

Neighborhood-development and territorial strategies for active inclusion

The local impact of the program “The Social Integrative City” – the example of Offenbach am Main

Cities as drivers of change and machines of integration

It may sound paradoxical, but in a globalized world the local perspective is more and more relevant when it comes to the search for potentials to cope with the challenges of modernity, change and exclusion. Philip Glaeser (2011) recently presaged a “triumph of the city” with regard to models of living in more and more diverse and dynamic societies in line with the need to respond to environmental problems and the growing scarcity of natural resources. The development paths of urban systems and cities vary according to material and cultural background of regions. The European cities have always been models of social dynamics and social innovation, places as well of conflict as of integration and common identity, of diverging interests as well as a social space of negotiated realities and consensus-building in an ongoing process of social development. The city in this perspective is a collective practice of reproduction of lasting social identities and at the same time of permanent revision and re-invention of institutions and systems. Thus cities seem to be designated to shape social life in turbulent times.

One of the most important challenges of the current situation are the growing flows of migration, which are most often directed at cities as “ports of entry” into countries and regions. Cities have been “machines of integration” for centuries, but may face certain limits of their capacity for the integration of immigrants, when the complex interplay of economic, financial, urban and social factors is not in balance (Heitmeyer 1998). Although immigration can be an opportunity for positive social and economic development, as Saunders (2011) has pointed out in his case studies on “arrival cities”, these positive effects in terms of economic growth and the improvement of living conditions cannot be taken for granted. It takes strong efforts from all actors involved to keep the “machine of integration” functioning and shape the economic, social, cultural and political conditions for socially sustainable cities and neighborhoods in times of growing immigration, recursive economic crises and fast changing environments.

Cities are complex social systems with a variety of social and material ecosystems, more and more diverse populations and a big variety of living conditions. Social inequality has its spatial articulation with well-off districts on the one side and deprived neighborhoods with miserable living conditions on the other. Living in deprived neighborhoods is restricting the life-chances of the inhabitants, not only with regard to housing conditions, but also with regard to education, job opportunities and social and cultural participation - a syndrome of deprivation.

Deprived neighborhoods can be both – conditions of the deprivation for those who live there and the result of a high concentration of people with poor living conditions, in poverty and unemployment. There is a cycle of reproduction of social and spatial deprivation in disadvantaged areas. Further on deprivation is systemic – a mutual reinforcement of low education, low income, poverty, precarious employment or unemployment, a lack of trust and social

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capital and very often miserable housing conditions, underdeveloped public spaces and a lack of infrastructure. To have “the wrong address” in a neighborhood with a bad reputation is very often taken as negative signal in labor and housing markets, excluding the respective persons from a fair chance to get a job, an apprenticeship or a new apartment in more favorable districts.

To break this cycle of deprivation it is important to take up a systemic perspective and integrate urban and social development, addressing economic development, employment, social and educational issues as well as the development of material urban structures in an integrated and multidisciplinary approach.

Only if social and spatial inequalities within cities can be contained and downward dynamics of disadvantaged districts turned around cities will be able to unfold their potential as a future model of social life. Rebalancing living conditions in cities and urban spaces needs lasting efforts of all actors, adequate resources but also innovation and a continuous improvement of practices and policies. There will be no “triumph of the city” without a certain “power of social innovations” (Goldsmith 2010). To meet present and future challenges a balance of social and economic development is urgently needed to make cities sustainable and socially integrative (Schulze-Böing 2006). The strategy of the “social city” may be a key element of future models of urban development.

