

Documentation

Online Short study Visit “Open space for youth”

World Café, 14.06.2021

Table 1, Urban Planning/Sustainable Development/ Environment & Climate



■ Invited Experts

■ All 3 Rounds

Franziska Laue, department urban planning, municipality of Stuttgart

Chayma Amri, department urban planning, municipality of Menzel Bourguiba

Melis Schmid, department for external relations, municipality of Stuttgart

1. Round

Anika Junge, department environmental protection, municipality of Stuttgart

Monika Painke, youth welfare planning, municipality of Stuttgart

Alâa Talbi, local councillor in charge of communication, municipality of Menzel Bourguiba

2. Round

Annegret Warth, coordinator education for sustainable development, municipality of Stuttgart

■ **Documentation:** https://padlet.com/Stadtjugendring_Stuttgart/fjc6lvduf4a5eyvn

Introduction

The European Youth Goals reflect the views of European Youth and represent the vision of those active ones in the EU Youth Dialogue in 2017/2018.

For our project we selected 2 main goals to focus on:

- The European youth goal **#10 Sustainable Green Europe**: Achieve a society in which all young people are environmentally active, educated and able to make a difference in their everyday lives.
- The European youth goal **#9 Space and Participation for All**: Strengthen young people’s democratic participation and autonomy as well as provide dedicated youth spaces in all areas of society.

The EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027) aims to contribute to the realisation of this vision of young people by mobilising EU level policy instruments as well as actions on a national, regional and local levels conducted by all stakeholders.

During the next 6 years, we are in the position to work on how to apply the European Youth strategy on our collaboration between the partner cities: **The World Café on 14.06.2021** was a first step to discuss these opportunities in depth. Beside the documentation, we suggested different options for further networking on a local and international level.

The Foreign European Policy as well as the German and French Foreign Policies implies the cooperation with neighbouring countries (e.g. Tunisia). A cooperation in the frame of the European Youth Strategy is supported and financed by the Erasmus+ , the European Solidarity Corps and the German French youth office. We are suggesting formats for future collaboration between twin cities in the field of youth available for European and neighbouring countries. We give as well insight into formats only available for European countries, which allows us to think about the vision we aspire to have by asking the following question:

How can we apply the European Youth Strategy on our collaboration between twin cities in the field of Sustainable Environmental activities/education as well as participation in Urban Planning processes?

I. What issues related to the environment and urban planning are important to young people from different social backgrounds in our cities?

■ Similarities between Strasbourg and Stuttgart

Strasbourg is now part of the Climate Emergency treaty and all political decisions will adhere to that.

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Strasbourg plans to increase public transport, the use of bicycles, urban gardening and more mixed use for buildings as well as to enhance the safety of public spaces for women. Some of these wishes were pushed by the local population / civil society.

Within the Social City Program at Stuttgart, where existing open green spaces shall be preserved and upgraded, “Sealed Surface” areas (i.e. former industrial sites, „greyfield“) intend to be transformed and inhabitants across generations ought to be mobilized to contribute by supporting biodiversity and improved microclimate by joining greening initiatives on their own spaces (i.e. balconies, gardens, etc..).

Further, the communication between the different departments within the municipality shall be improved.
Contact Person: Franziska Laue, City of Stuttgart.

The ‘Fill the Bottle Challenge’ is an international clean-up initiative in city centres where volunteers pick up cigarette butts and collect the bottles in order to showcase the environmental impact of the action. Among others, there have been actions in Strasbourg and Stuttgart. (More information <https://www.zweierpasch.com/fill-the-bottle>)

Different Challenges in Menzel-Bourguiba, Tunisia:

There is a lack of support for waste separation on the municipal level. However, waste separation projects exist at the civil society’s level, but municipal support is still missing.

Open spaces are damaged and poorly maintained (bad tree-cuts, bad vegetative choices, no irrigation, and wrong cultivation methods (as an example: Open spaces at Stuttgart).

At Menzel-Bourguiba, leisure space for young people is missing. There is not only a need for spaces in order to practice sports, but also venues for cultural events (e.g. music or theatre) where they can achieve non-scholar expertise known as extracurricular activities. Added to that, a lot of young people use bicycles, but bikeways and bike parkings spots are missing in the areas.

II. Have there been processes in which young people were consulted and involved? Any inspirational practices or learning points to share?

■ **Stuttgart**

The Social City Program at Stuttgart includes cooperating with contracted intermediaries who are specialised in the field of participation of neighbourhoods by trying to identify local needs. They discuss future visions for open spaces or they design functionalities in order to upgrade open spaces. The success of interacting and involving youth differs vastly across neighbourhoods among others by depending on the right channels to communicate, mobilize and keep them engaged.

