



Neighborhood Management in Berlin

Information on the program “Socially Integrative City”

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Senatsverwaltung
für Stadtentwicklung

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Preface



Dear Readers,

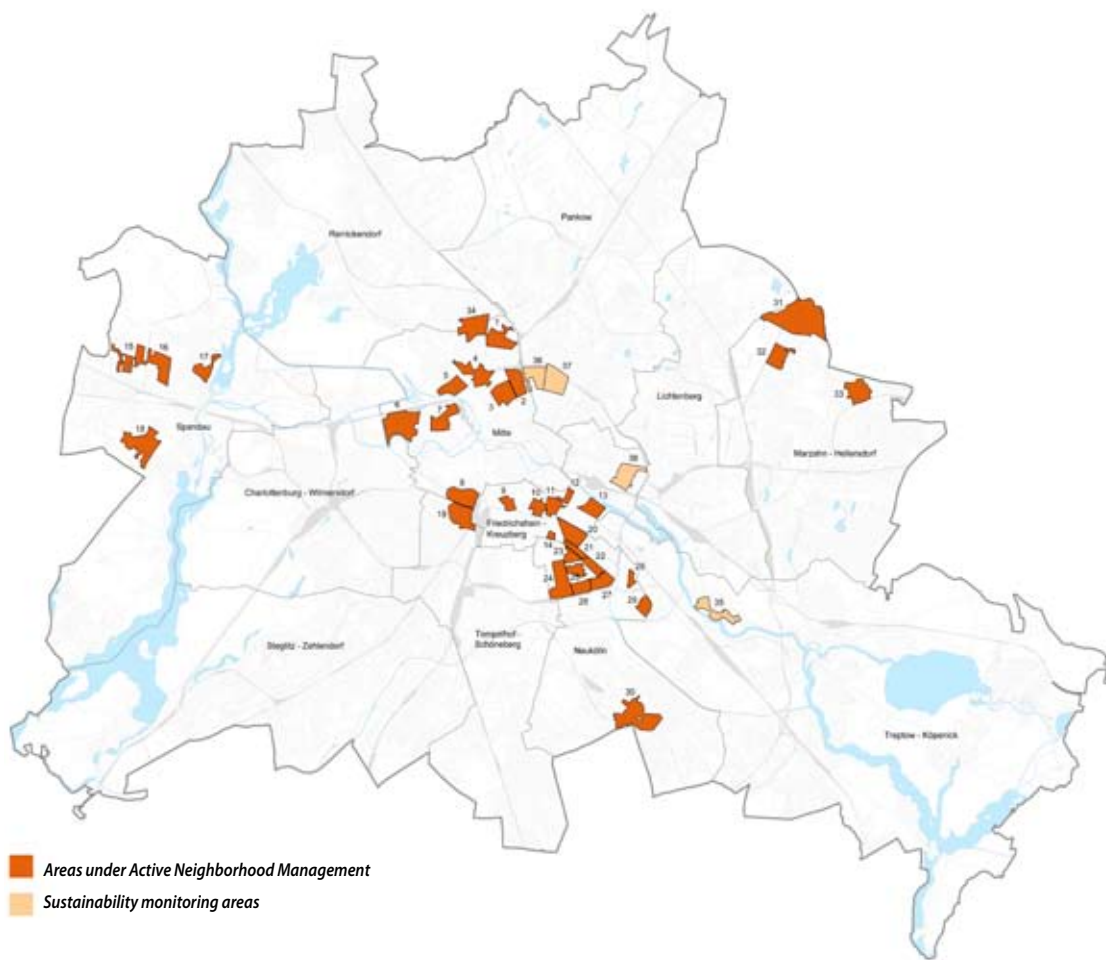
For more than a decade, the Neighborhood Management (NM) approach has proven to be a valuable tool in the development of the „Socially Integrative City“ of Berlin. Our mission is to create equal living conditions for all people of Berlin. We have pursued this mission jointly with the people living in the neighborhoods, in co-operation with educational institutions, community centers and housing societies, and involving multiple local actors. Over time, the number of areas under Neighborhood Management has increased from 15 to 34, whereas some have already been phased out due to significant improvement. Since the launch of the program „Socially Integrative City“, we have learned many lessons and much has been achieved through a variety of interventions that basically centered around the same questions: How can we achieve maximum benefit for the people living in the neighborhoods? How should projects be designed to improve the chances of children and youth for a better future? How can we support families? How can we support the integration of migrants? From the ongoing intensive exchange of best practises, it has emerged that education, integration and employment constitute the key areas targeted by the more than 1,000 projects to date.

This brochure describes the program areas of the „Socially Intergrated City“ and, by providing a selection of the projects carried out in the various areas, aspires to provide some insight into the large spectrum of achievements made through social urban development efforts and Neighborhood Management. These examples demonstrate that commitment will be rewarded, and show how it is possible that so many people joined and developed a sense of ownership for their neighborhoods.

Let us surprise you with these model projects from the field under the program „Socially Integrated City“ - and be surprised by the multitude of ideas and creativity people invest into making Berlin's neighborhoods a better place for everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ingeborg Junge-Reyer'.

Ingeborg Junge-Reyer
Senator for Urban Development



Areas under active Neighborhood Management

Mitte

- 1 Soldiner- / Wollankstraße
- 2 Brunnenstraße
- 3 Ackerstraße
- 4 Reinickendorfer- / Pankstraße
- 5 Sparrplatz
- 6 Moabit West / Beusselstraße
- 7 Moabit - Ost
- 8 Magdeburger Platz

Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg

- 9 Mehringplatz
- 10 Wassertorplatz
- 11 Zentrum Kreuzberg / Oranienstraße
- 12 Mariannenplatz
- 13 Wrangelkiez
- 14 Werner-Dittmann-Siedlung

Spandau

- 15 Falkenhagener Feld - West
- 16 Falkenhagener Feld - Ost
- 17 Spandauer Neustadt
- 18 Heerstraße

Tempelhof-Schöneberg

- 19 Bülowstraße / Wohnen am Kleistpark

Neukölln

- 20 Reuterplatz
- 21 Donaustraße - Nord
- 22 Ganghoferstraße
- 23 Flughafenstraße
- 24 Schillerpromenade
- 25 Rollbergsiedlung
- 26 Körnerpark
- 27 Richardplatz - Süd
- 28 Dammwegsiedlung / Weiße Siedlung
- 29 Sonnenallee / High-Deck-Siedlung
- 30 Lipschitzallee / Gropiusstadt

Marzahn-Hellersdorf

- 31 Marzahn - Nord
- 32 Mehrower Allee
- 33 Hellersdorfer Promenade

Reinickendorf

- 34 Letteplatz

Sustainability monitoring areas

Treptow-Köpenick

- 35 Oberschöneweide, Gebietsaufhebung 12/2009

Pankow

- 36 Falkplatz, Gebietsaufhebung 12/2008
- 37 Helmholtzplatz, Gebietsaufhebung 12/2008

Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg

- 38 Boxhagener Platz, Gebietsaufhebung 12/2008

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Why Neighborhood Management?

A study on the social development within the districts of Berlin after the reunification of the city compiled on behalf of the Berlin Senate in 1996 revealed social segregation and serious social issues prevailing particularly in certain areas of Berlin.

Sources of funding 1999 - 2009:

European Union (European Fund for Regional Development):	Euro 66,044,060
Federal Republic of Germany:	Euro 35,127,931
Federal State of Berlin:	Euro 83,471,558
TOTAL:	Euro 184,643,549
The 2010 budget amounts to Euro 15,400,000.	

More information is available at

www.quartiersmanagement-berlin.de/ and
www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/wohnen/quartiersmanagement/

These socially disadvantaged areas were found to be affected by a demonstrable neglect of public areas, roads, squares and green spaces, as well as social infrastructural deficits. Families who could afford to relocate from these areas did so, at the latest by the time of their children's primary school enrollment. In response to this situation, the Berlin Senate introduced intervention strategy to support social urban development in the affected neighborhoods. The Berlin Neighborhood Management is at the heart of this strategy.

Which areas are under Neighborhood Management?

Since 1999, the program "Socially Integrative City" has worked towards the stabilization and

development of areas facing social discrimination. Unemployment, dependence on state aid and the issues arising from a lack of social and ethnical integration affect the everyday life and the future prospects of the people living in those areas.

Based on socio-demographic indicators, the neighborhoods were initially classified as either prevention areas or areas for medium to large-scale intervention and are now provided with technical and financial support at different levels.

The classification is reviewed on a regular basis within the scope of a special dedicated monitoring system and adapted as necessary.

Neighborhood Management - How does it work?

An essential prerequisite for stable communities is to create ownership in the community by involving its members into the improvement and development process on an ongoing basis. The establishment of "Neighborhood Councils" and their constructive involvement in the overall Neighborhood Management on the one hand and in the decision-making process related to the use of program funds on the other hand is therefore of vital importance.

The knowledge of the people living in the neighborhoods is pivotal for the development of a sustainable stabilization and improvement strategy. Close co-operation between the residents, the administration and the facilities in the neighborhoods lays the groundwork for a new community life in a spirit of solidarity.

The change process resulting in social urban development takes place on various levels. Our experience has shown that sustainable change can primarily be achieved through improving educational opportunities and facilitating the process of integration among the various nations living in the neighborhoods.

Since 2005, the program has particularly concentrated on improving the future prospects of the people living in disadvantaged areas; accordingly integration, education and employment became the main areas of focus. Flanking construction measures are expected to have a positive impact on stability in the areas as well. Main objectives include health promotion, image enhancement mobilization and participation of residents, and more involvement of local businesses.

The components of successful Neighborhood Management:

- teams as main actors in the area;
- interdisciplinary networking of administrative bodies;
- integrated strategic and activity plan;
- empowerment, "helping people to help themselves" - Neighborhood Councils;
- Neighborhood and Residents' Funds;
- A multitude of small projects within the different focus areas;
- civic commitment to work towards socially integrative neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Management as a network

A vital role is played by our strong partners, the housing societies, neighborhood centers, schools, local businesses and tradespeople represented in the areas. Our co-operation with them in our efforts to improve the living conditions in the neighborhoods have resulted in valuable synergy effects in many instances.

Supporting schools to become "special places" in the area, refurbishment of public roads, squares and open spaces and the promotion of the neighborhood culture are also important factors to improve the quality of neighborhood life.

The program "Socially Integrative City" that strives to be a responsive, "learning" program, has not only mobilized the residents of the participating neighborhoods but also the competent administrative bodies. Co-operations across administrative divisions and mutual respect have become natural. A particular plus worth highlighting here is the huge commitment of the many volunteers from the active neighborhood communities. The communication within the "Kiez"¹, face-to-face or via the internet, has created or strengthened neighborhood networks. Social urban development has become a new form of interdisciplinary urban management based on using and pooling local resources. After a first decade of the "Socially Integrative City", the overall impression is very good. The successful approach of the Neighborhood Management in Berlin will therefore be followed up in the future.

Berlin's Neighborhood Management: applied cohesion policy

Strengthening social cohesiveness, promoting social and ethnical integration, implementing integrated urban development programs in a participatory and interdisciplinary way - the following pages give an insight into the multitude of activities implemented under the program "Socially Integrative City".

¹ A "Kiez" is a smaller district or area within a city. It is defined by the residents rather than the administration and as such does not necessarily coincide with administrative divisions. Nevertheless, it is often used as a synonym for "district" or "neighborhood".



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Congress of the Neighborhood Councils 2009

Residents' Conference

Intercultural women's breakfast

Area:

2,210 ha; (Berlin: 89,154 ha)

Population:

391,968 (as on 31.12.2008)

(Berlin: 3,431,675)

Proportion of foreign nationals:

112,665 (28.74%);

(Berlin: 470,051 or 13.98%)

State aid recipients:

36.33%; (Berlin: 19.83%)

Unemployment rate:

9.97%; (Berlin: 6.49%)



© NM Brunnenstraße

Brunnenstraße

The Neighborhood Management area “Brunnenstrasse” is part of the intra-urban district “Mitte” and is bordered by the railway line to the north, the “Mauerpark” and the former freight station Eberswalder Strasse to the east, Bernauer Strasse to the south and the Brunnenstrasse and the adjoining “Volkspark Humboldthain” to the west.

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Stadtteil – Stadtentwicklungsgesellschaft



The neighborhood mainly consists of social housing settlements from the 1970's and 1980's. Centrally located, the residential area is well connected to the public transport system and with its ample public green spaces and effective traffic calming the neighborhood generally an attractive place to live in, especially for young families.

Nevertheless, the neighborhood is separated from the surrounding areas through spatial barriers and has no perceptible center. The people living in this area report negative developments, such as increasing social segregation, security and hygiene related issues and poor communication among neighbors.

A total of 45% of the population depend on state aid; more than double the average rate in Berlin. Young people with various school and educational problems, particularly related

to language, are most affected by unemployment. The proportion of pupils with non-German origin is at 85%.

The majority of long-term residents feels increasingly responsible for the “Kiez”. It has also been recognized that an increasing number of young families and college students move into the area.

Since the demarcation of the area, a total of Euro 2,000,000 was approved in funding, out of which approximately Euro 650,000 was earmarked for construction projects.

Selection of projects carried out to date

Based on a bottom-up approach, multiplier-effects and a “snowball system”, “the project WIB - Wir im Brunnenviertel” (We in the Brunnen-

strasse neighborhood) has become a model project for community mobilization and civic participation. The citizens of the neighborhood design their own projects, are responsible for the implementation and participants' mobilization. Various activities, including homework support for children, training courses such as yoga and facilities like the "Parent Café", are included in the broad spectrum of capacity building opportunities for implementers in the "Kiez", whereas the multiplier-effect generates additional civic commitment for a lively neighborhood.

The project management provides support in the design of the projects at the grassroots level, identification of participants and venue planning and is responsible for the disbursement of funds to the direct project implementers (basically reimbursement of expenses).

Based on this successful approach, three new projects were developed: "WiBJugend" (WiByouth), "Brunnen fit und gesund" (Brunnen fit and healthy) and "Heimvorteil" (home advantage). All of these are youth projects that built upon young people's commitment to strengthen social relationship-building within their neighborhood and work as counselors to promote a healthy lifestyle. A groundbreaking initiative for sustainable networking and topic-oriented co-operation are the associations of educational institutions and daycare centers. The education association "Bildungsverbund" provides a forum for all institutions of basic and higher education located in the neighborhood "Brunnenviertel" and supports the definition of common quality standards for educational work. Working groups exist on various topics, e.g. on how to motivate students, language education and advanced training.

Ten daycare centers under the umbrella of the association "Kitaverbund" develop joint projects focusing on early language support and parental work. Systematic promotion of language and education is a cross-cutting issue within daycare centers and schools. A model project in this field is the "Center for Reading and Literature" at the Heinrich-Seidel-Primary School.

Under the remedial teaching project "Sprint", improvements in the areas of communication and integration were achieved through teaching German language skills to combat language barriers. The Brunnenviertel area is linked with the "Kiez" surrounding the Falkplatz at Prenzlauer Berg by the "Gleimtunnel" passing under the former freight station "Güterbahnhof Eberswalder Strasse / Bernauer Strasse".

The tunnel is perceived as a hard-to-cross border and no-go area. The "Gleimtunnel Festival" in October regularly changes this - pumping life into the tunnel and making the no-go area a place for socializing. These and other cultural events are promoted by the cultural council "KulturvorRat" under the cultural initiative "Initiative KulturArbeit" Berlin. Various self-help initiatives and projects for senior citizens, including "Dostluk", "Jahresringe" and the "Selbsthilfegruppe im Vorruhestand" are designed to support older people living in the "Kiez" and foster cross-generational dialogue.

Since 2005, the counseling center "Beratungsladen" is a central meeting point and offers counseling services, volunteer work in the neighborhood, social services, local presence and daily patrols on the "Kiez". Improving the security situation is also the mission of the non-profit organization Fixpunkt e.V. whose main goal is to offer alternative meeting points to drug users, thereby helping to keep them off the streets. The Berlin police supports the network initiative against drug abuse and drug trafficking "Wir lassen uns nicht betäuben" ("We don't let ourselves get narcotized") and aims at sensitizing young people by trying to establish and maintain personal contact. The fundraising project and civic trust "Bürgerstiftung" concentrates on marketing the "Brunnenviertel" as a location on the one hand, and the creation of sustainable participatory structures on the other.



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Klangbunker-Festival

Senior citizen group "Dostluk"

Gleimtunnel

District: Mitte
Supported since: 2005

Area: 57.3 ha
Population: 12,346
Proportion of foreign nationals: 31.52%
Population with migration background: 63.91%



© NM Brunnenviertel / Ackerstraße

Brunnenviertel / Ackerstraße

Centrally located along the Bernauer Strasse, the NM-area Ackerstrasse adjoins the memorial landscape around the Berlin Wall Memorial in the south, the "Park am Nordbahnhof" that opened in 2009 in the west and the Humboldthain in the north. Next to the NM-area Brunnenstrasse, it is part of the "Brunnenviertel" alongside Brunnenstrasse.

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Implementing partner: S.T.E.R.N. Gesellschaft der
behutsamen Stadterneuerung mbH

On account of its situation right at the border to former East-Berlin, the borough is relatively self-contained with still few crossings to the adjoining areas. Due to the area rehabilitation works carried out in the 1970's, only a small proportion of Wilhelminian style buildings has remained. The area is dominated by five to six-storey buildings in largely good condition, often with greened balconies and courtyard gardens.

Due to the predominantly social housing structures in the area, there are only very few shops. Roughly one quarter in the northeast of the area is occupied by numerous small and larger companies. Owing to its central position, the neighborhood is well connected to the public transport system. But even though the area is generally appealing to families and older people, fluctuation remains very high with many newcomers from socially and edu-

cationally disadvantaged population groups.