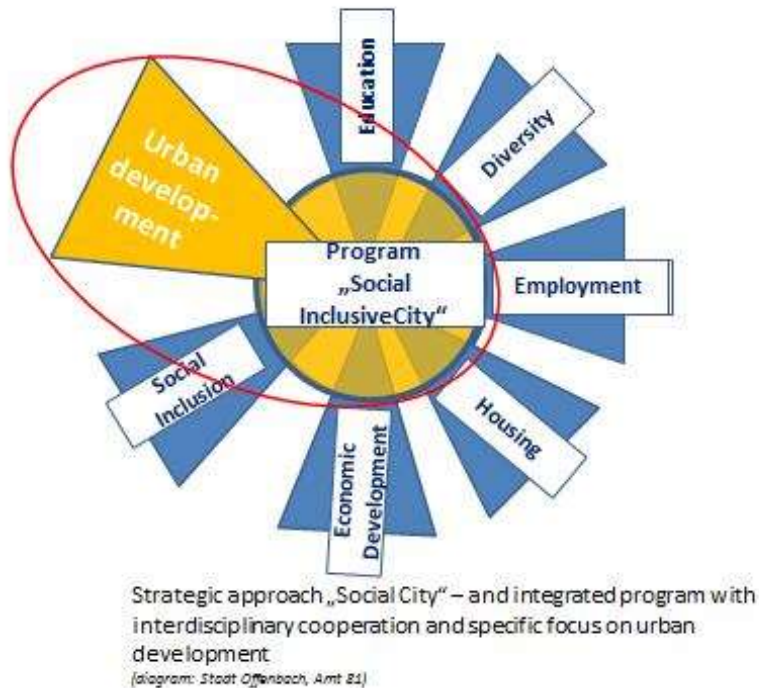
The program “The Social Integrative City” in Germany

“Soziale Stadt” standing for “Social City” or “The Socially Integrative City” is a program launched in 1999 by the federal government in cooperation with the state governments in Germany. It aims at tackling problems in deprived urban districts resp. districts “with a need of specific development”, as it has been termed in the heading of the initiative. The objective is to improve living conditions in districts with a record of urban decline, i. e. bad housing conditions, high incidence of poverty and unemployment, a weak economic basis and sometimes also interethnic conflicts. Strategic lower-order goals include bundling human and material (investment and non-investment) resources, activating and involving local residents and other local actors, and establishing and testing suitable new models of participatory management and governance. Local initiatives in the fields of employment, cultural and social work are meant to become designated partners and co-actors in the implementation of the program.

The means provided by the program are mainly additional budgets for urban regeneration measures, investment in public spaces and infrastructure. Further on, the program explicitly also includes complementary funding schemes for social investment, education, social work, diversity management, local economic development and neighborhood management.

The program is funded by the federal government, the state governments and by local authorities, each of which has to contribute roughly one third of the budget for the selected districts. The complementary schemes include in parts also ESF-funding and various federal, regional or local funding.

One of the most innovative features of the program is the integration of urban development measures, such as investment in public spaces, infrastructure, renovation of property in the public interest on one side and social and economic development addressing a variety of policy areas on the local level on the other. The constellation of these different policy areas within the strategy is displayed in the diagram below:



The program “Social City” is covering urban development measures with material investment (“bricks and mortar”) as a main focus of funding as well as an area of strategic intervention into policy fields related to an extended view on urban, social and economic development. It is not meant to substitute the efforts within these policy areas but to stimulate coordinated action towards the goals of district and neighborhood development including pilot activities, experiments and coordinating activities such as neighborhood management, interdisciplinary planning and cross-sectorial network management.

Within the neighborhood concerned, special emphasis is placed on district or neighborhood management. New organizational structures are tested, which develop complex, neighborhood-related programs and bundle existing resources, which include funding from other programs, from the EU, from other policy areas, and from private actors. Neighborhood management is a mandatory element of the local implementation of the program in order to strengthen communicative structures, allow for an increased civic participation and test new, “integrated” forms of governance on a district level.

Given the favorable feedback from urban districts, the federal/state program “Social City” is regarded as a promising advance in urban development. In 2004 it was included in the Federal Building Code under special urban planning legislation. Local authorities can designate areas for “Social City”-support and apply for funding out of the program. To get an approval, the local authority has to present an in-depth analysis of the designated district with regard to urban development, economic and social structures as well as to infrastructure, the potentials of the civil society and environmental aspects. According to the rules, the basis for the local program should be a so called “integrated strategy” or “integrated plan for action”, which is assessing the district in detail and giving directions for the district development within the planning period, most often in combination with a list of priorities for investment and projects.