Stuttgart represents another good example of youth participation in terms of sustainability. As part of the Youth Initiative of the country’s Sustainability Strategy, there is the “Jugend Beirat“, a youth committee for young people who are eagerly engaged in sustainability and climate issues by organizing events for peers and also are in contact with politicians so they can communicate their demands.

Further, the newly founded network “Natur Erleben Stuttgart” (‘Experiencing Nature at Stuttgart’) aims to connect administrations, schools, youth services, youth work and civil society regarding the topic of “Education for Sustainable Development“ within an highly important approach of Educational Justice.

Current processes: Sharing youth voices in the development of the “Leisure concept Stuttgart city forest - Freizeitkonzept Stuttgarter Stadtwald“ (<https://www.stuttgart.de/freizeitkonzept-wald>) the focus is to work out a common objective that takes into consideration the various interest groups in and around the forest. Mutually towards getting to know each other and relevant actors who are contributing in developing the leisure concept in a participation process.

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■ Menzel-Bourguiba

Apart from young people who are members of associations, young people aren't involved.

III. Any ideas for potential collaboration between the twinned cities? What will be the next step to be taken to make collaboration possible?

Similarities between Menzel-Bourguiba and Stuttgart

In both cities, barrier-free accessibility to sidewalks, buildings, etc. for inhabitants is needed. Regarding this, awareness raising and exchange across cities should be strengthened. Further, there could be exchanges on awareness activities like traffic free days.

Project: Stuttgart Garden - Back to a green and clean park

A cooperation between the municipalities of Stuttgart and Menzel Bourguiba (including different departments in Stuttgart/committees in Menzel Bourguiba) and its citizens is lined up at taking care of the Stuttgart garden – a symbol of the twin cities.

■ Menzel-Bourguiba

Menzel-Bourguiba suggests an international round table with regular exchanges between the twinned cities (e.g. online/ remote every three months and once a year in presence) concerning bikeways and urban planning as well as experiences in the field of environmental protection in order to make suggestions and provide good practices to adopt in the future.

■ Stuttgart

The innovative and inclusive projects of the Stuttgart Social City Program are intersectional (functional, social and ecological quality of open space). They intend to protect and upgrade open spaces. There are regular mutual exchanges on challenges and successes, acceptance of measures and participation tools, sharing tips, etc. (ideally including local authority, inhabitants, CSOs). Mutual visits on the neighbourhood level would be appreciated. Also exchanges on localising the SDGs in the neighbourhoods would be interesting.

Contact person: Franziska Laue

One example of best practice of the Stuttgart Social City Program is the neighbourhood project 'Nachhaltig im Hallschlag' based on the cooperation of different youth work institutions which succeeded to develop common activities in the field of sustainability and with the purpose of connecting the neighbourhood citizens.

Contact person: Sabrina Blöchinger

The network 'Natur erleben Stuttgart' ('Experiencing Nature - Stuttgart') intends to connect education actors with city planners and to strengthen neighbourhood based activities. Within the city's partnerships, it would be recognized to enhance the local activities with an international dimension.

The "VIJ Stuttgart" would be intrigued in a project collaboration around the topics of environment, plastic reduction, urban gardening and sustainability with the current initiatives from twinned towns.

Contact person: Claramarie Sternagel (VIJ).

1 .Suggestions for further corporations at local and international levels

1.1. Local level

- In the field of urban planning and sustainability: The existing networks of education actors, civil society, city planners could be a platform for an exchange on how local activities could be an interesting starting point for an international exchange among the twin cities.

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1.2. International cooperation

- The Youth Council, Youth Organisations and Youth Initiatives are partially already involved in the above-mentioned local networks. The structures to strengthen this exchange could be further analysed and developed in aim to be the subject of an international exchange.
- Freizeitkonzept Stuttgarter Stadtwald“ (https://www.stuttgart.de/Freizeitkonzept_Wald), the aim is to work Sharing youth voices in the development of the „Leisure concept Stuttgart city forest -out a common objective that takes into account the various interest groups in and around the forest.

Possible formats

- **Erasmus+ Key Action 1 Youth participation activities:** E.g. Workshops (different approaches to reach young people from different social and cultural backgrounds), organising debates with decision makers about the open space for leisure activities, environmental issues, field visits, formulation of positions and recommendations on local and international levels. Working on the idea of a strategic partnership to strengthen youth participation within the municipalities. (The format is accessible for European and neighbouring countries. Strasbourg could involve the twin city Fez located in Morocco)
- **Volunteering teams:** Maintenance of the space in the forest for leisure activities in the frame of the concept „leisure concept Stuttgart city forest“.
- The mentioned exchange about
- the innovative and inclusive projects of the Stuttgart Social City Program
- the environmental local policy of Strasbourg (Climate Emergency treaty/all political decisions will adhere to that)
- The need for an awareness approach of Waste management and maintenance or creating green spaces of open space for youth (citizens in general) by the municipality of Menzel Bourguiba in cooperation with the engaged civil society parties which is a solid basis for future international exchange.

