

Call for participants

Connective Cities Dialogue Event

Transforming cities: from industrial centres to sustainable urban areas

The international exchange platform *Connective Cities* and its initiators, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the German Association of Cities and Engagement Global gGmbH / Service Agency Communities in One World, invites municipal practitioners to the Dialogue Event on **Transforming cities: from industrial centres to sustainable urban areas**, to be held in **Bocholt, Germany** from **5 to 7 December 2016**.

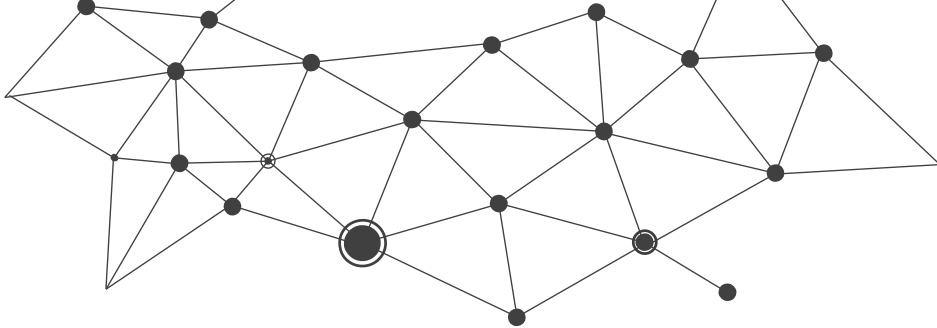
The event is geared towards both German and international municipal actors with an interest in and first-hand experience in the transformation of post-industrial urban areas, its planning and its implementation. Municipal actors include representatives of municipalities as well as representatives from civil society, academia and business, active in municipal projects in this thematic area. All participants are expected to engage proactively in the international dialogue by presenting their experience, showcasing examples of good practices in their municipality and/or identifying concrete challenges and needs they face.

Connective Cities is organising the event in collaboration with the City of Bocholt which plans to share its own experiences with an inner-city neighbourhood along the riverbanks formerly characterised by textile industries. An integrated urban development process has been set up by the city to carefully transform and preserve the industrial heritage, to introduce housing, culture and social infrastructure and to give access to their citizens to the formerly locked riverbanks.

Background

Industrial areas in Europe and North America as well as in several Asian and Latin American countries are facing huge spatial challenges in restructuring their urban centres and regions after having lost their traditional economic base. The spatial implication of structural change and the organisation of such transformation call for innovative strategies to revitalise the areas and uses of the traditional manufacturing cores, economically, socially and environmentally. Integrated urban development schemes are needed to make transformation sustainable, to introduce new urban functions while preserving the industrial heritage. Cities like Bocholt and the neighbouring Ruhr region have gathered substantial experiences on integrated approaches to structural change for neighbourhoods, cities and regions.

This structural transformation of post-industrial regions can be a complex one from a governance point of view as well as from a planning perspective. Urban regeneration is a multi-faceted process bringing together different aspects and interests, and therefore requiring a high level of coordination not only across city departments (industry, city planning, environment, tourism, etc.) but very often with the regional if not even national levels. In many European post-industrial areas these processes are funded at the EU level which brings even more complexity to their implementation.



Very often transformations happening in one city have also a strong impact on the surrounding areas and neighbouring urban centres, specifically when these new planning processes affect natural resources which are key economic and environmental assets in a region.

Furthermore the growing urbanisation requires a more efficient and effective use of scarce urban space. This process is not only a challenge but offers also an opportunity to make old production areas vibrant part of a new and more sustainable urban core. Cities want to revitalise the areas of their old industrial structures and are finding innovative ways to put them to new use and incorporate them into a liveable urban vision for their citizens.

Objectives of the dialogue event

An involvement of experts from municipalities, civil society and their organisations, as well as research, academia and business provides the right platform to pool experiences to discuss challenges and generate ideas which put post-industrial urban areas to new use in a way that contributes to the environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive and economically viable development of a city.

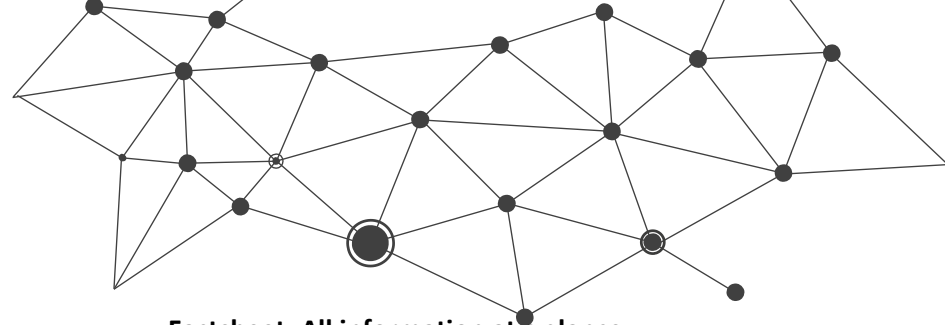
The aim of the exchange is to show the possibilities of planning and implementing sustainable transformation projects in different local contexts, to check the regional applicability of the presented solutions and to discuss the respective challenges. The event in Bocholt will foster learning among participants through presentation of good practices and project ideas that can be further communicated and implemented in the respective home communities.

Contact

If you wish to participate and actively contribute to the dialogue event as well as if you have any queries about it, we encourage you to contact us.

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Factsheet: All information at a glance

Date	5 – 7 December 2016
Duration	2,5 days including site visits
Thematic focus	-The governance challenge of planning post-industrial urban transformation projects; -Ensuring environmental as well as social and economic sustainability of urban transformation projects with an integrated approach; -Ensuring stakeholders' participation in the planning and implementation of urban transformation projects.
Expertise	International practitioners will present their experiences in planning and implementing urban transformation projects in post-industrial areas, their good practices as well as their challenges.
Objective	- Initiate a practice-oriented exchange between German and international practitioners on the topic of sustainable urban transformation; - Launch collective knowledge process; - Foster the development of joint project ideas.
Criteria for participation	- Practical perspective and first-hand experience in municipal projects on planning and implementing urban transformation projects; - Presentation of a local good practice; - Willingness to engage in an exchange about current needs and challenges in this thematic area.
Language	English