percentage of only 19 % the BID Viertel could start its work in October 2009. Measures implemented yet are a Christmas lightening, a shopping-guide, a calendar and other marketing measures.

While the BID in Bremen is more focused on marketing aspects, it is also possible to ameliorate hard infrastructure, as renovating pavements, refurbishing parks and building benches as the case in Hamburg Wandsbek showed.

More Information on the examples

<http://www.bid-wandsbek.de/content/de/>

<http://www.dasviertel.de/>

CONFERENCE OF THE GERMAN-AUSTRIAN URBAN NETWORK IN BREMEN

Local economy development with participation of local private and cultural stakeholders

On March 4 and 5, 2010 the German Austrian URBAN-Network organised together with the City of Bremen a conference on the development of local economy with the participation of local private and cultural stakeholders.

The German-Austrian Urban Network was developed within the Community Initiative URBAN. The URBAN Community Initiative, using the field-tested integrated development approach, contributed significantly to the sustainable stabilization and revitalization of urban areas with difficulties. After the mainstreaming of the so called "urban dimension" within the structural funds the network continued its work to support cities in

implementing their integrated concepts for revitalizing disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods and exchanging experiences in the field of urban development.

At the conference several possibilities and case studies of private and cultural engagement were presented to develop local economy and discussed by more than 60 participants of German and Austrian cities, the federal and regional ministries, the European Commission and urban and regional planners. Good practices as the new urban development tool business improvement districts, the URBACT project HerO "heritage as opportunity" and local cultural initiatives in the City of Bremen were given. The gist of the conference was that the participation of the local stakeholders and the integrated approach are crucial for the success of urban development and local economy.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL RELIEF PROGRAMME IN BERLIN

Funding of environment projects through European structural funds

The City of Berlin promotes environmental projects in the field of nature and climate protection within an environmental relief programme (ERP) co-funded by the EU. Environmental funding programmes in Berlin exist since the reunification. From 2000 the focus is on energy-efficient refurbishment of non-residential old buildings mainly kindergartens, schools and sport facilities. The ERP-standard for old buildings after renovation is better than the minimum legal requirements of the Energy Conservation Regulation for new buildings. In the period of 2000 to 2006 113 non-residential buildings have been renovated. This is equivalent to the annual per-capita-emission of nearly 1,000

Berliners. In the period 2007 to 2013 90 non-residential buildings will be refurbished and this saves the annual CO₂ emissions of more than 2,000 inhabitants. In total between 2007 and 2013 160 million Euros will be invested by the ERP, whereof 80 millions come from the European Funds for Regional Development.

One of the most particular project is the retrofitting of a more than 100 years old tropical greenhouse in the Botanic Garden Berlin-Dahlem of the Freie Universität Berlin.

After three years of extensive construction work, the complete renovation of the main tropical greenhouse is almost finished. The building is more than 100 years old and protected as historic monument. It is expected to reduce its energy use by 50%. The total expenditure of the investment

reaches 16 million Euros and the effect of the refurbishment decrease the operating costs by 100,000 Euros a year.

More Information on the following site:
<http://www.uep-berlin.de/>

Power Point Presentation:

http://www.fedarene.org/events/Fedarene_events/2010-03-25/Presentations/Lothar_Stock-Dieter_Hainbach.pdf

EVALUATION OF THE URBAN DIMENSION

Within the ERDF in Germany

More than 150 participants from Federal and Regional Ministries, Cities, Associations, Universities, Urban and Regional Planner met on April 29 on a conference organised by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development in Berlin. Key issues were the so-called "urban dimension" in the operational programmes of the ERDF of the German Länder.

In the beginning the first results of a study about the so-called "urban dimension" within the ERDF programmes 2007-2013 was presented by the Technical University of Cottbus. This formed the basis of a following discussion between the different stakeholders about future cohesion policy.