During the first program-period 1999-2008 the program had a volume of 2,6 billion Euros, which is not very much taking into regard, that 523 districts in 326 communities have been funded under it. Funding for social-integrative measures in appr. 500 projects during that period was 100 million Euros.

The program continues in a second 10-years-period. The budget has been increased again by the current government of Social Democrats and Christian Democrats after it had been cut by the former conservative-liberal government.

Case-study: the development program for the “Mathildenviertel”-district in the City of Offenbach

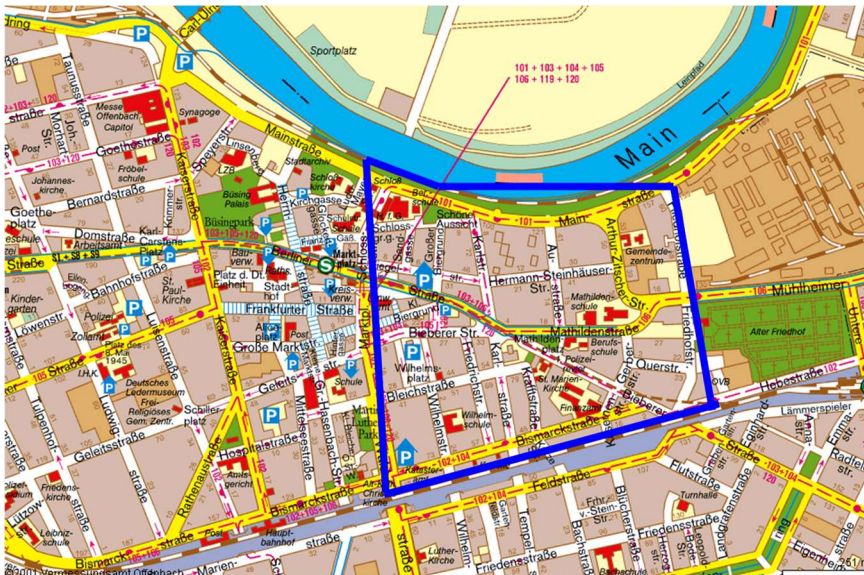
The situation

The city of Offenbach is part of the greater metropolitan area of Frankfurt am Main, which is known as the financial hub of continental Europe and one of the most dynamic, cosmopolitan and diverse regions throughout Europe with more than three million inhabitants. Offenbach has a population of 125.000, a long tradition of manufacturing industries and immigration. It has one of the highest rates of immigrant population in Europe. 32% of the entire population is non-German by nationality, another 15% have a German passport but an immigration background, i. e. having been born outside Germany or being the offspring of at least one non-German parent.

As a consequence of the strong bias on manufacturing the economy of the city is undergoing a severe structural change since the late seventies of the last century. A number of factories have been shut down, more than 25.000 jobs were lost. Some of these jobs have been replaced by the growth of the service industries. But the workforce formerly employed in the manufacturing sector could not easily move to these new job-opportunities. Especially low-skilled workers and immigrants have a high probability of becoming long-term unemployed. As a result the unemployment rate in Offenbach is at 11%, much above the national and regional average. The rate of persons with very low or no income, dependent on social assistance is at 18%, above average as well.

The Mathildenviertel-district is located in the eastern inner city of Offenbach with approximately 12.000 inhabitants, 70% of which having an immigration background. Unemployment-, poverty- and dependency rates are much above the city-average. Another significant feature of the district is a turnover-rate of the population of 20% per year, which is double that of the city-average. Parts of the district had serious urban deficits at the start of the program, such as abandoned or not habitable houses, a lack of green public spaces, unkempt streets etc. Further on there have been frequent conflicts among residents of different ethnic background and a general feeling of insecurity in public spaces.

But there are also tangible assets, on which future developments could capitalize more effectively than in the past. The district is located alongside the river Main, the Hochschule für Gestaltung (HfG), a university of arts and design with an outstanding reputation and a potential of small creative businesses as spin-offs is located within the district. Moreover, the Mathildenviertel is very well connected with public transport through an underground station of the regional express train service.