The average unemployment rate exceeds 20%, whereas young people having a migration background are most affected. The different times and ways of using the outdoor facilities as practised by the different groups constitute fertile soil for conflicts and mutual prejudice are among the reasons indicated for leaving the area.

Due to the fact that the two state schools and some of the daycare centers have a share of children with non-German origin of up to 70-90%, many parents who are concerned about education issues start thinking about moving at the time of their children's enrolment. Focus areas and goals of the NM-work are discussed and consulted with the

local Neighborhood Council on an annual basis, whereby much weight is put on education and social co-existence - next to the focus areas of youth recreation, business and living environment. In the period from the demarcation of the area in 2005 until end 2008 approximately Euro 1,300,000 has been disbursed in funding, primarily for improvements in the areas of education, employment and integration.

Selection of projects carried out to date

The establishment of a broad range of educational opportunities that include children from educationally disadvantaged families and enables them to pursue a successful educational career is a long-term goal. Many students have been disadvantaged due to their language deficits from the first day they attended school, and the young people start to develop a feeling of a lack of prospects and poor self-confidence when thinking about school or work at a very young age. High school graduates hardly ever have the prospect of a trainee job.

Examples for improvement measures to enhance the situation are the early language support in daycare centers, the in-school career orientation project „Schule aktiv - Durchstarten im Brunnenviertel“ that includes a catering sector training, and the role model campaign „Schooltalks.de“ at the high school Ernst-Reuter-Oberschule.

Important topics also include the profile development in the fields of art and natural sciences at the primary school Gustav-Falke-Grundschule and the support of institutions that promote parental work. Strengthening networking efforts among daycare centers and schools (Kitaverbund, Bildungsverbund) and other partners are essential modules of the program. A milestone in the efforts to strengthen social relationships within the neighborhood, combat prejudice and encourage participation of residents was achieved with the establishment of the neighborhood meeting point „Volt-Culture“ in mid 2007. As a place for joint activities and socializing for everyone, the meeting point offers a great variety of activities including homework support, sewing courses and resident-to-resident counseling.

Under the project „Brunnenkiezmütter“ (Brunnenkiez mothers), multipliers are trained on various topics such as health, child education, language, information literacy etc., who pass

on what they have learned to other mothers in the area after the training.

The “Holiday Program” and the street soccer project “Bolzacker” complement existing recreational facilities for young people. The “Gartenplatz”, largely unused at the moment, is planned to be re-developed into an attractive green area. The participation process for this project, as well as for the renovation of the outdoor sports facilities of the Gustav-Falke-School is ongoing.

The local business sector is expected to benefit from the newly introduced “Brunnen Card”, which is meant to make the range of the shops in the Brunnenstrasse more appealing for the employees of the numerous companies through special offers etc. and attract more attention for the local businesses in general.



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Documentation Center
Berlin Wall Memorial

Parents' Café

Reading program “Lesefalken”
at the Gustav-Falke-School

District: Mitte
Supported since: 2005

Area: 65 ha
Population: 8,294
Proportion of foreign nationals: 28.61%
Population with
migration background: 54.26%



© Susanne Wollenhauer

Bülowsstraße / Wohnen am Kleistpark

The intra-urban NM-area “Bülowsstraße / Wohnen am Kleistpark” in the district of Tempelhof - Schöneberg adjoins the NM-area Magdeburger Platz (borough Mitte). The north of Schöneberg is a home to roughly 17,000 people with one out of ten living in the large housing estate “Pallaseum”. Two-thirds of the residents in this area have a migration background, and one out of five is under 18 years old. More than one-third of the population depend on transfer income.

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This densely developed area has few public green spaces, there is a lack of outdoor sports facilities. There is heavy traffic on the main roads, however, it is easy to get around with public transport. The north of Schöneberg is a vibrant and colourful neighborhood with an eventful history, but it lacks a spatial and functional center. The “Potsdamer Strasse”, leading north to the Potsdamer Platz, is the central north-south axis. It used to be a prestigious shopping street with pulsating nightlife and entertainment.

Nowadays, street prostitutes solicit for business in the zone between Frobenstrasse and Kurfürstenstrasse bordering the NM-area. Street prostitution has increased in recent years, whereas the drug scene seems less present at the moment.

The Bülowsstrasse is the connection with City West and Kreuzberg. The most infamous casinos of Berlin were situated around the Bülowsbogen in the 1920's.

Where the legendary “Sportpalast” used to be until 1973, the large housing estate “Pallaseum” today dominates the area. Large-scale structural improvements were made under urban redevelopment programs, however, during the squatter movement of the 1980's, the area hit the headlines.

Under the “Socially Integrated City” program, more than Euro 11,000,000 have been earmarked for this neighborhood since 1999. Whereas the initial phase focused on structural measures to enhance the living environment, the share of socio-cultural projects in different areas of intervention gradually increased.

Selection of projects carried out to date

Various structural improvements to enhance the living environment were implemented in 1999, playgrounds and squares were renovated and newly created, courtyards were redesigned and school and day care centre yards were reconstructed in cooperation with children, artists and parents. In 2009, substantial improvements at the playground of the Nelly-Sachs-Park were enabled by Neighborhood Fund IV funding.

From the outset, much emphasis has been laid on involving residents and local actors in the development process and strengthening of local networks. Instruments of decentralized participation include the Prevention Council, Kiez discussions, the Neighborhood Council and the Advisory Committee. Improving community life have had positive side-effects on the development of the area.

People get to know and learn to respect each other in the family and neighborhood centers. Some achievements were made due to long-term and ongoing networking and neighborhood initiatives in the "Pallasium" area and Steinmetzstrasse, such as the neighborhood, youth and arts project at the Kulmer Kiez or the reading project "Fairy-tales from the Kulmer Kiez". The first neighborhood festival in 2009 also contributed considerably to motivate actors to keep up their commitment.

A variety of activities strives to support local business in general, and the business location Potsdamer Strasse in particular. Today's Potsdamer Strasse has a multi-ethnic character and is lined with small shops and restaurants. Hotels and galleries were added to the picture in recent years and are situated mainly in the northern part, whereas large companies left the area. Media companies formed the interest group "mstreet" under the umbrella of the IU Potsdamer Strasse.

The project "Potsdamer Strasse kompakt" supports the development of tourism through capacity buildings for catering staff and information material production. "Business talks" contribute to intensified networking at the site and support ongoing dialogue and the development of new ideas and trends.

Numerous health and violence prevention related projects offer meaningful ways to young and older people of using their spare time. Female senior citizens of Turkish nationality learn how to swim and become advocates

in their families for their female grandchildren to be allowed to attend the swimming lessons at school.

Early learning projects support young families. Youth from the neighborhood are trained as "peer helpers" and "box mentors" and learn how to integrate sports activities with violence prevention for peaceful coexistence on a basis of tolerance. The situation around Kurfürstenstrasse, which has been increasingly tense due to the rise in street prostitution has relaxed to some extent owing to the "Interpreter"-project targeting prostitutes from Eastern Europe which has been supported in cooperation with the NM Magdeburger Platz.

Projects like "Lernlust" (love to learn) and "Hauptsache Schule" (major subject: school) offer important education opportunities for the individual promotion of children and parents' support. It is hoped that in the long run, parents with a migration background and families with a low level of education will get more involved in their children's educational issues. "Ambassadors of Education" work with youth and adults following a peer helper approach. Events such as the "Long Day of Education" help to make the area more attractive as a center of education.



Präventionsrat Schöneberger Norden

"mstreet" / IG Potsdamer Straße

Mädchenfußball im Schöneberger Norden

District: Tempelhof-Schöneberg
Supported since: 1999

Area: 81 ha
Population: 17,215
Proportion of foreign nationals: 41.32%
Population with migration background: 65.47%



© NM Dammwegsiedlung / Weiße Siedlung

Dammwegsiedlung / Weiße Siedlung

The neighborhood “Dammwegsiedlung/ Weiße Siedlung” is a public housing area of the 1970’s. Distinctive are its large building strips of up to 18 storeys that stand in sharp contrast to the neighboring buildings. The characteristic light colors of the buildings, which is now owned by Puma Brandenburg Limited, gave the area its name: the “White Settlement”.

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The area is bordered by Aronstrasse to the north, Dieselstrasse to the east, Dammweg to the south and Sonnenallee to the west. The neighboring allotments and the park-like green areas of the settlement provide for sufficient public green spaces and areas.

The social infrastructure is well developed, with a day care center, a primary school, a neighborhood center, a tenants’ café, a recreation center for older residents, a gardening school, a youth meeting point, a social counseling center, a children club house and a youth center nearby. Even though most apartments have a balcony or a conservatory and a spacious layout which used to make the settlement equally attractive to young and old, the area has lost some of its appeal in recent years. Families with a stable social background have moved into other neighborhoods, whereas socially deprived families have remained or

arrived in the area.

Today, the majority of the population living in the “White Settlement” are migrant families from Turkey and the Arab countries.

The proportion of recipients of social transfer payments is at approximately 52.2%, exceeding the overall average in Berlin. This affects purchasing power, which is comparably low in the White Settlement. In some classes of the neighborhood’s primary school, more than 90% of the pupils are of foreign nationalities. There are social tensions in the neighborhood, often marked by a feeling of insecurity or even defensiveness.

Aggressive behavior is prevalent even among children and particularly arises between the various ethnic groups and nationalities. These

are some of the reasons why the area was established as a prevention area in 2005 (Category III Neighborhood Management area) and designated a Category II area as of January 2009. Since the demarcation of the area, approximately Euro 447,000 in socially-integrative project funds and roughly Euro 132,000 for construction projects (investments) have been approved for the area.

Selection of projects carried out to date

The launch of the project "Nachbarschaftstreff Sonnenblick" was a dream coming true for the people living in the settlement. As a socio-cultural center, the place is meant as a meeting point across generations, cultural and ethnical background. The wide range of activities (e. g. "Open Café", women's breakfast, social counseling services, creative workshops, gymnastics courses, cooking workshops and bingo evenings, and last but not least the public cinema "Flimmerstunde") are meant attract an increasing number of residents and mobilize their commitment for the place they live in. The existence of "Sonnenblick" is largely owed to the commitment of the owner corporation "Puma Brandenburg Limited", who re-designed the premises according to the residents' requirements and has since then provided the space.

The youth center "Sunshine Inn", established in late 2006, substantially contributes to improving and strengthening recreational facilities for children and young people.

The youth center has become an important drop-in center, especially for boys and girls with challenging social behavior. With support of the Neighborhood Management, recreational facilities could be substantially expanded. In addition to sports (e. g. soccer, boxing), creative workshops (e. g. graffiti, hip hop, street dance, music and video production) are included in the program.

The drama project prove to be a particular success in an in-school setting, giving children in grade 4 and 5 the chance to stage their talents and improve their language skills. Whereas the school administration repeatedly expressed some surprise about how disciplined and motivated the kids are and how enthusiastically they participate in the regular rehearsals and lessons, the hard work of the little "celebrities" is amply rewarded by the audience: Their piece "The Flying Star" recently won second place in a Berlin-wide school drama competition. The drama project also includes a training compo-

nent for teachers in order to enable them to implement the drama project without external assistance in the future.



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© NM Dammwegsidlung / Weiße Siedlung



© NM Dammwegsidlung / Weiße Siedlung

Grand opening

Hip hop battle

Table soccer at the youth centre Grenzallee

District: Neukölln
Supported since: 2005

Area: 65 ha
Population: 3,727
Proportion of foreign nationals: 31.15%
Population with migration background: 60.69%



© NM Donaustrasse-Nord

Donaustrasse-Nord

The area Donaustrasse-Nord is in the north of the district Neukölln. It is bordered in the west by Karl-Marx-Strasse, in the north by the Hermannplatz, in the east by Sonnenallee and in the south by Erkstrasse. Block buildings from the foundation years, with almost incessant commercial space along the two main roads Karl-Marx-Strasse and Sonnenallee, are characteristic features of this area. The streets leave an unkempt impression; green and open spaces are virtually non-existent.

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Approximately 7,854 people live in the borough Donaustrasse-Nord, 60.4% have a migration background. More than half of the residents are between the age of 18 and 45. The ratio of children and youth is at 17.3%, whereas the percentage of people 55 and older is at 16.8%. In 2010, Euro 50,000 will be earmarked by the Senate Department for Urban Development from Neighborhood Fund III (Quartiersfond II) to support projects with a budget exceeding Euro 10,000. The project fund (QFIII) supports socio-cultural projects exceeding Euro 10,000 and construction projects with a budget of up to Euro 50,000.

Selection of projects carried out to date

Neighborhood parties in the "Donaukiez"

Within the scope of the "Nord-Neuköllner Kulturfestival - 48 hours Neukoelln" on June 26th

2010, the first „Neighborhood party for the Donaukiez“ will take place.

The borough festival aims at providing a forum for the community of the neighborhood to meet and strengthen ties, regardless of age, origin, ideology, education and religion.

Mobile youth work in the "Donaukiez"

On February 1st 2010, Nihat Karatoprak of the non-profit organisation "outreach – mobile Jugendarbeit Berlin" started his work as a street worker in the borough Donaustrasse-Nord. In addition to maintaining contact to community facilities and commercial enterprises, Mr. Karatoprak visits young people at their meeting places in the borough to develop leisure activities jointly with them. The mobile youth service is linked to the parent-child center at the "Käptn Blaubär" playground.

Given the fact that there is no recreational facility for children and youth in the borough, the project "Streetworker für den Donaukiez" was considered a top priority by the Neighborhood Council and receives seed funding from the "Socially Integrative City" program.

School canteen at the Theodor-Storm-Schule

To strengthen the school profile of the Theodor-Storm-Schule, the existing school canteen is to be used more intensively in the future for preparing a healthy diet for children. In addition to involving the district mothers of Neukölln, there are plans to develop partnerships with suppliers from the local food industry; amongst others the weekly market at the Hermannplatz, the bakery "Mehlwurm" and the butcher "Kluge".

Green living environment in the "Donaukiez"

The road trees and few green areas in the courtyards are important assets for the neighborhood. The project "Grünes Wohnumfeld", approved by the Neighborhood Council, provides for interested residents and tradespeople to "sponsor a tree bed". Tree beds may then be enlarged, greened and framed under the supervision of experts who give advice in planting and cultivation of green spaces. Where reasonably needed to control dog dirt on public ways, bag dispensers are provided. Sponsors for this project are welcome.



© NM Donaustraße-Nord



© NM Donaustraße-Nord



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Street in the "Kiez"

Meeting of the Jury

Weekly market at
Hermannplatz

District: Neukölln
Supported since: 2009

Area: 22,41 ha
Population: 7.854
Proportion of foreign nationals: 43,46 %
Population with migration
background: 60,4 %



© NM Falkenhagener Feld-Ost

Falkenhagener Feld-Ost

The neighborhood "Falkenhagener Feld-Ost" is situated in the northwest of the Berlin district "Spandau" and borders with Pionierstrasse in the north, Siegener Strasse in the west and Falkenseer Chaussee in the south. The settlement, like the associated area Falkenhagener Feld-West, was established as of 1960. Together with its western counterpart, it constitutes the oldest large housing estate.

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The neighborhood is dominated by buildings arranged in rows, skyscrapers and large building complexes with spacious open areas in between. The center of the neighborhood is situated at Westerwaldstrasse / Falkenseer Chaussee / Siegener Strasse, with shopping and central infrastructural facilities such as churches, a club house, the primary school, daycare centers and the district library. The area is facing various socio-economic issues. A large proportion of its residents are affected by unemployment. Every second child lives in a household depending on state aid. There is a high turnover of residents in the area.

Above average earners have left, whereas many low income families and resettlers have moved in. The high fluctuation has had a negative impact on the organically grown neighborhood networks, which have basically disappeared, resulting in a feeling of growing alie-

nation among the residents. Many are talking about feeling unsafe, and that public areas had lost their appeal to them.

Over the past years, segregation has gradually increased within the neighborhood. Some buildings are primarily occupied by resettlers of German origin and by Turkish-speaking migrant families.

The social integration of the different nationalities is often complicated by language barriers and cultural differences. Not only is the relationship of the different groups of migrants a difficult one, also the relationship between migrants in general and the "old" tenants who have lived in the area for a long time is tense and marked by willful isolation of all parties involved.

Since the demarcation of the area in 2005, Approximately Euro 1,359,105 has been granted in project funding.

social communication by "striking the right chords".

Selection of projects carried out to date

"Families in the Center"

The focus is on families in the project "Families in the Center" (FIZ). Funds from the "Socially Integrative City" program enabled the establishment of a central drop-in center for families in 2008. In addition to providing a central meeting point for the families living in the neighborhood, the model project complements and connects a wide range of family-friendly services.

Establishment of an outdoor-meeting point "with young people for young people"

Based on the fact that there were basically no meeting points for young people in the Falkenhagener Feld neighborhood, such a meeting point was designed by the young people themselves, supported by professional designers. The construction works were also carried out by the young people.

Final exams for everyone

In order to reduce school-dropouts, various components including dedicated classes for students working towards their final exams, individual coaching and additional study groups in various fields, were introduced at the high school to increase the number of students who pass their final exams. The range of services provided also includes a placement agency for students who are looking for an apprenticeship.

Sports festival "Sports from the FF"

The sports festival "Sports from the FF" has been organized on an annual basis since the introduction of the Neighborhood Management. Numerous small and larger sports groups and clubs present their activities within a call to action and fundraising campaign where everyone can have fun, but where also donations for free membership of needy children and adolescents in sports clubs are collected.