After the so-called mainstreaming of the URBAN I and URBAN II programmes on integrated urban development within the ERDF, urban development projects within integrated urban development concepts are fundable through the ERDF if foreseen by the regional operational ERDF programmes. In the regional operational programmes the objectives of the funding are determined. So now the Regions, in Germany the Länder, can decide if funding of urban development projects is possible. The topic of the study was to evaluate how the urban dimension

is fundable in Germany through ERDF funding. The study shows that urban development measures in a narrow sense are equivalent to 7,4% of the whole ERDF budget in Germany. This is 1.09 Billion Euro in the period 2007-2013. The biggest part of that amount is used to strengthen the local economy. Secondly the revitalisation of abandoned areas and thirdly the amelioration of public spaces are fundable.

The discussion after the presentation of the study resumed that cities are focal points of problems and potential. On the one hand, cities stand for economic dynamics, technological, social and cultural innovations and opportunities. On the other hand, they are places where social disparities are widening and ecological problems are getting worse. Therefore, it is crucial that also in future urban development projects within an integrated strategy should be fundable within the ERDF, and this in objective 1 and objective 2 regions (objective 1 region = GDP smaller than 75% of the EU average). The final version of the study will be available in summer 2010.

RETROFITTING OF BUILDINGS IN GERMANY THROUGH PUBLIC PROGRAMMES

A Success Story

In Germany different state initiatives and programmes offer the possibility to finance energy retrofitting of private houses and infrastructure in municipalities. One of them is given by the KfW Bankengruppe, a promotional bank under the ownership of the Federal Republic and the Länder (federal states). KfW made a particularly strong promotional commitment in the area of climate and environmental protection and helps to implement the CO₂ goals of the German government. It made around EUR 19.8 billion available for environmental investment in Germany and abroad in 2009. In the same year KfW supported the energy efficient rehabilitation and construction of nearly 620,000 residential housing units in Germany. By the KfW programmes private households can benefit from

low interest loans including repayment grants or alternatively from direct. The better the achieved energy efficiency of the building the better the financial support.

In 2009 WWF evaluated approx. 100 climate policies worldwide for their green effects and economic effects. Germany's 'efficiency in buildings' programme came first in this ranking. This is an integrated package of building standards, subsidies, loans, grants and retrofit programmes of which KfW programmes form the largest part. It reduces emissions substantially in the short and in the long term, creates jobs in the building market and can easily be implemented in most countries.

For further information see http://www.kfw-foerderbank.de/EN/Home/Programmes_for_residential_buildings/index.jsp.

HAFENCITY HAMBURG

A New Quarter Under Construction

"HafenCity Hamburg" is a city development project that expands the old harbour quarter next to the inner city of Hamburg by offices, hotels, shops, official buildings, leisure facilities, a huge concert hall and university buildings as well as residential areas for more than 12,000 new inhabitants.

In 1997 the first vision of the HafenCity was born and Hamburg's parliament gave the permission for an international ideas competition. In 2004 the first construction side was opened. Up to now almost the half of the new quarter has been developed or is under construction.

If the work will be finished in 2020 the area of Hamburg's inner will be expanded by 40 per cent.

To learn more about one of Europe's biggest construction side take a look at <http://www.hafencity.com/en/home.html>, videos available under <http://www.hafencity.com/de/medien/video.html>

INTERNATIONAL BUILDING EXHIBITION HAMBURG (IBA)

A Jump Over the River Elbe

International building exhibitions (Bauausstellungen BA) have been held in Germany since 1901 to find innovative solutions for the most pressing problems of urban community life. After the very famous International Buildings Exhibition (IBA) Emscher-Park started in 1989 in the Ruhr-Region nowadays projects in Hamburg are realised under the umbrella of the IBA. The subject is to include a quarter which is on the edge of the city within the urban development.

The Elbe Islands, site of the IBA Hamburg, are in the middle of a busy city, embraced by two arms of the Elbe. Nearly 55,000 people from some 40 nations live in these 52 square kilometres. Together with the citizens and all relevant stakeholders, the City of Hamburg is setting out to find answers to the questions regarding the future of the metropolis on different levels needed to be considered on an integrated way regarding town planning, social, economic and environmental issues.