Offenbach am Main, Inner City East (Mathildenviertel)

The process

After the city council decided to start the program, as a first step a careful assessment of the district with regard to urban structures, living conditions and priorities for improvements was conducted, involving not only urban development experts, but also experts in social policy, economic development, youth policy, education and equal opportunity and anti-discrimination-policies as well as citizen initiatives, civic associations and welfare-organizations.

Finally a list of 20 high priority interventions and development projects has been approved by the city council. These projects have been realized until 2013 except some specific investments, which couldn't been made, because land-property issues couldn't be settled in a reasonable manner. These priority-interventions have been approved by the state-ministry, which has also provided a total budget of appr. 12 million Euro over a period of 10 years.

Within the municipality an interdepartmental steering group for the management of the program has been set up. The department for urban development, the departments for employment, social policies, integration policies and the delegate for equal opportunities and non-discrimination of the City-Council all became part of the steering group.

Worth mentioning among the approved developmental projects are:

- improvement of existing green public spaces with the active participation of neighboring residents, including “Bürgerbaustellen” (citizens construction sites), where residents actively took part in the works at activity-days.
- construction of new green spaces in the neighborhood, including a new playground, building of a park alongside the riverbank.

The planning of these public spaces took place in participatory planning-workshops, to create ownership of citizens and residents. Experts were always in dialogue with citizens to ensure a maximum of compatibility of the new premises with people's needs and preferences. In the preparation of the new playground disadvantaged youths from neighboring residential areas have been involved in its design, to ensure acceptance among future users and also prevent vandalism, which is very often a problem at public playgrounds.

- construction of a new kindergarten with a specific design adapted to the needs of the district as part of an innovative pedagogic concept, integrating pre-school and school services. This kindergarten was also a response to a severe lack of child care facilities in proximity of the families of district, most often immigrant families with a poor financial background. A main purpose of this new setting was to get immigrant families more actively involved in school and kindergarten activities and allow them to participate more intensively in educational processes.
- development of a multi-purpose center including a business incubator, an entrepreneurs training and counselling site, business space for start-ups and small enterprises, premises of the university of arts and design, housing for students and – last not least – the music conservatory of the City of Offenbach plus a small strip of new green public space, links with a neighboring school and a multi-purpose hall, which can be used by citizen-initiatives, for public gatherings, cultural events, but also for lectures, seminars and business meetings. This new premise was termed “Gründer-Campus” (start-up campus), indicating the two main initial purposes, job-creation, the promotion of small businesses in the district and the intensifying of the cooperation with the university.



- An initiative to make the district a place for student housing: students may be a new ingredient in the population mix, bringing innovative life-styles and a spirit of creativity and open-mindedness into the district. A “student-housing-strategy” has been set up,

including communication with established property owners to sensitize them for the opportunities related with this particular group of potential tenants, relate with regional universities and their housing departments and – last not least – the construction of three new residences for students (one of these as a conversion of an abandoned office building).

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New premises for student housing



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... rediscovering the riverside, new pocket parks in densely populated areas...



A new model of governance – from the network-hype to reflective dialogue

An active dialogue with residents and stakeholders over all periods of program-implementation was a guiding principle for all activities and projects. The program introduced new forms of public management and governance beyond both, the traditional bureaucratic model and the concept of “new public management”, which was promoted worldwide in the 1990’s (see Osborne/Gaebler 1992; Schulze-Böing 2006). The traditional logic of top-down-implement-

mentation has been, at least in parts, replaced by a logic of dialogue and cooperation between citizens and the local authority.

The activation, creation and development of networks of stakeholders are a key element in this new approach.