Whiteboards

To make sure that disadvantaged children have the chance to benefit from modern and innovative teaching and learning methodologies and materials, both schools in the neighborhood were equipped with interactive whiteboards for all classrooms. Advanced vocational training is offered not only to teaching staff but also to parents so as to empower them to participate more effectively in



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© NM Falkenhagener Feld-Ost



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Young people getting involved - in the construction of their own meeting point

Whiteboard in the classroom

Sports festival "Sports from the FF"

*District: Spandau
Supported since: 2005*

*Area: 73.1 ha
Population: 10,479
Proportion of foreign nationals: 12.73%
Population with migration background: 42.35%*



© NM Falkenhagener Feld West

Falkenhagener Feld West

The Neighborhood Management area “Falkenhagener Feld West” is situated in the northwest of the district “Spandau” on both sides of the “Falkenseer Chaussee”. Like the adjoining neighborhood Falkenhagener Feld Ost, the settlement was established under a social housing program from 1960 onwards and constitutes the first large housing estate at Berlin’s west end, that was there before Gropiusstadt and the neighborhood “Märkisches Viertel”.

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Likewise, the settlement consists of buildings arranged in rows, tower blocks and large building complexes with spacious open areas in between. In the north, the area adjoins the “Spandauer Forst”, one of Berlin’s largest forest areas. South of the skyscrapers, the green area “Spektegrünzug” connects the area to the geographical and administrative region “Havelland”.

In recent years, adverse developments have been recognized in the community living in the neighborhood. A large proportion of its residents is affected by unemployment and depends on state aid. There has been an exodus of middle class families within the higher income bracket. Less mobile population groups, including older residents and tenants with very low income, have remained. At the same time, many families with migration background have arrived. Migrants make up

for 30% of the people living in the area.

The reportedly increasing feeling of alienation and insecurity among residents, has resulted in public areas being largely avoided by the people living in the neighborhood. German resettlers have formed their own communities in some areas of the Falkenhagener Feld neighborhood. Similar to the Arab-speaking group of residents, the members of these isolated communities are occasionally facing major integration problems.

The relationship between old tenants and late resettlers is often tense and characterized by a lack of interest in and willful isolation from each other.

As in the sister neighborhood “Falkenhagener Feld Ost”, projects promoting young people, education and integration, as well as projects

specifically designed for senior citizens, are at the focus of the efforts made to improve the situation in the area, which was designated as a Neighborhood Management area in 2005. Since the demarcation, approximately Euro 950,000 was approved in project funding from the various Neighborhood Funds established under the "Socially Integrative City" program.

Selection of projects carried out to date

Based on these focus areas of intervention, a broad range of various project-related activities has developed and is implemented by external as well as local actors. Worth highlighting is the citizens' association "Neighbors in the Kiez", that offers different health projects, projects for senior citizens and schooling related projects.

The project for senior citizens aims at creating meeting points in the neighborhood in order to counteract the increasing isolation of older residents. Project activities partly take place in the newly established "multi-generational house" attached to the protestant Paul-Gerhardt-Church.

The church and its community center have developed into a social focal point in the neighborhood and are a strong partner of the "Socially Integrative City" program in the Falkenhagener Feld West neighborhood.

Against the background of dissolving social structures within families, particularly single parent households are encouraged to build their educational capacities within the scope of the model project "Families in the Center" (Familie im Zentrum - FIZ). The services offered by this family center include an educational counseling service, the "Turkish-Arab womens'-meeting point", the "Russian-Polish-afternoon meetings" and a crèche.

Additional financial support from the budget line for construction projects were approved for another project at Falkenhagener Feld West:

Two courtyards were completely redesigned by the housing company GEWOBA within the scope of a participatory model project. At the integrational meeting center "Falkenhorst" (falcon nest), migrants and locals have an opportunity to meet and get to know each other better. Open neighborhood meetings, public neighborhood parties and get-togethers, discussion and working groups as well as educational family projects are supported,

such as activities promoting the exchange of culinary and cultural heritage.

The project "Rainbow" targets pre-school children with language support, since many of them are finding hardship in learning the German language. The project is based on an early childhood education approach and aims at removing language deficits before the children's first enrollment at school. The project "Sprachstube Deutsch" (German language corner) is a similar approach responding to the need for pre-school language development of children with a migration background. The underlying concept of the "German language corner" project foresees that migrant high school students will be involved in the activities to support the children's language development.

In co-operation with the Neighborhood Management teams "Falkenhagener Feld Ost" and Heerstrasse, the "Bolzplatz-Liga", a neighborhood soccer league, was established, under which youth from different nations play soccer in mixed teams - which improves their ability to tolerate and respect each other, work in a team and resolve conflicts peacefully.



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Model-making

Promotion tour of the media project MUXS

50th anniversary of the daycare center "Swedish House"

District: Spandau
Supported since: 2005

Area: 65 ha
Population: 8,904
Proportion of foreign nationals: 9.51%
Population with migration background: 30.77%



© NM Flughafenstraße

Flughafenstraße

The neighborhood "Flughafenstrasse" is located in the north of the district Neukölln and bound by Hermannstrasse to the west, Karl-Marx-Strasse to the east and the premises of the former Kindl-Brewery to the south. In the north, it almost reaches the Herrmannplatz. It is densely developed with old, mainly residential buildings and only few public green and open areas.

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The connection to the public transport system is very good with the two underground lines U7 and U8. The Karl-Marx-Strasse with its "Neukölln Arcades", as well as the Hermannstrasse, offer good and diverse shopping facilities of supraregional importance.

Public buildings include the nearby town hall of Neukölln, the center for adult education, the music school and the Helene-Nathan-Library, which are of cultural and social significance beyond the borders of the neighborhood. A high proportion of the neighborhood residents is unemployed - often for the longer term - and is poorly qualified, so that their employability on the primary labor market is considerably limited.

The favorable geographical situation of the

area is outweighed by the scarcity of green and open spaces, which are often objects of vandalism and not very clean. The majority of the families living in the neighborhood is socially disadvantaged. Substance abuse and an infamous drug scene around the underground stations and the nearby park area "Hasenheide" have contributed to the negative image of the neighborhood. Various different nations live together in this area, however, there is still some potential for improvement in the fields of neighborhood relationships and communication.

The prevailing issues result in high fluctuation and social segregation. Based on this situation, the area was designated as a Neighborhood Management area in 2005.

Selection of projects carried out to date

The work in the area around Flughafenstrasse focuses on the fields of education and neighborhood relationships. Children and youth, being the future of the neighborhood, benefit from enhanced educational and recreational facilities established under the program.

Within the focus area of education the Albert-Schweitzer-Secondary School was reorganized to become the first all-day secondary school of Berlin. Integration is a cross-cutting issue as 85% of the students are immigrants of the first or the second generation, of Turkish, Eastern European or Asian origin.

The school is of prime importance for the area, not only because it offers the general qualification needed for university entrance and thus better job prospects to its students, but also because the school infrastructure, such as the gymnasium, classrooms and the entry hall are utilized by other institutions like sports associations, the adult education center and other partners from the cultural field. As such, the school enables and enriches recreational activities and neighborhood life. Projects in the field of education also include the establishment of the first parent-child meeting center at the "Käpt'n Blaubär"-playground and the auto-didactic center "Selbst-Lernzentrum" in the Helene-Nathan-Library.

To improve and strengthen the profile of the education infrastructure at the "Flughafenkiez", the various educational facilities have formed an educational association. The first joint activity aiming at improving the educational image of the area was the publication of the educational guide "Bildungswegweiser Flughafenkiez".

Model projects for strengthening the co-operation within the neighborhood included for example the "Neighborhood Committee Flughafenstrasse", in which residents with and without migration background are equally represented. In the field of residential commitment, the cultural project "Roma Aether Klub Theater" is exemplary. It is the only theater initiated by Roma ("gipsy") migrants which is staffed by an ensemble of most diverse social and ethnical backgrounds, forming a unique cultural blend.

In order to create more public and green space, the "Sasarsteig" was redesigned, now providing recreational areas for residents and playgrounds for the children attending the nearby Neukölln Protestant School and all the

other children of the neighborhood. Where the Erlanger Strasse corners the Reuterstrasse the public "square at the linden tree" ("Platz an der Linde") was created to improve the quality of the stay in the area and encourage communication. The redesign of the only larger square in the area, the "Boddinplatz", is underway and discussions are currently being held with residents to enable them to contribute their ideas and ensure their long-term commitment for the square.



© NM Flughafenstraße



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Speakers of the Neighborhood Committee

Flughafenstrasse

Neighborhood party in
May 2009

District: Neukölln
Supported since: 2005

Area: 25.3 ha
Population: 8,471
Proportion of foreign nationals: 44.30%
Population with
migration background: 60.99%



© NM Ganghoferstraße

Ganghoferstraße

The Neighborhood Management area “Ganghoferstrasse” is located in the north of the district Neukölln and situated between Karl-Marx-Strasse, Richardstraße and Sonnenallee. In the north, the area is bordered by Erkstrasse, in the south by the Richardplatz and the Thiemannstrasse. Numerous green courtyards north of Donaustrasse / Böhmisches Strasse are counted among the qualities of the area, as well as the “Bohemian Village” that is approaching its 275th anniversary.

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Roundabout 7,300 people of different cultures and nationalities live in the area, among them college students, senior citizens and numerous families with many children. Many of the people living here are jobless and depend on state aid. More than one-third of the children and adolescents in the neighborhood live in such households.

In 2009, the Senate Department for Urban Development provided Euro 50,000 in funding from the Neighborhood Funds I and II (for short term projects and small grant funding) Additional Euro 50,000 from Neighborhood Fund III (for larger socio-cultural and small construction projects) has been earmarked for the Ganghoferstrasse neighborhood to be disbursed in 2010 and 2011.

Selection of projects carried out to date

The area around Ganghoferstrasse is among Berlin's youngest Neighborhood Management areas: The local team started its work in July 2009. In order to introduce the team and the program to the neighborhood and identify potential members for the Neighborhood Council, but also to gain first hand insights into the issues prevailing in the “Kiez” from local residents and institutions, the team conducted a needs assessment in the form of a survey that also supported mobilization efforts. The needs and findings collected during the survey have been considered in the development of the integrated strategic and activity plan and are used in projects with similar goals.

In 2009, funds were provided from Neighborhood Funds I and II. Project work mainly targeted children and young people living in the neighborhood who benefited from various activities.

A number of creative and art projects were implemented, including various theater projects such as "Neuköllnisch for Beginners", centered around the topic of different cultures living together. Similarly, a radio drama project and a music workshop for girls as well as the performance of a nativity play at Christmas time were part of the program. Also a holiday program for children was financed under the program.

Projects embracing a rather pedagogical approach targeting children and adolescents included the project "Berliner Jungs" (Boyz of Berlin) aiming at the prevention of sexual assaults on boys, as well as lectures on prejudice-free education.

Other funding priorities included small-scale mobilization activities, such as Halloween and courtyard parties, one street festival and inter-cultural celebrations on occasions like Christmas and Eid al-Adha. Larger projects have been approved as of the beginning of the year for funding from Neighborhood Fund III, including a "Kiez" periodical and dedicated sports and recreational activities for boys. These projects were recently awarded to implementing partners.



© NM Ganghoferstraße



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Neighborhood Council Meeting

Official launch

Traditional orchard

*District: Neukölln
Supported since: 2009*

*Area: 31 ha
Population: 7,305
Proportion of foreign nationals: 30.9%
Population with migration background: 50.3%*



© NM Heerstraße

Heerstraße

Since the late 1960's, the large housing estate "Heerstrasse Nord" was built in Staaken at Berlin's west end; a social housing project for today more than 16,500 people. Residential multi-storey buildings and tower blocks of up to 22 floors in bright colors are distinctive features of the settlement.

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A central drop-in point for the residents is the local community center at the "Obstallee", run by a consortium of partners since 1978, which, together with other important social infrastructure facilities and the shopping mall, constitutes the center of the neighborhood. After the "Wende" (German reunification) most well-off families moved out of the area into the rural-urban fringe of Berlin. People of different origin moved in, among them many German resettlers. The proportion of residents who are not of German origin is at 38%.

The social and economic situation of the people living in the neighborhood has changed since then. For many of them, not for the better. Lacking prospects and difficult family backgrounds have led to an increase in conduct problems and behavioral disorders at school among children and youth. Since 2005, a Neighborhood Management process has

been initiated for the people living in the area to improve their chances in life. It is supposed to mobilize people, strengthen neighborhood ties and open up education opportunities. Since the demarcation of the area approximately Euro 3,300,000 have been allocated in project funding.

The project funds were used for social infrastructure and living environment enhancement, for promoting the neighborhood culture and for additional childcare services as well as educational and recreational activities.

Selection of projects carried out to date

The Neighborhood Management and the Neighborhood Council set a priority in equipping the social infrastructure with the capaci-

ties needed to meet the special requirements of a deprived area. Various projects were initiated together with the two primary schools and the local comprehensive school with upper-level secondary school "Amalie – School within a social environment" has proven a successful instrument, together with the basic facilities for children who are overburdened in class, anti-violence-trainings and more practical learning approaches such as cooking, handcrafting, painting, as well as parent work and complementing recreational activities offered by various partners in the neighborhood. The project "Treasure hunt" in co-operation with the Grips-Theater combines theater and school pedagogic and sustainably promotes the children in their development through the use of creative methods.

The project "New start" is designed for students who have withdrawn from school for different reasons. The project aims at achieving an increase in the number of students who obtain a qualified certificate and thereby improve their chances on the job market.

The improvement of educational opportunities through an adaptation of the educational infrastructure in the neighborhood to modern requirements is the main goal of the project "Islands for Learning"; technical equipments such as Whiteboards are expected to trigger additional learning impulses, and the construction of various "Islands of Learning" in classrooms and halls offer a place to learn and to linger to children who lack the space for or are not supported in their efforts to learn at home.

The topic of reading as the key to better education is raised time after time and in co-operation with the three school libraries, the district library and other stakeholders reading events are organized in the neighborhood.

The proactive youth work of the street workers is now supported by a district bus and the number of young people who start to get an idea of civic participation and assuming responsibility has increased through the "Youth Culture Forum". The face of the building hosting the youth center "STEIG" was redesigned by artists and young people.

The soccer league "Bolzplatzliga" as a successful violence prevention project has gained reputation beyond the "Socially Integrative City" areas of Spandau. Fairness and tolerance are promoted in athletic competitions, integration becomes something real, and the

young people assume responsibility looking after their team.

Within the project "Fit through Fitness", the youth construct their own fitness room in the cellar of the DAF (German-Arab Friendship Association). Following a participatory planning process involving the residents, the open areas alongside the way north of the "Obstallee" to the "Park of Cultures - Garden of Generations" will be redesigned, since the Neighborhood Management is also expected to achieve "tangible" improvements in the neighborhood.

The "Kulturzentrum Gemischtes" (Cultural Center "Mixed"), established in a former supermarket with much of intercultural commitment, offers now an attractive mix of educational, recreational and cultural programs. Highly frequented events, such as the Spring Festival with traditional Russian music, the Neighborhood Breakfast or the Days of Religions very impressively underline that the residents wish to meet other people and have some exchange. These events would not have been possible without the commitment of the many volunteers.



© NM Heerstraße



© NM Heerstraße



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Large settlement at the Heerstrasse

Graffiti at the youth center STEIG

District bus

*District: Spandau
Supported since: 2005*

*Area: 116 ha
Population: 16,575
Proportion of foreign nationals: 13.14%
Population with migration background: 37.97%*

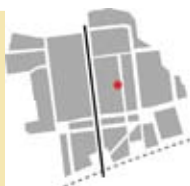


© NM Hellersdorfer Promenade

Hellersdorfer Promenade

The neighborhood “Hellersdorfer Promenade” is a part of the large housing estate Hellersdorf, built in the 1980’s at Berlin’s northern-east outskirts. The landscape “Hönoweiherkette” forms a border to the north, the green space at the Zerbster Strasse adjoins in the east, the bay at the underground line bounds the area to the south and the Hellersdorf manor and the Havelländer Ring border to the west.

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The district is divided into two residential areas, on both sides along the main traffic route Stendaler Strasse, and the district and trading center “Helle Mitte” in the south. Whereas the residential areas are built according to the industrial WBS 70 standard of the GDR, the area “Helle Mitte” is the result of an urban planning competition in the 90’s.

The large housing estate has image problems, although tenant satisfaction is still high. The residents particularly appreciate the close proximity to the urban-rural area, the numerous shopping facilities and good access to public transport. The Neighborhood Management works within a dense network of socio-cultural organizations and projects.

The Hellersdorfer Promenade is a comparatively young neighborhood. Unemployment is above average, and an increasing number of

children and youth depends on state aid. The demand for housing and commercial space has been on the decline, notably in the “Europa-Viertel”. Due to the owner’s insolvency, past agreements made on rehabilitation measures are no longer binding.

Facing a loss of purchasing power and competing retail business locations, the “Helle Mitte” also struggles with impending vacancies of commercial space.

Plots of vacant land of abandoned public facility areas and failed projects represent a potential for development, however, at the moment they rather contribute to a feeling of visual and atmospheric devaluation among the residents. In 2005, the Neighborhood Management was introduced and expanded in 2009. Since 2005 and up to 2009, Euro 924,800 were allocated; top priorities are the improvement of educa-

tion and employment. To finance the investment project "Öko-Würfel" (eco-cube) additional Euro 256,400 were provided.

Selection of projects carried out to date

The open-air gallery "We at the Hellersdorfer Promenade Neighborhood" is a participatory art project. More than 70 portraits of neighborhood residents were put up between the buildings in the Hellersdorfer Promenade. The portraits were drawn by children, youth and adults during numerous painting workshops.

With the "Fabulous Dragon" a very special water playground was created by the interaction of landscape architects, artists and residents.

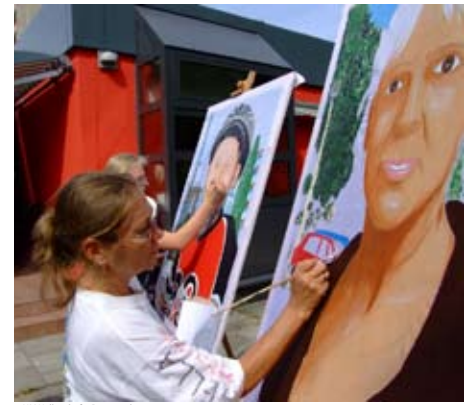
In fall 2006 the former daycare center at the Tangermünder Strasse was redesigned into the "Garden at the Beerenpfuhl".