Therefore, the City of Hamburg has adopted three key themes:

1. At the socio-cultural level, IBA Hamburg is showing how the metropolis benefits from its international urban community – the COSMOPOLIS.

2. In town planning terms, IBA demonstrates how the “inner peripheries” – the METROZONES” – may be redeveloped into unique, attractive places.
3. The key theme “CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE” is about making the concept of a metropolis real that challenges climate change, despite its need to consume resources.

Within the IBA Hamburg various projects will be realized until 2013.

Currently there is also another International Building Exhibition under realization: Solutions also need to be found for “shrinking towns” which economic and demographic changes are threatening to hollow out. That is the subject matter of IBA Stadtumbau (running until 2010), which is the first exhibition to take an entire state in the German Federation as its location, namely Saxony-Anhalt.

For further details for the IBA Hamburg see http://www.iba-hamburg.de/en/00_start/start.php, for IBA Stadtumbau <http://www.iba-stadtumbau.de/index.php?iba2010-en>

INTEGRATED URBAN REGENERATION

“Made in Marxloh”

Within the former Community Initiative URBAN many projects were started and realized in the quarter Marxloh in Duisburg. Marxloh is a young labour quarter with a high unemployment rate. More than one third of the population is immigrants with more than 40 nationalities mostly from Turkey.

Within the integrated urban development programme of the quarter these general conditions were considered and diversity taken as a potential. One example is the dialogue and educational work under the roof of the Merkez Mosque.

The project is exemplary and probably unique in Germany. With participation of the population Germany’s biggest mosque was built. Its aim is not only to establish a mosque and an architectural highlight, but to develop an intercultural and religious meeting point for the whole district.

Another project is the “Medienbunker”. A former overhead bunker was transformed into a start up centre for cultural and media work. Nowadays a high professional creative cluster with local creative and artists was developed.

CITIES FOR EVERYONE: LIVEABLE, HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS. PROMISING VISION OR UNREALISTIC FANTASY?

15th International Conference on Urban Planning and Regional Development 18-20 May in Vienne

Cities are places of competition, inequalities, traffic jams, environmental stresses and strains and permanent struggle. But on the other hand cities are centres of economy, culture, creativity, science and innovation and therefore provide excellent perspectives and a lot of chances for many people. Meanwhile more than 50 percent of world population lives in cities, soon it will be about 70 percent.

The 15th international Conference on Urban Planning and Regional Development in the Information Society REAL CORP 2010 in Vienne on 18-20 May 2010 will discuss following crucial questions: Is it possible to keep and even improve the advantages of cities and reduce negative effects? Or does the one aspect require the other? What are the possibilities and contributions of urban planning and real estate development? How can ICT, urban, transport and environmental technologies help to improve quality of our life in cities?

For further information and registration see <http://www.corp.at/>.

THE AUSTRIAN NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON INTEGRATION

Bringing Together the Different Levels of Administration

Recently Austria adopted the national action plan on integration for migrants. Aim was to bring together the work on integration of the different levels (federal, Länder, cities and municipalities) in the field of migration to enhance the integration of migrants into the Austrian society.

Migrants contribute a lot to the wealth of the Austrian society and they can find a good perspective to develop their life in a self-determined way. Therefore, it is crucial to integrate them into the Austrian society, and to use their potentials. Integration should be aimed at participation in economical, social, political and cultural processes. The Austrian State should offer an adequate framework. On the other hand migrants have the

responsibility to integrate themselves. A first need for a successful integration, for educational and

professional success in Austria is the capability to speak German.

The action plan is a process that comprises challenges in various topics there of housing, education and work, intercultural dialogue. The national action plan shows seven fields of work:

- language and education
- work
- constitutional state
- health care and social welfare
- intercultural dialogue
- sport and leisure time and
- housing and the regional dimension of integration.