Methods of organisation and management in the social city

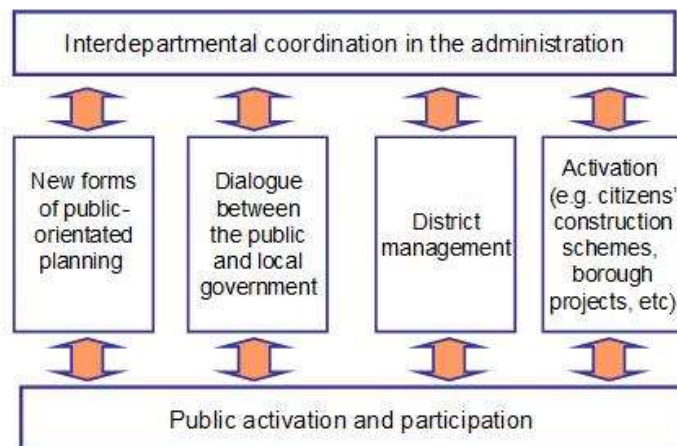


Fig. 2

Networking is not an end in itself; although networks are ubiquitous, they are by no means always useful. Moreover, there is a fine line between 'good' networks and 'bad' sleaze in politics and society. And network strategies can all too quickly eclipse the question of interests and conflicts as natural components of social urban development.

Therefore, when discussing network policy within the context of the 'Social City' program, it makes sense to establish the arena in which the development of disadvantaged districts should take place and what actors have legitimate claims to participation and co-structuring. On the basis of the experience with the development-program for the Mathildenviertel, these actors include:

- Local residents
- Local traders and other businesses
- Customers and visitors (whose needs include, say, parking)
- Local associations, societies, organizations, initiatives and campaigns etc
- Public institutions, youth centers, etc
- The local authority
- Last but not least the other districts, since they could be affected by development in the area concerned (owing to problem groups being driven out, limited resources being concentrated on the development borough, intensified competition between business and housing districts, or even positive 'spill over' effects resulting from positive development in the area concerned)

The strategy of urban development geared towards activation and participation is directed at the formation and strengthening of new collective actors in the form of residents associations, landlord' initiatives, commercial associations and thematic campaigns (such as those encouraged under the micro-projects in the LOS program, which stands for "LOcal capital for Social purposes"). Of course, the emergence of such groups is bound to generate potential

conflicts of interest, for instance between the business community and residents or landlords and tenants.

The goals of development are another area harboring cause for conflict. For example, certain ethnic groups may well wish to create separate homogeneous milieus and infrastructures in which their own culture can be largely maintained and practiced – a desire which usually runs counter to the objective of integration into the German society. As is known from experience of working in social hotspots, questions such as the concentration of problem groups and social intermingling are impossible to solve without conflict. Closed milieus of people who are un-employed or on income support are sometimes perceived by those within them as protective and less stressful especially if these also include the whole family. However, if as many people as possible are to be sustainably integrated into working life, it may well make sense to break up such closed milieus.

If disadvantaged districts are to be made attractive to higher earners as a way of re-balancing the mix of residents with regard to income and social status, this will often mean upgrading some of the properties and reposition the district within housing markets. This is usually a gradual process of exchange connected to the fluctuation of the residential population in certain areas.

To organize participation in borough development, as many forums as possible bringing different interests together need to be created so that conflicts are not brushed under the carpet but highlighted – as they can then be dealt with constructively. Therefore, borough meetings and public forums are central instruments within the 'Social City' program. One snag is that these forums are often dominated by groups who are particularly good at articulating their viewpoints ('the usual suspects'), resulting in other groups less able to voice their interests failing to get an adequate look-in despite their enthusiasm and commitment. To counterweigh this bias smart moderation of participatory processes is needed, especially encouraging those with less routine in articulating interests in the public to get themselves involved and become part of the process.

District management

A central element of the program for the regeneration of deprived areas is district management ("Quartiersmanagement"). This is a methodology of social work and network management, used in the areas of the "Soziale Stadt"- program as a mandatory element in the process of implementation. Most often private or third-sector organizations are commissioned with conducting this management.