... is a good basis for further international exchange.

Possible formats

- Small scale partnerships/ Projects for Sustainable Local Development through cooperation between Menzel-Bourguiba and Stuttgart. **The Service Agency Communities in One World supports** municipalities in localizing the SDGs through awareness-raising activities, networking and for aligning their local plans to the SDGs (Aligning and Monitoring) **common projects at the municipal level** (e.g. waste separation, exchange about the Social City Program etc.). Cross-sectoral approach in which youth is one of the target groups who should be heard the most: <https://skew.engagement-global.de/fund-for-small-scale-municipal-development-cooperation-projects.html>
- **Erasmus+ Key Action 1:** Short study visit Training, **German-French Youth Office trilateral qualification:** E.g. Best practice exchange on how to involve young people in decision making in urban planning and environmental policy, mobility issues etc., workshops, exchange about the use of digital supportive tools for surveys or round tables
- Desired exchange: Mutual visits on the neighbourhood level, exchanges on localising the SDGs in the neighbourhoods/ barrier-free accessibility to sidewalks, buildings, etc. for inhabitants. Regarding an inclusive urban planning, awareness raising and exchange across cities should be strengthened.
- Exchange about Mobility: Traffic free days, Interim establishment of play streets etc.
- A project collaboration around the topic of environment/plastic reduction/urban gardening/sustainability with initiatives from twinned towns.

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Possible Formats

- **Nouveaux horizons**: Trilateral exchange among youth organisations/civil society/municipalities (establishment of new municipal partnerships or further development of existing municipal partnerships) through joint projects among the departments of urban planning/Education for sustainable development, coordination of youth participation on the topics of mobility, urban planning and sustainability. The project duration is a maximum of 3 years.
 - Cooperation between Menzel Bourguiba and Stuttgart: The program Teams up! of the African German Youth Office promotes youth exchanges and related accompanying projects which focus on at least one of the 17 SDGs: Five participants from each country can take part in the projects within a time span of two years. Accompanying projects aim to improve the quality of Teams up! and to strengthen project partners and structures.
 - **Erasmus+ Key Action 1**: Youth exchanges; **German-French youth office**: Trilateral environmental project, workshops, guided city tours exploring sustainable urban planning and sustainability initiatives.
 - **Erasmus+ Key Action 2**: Small-scale partnerships (only European program countries) or cooperation partnerships (cross-sectoral). Unlike the funding offered by the Service Agency Communities in One World in the frame of cooperation partnerships between municipalities the focus is on youth work. Meetings to exchange good practice: Development, testing and introduction of new training materials / method manuals Cooperation between youth and education sectors for the recognition of competences acquired in the youth sector, Cooperation of public institutions at local or regional level to further develop the youth field and integrate it into local / regional development plans;
- Project: Stuttgart Garden - back to a green and clean park

Possible Formats

- European solidarity corps: A volunteering team can support cleaning the Stuttgart Park, campaigns to raise the awareness of a common responsibility for public spaces etc.

Funding opportunities

Mobility for youth workers and youth

<https://www.erasmusplus-jugend.de/>

<https://site.erasmusplus-jeunesse.fr/>

<https://www.ofaj.org/programmes-trilateraux-a-l-ofaj/programmes-trinationaux-avec-des-pays-du-pourtour-mediterraneeen.html>

<https://www.deutsch-afrikanisches-jugendwerk.de/de/teams-up/programm/ueber-teams-up.html>

(only Tunisia/Germany)

<https://www.deutsch-afrikanisches-jugendwerk.de/fr/teams-up.html> (only Tunisia/Germany)

Volunteering teams/individual voluntary service

https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_fr

https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en

Non-profit small-scale projects/ Non-profit projects/Networking

<https://www.bwstiftung.de/de/bereiche-programme/bildung/nouveaux-horizons>

(German- French cooperation plus a third partner country is funded)

Cooperation between municipalities (focus Stuttgart-Menzel Bourguiba)

<https://skew.engagement-global.de/kleinprojektefonds.html> (Tunisia/Germany, at the municipal level)

<https://skew.engagement-global.de/unterstuetzung-durch-nakopa.html>

(Tunisia/Germany, at the municipal level)

<https://skew.engagement-global.de/consultation.html> (Tunisia/Germany, at the municipal level)