Neighborhood residents were treated preferentially in the allocation of the lots. The tenants can design their gardens as they like and contribute to the enhancement of the area at the same time.

The annual promenade buffet, which has now become a ritual in the neighborhood, is a joint project of many facilities where children invite their parents to share a healthy meal.

The "Bunte Haus" "colorful house" is a new family and neighborhood meeting place.

The previously vacant corner shop, now a thoroughly refurbished place, offers a wide range of recreational and counseling services for families. Close co-operation of daycare centers, schools and parents is the education initiative's objective. A locally oriented spelling book and a joint theater project by daycare centers and elementary schools support the children.



© NM Hellersdorfer Promenade



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Portrait painting

The "Fabulous Dragon" - Water splash adventure

Allotments at the "Beerenpfuhl"

District: Marzahn - Hellersdorf

Supported since: 2005

Expanded: 2009

Area: 72,97 ha

Population: 9.717

Population of foreign nationals: 4,22 %

Population with migration background: 17,85 %



© NM High-Deck-Siedlung / Sonnenallee

High-Deck-Siedlung / Sonnenallee

The “High-Deck-Settlement” in Neukölln was founded in the mid 1970’s within the scope of a urban development competition and borders the Baumschulenweg at its neighboring district “Treptow-Köpenick”. The heavily frequented Sonnenallee divides the neighborhood in eastern and western neighborhood areas.

Neighborhood
Management



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The Heidekampgraben bounds the area to the north-east. Neuköllnische Allee forms the border to the south-west, the town gardening center along Jupiterstrasse and Hänselstrasse to the south-east. Located in the center is the small shopping mall “Sonnencenter”.

Distinctive for this residential area are the “High-Decks”, elevated decks whereby pedestrians access the four to six-storey residential buildings. Owing to the apartment structure and the spacious apartment floor plans, many families with children reside in this area. Furthermore, there are two building complexes that are mainly occupied by senior citizens.

The shift in the population structure with people from over 30 nations led to the departure of higher-income earners. The social structure is characterized by high

unemployment. Around half the residents receive state aid.

In addition to improving housing-, work and living conditions, integration problems are to be tackled and neighborhood ties strengthened through intensifying residential participation in the “Kiez” life by means of various activities. Since the Neighborhood Management was introduced, project funding for the area amounted to approximately Euro 2,500,000 until 2008.

Selection of projects carried out to date

Since the introduction of the Neighborhood Management, a number of important infrastructure facilities have been created, particularly through conversion and reconstruction of

many rooms meant for community use which had existed in the buildings, like e.g. laundry rooms.

Among the most important facilities are the neighborhood center "mittendrin", the youth club "The Corner" and the kids club "Waschküche".

The neighborhood center "mittendrin" has developed into a major meeting place where many of the neighborhood's various activities originate. The women's breakfast and the lunch table are regular offers that have been as well accepted as for example concerts, exhibitions, the "Talk Café", gymnastics for the elderly and dance events.

Through series events like "Kultur der Nachbarn" ("Our neighbors' culture"), "Straßenbilder – Menschenbilder" ("street portraits – people portraits"), amongst others, intercultural exchange is specifically promoted and supported. The computer club, "Computertreff 40 Plus e. V.", whose establishment and equipment was financed by the program and which is run by volunteer residents, has existed since 2002. The club is committed to familiarize elderly people with the handling of computers, organize courses for beginners and advanced students. The service seeks to include women with a migration background in particular, to improve their chances for integration.

In March 2009, the "Intercultural Parent Center" was inaugurated in the school at the Köllnische Heide, sponsored by the school's parent-teacher organization. It is the first parent center based at a Neukölln primary school. As more parents show interest in school work and daycare centers and start to get more involved, the need for a broader range of services accompanied by the need for more space became apparent.

When rooms in the primary school became available due to the move of the child- and youth health service, the parent-teacher organization, in cooperation with the Neighborhood Management and the district administration of Neukölln applied for funding from the Quartiersfond IV ("Neighborhood fund IV") to renovate the rooms. Works began in fall 2008.

Since the parent center opened its doors to the public, the weekly "Parent Café", discussion rounds, parent's meetings, mother-child groups, counseling services and cultural events have taken place there amongst other activities.

A meeting point for parents with handicapped children was established on their own initiative. The program will be developed in close cooperation with all parties concerned. Inside the housing estate, playgrounds and soccer fields were newly created or improved. School yard and daycare center grounds were significantly enhanced.

The rearrangement of the green spaces at Heidekampgraben is a good example for excellent cooperation between the local administration, the committed landscape architecture bureau, the housing associations and committed citizens. The popular green space invites for a walk or simply spend some time to relax.



© NM High-Deck Siedlung / Sonnenallee



© NM High-Deck Siedlung / Sonnenallee



© NM High-Deck Siedlung / Sonnenallee

**International Kitchen -
"Küche der Nationen"**

**"Parent Café" at the „Inter-
cultural Parent Center"**

**Inauguration of the fitness
point "Power Corner"**

**District: Neukölln
Supported since: 1999**

**Area: 32 ha
Population: 4.883
Proportion of foreign nationals: 29,39 %
Population with migration background:
59,61 %**



© NMI Körnerpark

Körnerpark

The name of the neighborhood "Körnerpark" stems from the historical park at the center of the area, which is bordered by the main roads Karl-Marx-Strasse and Hermannstrasse, the circular "S-Bahn-Ring" and the cemetery and green areas of the "Thomashöhe". The old Wilhelminian style building structures are well maintained.

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The neighborhood is very well connected to the public transport system of Berlin via S-Bahn and subway lines. Out of the approximately 10,000 inhabitants of the neighborhood, 40% are foreigners, mainly Turks, former Yugoslavians and Arab people.

Furthermore, also many of the German citizens have a migrant background. Poverty is on the rise. Many of those living in the neighborhood receive state aid. The proportion of families with many children and low income is high, especially among the non-German residents. The small proportion of German children in the neighborhood's daycare centers and schools makes learning the German language a challenge. The fact that many parents themselves have a low level of education makes schooling their children more difficult.

The schools in the neighborhood are facing a scarcity of rooms. As a consequence, there are no canteens, no wrap-around care and no sports lessons on the school premises.

The social situation is also reflected in the economic state of the retail trade, purchasing power is low, the range of businesses is not very diversified and the vacancy rate is high.

Based on the variety of different lifestyles, and due to cultural and age-related disparities, there is a huge potential for conflicts among the area's residents. Complaints have been voiced about the level of dirt on streets and walkways. Since 2005, approximately Euro 3,900,000 have been earmarked for construction measures and socio-cultural projects.

Selection of projects carried out to date

One single soccer field at "Körnerkiez" used to be the only recreational facility for young people. In order to find out about what sort of facility the young people would like to have, a survey was conducted among boys and girls living in the "Kiez". The result was that they wanted a "place to meet".

On 30th August 2007, the first youth center for young people aged 12-15 "JoJu 23" opened at Jonastrasse 23. "JoJu 23" offers young people a violence-free space, where respect and mutual acceptance are prerequisites for entering. They are expected to learn to tolerate the different cultures in the neighborhood and their various cultural, social and religious peculiarities. In jointly developed projects, the youth can put their idea of meaningful recreational activity and lifestyle into practice and are supported in their initiatives.

In early 2007, the family educational center opened its doors to the public. It is meant to complement the integration work targeting children and families in the area and cooperates closely with the neighborhood center, the two primary schools and the "District Mothers", who work across neighborhoods.

"Emser Strasse" is one of the busiest roads in the area. Together with the front yard of the Albrecht-Dürer-High School, it was beautified through new constructional and creative designs under the Neighborhood program.

The efforts aimed at creating new, creative places to linger. The suggestions and requests of the residents and businesses in the area have been considered throughout the planning process.

The refurbishment of the soccer field and the re-design of a stretch of "Selkestrasse" which has been closed to traffic were implemented in 2009. Residential participation was ensured through a town hall meeting and subsequent discussions with the youth from the "JuJu 23" youth center. Through these measures, it was achieved that the adventure playground is now connected with the soccer field and another playground at the "Schierker Platz" via the Selkestrasse. In addition to improving the facilities for young people, this has also increased road safety for children and youth.

The "Parent School" offers parents of first-grade-pupils at Konrad-Agahd-Primary School tips and support on how to deal with child education, training and health. Discussion evenings, facilitated by a moderator, take

place on a monthly basis in Turkish, Arab and German language. Another component of this project is the "Parent Café", a school-wide project to encourage exchange between parents of children of all age groups and cultures. The "Parent Café" takes place once a week at the school premises. It also offers an opportunity for mothers to register for a course in German language.

These projects aim at removing barriers between the parents and the school as an institution and work closely and trustingly together in the best interest of the children.

A long-term goal is to hand over the "Parent School" project to the school so committed parents and teachers carry on its implementation.



© NM Körnerpark



© NM Körnerpark



© NM Körnerpark

The "Kiez patron", entertainer Mr. Kurt Krömer

Körnerpark

Serious fall-cleaning

District: Neukölln
Supported since: 2005

Area: 36.2 ha
Population: 10,934
Proportion of foreign nationals: 39.65%
Population with migration background: 56.22%



© NM Letteplatz

Letteplatz

The Neighborhood "Letteplatz" is a heterogeneous Wilhelminian-style residential area with some buildings from the 1950's and 1960's in the district of Reinickendorf. It is bordered in the north by the Mittelbruchzeile, in the east by the Provinzstrasse, in the north by the Ritterlandweg and in the south by the Marktstrasse and the "Schäfersee" lake.

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Approximately 18% of the roughly 10,000 people live here on a foreign passport; 29% receive state aid and about 9% of the residents - which translates into an unemployment rate of roundabout 18% - are jobless.

Due to the observed change in the social situation, the neighborhood was included in the program "Socially Integrative City" as a prevention area. The Neighborhood Management team commenced its work in June 2009.

According to the findings of a school-based survey, the neighborhood is among the critical areas under monitoring. Networking and co-operation among social institutions, schools and community facilities is currently underperforming.

Through qualifying the services provided and networking among the partici-

pating institutions, a wider impact on education and services of public interest is expected.

Selection of projects carried out to date

"Lette 09 +"

The "Association Lette 09", consisting of the Neighborhood Management Letteplatz, the youth center LUKE and the Children's Recreational Center Pankower Allee, offered a range of activities on the "Letteplatz" square within the scope of the project "Lette 09+" between June and September 2009. The project enabled the residents to use the Letteplatz in a family-friendly way, with no fear of threatening situations. Interest was raised among children and youths for the other facilities offered by the aforementioned organizations, whereas responsible social behavior was strengthened

and promoted on the square. Involving the parents into the planning process has a supportive effect on the parental work of the participating organizations and encourages intercultural exchange.

Women-Café

The "Letteplatz" is a meeting point for many mothers who spend time there with their children. It is a place for social contacts and exchange between the families. In order to accommodate the request of the women for a permanent place to meet, one of the mothers organized a weekly "Women-Café" with lectures and group discussions at the Childrens' Recreational Center Pankower Allee.

Neighborhood project "Our Neighborhood at Christmas time"

The illumination of the Letteplatz from 10.11. through 31.12.2009 was organized to mobilize the residents to participate and develop their own ideas. The main objective was to encourage the neighborhood residents to make new contacts and jointly plan and implement activities. The success of this approach was visible in front of every door of the houses in the direct surroundings. Each front area had been furnished with a Christmas tree or an existing tree jointly decorated by at least three residential units.

Various members of the Neighborhood Council volunteered to support the campaign through providing organizational and promotional support and were able to mobilize neighbors to participate in the activities. A total of 15 trees in front of the houses surrounding the Letteplatz were decorated.

Language and mobility training

Since October 2009, two teams from the "Learning-Experiencing-Program "Little Star" have rendered extra language and mobility trainings to three daycare centers in the Letteplatz area. The main goal was to achieve a noticeable improvement of the children's level of language skills by the time of primary school enrollment. The teachers were trained on the principles of the "Learning-Experiencing-Program" and are expected to organically adopt them in their everyday pedagogical work. Accompanying activities conducted with parents aimed at raising parents' enthusiasm and commitment for the project and related subject matters. At the beginning of the project, the children demonstrated very different levels of language skills, whereas after completion of the program, almost all of them were able to understand and reflect the topics presented to them without any assistance.

Worth highlighting are the achievements made in the area of independent phrasing. The children were observed to be putting into practice many elements of the program in their daily routine.

Reading suitcase

Suitcases full of books, audio-CDs and indoor games for children are available for lending by families at one of the daycare centers in the neighborhood. There are two different sets; one is for children aged between 1 and 3 years and one for children from 3 to 6 years.

The project primarily aims at supporting and promoting children's speaking and reading skills. Parents shall be motivated to actively co-operate in the development of their children's capability to speak and write fluently.



© NM Letteplatz



© NM Letteplatz



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Official launch

"Lette +09", joint activities on the "Letteplatz"

Intercultural cooking cours

District: Reinickendorf
Supported since: 2009

Area: 87.39 ha
Population: 10,419
Proportion of foreign nationals: 18.3%
Population with migration background: 35.9%



© NM Lipschitzallee / Gropiusstadt

Lipschitzallee / Gropiusstadt

The Neighborhood Management area “Lipschitzallee / Gropiusstadt” in the south of the district Neukölln extends from north of Lipschitzallee to the Zwickauer Damm. The neighborhood includes large areas of “Gropiusstadt” and, with 24,000 inhabitants, is among the largest focus areas of the “Socially Integrative City” program.

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Implementing partners: S.T.E.R.N. Gesellschaft der behutsamen Stadterneuerung; FiPP e.V. – Fortbildungsinstitut für die pädagogische Praxis

“Gropiusstadt” is a large housing estate from the 1970's. The apartments were built within the scope of social housing provision. The area is very well connected to the public transport system, with three underground stations and via various bus lines. The popular shopping mall “Gropiuspassagen” is in close proximity to the neighborhood. The area does not appear too packed with the many residential blocks of between 3 and up to 19 storeys, since there are many public green areas, smaller shopping malls and service buildings in between. The majority of the first tenants, all over 55 years old today, have a strong feeling of attachment to their neighborhood “Gropiusstadt”.

Today, a high proportion of migrants live in the area, with many new German citizens who came from the former Soviet states. Further, there are many Turkish nationals and people of

Arab and Polish origin. However, most new tenants in the area have a low level of (subsidized) income and a low level of education. Many of these people are of non-German origin.

The frequently observed “speechlessness” between old and young on the one hand and between the different cultures on the other hand has a negative impact on the development of positive relationships among the residents in particular, and of a feeling of ownership for the area in general.

Particularly many older residents do not feel safe in public areas and deplore the uncleanness of the same, as well as the fact that there are no recreational activities which would be appropriate for them.

Selection of projects carried out to date

The neighborhood has a number of educational, social and cultural facilities. The Neighborhood Management seeks to work with these institutions in order to strengthen networking and co-operation and introduce a more proactive approach in working with the residents. The project "Parent School" aims at fostering the co-operation between schools and parents and encourage parental dialogue. Parent-teacher conferences with language interpretation in German, Turkish and Arab languages take place on a regular basis. A course in German language and a "Parents' Café" to facilitate exchange among parents complement this offer.

It is planned to strengthen or establish meeting points which are actually utilized by the people living in the area - regardless of their nationality.

Within the scope of a workshop, parents and children have built a traditional clay oven on the adventure playground under professional supervision. The result was the "Gropiusstadt Community Oven", created as a joint project of the residents. The "Laundry Café" complements existing neighborhood facilities with a new range of services. Under the project "Flowers for Gropiusstadt" many children's hands planted flowers in three areas around Lipschitzallee.

13 "District Mothers" of seven different nationalities speaking ten different languages in total are active in Gropiusstadt. They visit migrant families at home and, for example, inform parents about the German education system, give advice in education, nutrition and other parenting related questions.

The project "Little Star" supports language training in almost all daycare centers and two primary schools of Gropiusstadt. Following a "learning-through-playing" approach, the children are prepared for a successful start in school. The early language support program is targeted at children between 3 to 7 years of age.

The project "Schule der Eltern" ("School of parents") is supposed to foster co-operation between schools and parents and encourage parental dialogue. The first "Gropiusstadt Education Conference" took place in April 2008 and brought together more than 140 participants with various social and economic backgrounds. Participants jointly developed a vision of how Gropiusstadt would develop as an

educational location over the next five years. Activities were drafted and time schedules fixed.

Project ideas ranged from small-scale co-operations within the "Kiez" to the development of an area-wide "Language Strategy" for Gropiusstadt. The project "Bildungsmeile Wutzkyallee" ("a mile of learning at Wutzkyallee"), a network of three schools, one daycare center and a youth center, was among the direct outcomes of the conference. All educational projects are overseen by the "Education Association Gropiusstadt", which will coordinate the development of the Gropiusstadt as an educational location in co-operation with the "WBG degewo" housing society.



© NM Lipschitzallee / Gropiusstadt



© NM Lipschitzallee / Gropiusstadt



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Education Conference 2008

Activity trail

Get-together in the courtyard 2008

District: Neukölln
Supported since: 2005

Area: 140 ha
Population: 24,064
Proportion of foreign nationals: 18.16%
Population with
migration background: 46.66%



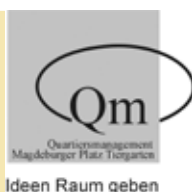
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Magdeburger Platz

The Neighborhood Management area “Magdeburger Platz / Tiergarten Süd” is situated at the south-western rim of the district “Mitte”, between the “Landwehrkanal” in the north, the “Lützowplatz” in the west and the Flottwellstrasse with the adjoining premises of the former freight station “Potsdamer Güterbahnhof” and the „Gleisdreieck” junction in the east.