In Offenbach a private provider, SMC with Marcus Schenk, was selected. The tasks of district management are:

- Stimulation and moderation of civic dialogue on issues of neighborhood development including security issues, cleanliness of public spaces, improvement of living conditions
- Working as intermediary agency connecting the municipality with residents and stakeholders
- Bundling of ideas and interests towards municipality and all public services involved like as the police, waste management departments, the local jobcenter etc.
- Addressing district stakeholders like local businesses, house owners, investors, but as well civil society organizations, churches, social initiatives, schools etc.
- Mediation among citizens with regard to conflicts in the use of public spaces, solve disorders of cohabitation of diverse groups, addressing individuals with offending behavior, mediation between tenants and house-owners etc.
- Facilitate citizen's participation in processes of urban planning, monitoring and decision making.

- Empower residents as stakeholders

The district management (DM) has been implemented successfully. In a first stage it was focused mainly on the Mathildenviertel, where it has contributed to the overall success of the program. A neighborhood office has been established, where the management is located and which is used as place for gathering of various citizens initiatives, civic associations, language training and workshops concerning issues of the district. Even a nonprofit “citizens newspaper” (“Wir im Quartier” – “we in the neighborhood”) could start working thanks to the efforts of the DM.

The DM took part in planning of most of the above mentioned projects. The quality of the public space in the district has improved remarkably which is confirmed by most of the citizens. As far as can be seen, the social capital of the area in terms of trust, mutual knowledge of the diverse ethnic groups and commitment to common purposes has increased. The formerly bad image of the district has been changed for the better. Symbol of that was the re-naming of the district from the technical term “City Center East” into “Mathildenviertel”, named after a princess of the duchy of Hessen, like the central square of the district.

The DM could successfully be mainstreamed after the completion of the program in the years 2011. Funding is provided by the municipality and by various state- or ESF-programs for education, employment and integration. Also the non-for-profit housing companies of the city could be hooked in as sponsors. Further on the DM could be extended into other districts like the North-End of downtown Offenbach, the Lauterborn-district at the edges of inner Offenbach and – most recently – an area in the southern part of downtown Offenbach. As a result there is a network of four district-offices, a common funding scheme, covering most of the costs and the DM-staff of 24 (see the presentation in the appendix).

The Socially Integrative City – a social innovation with future potential

The program “Soziale Stadt” has been one of the smaller investment programs implemented in Germany in the last 20 years. There have been much bigger programs for infrastructure and economic development, especially in the new eastern states (Länder) after the reunification of the country. But “Soziale Stadt” has been one of the most efficient programs with sustainable results, which can be attributed to its specific design as an integrated strategic approach, addressing not only urban development issues but social policy, employment policy, the civic dialogue and the everyday living conditions as well in a holistic way, taking serious the interdependencies of these dimensions of social life. That concept has strengthened ownership of the program by the citizens, raised synergies and opened up a variety of resources traditionally not linked to urban development such as educational programs, active labor market policy etc. Also private investment could be successfully stimulated in the district.

In this respect the program together with the methodology of district management can be regarded as one of the most successful social innovations in Germany. The City of Offenbach is continuing its participation in the program. An application for the selection of another district for funding under the program has been approved. The program has started recently. The experiences of the implementation in the Mathildenviertel will be an excellent basis to build on.

Social Housing – Good Practice. An Evaluation of a Transnational Exchange of Project-Designs and Experiences

The transnational network “Social Housing – Good Practice” (SHGP), funded out of the European Integration Funds, has brought together nine innovative approaches to address the issue of social housing in five EU member states. The common purpose of these projects is to provide decent housing and a livable environment for the most vulnerable groups in our society, as to immigrants, refugees, people in poverty and the socially disadvantaged. Each of the partner-projects started from the finding, that the established practices missed that goal, either by not mobilizing enough resources or by applying inadequate concepts and procedures with regard to the specific needs of the target groups. The projects are *social innovations* insofar they

- give access to the housing market to those at risk of exclusion
- develop new concepts for an efficient use of given resources, mobilize new resources like the self-help of the target groups, volunteering or innovative tools for finance,
- develop and implement “social” business models for housing,
- involve and empower the target groups not as sheer consumers or clients but as active stake holders and co-producers,
- develop and deliver innovative services in the housing market matching supply and demand more efficiently,
- implement new models of social housing management and neighborhood management putting housing into a multidimensional concept, including social and economic issues like living in diverse neighborhoods, getting access to employment and economic resources, ensuring civic participation and full citizenship also for the most vulnerable groups,
- build capacities to cope with increasing flows of immigration and growing diversity of the European societies.