The main challenge in the field of housing and regional dimension for Austria is mostly an urban phenomenon. More than 50% of the migrants live in cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants. In particular, urban agglomerations face the challenge to avoid the generation of social and ethnic ghettos. In the action plan is stated that the offer and quality of living space for migrants is below the Austrian average.

To integrate migrants better into the Austrian society a co-operation between urban and regional authorities is crucial. The offer of advisory services should be expanded. The local housing policy has to be developed by an integrated way embedded into urban development strategies to strengthen the possibility of participation and the quality of life.

http://www.integrationsfonds.at/fileadmin/Integration_sfond/NAP/nap_bericht.pdf

URBAN PLUS

An Integrated and Sustainable Development of the Southern Part of Graz and it's Hinterland

The Urban Plus programme, co-financed by the European Fund of Regional Development, supports projects on integrated and sustainable urban-rural-development in the Southern part of the Austrian City of Graz. This includes urban mobility, integrated urban development, green space corridors and local initiatives to strengthen local economy and the living situation. The programme area comprises Graz and 16 surrounding municipalities. On these 215 km² lives a population of nearly 90,000 inhabitants. The challenges of the City of Graz (transport, attractive green spaces, suburbanisation) do not stop at the city borders. Therefore, a cooperation between the City of Graz and it's surroundings is crucial.

Further existing regional-economic potentials should be utilised by a harmonised development policy on the basis of an integrated plan.

The region to the South of Graz is characterised by a mix of uses (industry, business and residential areas). To achieve a sustainable and integrated development the Urban Plus programme puts special emphasis on the following approaches:

- Integrated development of locations with the involvement of the surrounding municipalities which should prepare for a forward-looking, coordinated development of the entire area;
- Development of open space and nearby recreational areas, and ecological compensatory measures;
- Mobility measures considering the challenge of the interface between the city and its surroundings;
- Local partnerships to improve the quality of life and working environment.

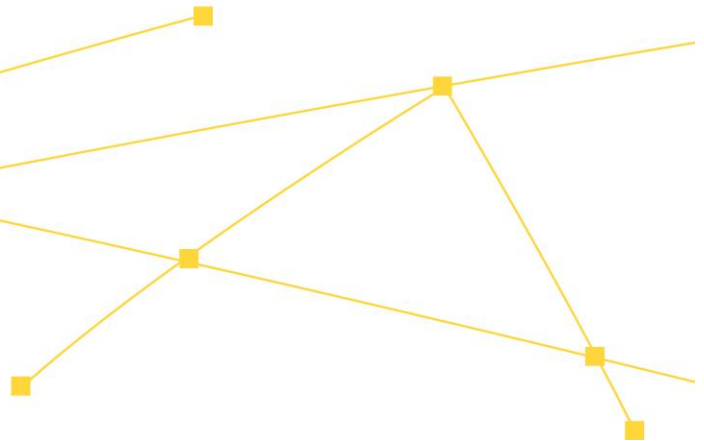
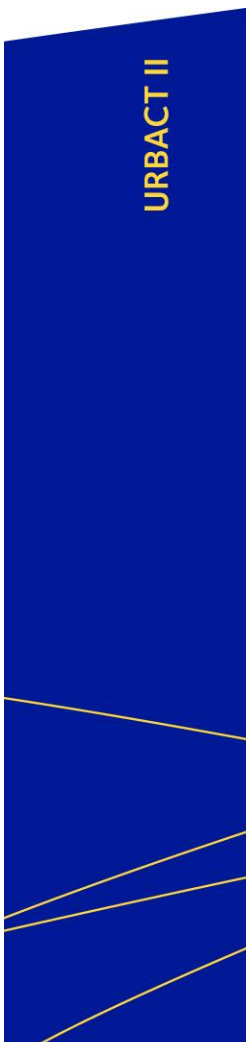
These activities are implemented with special regard to the needs of different segments of the population. Therefore development schemes will be elaborated which are embedded accordingly into a respective public participation processes.

URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.

It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal challenges. It helps them to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. It enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe. URBACT is 255 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants

URBACT II

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