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The Kurfürstenstrasse marks the border to the Neighborhood Management area “Bülowsstrasse / Wohnen am Kleistpark” in the north of Schöneberg. Next to the typical Wilhelminian style buildings, the modern buildings constructed under the 1984 International Building Exhibition (IBA) in Berlin north of “Lützowplatz”, are a characteristic feature of the area.

The neighborhood is particularly attractive due to its proximity to the main business center “City West”, the “Cultural Forum” and the “Potsdamer Platz”. It is interspersed with retail and other businesses and the share of residents of foreign nationality is very high. Consequentially, promoting integration has been a pivotal aspect, next to improving living and working conditions in the area. To tackle social issues, different approaches were deve-

loped and approximately Euro 3,400,000 released in funding for the neighborhood.

Selection of projects carried out to date

Tangible success has been achieved through living environment improvement measures.

The Potsdamer Strasse is the center of multiple initiatives by tradespeople and and businesses that contribute substantially to strengthening the local economy.

The interest group “IG Potsdamer Straße e.V.”, particularly the media company network “mstreet with its info center “Infopoint” at

Potsdamer Strasse, should be mentioned here, as well as the yearly cultural event "Magistrale".

Various job creation schemes supporting green area maintenance have been introduced. Also a full renovation of various daycare centers and schools was funded under the project. Children and youth benefit from improved school and leisure time facilities.

One of many examples is the redesign of the schoolyard of the Grips-Primary School into movement space. The "Lernhaus" (house of learning) at the Pohlstrasse has become equally vital to the various ethnic groups in the neighborhood as a central drop-in center for everyone.



© Alexandra Quint



© NM Magdeburger Platz



© J. Kerschmer

The new café next to the library Tiergarten Süd (South)

Information and awareness raising by the police

Canteen of the Fritzlar-Homberg-Primary School

*District: Mitte
Supported since: 1999*

*Area: 74 ha
Population: 8,456
Proportion of foreign nationals: 32.49%
Population with migration background: 56.27%*



© NM Mariannenplatz

Mariannenplatz

The Neighborhood Management area “Mariannenplatz” is situated in the district “Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg”, in the former “SO 36” area. The close underground and several bus lines provide a good connection to the public transport system. By its less exposed location this part of Kreuzberg can be qualified as a comparatively calm neighborhood.



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The ample area “Bethaniengelände” together with the “Mariannenplatz” and the adjacent “Feuerwehrbrunnenplatz” offer attractive public space and help to maintain a positive attitude towards life.

With 300 residents per hectare this area has a high population density. The residential area exhibits old buildings as well as social housing buildings from the 1970's. It is characterized by small retailers and service companies and also some restaurants.

The “Mariannenplatz” neighborhood is well known beyond the area for its many cultural activities and projects. The residents strongly identify with their neighborhood. In the 1960, many Turkish guest workers and their families settled here. The majority of residents are fami

lies with a migrant background. However, increasing unemployment and high fluctuation led to social problems in the “Kiez”. The proportion of young population is above average.

The youth often lack perspective, so drug dealing, violence and crime are present in the neighborhood. Furthermore, dissolving family structures, language barriers and a lack of educational opportunities affect their career and social development.

Approximately 39% of the residents receive state aid. For these reasons, the neighborhood was designated as a Neighborhood Management area in 2005. Since funding started around Euro 9,500,000 from project funds were granted.

Selection of projects carried out to date

The project "ArbeitslotsInnen" (work guides) offers a low-threshold service aimed to integrate youth and young adults into the labor market. A total of four persons are deployed to contact youth in the street, in youth centers and at school. They are at eye level with the youth and have the social competence needed to build up mutual trust. Moreover they are familiar with the "Kiez" and the youths' specific problems and speak German as well as Turkish.

The project staff is prepared by special trainings before getting involved in project activities.

The youth are then referred to existing counseling services with the objective to procure an apprenticeship or employment for them. The young people will be constantly accompanied in their job search, whereby their respective interests and experiences are taken into account, and existing abilities and skills are extended and deepened.

The pupils in classes 4-6 at the Heinrich-Zille-Primary School, the E.-O.-Plauen-Primary School and the Nürtingen-Primary School get tutoring as a learning support. The lessons take place in the afternoon at two school locations. Those who have learning deficits can use the support to compensate deficits and to improve in problematic subjects. Others who strive for higher learning qualifications (Junior High school/ Senior High school) are supported individually. Especially for the demanding transition from primary to middle school, the children are given guidance.

Two larger "Kiez" events are organized in the neighborhood; a summer and a winter festival. The programs of the events are created, offered and implemented in context with the residents. They communicate and inform each other and take joint action. Here, people have the opportunity to present themselves. Food stands reflect the culinary and cultural diversity of the "Kiez". Young people show their talent on a stage in a mix of musical, artistic, traditional and informal performances, complemented by multicultural performances. A facilitator from the "Kiez" leads through the program in German and Turkish. In addition, sports activities, art events and musical workshops for children and youth are offered. Initiatives, clubs and short-term projects can present themselves.

Seniors residents in the "Kiez", in particular those who live in isolation, are to be supported in making contacts and

exploring new fields of activity through sport and exercise.

In co-operation with the German workers' association meeting center ("AWO-Begegnungszentrum"), the program includes different topics such as health promotion, Berlin and neighborhood city tours, as well as biography work. Free of charge visits of various museums and places of interest in Berlin and exploratory tours in the own "Kiez", as well as "interreligious walks" are planned. Through activities in areas such as exercise (walking, swimming or aqua gymnastics, qi gong), diet (dietary advice and joint cooking) and lectures on health related topics, awareness shall be raised on the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle. The project offers health focused sport for the residents as a preventive and also supporting and strengthening impact on health. Activities are planned beforehand involving all parties concerned.



© NM Mariannenplatz



© NM Mariannenplatz



© NM Mariannenplatz

Cops and robbers course

Sport and exercise in the "Kiez"

The Neighborhood Management's mascot

District: Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg
Supported since: 2005

Area: 65 ha
Population: 5.680
Proportion of foreign nationals: 41,11 %
Population with migration background: 69,81 %



© NM Marzahn NordWest

Marzahn NordWest

The Neighborhood Management area “Marzahn NordWest” is the youngest area of the large housing estate “Marzahn” and situated at the north-eastern end of Berlin. A high level of fluctuation has resulted in a notable decline in residents by 37% between 1990 and 2003, whereas primarily the economically and socially stable left the area.

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QuartiersBüro
MARZAHN-NORDWEST

Newcomers arrived from foreign countries and with different cultures. The proportion of residents with a migration background is currently at 20%, many of them are Russian-German. The largest group of foreign nationals living in the district are Vietnamese people. Unemployment is a challenge for all of these groups in the neighborhood, as is finding an apprenticeship or other job.

There is a pertinent need to promote integration and ensure access to education. Marzahn NordWest is dominated by “Plattenbau” buildings whose structure is constructed of large, prefabricated concrete slabs. Nevertheless, the district offers a good living environment with numerous green spaces and playgrounds. There are sufficient daycare centers and schools and the area is well connected to the public transport network.

In addition to the program “Socially Integrative City”, which has accompanied these change processes since 1999, partial dismantling and improvement works were implemented in the area under the program “Stadtumbau Ost” (Urban Re-development East).

The most prominent example are the “Ahrensfelder Terrassen”, where 11-storey-buildings were dismantled down to 2-6 storeys and modernized. In 2008, a total of Euro 11,000,000 had been provided in funding for the approximately 600 individual projects.

Selection of projects carried out to date

The Neighborhood Management has introduced various activities in the district; play-

grounds, creative schoolyard design, creation of park areas and the redevelopment of the sports ground being among the most noticeable ones. Next to structural improvements, there is a clear focus on interventions for liveli-hood improvement.

The very young population with an above-average proportion of children and youth who often live in socially disadvantaged households now benefits from a great variety of facilities and services, ranging from sports and recreational facilities such as the "Dancehall" to counseling services for pregnant teenage girls.

Various educational projects are implemented in co-operation with daycare centers and schools, which are complemented by private sector initiatives such as the project "Diploma for the Future" which is awarded to children who have participated in certain educational programs. On the adventure playground, environmental education and the circus project "Cabuwazi" are offered under pedagogic supervision.

The project "Jobgate" was initiated in response to the most serious problem facing the district: the high unemployment rate. Providing information and counseling, the project makes an effort to identify an apprenticeship, an opportunity for advanced training or even employment for people living in the district, regardless of age and origin, in order to empower them to live a self-determined life from their own resources.

The "Integration Plan Marzahn NordWest 2011" was adopted as a best practice in the development of the National Integration Plan and defines objectives, strategies and activities. The most important projects include a peer-to-peer project for resettlers from Eastern Europe, "Aussiedler orientieren Aussiedler (AoA)" ("resettlers inform resettlers"), the German-Russian "Tschechow-Theater" and the projects of the association "Reistrommel e.V." (rice drum association), designed for Vietnamese families and their children.

Also the "Parent School" aiming at the promotion of integrating schoolchildren living with Russian-speaking parents receives financial support from the Neighborhood Management. In an area that is almost exclusively used for residential purposes, the creation of cultural facilities is of great importance. Besides the "Tschechow-Theater", the "Kulturhochhaus" ("culture high rise") with the kids club "Kinderkeller" ("kids' cellar") and the Bed & Breakfast

"Pension im 11. Himmel" (Eleventh Heaven & Skyhigh) is an outstanding project. Culture is presented in the neighborhood context and becomes a sensational event that reaches far beyond the district and thereby improves the image of the entire area.

The borough magazine "nw/sosedi" is a communication project supporting information, integration and participation. The magazine, published on a regular basis since 2009 by committed residents, brings the latest news on all important events and processes going on in the neighborhood. Articles in Russian language form an integral part of the magazine and supported by a partly independent editorial team.



© NM Marzahn NordWest



© NM Marzahn NordWest



© NM Marzahn NordWest

Self-help workshop for young people

Fireplace room in the "Kulturhochhaus"

Carrying out experiments helps to raise school-children's interest

District: Marzahn-Hellersdorf
Supported since: 1999

Area: 248.2 ha
Population: 22,308
Proportion of foreign nationals: 6.61%
Population with migration background: 20.17%



© NM Mehringplatz

Mehringplatz

The neighborhood “Mehringplatz” is situated in Berlin’s inner city, within the “Kreuzberg” district. It is close to the Jewish Museum and the former “Checkpoint Charlie”; also the “Potsdamer Platz” is not too far away and the Friedrichstrasse has its southernmost point here. Still, the circular “Mehringplatz” has not attracted many tourists in the past.



QUARTIERSMANAGEMENT AM MEHRINGPLATZ
im Kunstwelt e.V.

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There are a few nice old buildings, but the main part of the neighborhood is characterized by multi-storey buildings built within the scope of social housing provision in the 1970's. The area is very well connected to the public transport network and in close proximity to the most popular centers of Berlin's districts. Its favorable central position amidst all the tourist attractions, the “Mehringplatz” has some potential to develop into a tourist rest area.

In recent years, many migrant families have been and are still joining those who have lived in the “Kiez” for a long time. About 22% of the residents who are capable of working and earning an income are jobless. Primarily children and adolescents often leave an impression of poverty.

High youth unemployment and few chances to find an apprenticeship is causing dim prospects, particularly recognizable in the young generation. A poor level of education and German language skills is prevalent even among school children and educational and the recreational facilities for children and adolescents in the neighborhood are wanting.

The social structure of this neighborhood is reflected in low purchasing power and a lack of business infrastructure. The different cultural backgrounds of the people living here, as well as the generally low level of incomes, make community life in the neighborhood complicated, and there is a high potential for conflicts.

In public areas, especially on the “Mehringplatz”, the alcohol scene is very present. Criminal encroachments and an increasing amount of garbage on the roads have resulted in a negative image of the neighborhood. The prevailing social issues justified the designation of the neighborhood as a Neighborhood Management area in 2005. Since the demarcation of the area, approximately Euro 1,000,000 has been granted in funding.

Selection of projects carried out to date

To provide early support to (mainly migrant) children, early language support programs were introduced in the 3 daycare centers in the area and at the local primary school. The acoustic environment of the Galilei-Primary School was significantly enhanced through the reconstruction of hallways, staircase areas and ceilings, which has contributed substantially to a more conducive learning atmosphere.

Visible improvements make staying in the entry hall more pleasant. The “Parent’s Café”, which takes place twice a week, is meant to mobilize the parents, who are migrants by majority, to co-operate in the schooling of their children. Through this project, parents are expected to become less reluctant towards the school as an institution and participate more actively in their children’s everyday school life.

Various “Kiez” festivals as low-threshold interventions aim at encouraging residents to participate in the “Kiez” life more actively. Neighborhood parties and joint recreational activities help to remove cultural barriers.

An important step in enhancing the local environment was the establishment of an alternative meeting place for the community of adult alcoholics in 2007 in a more remote area of “Mehringplatz”. The place was selected jointly with the target community and equipped with seat benches, dustbins and a rental toilet. The lively usage of the place instead of the area around the Mehringplatz has improved the image of the latter, which is gradually regaining its image as a public recreational area among residents and tourists.



© NM Mehringplatz



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Project “Little Star”

German language course

Portable toilet at the “Mehringplatz”

District: Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg
Supported since: 2005

Area: 24.6 ha
Population: 5,317
Proportion of foreign nationals: 35.87%
Population with migration background: 70.11%



Mehrower Allee

The neighborhood “Mehrower Allee” is part of the large housing estate Marzahn. It is bordered by Mehrower Allee to the north, the “Bürgerpark” (“citizens’ park”) to the east, Raoul-Wallenberg-Strasse to the north and Märkische Allee to the west. Buildings with either five or eleven storeys and a few skyscrapers with up to 21 storeys characterize the area. Most of these buildings were partly or fully renewed in recent years so that they hardly differ from those of the neighboring areas.

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Noticeable is the large amount of green areas: the “Bürgerpark”, the new “Hochzeitspark” (“wedding park”), the rainwater basin, the green courtyards, the play and sports grounds, the extended gardens surrounding the child-care facilities, the abundant front gardens, the balcony flowers and the “Garten der Begegnung” (“garden of encounter”) – a green oasis at the heart of the area.

The infrastructure is comparably well developed: a shopping mall provides everything for the resident’s daily needs. Important services such as medical and health services are easily accessible in the ever-growing medical center.

Social infrastructure for children and youth, as well as recreational, sports and meeting centers for all generations offer numerous and diverse opportunities to spend spare time in a pleasant way. The “S-Bahn” connects the area

to the public transport system and tramways and buses make it easy to move around.

People of all age groups live in the neighborhood, yet on average people are older here than in other parts of the housing estate. Many of them belong to the first tenants who arrived in the early days of the neighborhood in the 1980’s. But also young families live in the “Kiez”.

The daycare center is fully booked and the classes of the primary school are full. Among those who arrived only recently, there are many late resettlers from the German diaspora who have arrived from post-Soviet states since the 1990’s and meanwhile account for more than ten per cent of the population in the neighborhood. Unemployment and a lack of future prospects, poverty and uncertainty did not stop at Mehrower Allee, and to maintain

a “Kiez” where life is worth living, despite the challenges some of its residents are facing, many people are now working together with support from the Neighborhood Management.

To date, approximately Euro 900,000 in funding from the EU, the federal government and the federal state of Berlin under the program “Socially Integrative City” have been expended in the area. The program “Stadtumbau Ost” (Urban Redevelopment East) provided additional financial assistance.

Selection of projects carried out to date

It is almost a challenge to select from the wide range of projects that have been implemented since 2005. The actors in the area had agreed from the outset that funds should be used to support a variety of key areas in order to respond to various issues: integration and neighborhood relationships, education and strengthening of families, improving life in the district and mobilizing the neighborhood community, as well as ongoing public relations work, preferably involving the residents, were among the main topics.

The district newspaper “Kiezblick” was introduced already in 2006 and is published on a quarterly basis by the “Residents’ Editorial Office”. In the same year, the neighborhood went online, and in 2009, a volunteer journalist from Mehrower Allee joined the team of “Kiezreporters”.

The neighborhood has visibly changed over the past few years, not least owing to the two main outdoor projects: The “Hochzeitspark” created in 2007 is the only one of its kind in Berlin and gradually becoming a genuine success story: In November 2009, no less than 75 trees had been planted by bridal couples and the park is still growing. Right next to it, a school garden that could be saved after the school was closed in 2006 became the central meeting point of the neighborhood during spring and summertime, the “Garten der Begegnung”. It has developed into a place where residents of different background and age can come together, try some gardening, sit together with their neighbors and enjoy the cultural summer.

Promoting a diverse district culture through a wide range of activities has been an integral part of the strategy employed to make life in the neighborhood more interesting, thereby attract-

ing an increasing number of people to get involved.

To this end, health and sports programs and courses have proven particularly effective, such as sports courses especially for women, “3000 steps” walking tours, bicycle tours, hiking, dancing and beach volleyball.

Diese Ansätze werden wesentlich auch durch die seit 2005/2006 im Quartier These approaches are supported to a large extent by female volunteer neighborhood social workers who have provided individual assistance to people in emergency situations since 2005/2006 and taken up the cause of promoting social life within the neighborhood.

Children and their families need special care, in that respect, the members of the Neighborhood Council that has been active since 2006, quickly came to an agreement. As a result, numerous projects are now implemented in daycare centers and schools. The Karl-Friedrich-Friesen-Primary School is currently shaping its profile as an “active school” through intensive promotion of physical and mental health and social skills among the students. The “Parent Schools” at the daycare center “Sonnenschein” (“sunshine”) and at the primary school level are intended to build parents’ capacity in the field of child education, sensitize them for educational issues and mobilize them to actively participate in their children’s education. Developing socially responsible behavior, also increasing respect, co-operation and mutual valuation in parent-child relationships are at the center of the project “Gruppenbezogene Sozialarbeit” (group-focused social work) at the Thüringen-School, targeting mainly young people with a migration background.