While 8 projects are addressing housing directly, the “Social City”-approach described above aims at improving the living conditions in deprived neighborhoods, which may be seen as a complement to the provision of housing for vulnerable groups.

Although there are different perspectives of policies and practices, there is also a huge potential for the transfer of good practices into the policies of social urban development in Germany.

ALISEI COOP (Italy) is a territorial approach in Italian regions providing brokering and counselling services to immigrants to give them access to regional housing markets, protect them against fraud and exploitation and help them to adapt to the social environment of the receiving country. Most convincing in this practice is the specific way to take the needs of immigrants into account and make services sensitive to the dimensions of diversity and intercultural communication. This may be of particular relevance for initiatives and projects within the wider “Social City” approach.

The “self-building” project of ALISEI is an excellent example of getting target groups involved in the creation of new housing, strengthening ownership, using their skills and efforts and in effect get “more for less”, i. e. better housing as output for a given input of financial resources. Although there is a strong tradition of cooperative housing projects in Germany, this practice may inspire new approaches for a better coverage of the housing needs of immigrants.

CIDIS ONLUS is providing a variety of services to immigrants. Among those assistance and support for housing are issues of particular importance. CIDIS seems to apply an elaborated method of holistic social work. The most interesting aspect in a German municipal perspective is the work done in emergency cases and the various connections to home-owners, which are used to make immigrants better “marketable” in the housing market.

A similar approach is applied by ACCEM (Spain) targeting refugees and asylum seekers. Most interesting in this approach, it is not only delivering support to individuals but also trying to raise respect and ensure equal rights and opportunities for immigrants. This gives the work for immigrants an important political perspective. Addressing the housing needs of immigrants very often has also to address open or latent discrimination in housing markets and neighborhoods. That should be a permanent concern in the social housing sector in Germany as well.

GIEMIC (Spain) has developed ways of capacity building among the staff of social services with regard to issues of intercultural communication and diversity. This can provide an important link between research and academic training and practice. As can be confirmed from the German background, lacking capacities on the local level in terms of staff competencies and skills are very often a restricting factor for practices for active inclusion and integration policies. The model of GIEMIC in this respect may be inspiring for higher education institutions for social work in Germany.

The same applies to the Center for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture (Slovakia), which has developed specific expertise in the area of the Roma-population, which is currently challenging the integration policies in a number of EU-member states. In Germany, where there also has been a major influx of Roma immigrants from south-eastern Europe, this expertise could be very useful. It may be worth reflecting on a better “pooling” of expertise in this field by using transnational networks of experts.

The LA CASA FOUNDATION (Italy) is an excellent example of exploiting the potentials of civil society and to raise funding for social purposes. Housing is placed in the middle of a wider social agenda, also addressing poverty and social exclusion. The provision of temporary housing seems to be a very sensible way to prevent homelessness in cases of “housing emergencies”, which have occurred more frequently during the economic and financial crises.

The initiative BAM (bioarquitectura mediterranea) is linking ecological aspects with housing, putting particular emphasis on innovative bio-architectural construction technologies. Although these models are very interesting in an ecological perspective, the potential for the improvement of social housing has to be clarified further.

Very specifically geared to the polish context are the projects of foundation “Habitat for Humanity” (HfH) in Poland, which still has strong imbalances in the housing market and a lack of investment. HfH is a transnational non-for-profit organization, which is capitalizing on a stock of experiences in housing projects in 80 countries. One of the most interesting approaches of HfH implemented in Poland is the reconversion of abandoned spaces, formerly used for offices or factories, into housing. There are similar efforts in some metropolitan areas in Germany, including the City of Offenbach and the greater Frankfurt-region, where there is great shortage of housing and at the same time a huge oversupply of outdated office space. In Germany those conversion-projects are usually positioned at the upper end of the market, because the conversion of office space is quite expensive due to the high degree of regulation in the field of construction for housing. The polish examples may prove, that there are ways to reconvert commercial spaces more economically and make this strategy an instrument for the improvement of supply of low cost social housing.

Offenbach am Main, June 2014

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Download: <http://www.offenbach.de/sozialplanung/>

Appendix:

Presentation on the District Management in the City of Offenbach (by Marcus Schenk)



“Every day a journey around the world”: Offenbach is home, workplace and meeting point to people with 150 nationalities

Bustling, multi-faceted and a colourful mixture: people from many countries call Offenbach their home and shape the city's image.

30 percent of the 125,000 residents do not have German citizenship, 45 percent have an immigration background.



Building Inclusive Neighborhoods

Neighborhood Management in the City of Offenbach

- „Living Neighborhoods“ – a project to improve solidarity and mutual respect in residential areas
- „Social Look Tour“ – a daily tour in cooperation with the city council and the waste management company
- District-Offices are a place to meet for families with diverse cultural backgrounds
- „The World at Home in Offenbach“ – making people aware of the advantages of diversity
- „Quartiersfamilie“ (the neighborhood as a family) – a project to strengthen bonds of solidarity and mutual support



QUARTIERSMANAGEMENT
OFFENBACH  besser leben
in Offenbach

3 District-Centres,

- open every weekday.
- used by 42 citizen-groups as places to meet
- 60.000 visitors (age between 0-94 years)!





PROJECT „LIVING NEIGHBORHOOD“

- 25 Actions in 2014
- Working in resident´s proximity.
- Streetwork with (new) EU-immigrants from Bulgaria and Romania.
- Cooperation with social counsellors and local authority.
- Support of self-support initiatives.



PROJECT „LIVING NEIGHBORHOOD“



Project to support cleanliness and order in public spaces:

- Appr. 15 participants in a work-activation program of the local jobcenter "MainArbeit"
- 6 inspecting tours daily in the various city districts
- Reporting incidences, pollution, waste, damages and vandalism to the authorities for quick reaction
- Cooperation with the local authority and the its waste management dptm.

PROJECT
„Have a look at your neighborhood“



PROJECT
DISTRICT-OFFICES AS PLACES TO MEET
FOR RESIDENTS

- Project for families with young children (under the age of 3).
- Language-training for immigrant children and mothers offered in proximity to residential places.
- Part of nationwide network of local initiatives coordinated by the German Red Cross
- Subject of monitoring by a research institute, commissioned by the federal Ministry of Construction and Urban Development.



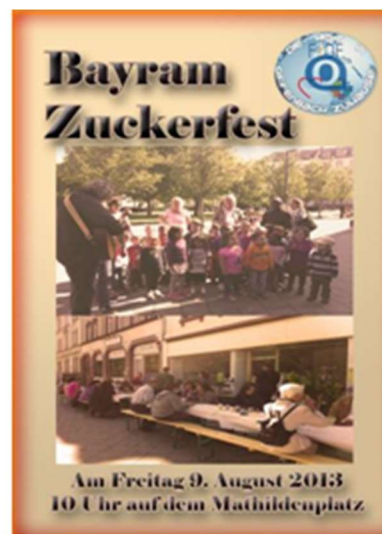
PROJECT
DISTRICT-OFFICES AS PLACES TO MEET
FOR RESIDENTS



PROJECT DISTRICT-OFFICES AS PLACES TO MEET FOR RESIDENTS

An initiative for culture, arts and intercultural communication in localities:

- Lectures
- Amateur concerts
- Thematic work on religion and the mutual understanding of different faiths
- Sharing diverse material culture (common cooking and dining etc.)
- 22 activities with appr. 1000 participations in 2013.
- In cooperation with network of 10 immigrant and cultural initiatives.



„The World at Home in Offenbach“



„Quartiersfamilie“

Volunteer project for cohesion and exchange in neighborhoods.

- playing games together in district-centers
- Common activities of residents (excursions, gatherings etc.)
- celebrations
- providing volunteer trust persons to be addressed in case of social problems