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“Kiez” showcase

Active schools for better learning

Function in the “Hochzeitspark”

District: Marzahn-Hellersdorf
Supported since: 2005

Area: 58.8 ha
Population: 8,226
Proportion of foreign nationals: 3.94%
Population with migration background: 14.79%



© NM Moabit-West / Beusselstraße

Moabit-West / Beusselstraße

The Neighborhood Management area “Beusselstraße / Moabit-West” is situated in the western part of Berlin’s inner city. The area is bordered by the river Spree, Levetzowstrasse and the street “Alt-Moabit” in the south, the Charlottenburg junction channel in the west, the circular “S-Bahn-Ring” and the premises of the freight station in the north, and Oldenburger / Emdener / Ottostrasse and Zinzendorfstrasse in the east.

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The center of the area is marked by the largest intra-urban industrial area “Martinickenfelde” and the adjoining residential areas „Beussel-Kiez” and “Waldstrassen-Kiez”, the smaller “Hutten-Kiez” and another complex of a few blocks south of Turmstrasse. The neighborhood is fragmented by various streets with heavy traffic. The residential areas are dominated by old buildings and some isolated houses from the 1960’s, 1970’s and 1990’s. The housing supply largely constitutes of small apartments for single households.

With 32%, the proportion of young people in the age bracket between 18 and 35 is comparably high, as opposed to the population over 65 and children under 12 with 10.1% and 10.6% respectively. The population structure is homogeneous. As compared to the district

average, the proportion of people with Arab origin or from former Yugoslavia is comparably high; however, Turkish nationals constitute the majority accounting for 22.66% of the migrant population in the area.

More than one-third have no German passport, about 50% have a migration background. Roughly one-third of residents is jobless, and one-third depends on state-aid.

The share of primary school pupils with non-German origin is at 66%, whereas almost all of them benefit from the governmental free school books program. Since the demarcation of the area in 1999, roughly Euro 7,400,000 in project funds were approved for the area.

Selection of projects carried out to date

In the year 2007, the Neighborhood Council defined three areas of intervention: education, social integration and business promotion. Within these focus areas, a variety of projects are implemented with funding from the "Socially Integrative City" program, whereas the Advisory (grant-making) Committee focuses on the same areas.

Training and Education is the Key

The project "Conflict Management at High Schools" helps to build up confidence between students, teachers and parents through regular consultation, personal counseling and topic-related events focusing on improving conflict management skills among the students. The project particularly attempts to reach out to hard-to-reach groups of parents as an integral part of the underlying strategy. Drama projects are integrated into everyday school life in order to achieve a sustainably positive personal development in the children using innovative creative methods.

Strong Neighborhood

The project "MüfüMü" (Mütter für Mütter - Mothers for Mothers) fills the gap between existing counseling services in the neighborhood and the migrant families. Under this project, 20 mothers were trained on topics including health promotion, violence prevention and communication processes, as well as the educational system of Berlin and are able to give a general overview on the social services available in Moabit. After accomplishment of this training, the women are now providing home visits to families personally known or recommended to them by the Neighborhood Management of Moabit in order to help these families to identify and benefit from those services that best suit their needs.

Promoting the joy of reading was the aim of the "Long Night of Books", with readings taking place at more than 40 locations throughout Moabit. In the morning, children at schools and daycare centers listened to the readings, in the evening, their parents did the same; at the social centers, theaters, cafés and even at the coin laundry. Since 2009, readings are offered on a weekly basis under the motto "Reading Moabit" and have attracted ever-growing interest.

Business promotes the "Kiez"

A window display competition for local businesses was initiated during Christmas as a low threshold intervention aiming at increased involvement and participation of this group of

stakeholders and motivate them to take on more responsibility for the development of the neighborhood. Various businesses were prepared to have their window displays decorated by schools, daycare centers and participants of the different recreational projects in the area. The competition was crowned by a joint walk-through and an award for the most beautifully decorated window display.



MüfüMü / Mothers for Mothers

Bright lights

Election of the Advisory
(grant-making) Committee

District: Mitte
Supported since: 1999

Area: 135 ha
Population: 19,788
Proportion of foreign nationals: 32.1%
Population with
migration background: 49.6%



© NM Moabit-Ost

Moabit-Ost

The neighborhood "Perleberger-/Wilsnacker Strasse" ("Moabit-East") is characterized by residential buildings from the early Wilhelminian period and a few larger commercial space areas. It is bound to the north by Birkenstrasse, Perleberger Strasse and Quitzowstrasse, to the east by Heidestrasse, to the south by Turmstrasse and to the west by Stromstrasse.

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It is one of the neighborhoods with medium investment needs: 26% of the approximately 10,900 residents receive state aid; approximately 12% of the residents are jobless, which translates into an unemployment rate of about 24%; 32% are holders of a foreign passport, whereas the proportion of residents having a migrant background is considerably higher.

The individual blocks of flats on this site are at the moment severely separated by the area of the former Moabit Hospital as well as by the former Schultheiss Brewery premises. The inclusion of these commercial areas and the projected establishment of companies in this area are expected to result in job offers and additional synergy effects (strong partnerships). At the same time, there are plans for the existing residential Self-help, Drop-in and Counseling Center to optimize and expand its range of services in the neighborhood.

Networking and opening of local schools into the neighborhood is seen as a chance for an educational initiative with broad impact.

Selection of civic participation processes

Civic participation processes in Moabit-Ost

The Neighborhood Management started its work in May 2009. One of its most important aims since that time has been to get in touch with residents and encourage exchange. Therefore, the Neighborhood Management team participates in "Kiez" activities such as street festivals and also organizes various events.

Official launch

In September 2009, the official launch of the Neighborhood Management was celebrated at

the youth center "KUBU" in Moabit-East. More than 110 guests attended. The opening speech was held by Dr. Christian Hanke, district mayor of Berlin-Mitte. Following the speech the new Neighborhood Management team introduced itself, gave insight to neighborhood work and informed about possibilities for participating in neighborhood activities. During the break the guests were able to contribute their comments and ideas to various current issues in the neighborhood through group discussions. The lead questions to be discussed had been chosen from main areas of concern and included questions like Can I afford a healthy lifestyle? Where do people meet in Moabit-East? Schools: Can they be modernized to meet the needs of Moabit-East? Vocational training and employment: How do we get new ideas?

Neighborhood conference

During the neighborhood conference on 21.11.2009 the results of the "Aktiv in Moabit-Ost" activation survey were presented. The survey was implemented by the active local club "Moabiter Ratschlag" and intended to mobilize residents to represent their own interests and contribute their ideas to the neighborhood development process. One strategically important module was the survey's questionnaire: Residents ask residents.

The results were presented along with the children and youth project "This is our Kiez" (a photo shooting project). The conference included three intensive workshops in which participants dealt in depth with the topics public space and commerce, neighborhood and intercultural encounters as well as in-school education and recreational time.

Neighborhood Council election

After an extensive mobilizing phase including an election campaign in German and Turkish language with candidate profiles on the Internet and posters, the Neighborhood Council was elected on 28.11.2009. It is composed of nine residents, six representatives from institutions, clubs and initiatives. On election day, the representatives to be elected presented themselves in the youth center "KUBU". Afterwards, the election and counting took place on the same premises. The five member Advisory Committee was elected at the same time. Before election day, information booths at two public locations in the area, the Bruno-Löschke-Library and in front of the Kurt-Tucholsky-Primary School, provided voters with possible choices. Especially people with a migrant background and junior citizens made good use of it.



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© Jürgen Schwenzel



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Launch

Launch

Neighborhood Council elections

District: Mitte
Supported since: 2009

Area: approx. 66 ha
Population: 10,920
Proportion of foreign nationals: 32.13%
Population with migration background: 55.1%



© NM Reinickendorfer Straße / Pankstraße

Reinickendorfer Straße / Pankstraße

The neighborhood "Pankstrasse / Reinickendorfer Strasse" extends from the North-South-S-Bahn (city train) at the "Humboldthain" station across the small river "Panke" the circular railway at "Nettelbeckplatz" and beyond, across Reinickendorfer Strasse, until it reaches the "Nauener Platz" and arrives at an area north-west of the northern part of the "Leopoldplatz".

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The neighborhood, situated in the district of "Wedding", has a heterogeneous building structure. Even though there are a few compact sections of Wilhelminian-style buildings, the larger part of the area is characterized by a mixture of old and new buildings, residential and business premises. The area is fractioned by large public highways including the highway B 96 and the circular S-Bahn, so that it is not possible to properly define where the actual center of the area is located.

Many of the residents have a migration background. Social facilities and schools are facing various challenges in their integration efforts. The social infrastructure of the area is well developed and there are 26 daycare centers, four primary schools, three high schools and one logopaedic school. Various smaller centers for pupils and women, a youth center and an emerging cultural industry complement the

wide range of social facilities available in the neighborhood.

In addition to the predefined areas of intervention, integration and participation, the Neighborhood Management is dedicated to improve the living environment and the overall image of the neighborhood.

In the coming years, main objectives are to network the different areas within the neighborhood and strengthen the co-operation among the various social service providers. For the first time in 2009, common visions and cases were developed for the focus areas youth, education and culture within the scope of a neighborhood conference. Since 2002, project funds in the amount of Euro 5,243,200 have been granted to the area.

Selection of projects carried out to date

The most important projects include:

Job coordination office

The job coordination office is intended to facilitate the transition from school into work life through practical career orientation and providing individual assistance in selecting a profession and applying for an apprenticeship or a job.

HIPPY

HIPPY is a family education program focusing on language support and preparation for school. The beneficiaries are socially disadvantaged families with migration background and with children at the age of 4 to 5 years.

Language center „German language corner“

Playing, music and sports are employed to help children at pre-school age who are not German native speakers to learn the German language in a familiar environment.

Open house “Max 14”

The neighborhood initiative seeks to proactively encounter the problems on the streets through public activities and open discussions, and to build up an effective neighborhood network.

Recreation around “Kolberger Strasse”

This project consists of four main components: recreational activities at the youth center in Wedding, playground activities at the Kolberger Strasse, out-of-school trainings for youth and, most importantly, vocational training for young people.

The “Veggie-Transformer” tackles malnutrition in children in combination with a pedagogic awareness-raising and training approach centering around healthy nutrition.

Women’s breakfast

The joint breakfast gives women from different cultures a chance to meet and get to know each other, whereas important information on existing facilities and services is provided to the participants.

The “Kiezmothers”

Promoting and developing the native language within the family to lay the groundwork for a multi-faceted capacity building for mothers and their children.

Residential participation in the redesign of two neighborhood playgrounds

In order to jointly develop ideas on how to redesign the playgrounds involving all the was successfully implemented to collect views and ideas of many residents and eventually put them into practice.



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Planting project at “Pankstrasse” on World Play Day

Children’s involvement in planning their playground

Green area at the shore of the river “Panke”.

District: Mitte

Supported since: 2002, since 2005 inclusive of “Nauener Platz”

Area: approx. 73 ha

Population: 15,259

Proportion of foreign nationals: 40.89%

Population with

migration background: 64.21%



© Zwischennutzungsagentur

Reuterplatz

The Neighborhood Management Area “Reuterplatz” is situated in the far north of the district Neukölln. It is bound bei Kottbusser Damm to the west, the Maybachufer on the shore of the Landwehrkanal to the north, Weichselstrasse to the east and Sonnenallee to the south. The area is mainly characterised by Wilhelminian style buildings with the “Reuterplatz” as a green center.

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The area is a home to more than 19,000 people, with a proportion of foreigners of 30.4%. The share of residents with a migration background is above 40%, whereas the largest group is of Turkish origin. The neighborhood is densely developed with only one single public green area. Residential and business premises are close to each other, and the spectrum of local business goes from small shops in the ground floor, craftsmen's workshops in the backyards, business centers up to large production sites an abundant variety of enterprises and industries are represented in the area. In recent years, the creative industries sector has seen an increasing number of start-ups. Nevertheless, the unemployment rate is high in the Reuter-neighborhood, whereas migrants and young people are particularly affected.

The population in this area has been on the

rise since 2003. This is mainly a result of the fact that a great number of young people between the age of 18 and 35 have moved into the area. In contrast, families tend to move out of the area as soon as their children have to go to school. There is still not much confidence in the local primary schools and their ability to provide quality education without disadvantaging children.

Accordingly, education is the main focus of the Neighborhood Management which is closely linked with the two other focus areas of integration and community mobilization.

Between 2003 and 2008, Euro 2,800,000 has been provided for investments and Euro 2,400,000 for non-investment projects.

Selection of projects carried out to date

From 2002 until 2005, everything was concentrated on investive construction projects involving the residents. After these visible measurements in public areas had been finalized to the most part, project work and funding increasingly focused on socio-cultural interventions.

In the meantime, the main focus is on projects that, according to current findings, are capable to bring about sustainable impact and structures. The project "Intercultural Facilitation", one of the first pilot projects involving several schools, has gained Berlin-wide recognition as a model project and is now financed by the Senate Administration for Education, Science and Research.

The local education association "Lokaler Bildungsverbund Reuterplatz", an umbrella association for all actors in the field of education, such as daycare centers, schools, recreational facilities and the private sector, has brought joint projects such as "Schule im Wald" (school in the forest), "Gewaltprävention" (violence prevention) or the art exhibition project "Roter Faden" (red line) underway, which document shared responsibility for children and youth.

Parents become partners in the education of their children - this is the aim of the parental mobilisation, networking and capacity building project implemented in the neighborhood Reuterplatz.

House owners constitute an important group of stakeholders for positive development in the area. Following the success of an interim use project implemented by the agency for temporary use "Zwischennutzungsagentur" a local cooperation network real estate owners who feel socially responsible for the neighborhood is currently being established. The state of civic participation in the Reuter neighborhood and first approaches to ensure its sustainability are the subject of a study entitled "More Democracy: Ensuring Civic Participation in the Neighborhood" which was compiled by the Catholic University for Applied Sciences Berlin (KHSB) in 2008. The findings of the studies (in German language) can be accessed online at the URL www.reuter-quartier.de.



© NM Reuterplatz



© Andrej Dallmann



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Neighborhood Council

Parents' representatives
signing the co-operation
agreements

Improvement of the out-
door facilities at the dayca-
re center Rütlistrasse

District: Neukölln
Supported since: 2002

Area: approx. 70 ha
Population: 19,245
Proportion of foreign nationals: 30.45%
Population with
migration background: 45.88%



Richardplatz Süd

The neighborhood "Richardplatz Süd" is the manifest expression of a place where the traces left by early Bohemian settlers meet those of the more recent immigration of migrant workers, refugees and newcomers. The neighborhood with its approximately 11,000 residents is located in the north of the district Neukölln and bound by Sonnenallee to the east, Saalestrasse to the south, Karl-Marx-Strasse to the west and Richardplatz to the north. It is largely characterized by its tightly-packed Wilhelminian style residential buildings interspersed with small business centers.

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There is an obvious lack of green and open spaces. The majority of residents are families with a migration background. High fluctuation, with middle class families leaving the area, has remained a challenge for sustainable development in the area.

Considerable poverty, language barriers and education deficits have resulted in cultural segregation of ethnical groups. There is a strikingly large number of abandoned shops. The pertinent issues facing the neighborhood justified its classification as a Category I Neighborhood Management area in 2005.

Early Neighborhood Management interventions focused on public space enhancement and - until today - social infrastructure improvement. Top priority is given to in-school prevention work

among children and youth and parental involvement with a particular focus on parents with a migration background.

Direct involvement of the different communities, encouraging them to take on responsibility, and strengthening social cohesiveness have played an essential role which is also reflected in the design of the projects. Following the demarcation of the area in July 2005, approximately Euro 2,200,000 have been approved in project funding (including approx. Euro 1,850,000 for socio-cultural interventions and approx. Euro 350,000 for investments) until 2009. In addition to that, funds in the amount of Euro 200,000 were granted to the neighborhood out of the sub fund "Neighborhood Fund IV", which is dedicated to construction projects with a budget exceeding Euro 50,000.

Selection of projects carried out to date

In order to make the "Kiez" a better place for all population groups, multiple large-scale as well as small projects were supported over the past years. Interventions focussed on strengthening the social fabric, improving advanced vocational training opportunities and promoting integration.

Owing to the fact that there were basically no recreational opportunities for children and youth up to the age of 15 and concerns about the considerable damage caused by vandalism on the open school yard of the local "Löwen-zahnschule", a meeting point for children was established in 2006 and an old barn building in the neighborhood was redesigned into a youth and community center. The construction works, as well as the recreational activities that have since been developed at both sites, have been and are still being supported by the Neighborhood Management.

Various projects are implemented at the 4 schools in the neighborhood. These include violence prevention activities, such as mediator training and courses aiming at the promotion of students' social skills. In addition, a "Parents' Café" was opened at one of the schools for more parental involvement in everyday school life.

The cultural projects implemented in the neighborhood give migrant community members a chance to present their different cultural backgrounds to others in an informative way, strengthen children and youth and support the dialogue between parents and teachers. Other projects seek to achieve re-letting of the largely vacant commercial space by promoting networking activities that bring house owners and potential tenants together. These activities are supported by a management consulting service offered to new and settled businesses in the neighborhood.

To help integrating female migrants seeking employment in the borough, a sewing studio was established in 2007. Language and sewing courses further the women's personal development and they perform contract work for social service providers. The sewing studio was complemented by a professionally supervised workshop for the residents of the Kiez that also offers a tool hire service and a variety of handicraft courses.

Among the main goals of the Neighborhood Management is an improved image of the neighborhood. To this end,

guided tours are organized, which are designed to present the local businesses in an artistic / creative way.

A different kind of tour is offered by women and female students with Turkish and Arab migration background who grew up in the neighborhood. During these tours, they show their guests around those places in the neighborhood which are of particular importance to them.



© NM Richardplatz Süd



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Violence prevention

Language support

Blacksmithing course

District: Neukölln
Supported since: 2005

Area: 44.7 ha
Population: 11,836
Proportion of foreign nationals: 38.33%
Population with migration background: 55.13%



© NM Rollbergsiedlung

Rollbergsiedlung

The Neighborhood Management area “Rollbergsiedlung” is located in the north of the district Neukölln. The settlement, built in the 1970’s, is the result of a rehabilitation project. The area has a high proportion of municipal housing units in larger residential home complexes.

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ROLLBERG

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The good infrastructure and the close shopping facilities make this neighborhood attractive. It is bound in the north by Rollbergstrasse, in the west by Hermanstrasse, in the south by Mittelweg and in the east by Bornsdorfer Strasse. People from more than 30 nations live in the neighborhood, whereby the largest groups are residents from Turkey and Arab countries. More than half of the people in the neighborhood have a migration background.

The Rollbergsiedlung has a very young population. Almost a quarter of residents are under 18. The neighborhood’s development goals are to improve educational and integration opportunities. Since its demarcation in 1999, around Euro 3,000,000 in project funding were allocated.

Selection of projects carried out to date

The main focus area is to foster education and integration. Projects to spur parents to action, like the “Parent School” (Schule der Eltern) provide support and counseling to families of various nationalities in their everyday life.

The active inclusion of the school’s parents association should initiate a process to close the information gap between teachers and parents and raise parents’ awareness of their parental and educational duties.

Schools are additionally supported in carrying out theme specific topics at parents’ evenings. The interpretation and counseling support are

a major contribution. The local Neighborhood Management office closely collaborates with local daycare centers, schools and youth facilities. To combat educational issues and further education, pilot projects for language teaching and homework support were initiated.

The girls meeting place “MaDonna” provides space for girls and young women of different cultural background aged 9-21 to organize their leisure time or to get support doing their homework. Another opportunity for women to seek information and meet other women is the weekly women’s breakfast, which was originally funded by the Turkish entrepreneurs and craftsmen association (Türkischer Unternehmer & Handwerker e.V. Berlin) but has become independent from support. The women can also ask for support in domestic or school problems and seek debt counseling.

In 2007, a family competence center was established as a drop-in center for people seeking advice in educational and child rearing questions. As a joint project it also serves as coordination center for existing offerings and implementing partners in the field of education. The cooperation between the police and the Neighborhood Management is exemplary in this neighborhood.

The residents’ sense of security has greatly improved in recent years. Another strong partner in the neighborhood is the STADT UND LAND (“City And Countryside”) housing association. In response to frequent complaints about the environmental situation in the neighborhood the project “Clean Neighborhood” was developed in cooperation with STADT UND LAND and the tenant advisory board, in order to raise and strengthen the residents’ environmental awareness and responsibility.

A variety of subprojects followed a spring-cleaning, amongst others teaching units and event competitions in daycare centers and schools, all centered around the topic of environment and garbage. All results were presented within the scope of a touring exhibition and have been integrated in a new waste disposal concept by STADT UND LAND, which was developed in cooperation with the Berlin city cleansing company and Berlin Recycling.



© NM Rollbergsiedlung



© NM Rollbergsiedlung



© NM Rollbergsiedlung

MaDonna girls’ meeting place

Spring-cleaning

Family competence center

District: Neukölln
Supported since: 1999

Area: ca. 29 ha
Population: 5.277
Proportion of foreign nationals: 34,09 %
Population with migration background: 67,39 %



Schillerpromenade

The Neighborhood Management area in the north of the district Neukölln is bordered by Flughafenstrasse and Columbiadamm in the north, Hermannstrasse in the east, the S-Bahn line in the south and the former Tempelhof airport in the west. A characteristic feature of the area is the Wilhelminian-style housing estate along "Schillerpromenade" with its central green area. South of the neighborhood there are a few cemeteries and the area reaching from the surroundings of "Wartheplatz" to the southern circular "S-Bahn Ring".

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The area is well connected by public transport and has a good potential for development since the Tempelhof airport has been closed. However, on the other hand, the area is very densely developed and there is a notable deficit in green areas which may actually be utilized by the public. The proportion of migrant population is at about 52%. High unemployment and fluctuation rates in the area were arguments to designate the neighborhood as a Neighborhood Management area in 1999. Since the demarcation of the area, approximately Euro 8,000,000 in funding were granted to counteract the issues prevailing in this neighborhood.

Selection of projects carried out to date

Enhancement of the living environment, particularly of spaces for children and youth, has

been a priority in the work of the Neighborhood Management from the outset. Today, there are a multitude of quality green areas, playgrounds and recreational facilities. For example, in 2006 the youth club "YO!22" was established as a central meeting point for young people in the neighborhood.

Adolescents aged between 14 and 18 can spend their afternoons and evenings here under supervision of a team of social and youth workers.

The central green stretch of Schillerpromenade and the adjoining "Herrfurthplatz" were redesigned according to the residents' ideas. After these initial structural improvements that considerably enhanced the social infrastructure of the Schillerpromenade, the Neighborhood Management has basically concentrated on the implementation and promotion of

socio-cultural projects since 2005 to tackle the most prevalent deficits. Also at the Schillerpromenade, the highest potential for improvement primarily lies in the fields of education and integration.

First and foremost, educational deficits in children are a pressing issue given the impact they may have on the children's future. But also poor communication between different resident groups, which affects social life in the neighborhood, has been an area of concern. In this period, the most recognized and successful project under the program, "District Mothers", was initiated in the neighborhood Schillerpromenade.

The project has become an "export hit par excellence" and has been expanded to the entire north of Neukölln with a total of 100 District Mothers working for the project. Formerly hard-to-reach target groups are now able to benefit from the counseling service provided under the intentionally low threshold, but still proactive home visit approach, and sensitized on educational issues.

Within the scope of the project "Intercultural Parent Center" (Interkulturelles Elternzentrum - IEZ) and its wide range of services, a drop-in center was created for families in the area.

Over time, the focus of activities targeting families and parents shifted to the schools, where deficits are most prevalent. Parental involvement at the Kurt-Löwenstein-Secondary School, supported since 2007, can look back on a variety of activities in the field of parental involvement that were successfully implemented. Based on the proactive home visit approach, many parents could be involved in their children's everyday school life on a long-term basis. In order to achieve a sustainable integration of parent work into school life, a permanent meeting point for parents is currently established in the form of a "Parent's Café".

In the view of the Neighborhood Management, education is the key for successful integration, which is why it is so important to reach out to children and youth at the earliest possible stage of their development. This is supported by the projects of the Neighborhood Management that are implemented in daycare centers and schools.

In 2008, the project "Intercultural Parent Center meets school" was initiated in order to integrate the services provided by the IEZ into

schools and daycare centers in the area to reach even more parents and strengthen networking between daycare center, schools and the existing services provided by IEZ. These also include open consultation hours and parent workshops, which are directly attached to daycare centers and primary schools.

The project "Parent School" at the Karl-Weise-Primary School goes one step further. Given that the existing facilities offered to parents and families in the "Kiez" build upon the idea that the parents develop own initiative and to make use of these services, the project aims at reaching out to those parents which could not be involved in the education of their children so far. To this end, parents are requested to sign a "co-operation agreement" in which they acknowledge that they are prepared to cooperate in the education of their children. Intensive liaison with and support of these parents help to mobilize them for increased commitment and participation in their children's school life. This support is rendered by a team of social workers and one member of the teaching staff who dedicates a certain amount of working hours exclusively to the project. The project is exemplary for successful networking among projects and stakeholders at the institutional level.



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District Mothers

Schillerpromenade

Breakdance at YO!22

District: Neukölln
Supported since: 1999

Area: 95 ha
Population: 20,853
Proportion of foreign nationals: 36.43%
Population with migration background: 52.69%



© NM Soldiner Straße / Wollankstraße

Soldiner Straße / Wollankstraße

The Neighborhood "Soldiner Strasse / Wollankstrasse" is situated in the northern part of the Berlin district "Wedding". The area is enclosed by the Osloer Strasse, Grüntaler Strasse and Drontheimer-/ Provinzstrasse and the S-Bahn line (city train) and an allotment site. The neighborhood, a Neighborhood Management area since 1999, meanwhile has a number of quality green areas and playgrounds; the majority of the numerous Wilhelminian-style houses, which are mainly privately owned, has been rehabilitated.

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Especially the green area alongside the small river Panke ("Pankegrünzug"), refurbished in 2005, is a great asset for the residents and situated directly at the waterside amidst the inner city - a specialty of the Soldiner "Kiez" that attracts many visitors. Currently 15,500 people from almost 70 different countries live in the old and the interspersed newer houses constructed under the social housing schemes of the 1970's and 1980's within this densely developed neighborhood.

About 57% of residents have a migration background with many coming from Turkey, but also from former Yugoslavia, Poland and Arab countries. Of the people who live in the „Soldiner Kiez“, 16% have a German passport. The neighborhood has a very young population; with 40% being children and adolescents under 18. Roughly 83% of these young people have a migration background.

It has become a matter of course for the residents to participate in the management of their neighborhood.

Whereas some have contributed on an ongoing basis through their membership in the Neighborhood Council (established in 2004) or the Advisory (grant-making) Committee, others actively participate in the network of associations organized on neighborhood level, which were formed by residents and committed individuals. Many of them have worked towards improved living conditions in the "Kiez" for years, mostly on a volunteer basis.

Selection of projects carried out to date

Over time, the focus of the Neighborhood Management has shifted from projects aiming at improving the living environment to socio-cul-

tural projects. Key topics in the neighborhood include integration through education, cultural activities and enhancing the image of the area. In the past six years, for example, a substantial creative art project using vacated areas was developed with the project "Wedding colony - art uses free space", which is popular far beyond the district. The roundabout 30 rooms inhabited by the project were provided by degewo, a municipal housing society. The project includes a youth gallery in the district of Berlin Mitte, which sees itself as a project by adolescents for adolescents who are interested in pursuing creative and artistic work.

In the field of education, a whole range of services is offered to promote language development in children and youth in co-operation with the parents, whereas the program components are supposed to consecutively build upon each other as much as possible. This starts already with early education provided under the home-based "Opstapje" (Dutch: "step by step") program, where amongst other aspects early daycare center attendance is promoted.

At the primary schools, projects such as the additional remedial teaching project "SPRINT", also available as an open out-of-school service, or creative German language teaching through free storytelling, have been successfully implemented.

To enable regular language and integration courses for adults living in the neighborhood, the Neighborhood Management works with the adult education center "Volkshochschule Berlin Mitte". Tutors promote their activities under the motto "Talk to me" at the Luisenbad Library. To disseminate comprehensive information on the range of facilities available in the neighborhood "Soldiner Strasse" among those interested, the German language learning network "DeutschlernNetz" was established with a counseling and co-ordination center at the "Fabrik Osloer Strasse" among other locations.

This Neighborhood Center is a strong partner of the Neighborhood Management. Since the merger of the "Nachbarschaftshaus (Neighborhood House) Prinzenallee 58 e.V." and the Neighborhood Center "NachbarschaftsEtage" (Neighborhood Floor) in 2008, the various courses, events and initiatives for social integration are coordinated in the same building at Osloer Strasse 12.

Maintaining public areas in a neat condition, also with view to maintaining a fee

ling of security in individuals, was among the priorities set by the residents.

To this end, various participatory projects including the gardening initiative "Care for your 'Kiez' greens", but also installation of ancillary facilities such as the lighting for the passage between Drontheimer Strasse and Kolonie-strasse in financial co-operation with the housing company "Aachener Siedlungs- und Wohnungsgesellschaft" were realized. In order to highlight the qualities of the neighborhood, a two-year promotional campaign was also supported.

Additional information on the Neighborhood Management at Soldiner Strasse are regularly published online at www.deinkiez.de. The website is used extensively in the public relations work within the neighborhood and beyond.



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Transformer substation

Neighborhood Councillors

Neighborhood Council Meeting

District: Mitte
Supported since: 1999

Area: approx. 71 ha
Population: 15,754
Proportion of foreign nationals: 40.31%
Population with migration background: 61.11%



Spandauer Neustadt

The Neighborhood Management area "Spandauer Neustadt" is north of the old town of Spandau. It is situated between Falkenhagener Strasse and Neuendorfer Strasse and bordered by Ackerstrasse in the west and the building complex of the Spandau Hospital between Lynarstrasse and Neue Bergstrasse in the north. To the north-east, the area is bound by Neuendorfer Strasse and Schützenstrasse.

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The area is mainly characterized by Wilhelminian-style buildings in a perimeter block structure with 4 to 5-storey buildings. The business and shopping street Schönwalder Strasse, the extended green area of the "Koeltzpark" with a number of playgrounds and the "Luther Church" with the "Lutherplatz" together form the center of the area. The inner area between Neuendorfer Strasse and Schönwalder Strasse is one of Spandau's oldest suburban areas. It was once built as a home for workers in the armaments industry. There is a multitude of densely built small and smallest apartments and still today the structural condition and the standard of the equipments are rather poor.

Existing facilities for children and adolescents are very limited in terms of space. Further to this, there are not enough playgrounds and soccer fields or other open spaces for outdoor activities. The area is among the neighbor-

hoods with medium need for intervention: The unemployment rate is high with 10.3%, whereas long-term unemployment is very high, and almost half of the residents (39.7%) receive state aid. The challenging social situation many people living in the "Neustadt" find themselves in is also indicated by the large number of indebted households (28.3%), child poverty (over 50% use subsidized learning material), low purchasing power and a reported lack of prospects, especially among young people. There is a high turnover of residents in the area. Many above-average earners, particularly families, have moved out and an increasing number of business and residential units are vacant.

Especially at school the state of the social problems becomes evident: More than 40% of the students drop out or leave school without a proper certificate,

and working with parents is often a challenge. Specific indicators on education attest that this neighborhood is among the most critical areas of observation.

Selection of projects carried out to date

Garden for all senses

In autumn 2009, children attending the after-school care facility, run by the "Berliner Wohnungsbaugenossenschaft von 1892 eG" housing corporation "conquered" a nice piece of land in front of their building. Assisted by gardening experts from the neighborhood, they built a little garden with a small apple tree at its heart. Together the children deliberated on what kinds of fruit and vegetable they liked best, which types of spice would add a good taste to their food, and what the scent of gooseberry blossoms is actually like. The development of the growing plants is regularly documented in the "garden report portfolio", where the growth status of all the plants are duly recorded. The "Garden for all senses" was officially inaugurated on 13. November 2009.

Weeks of the Future and school in a box

The idea of the "Weeks of the Future" has been promoted by the Neighborhood Conference since the neighborhood became a Neighborhood Management area. Educational institutions were encouraged to discuss with children and youth about the changes that would be needed in their "Kiez". The results of these discussions were documented in essays and paintings which were then presented within the scope of an exhibition. For example, the ideas for the reconstruction of the Lynar-Primary School were drawn into the layout plans and room designs were presented using carton-made models.

The kids from daycare centers and schools gave an impressive insight into how they experience their "Kiez". They did not stop at the dirt in roads, parks and frontgardens, for which they expressed considerable disapproval. On 19. November 2009, the grant opening of the exhibition was celebrated with a function in the entry hall of the Lynar-Primary school.

Spandau girls before Christmas

Traditionally, in the advent season before Christmas, there is a lot of handicrafts and decoration going on in Germany. In maintenance of this tradition, many small and also big girls were invited to come to the girls' center and try out new techniques and materials to create, for example, beautiful Christmas

light chains, which could then be carried home and proudly presented to the family. In early September, a Christmas bakery workshop was organized, the "Long Night of Bakery", which was also well received by the target group. Education on healthy nutrition was of course part of the program, but there was still enough time to have fun and pinch a bit of cookie dough.

Safe way to school through the "Kiez"

At the Lynar-Primary School various activities were initiated together with the children to make the way to school safer for them. The children thoroughly investigated their way to school and reported on the "good things" and the "bad things" they encountered.

Safety trainings were conducted in class in co-operation with the crime prevention team of the police including a creative competition. The winning draft was presented during the closing ceremony of the training.

The project also aimed at sensitizing facilities and businesses residing in the area to protect children on their way to school. A sticker indicating readiness to help was developed together with pupils from the Lynar-School. Within the scope of a painting competition, the pupils developed creative logos for a banner to mark the school way.



Youth center "Koeltzpark"

Inauguration of the Spandauer
Neustadt Neighborhood
Management office

Tenants' Get-together

District: Spandau
Supported since: 2009

Area: 44.6 ha
Population: 8,493
Proportion of foreign nationals: 22.71%
Population with
migration background: 37.9%



© Anne Wispieler

Sparrplatz

The Neighborhood Management area “Sparrplatz” is bordered by Luxemburger Strasse to the north, by Müllerstrasse to the east, by the S-Bahn (city train) to the south and the canal “Spandauer Schifffahrtskanal” to the west. Densely arranged block perimeters, old buildings, a few isolated buildings from the 1960’s and 1970’s and some newer buildings from the 1990’s characterize the area.

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The area is well connected to the public transport system of Berlin via three underground and one S-Bahn station. The vacancy rate is low. The “Sparrplatz” area is situated almost like an island between the canal, Müllerstrasse and Luxemburger Strasse that form a barrier separating it from the surrounding city. However, this is what gives the “Sparrplatz” neighborhood its comfortable flair, with calm streets and squares, close to the waterside. Attractive residential locations can be found along the northern shore of the canal. The retail and service infrastructure is diverse, particularly striking is the huge number of cafés and restaurants.

The structure of the population is multi-ethnic. Notwithstanding all these advantages, many German families with regular income have left, whereas more socially disadvantaged families move into the area.

The age structure is very young on average and the unemployment rate is high. The streets leave an increasingly unkempt impression and incidences of vandalism in public places are on the rise.

Certain areas are avoided by part of the residents, and in the worse case people totally withdraw from public life and eventually relocate to other areas. In the year 1999, the “Sparrplatz” neighborhood was designated as a Neighborhood Management area. Since then, approximately Euro 5,400,000 has been allocated in funding.

Selection of projects carried out to date

The new design of the “Sprengelpark”, a green area of about 10,000 square meters, was based

on a first draft plan developed by residents and other stakeholders at a planning workshop in early 2004. German Railways financed the project to compensate for construction works affecting the smaller recreational area around the "Mettmannplatz". The contract for this compensation measure was awarded and the area between Sprengelstrasse and Kiautschoustrasse made available by the district administration of Berlin-Mitte. Walkways and squares, playgrounds and tranquil areas, a play ship and a plane intarsia in memory of the history of the location were planned.

Ideas for the design of the play- and sports grounds had been collected in a survey conducted among children and youth in November 2005. Meanwhile, the design of the „Sprengelpark“ has been completed and it is very well received by the residents of the neighborhood.

The focus of the community center "SprengelHaus" (SprengelHouse) is the provision of holistic health promotion covering all areas of life. Supporting the residents' commitment and co-operative partnerships with local facilities and health care providers are among the main objectives of the center.

To this end, a conducive environment is supported to be established strengthened to promote all aspects of a healthy life in the "Kiez". Activities were temporarily co-ordinated by the management of the "Healthy Sprengelkiez" project.

The range of services and facilities provided under the program include the neighborhood center "Nachbarschaftsladen" for people seeking advice, "active health promotion" through gym courses, the "Health Days", the education and employment promotion project "Class of 2000", and multiplier trainings focusing on healthy nutrition. The project "Class of 2000" for children aimed inter alia at strengthening all factors that may lead to a positive attitude towards health, for example, the promotion of body awareness and a positive thinking about health, strengthening self-esteem and building social capacity.

The idea behind the concept of the "Kiez patrons" is that they not only provide learning support but also advice and assistance in many other respects. Currently 20 volunteer female and male patrons care for approximately 31 children and adolescents.

The patrons attend a professional training for their voluntary work, and advanced trainings as needed. This ensures that they are well prepared for working with the youth during meetings taking place between once and twice a week. The meetings usually center around topics the youth are currently dealing with, but occasionally also joint activities like tours are organized. The patrons are advised to strictly emphasize that even though they can offer and provide support, the youth themselves still remain responsible for their own future. At times, even a friendly relationship between the families of these young people and the patron develops, which is particularly desirable since facilitating contact and "building bridges" is one of the main aims of the patronship.



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Info point in the "Kiez"

Sprengelpark area

Audience at a panel discussion

District: Mitte
Supported since: 1999

Area: 55 ha
Population: 14,833
Proportion of foreign nationals: 39.89%
Population with migration background: 56.63%



© NMI Wassertorplatz

Wassertorplatz

The neighborhood “Wassertorplatz” is one of six focus areas of the “Socially Integrative City” within the district “Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg”. In the north, the neighborhood is bordered by the Ritterstrasse, in the east by the “Wassertorplatz”, in the south by the “Landwehrkanal” and in the west by Lobeckstrasse. Old building structures have been widely dismantled during the 1970’s and 1980’s. In the period between the 1960’s and 1980’s, multi-storey-buildings were added within the scope of social housing schemes.

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The neighborhood is well connected to the public transport system, but also has its own shopping and social infrastructure facilities in walking distance. The “Böcklerpark” at the shore of the Landwehrkanal offers an attractive green area to the residents of the neighborhood. There are a multitude of small projects initiated by the local residents. These projects work across generations and offer a range of recreational facilities, but also counseling services for everyday problems are provided, as the neighborhood is facing a number of various issues.

According to the “Sozialstrukturatlas 2008” (Social Structure Mapping 2008) 75% of the children in the “Wassertorplatz” neighborhood live in households that receive unemployment or social benefits. (Hartz IV versteht kein englischer Leser.)

The coexistence of Germans and migrants in the “Kiez” is difficult and even more challenging due to language barriers and cultural differences. Some migrants tend to stay isolated within their own communities as much as possible, where there is no need for them to speak any German.

Above all, there are tensions among young people, who resort to violence from time to time. Education opportunities for children and adolescents from low-income households are limited by the fact that their parents are often unable to meet educational requirements, and linguistic and motoric deficits in children are often recognized. The prevailing problems justified the designation of the neighborhood as a Neighborhood Management area in 2005. Since then, Euro 662,000 has been provided in funding for socio-integrative projects.

Selection of projects carried out to date

The project "MehrGenerationenHaus" (multi-generational house) seeks to provide recreational facilities for residents. The house is a place of encounter and meant for all generations and groups of different origins and cultures. The project's overarching goal is to overcome prejudices among and create a more tolerant environment for the people living in the neighborhood. The multi-generational house offers various activities including a writing workshop, sports courses, computer trainings and cooking courses. Since its inception, it has kept young people off the street and offers them reasonable recreational activities, supervised by professional staff. The garden area was redesigned and enhanced, taking into account the preferences of the local residents. Multi-functional seating arrangements, playing facilities for children and a piece of grassland provide an inviting environment. During afternoon and evening hours, two "Kiezworkers" walk the roads of the "Wassertor-kiez", wearing t-shirts labeled "Kiezworker - You can talk to me".

The "Kiezworkers" project aims at preventing drug consumption and violence. On the one hand, it is intended to make residents feel safer, on the other hand, through fostering dialogue and conflict management, it is supposed to support the integration of young people.

The "Kiezworkers" are supposed to make contact with the youth who gather on the streets mainly during evening hours. They are expected to resolve conflicts that may have arisen between those groups and other residents. This intervention based on a low-threshold communication approach that starts by making contact with the youth. At a later stage, the young people will be encouraged by the "Kiezworkers" to develop ideas on what their future could look like. At the same time, the "Kiezworkers" serve as a bridge between the young people and existing service providers and institutions in the "Kiez".

Not only a few children are observed having difficulties in walking backward or sideward due to a poorly developed sense of balance. The resulting restricted mobility also affects the development of linguistic and social skills. The project "Kinder-Lern-Erlebnis-Bewegungsstunden" (kids-learning-experiencing-moving-hours) concentrates on developing fine and gross motor skills, vocabulary, language fluency, spatial orientation, as well as the general health and the social skills of the children through movement.

The project targets the children attending the various daycare centers of the neighborhood. Manual skills, vocabulary and language of the children are trained and expanded. Understanding of numbers and sets is trained in combination with movement within the scope of a holistic mnemonic training approach.

In addition to having a lot of fun through movement, the children learn through theater and acquire additional knowledge and skills, whereas also their social skills are improved through the project.



© NM Wassertorplatz



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"Kiezworkers"

Early reading program

Drum session at the multi-generational house

District: Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg
Supported since: 2005

Area: 116 ha
Population: 16,575
Proportion of foreign nationals: 13.14%
Population with migration background: 37.97%



© NM Werner-Düttmann-Siedlung

Werner-Düttmann-Siedlung

The neighborhood “Werner-Düttmann-Siedlung” is situated in the Berlin district of Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg. The area borders Urbanstrasse to the north, Jahnstrasse to the east, Hasenheide to the south and Graefestrasse to the west. The neighborhood is largely self-contained and characterized by its modern public housing buildings from the 1980's. It is surrounded by buildings of mainly Wilhelminian style and a home to a high proportion of migrant and refugee population from Arab regions, Turkey and former Yugoslavia.

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An approximate 43.6% of the residents living in this very young neighborhood are between 18 and 45 years of age. Roughly one-third of the total population are children and youth. As much as 80-90% of the tenants live below the poverty line and many of the households are over-indebted. Due to prevailing low levels of education, most of the people living here are denied access to the primary labor market. This seriously affects children and youth living in these families, who suffer from the difficult conditions they find themselves in and are often unable to cope with the requirements of everyday school life. Furthermore, the health condition of many families is strikingly poor.

Living in overcrowded flats causes mental stress in the family members. Many children are found to be poorly or even malnourished.

There is comparably few garbage spilling out on the road, but still garbage remains an alarming danger for the children who play in the settlement. There are only a few businesses in the area. Since 2005, Werner-Düttmann-Siedlung has its own Borough Management. Following the demarcation of the area, project funds in the amount of approximately Euro 595,000 were granted to this neighborhood.

Selection of projects carried out to date

Project work - Getting involved

The projects in the Werner-Düttmann-Siedlung are brought to life through people, who get involved and participate in decision-making, through children who experience so many moments of courage and pride in the various projects, through parents who champion their children, and last but not least,

through the project partners and their extensive networks.

Activities and expected results include:

- Establishment of cross-generational learning workshops and socio-cultural meeting points;
- increase more equal education opportunities;
- increase participation in social life;
- increase awareness on health and environment related issues;
- help others to help themselves;
- provide a forum for ongoing dialogue between neighborhoods, schools, parents, children, political decision-makers and citizens;
- establish sustainable structures.

The project focuses on the promotion of children. Whereas the children's meeting point "Offener Kindertreff am Düttmann-Platz" provides a daily drop-in center to 20 to 30 children at elementary school level, where they can spend their free time under supervision of professional staff, the "Cross-generational Workshops" at Urbanstrasse 44 offer interdisciplinary coaching. Within the project "EL HANA", 30 "Mentors" from schools and institutions of higher education as well as senior citizens supervise the homework of 40 elementary school children and help them to meet educational demands they would otherwise hardly be able to cope with. Parents can get advice there on how to best respond to their children's concerns, maintain contact with the school and represent their own interests.

The Environmental Education project enables children to discover and explore nature by creating their own gardens where they plant, care for and harvest vegetable and fruit and learn how to make delicious food, healing salves, juices, etc. In the cooking club "KinderKüche", boys and girls can learn a lot about healthy nutrition and how to cook healthy meals. Regular participants may even be awarded a "Cooking Diploma".

These projects under the program "Socially Integrative City" are accompanied by literacy teaching and German language courses, health projects and a support service for women who pursue their way into independence by starting a small business like

a catering service or their own tailor's shop. Cateringservice und einer Nähwerkstatt.

At the meeting point "Nachbarschaftstreff am Düttmann-Platz", Neighborhood Guides ("Nachbarschaftslotsen") organize meetings for mothers, senior citizens and neighbors and provide everyday support and counseling.

One particular strength of the project Düttmann-Siedlung is the extensive networking and high level of co-operation among all project partners, resulting in a dense network which offers a variety of opportunities to the residents.



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"EL HANA"-Mentors

Neighborhood Guides
Visit of the Senator for
Social Affairs
Dr. Knake-Werner

2008 Neighborhood Council
elections

District: Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg
Supported since: 2005

Area: approx. 8.5 ha
Population: 2,775
Proportion of foreign nationals: 47.60%
Population with
migration background: 79.21%



© NM Wrangelkiez

Wrangelkiez

The neighborhood “Wrangelkiez” is at the heart of Berlin’s district “Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg” and borders the district “Treptow-Köpenick”. The area is enclosed by the river Spree in the north, the “Landwehrkanal” in the east, the “Görlitzer Park” in the south and Skalitzer Strasse in the west. The area is highly densified with historical buildings from the late 19th century, which are comparably well maintained as a consequence of substantial reconstruction measures carried out within the scope of the IBA during the 1980’s.

Neighborhood Management

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The Skalitzer Strasse and the Schlesische Strasse cause heavy traffic. There are quite a number of green and recreational areas, including the shore of the river Spree, the “Görlitzer Park” and the Treptower Park nearby. The “Wrangelkiez” area is among the neighborhoods with the highest proportion of foreign nationals with 34% of the people living in the area being of non-German origin.

All in all, approximately half of the population has a migration background. The largest group is constituted by Turkish people. Among children and youth between 6 and 18, more than two-thirds are of non-German origin. 75 per cent of the children attending the primary school in the neighborhood are foreigners, however, the trend is on the decline. The share of children not of German origin at the local high school remains at 100%.

Although long-term and youth unemployment have seen a considerable decrease in recent years, the number of people depending on state aid is still above average.

Under the project, vacancy rate of business locations was notably reduced and supplies have improved. Since the demarcation of the area in 1999, approximately Euro 4,800,000 were provided in funding.

Selection of projects carried out to date

The work of the „Wrangelkiez” Neighborhood Management focuses on education, training and civic participation. Another aim is to promote peaceful coexistence within a population of people of different origin and with different

cultures. The participation and mobilization tool “Imece” has proven a successful tool to achieve more participation in neighborhood life among Turkish people.

The creation of the educational network “Wrangelkiez macht Schule” was an important step to pave the way for an improvement of education opportunities in the neighborhood. The network serves as a forum for schools, daycare centers and other education partners to co-ordinate their individual efforts. The common goal of language promotion is pursued jointly by the parents in projects like “Griffbereit” and “Rucksack”. To support a sustainable development, parents are trained as multipliers at the Fichtelgebirge-Primary School and later work as volunteers at the “Parent Café”.

Following a French model project model, other parents deliberate on the questions of what kind of support today’s parents need to cope with their education related tasks in an appropriate way. In line with the target of accompanying the children during their education, a theater project helps during the transition from the daycare center into primary school.

Substantial visible improvements have been made in recent years through the efforts to enhance public areas. Elevated flower beds and trees were planted to beautify the area, playgrounds and soccerfields were adapted and redesigned to better suit their original purpose.

Direct involvement and individual participation of residents in the improvement measures was a central aspect throughout the construction works.

Another focus lies in the prevention of violence in the neighborhood. Parents facing problems with their adolescent children can participate in a violence prevention training, in which being born and raised between two cultures, drug abuse and juvenile delinquency are among the topics being discussed. On Fridays from 10 pm until 1 am, young people aged 16 and up have an opportunity to play the Brazilian indoor soccer game “futsal”. This “night sports event” is extremely popular among the youth.



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Singing together

Schoolgarden

Open club for senior citizens

District: Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg
Supported since: 1999

Area: 46 ha
Population: 12,318
Proportion of foreign nationals: 33.71%
Population with migration background: 47.31%



© NM Zentrum Kreuzberg / Oranienstraße

Zentrum Kreuzberg / Oranienstraße

The Neighborhood Management area “Zentrum Kreuzberg / Oranienstrasse” is at the heart of the district “Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg”. It extends from Kohlfurter Strasse in the south to Naunynstrasse in the north, from the metro station “Görlitzer Bahnhof” in the east to the Erkelenzdamm in the west. North of the lively underground station “Kottbusser Tor”, it is bound by the massive building complex “Zentrum Kreuzberg”, built in the 1970’s, the party and restaurant mile Oranienstrasse and the Naunynstrasse with the “Ballhaus” and the Youth and Cultural Center “Naunynritze”.



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In the southern part, Wilhelminian style buildings can be found next to buildings from the 1970’s and 1980’s. The neighborhood’s only primary school, the Jens-Nydahl-School, is situated here. 99% of the students have a migration background.

A specific feature of the area is the high concentration of social housing and the corresponding demographic structure. A total of 72.6% of the people living in this area are migrants, almost half of them receive state aid. Central meeting points, which are known beyond the district, include the “Kottbusser Tor” and the Oranienstrasse with the “SO 36” club as a popular sightseeing and party site. The area is a popular location among business people and creative companies, however, also a central communication hub for drug and alcohol addicts and the homeless. The economic and social problems prevailing in the area

supported the decision to designate the district as a Neighborhood Management area in 1999.

Selection of projects carried out to date

Targeted and need-based interventions have strengthened the school as a place of integration, and substantial assistance could be rendered in the field of education. One important aim to be achieved within the area was intensified cooperation with parents of schoolchildren. The newly established “Parents’ Room” works towards this aim.

To improve the career opportunities of children with a migration background, various projects aiming at promoting language and verbal communication skills, including theater-pedagogical

activities and learning and homework support at the Wilhelm-Liebknecht-Library, were approved for grant funding.

Extending the existing recreational facilities for children and youth living in the southern blocks was considered another priority. Accordingly, free space provided by the housing company GSW was equipped and is now used for regular recreational activities for children and youth with migration background. These facilities for young people to use their spare time in meaningful ways and benefit from social-educational support also include an "Open Youth Café" for young people from the age of 16 and up.

Promoting art and culture through targeted interventions has raised the profile of the neighborhood and its creative potential and helped to mobilize the commitment of residents and stakeholders.

Worth highlighting are the cultural activities to improve the overall image of the neighborhood, such as regular author readings and "Kiez" movies.

The project "Kiez runner" focuses on violence and conflict prevention and conflict management. The "Kiez runners" have grown up in the neighborhood, are familiar with the challenges young people are facing and "speak the same language". The "Kiez runners" maintain the dialogue with the young people and have won their confidence, so that they have started to talk about their situation and their problems.

To improve the young peoples' chances on the labor market, a vocational training program offered by "SO36" (a music club run by the non-profit organization "Sub Opus 36 e.V." that also offers social services) has been supported since 2006. Seven trainees successfully completed their training in 2009, currently, there are five trainees undergoing a training to become event technicians. This capacity building training has laid the groundwork for later vocational training.

Low threshold interventions to promote integration for people with various cultural backgrounds have also been supported in the neighborhood. Particularly effective are the weekly meetings of Arab speaking women in the "Family Garden" and the various specific integrative activities promoted thereunder, and their integration with other activities implemented in the neighborhood. The mee-

tings have proven to be an essential component to help build bridges between the neighborhood cultures.



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Fathers' Meeting at "Kotti"

Re-design of the schoolyard at Jens-Nydahl-School

Seating arrangements at "Kottbuser Tor"

*District: Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg
Supported since: 1999*

*Area: 32 ha
Population: 8,789
Proportion of foreign nationals: 45.77%
Population with migration background: 72.61%*

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