

4th European Award of Excellence

»City for Children«



2012

Call for Submission

Child-Friendly
Neighbourhood Planning



STUTTGART



Robert Bosch Stiftung

European Award of Excellence

Initiators

Dr. Wolfgang Schuster
Mayor, City of Stuttgart



Children need urban spaces that grant them a healthy and safe living environment. Therefore European municipalities need to approach the design of neighbourhoods in a holistic way. Ecological forms of construction and social inclusion should form core goals of innovative urban planning.

Anneli Hulthén

Mayor of Gothenburg, Sweden
and member of the European
Network Cities for Children



Children are our future and that is why their needs must be the basis for how we develop our city. Gothenburg has the goal of becoming a more united and sustainable city and the perspective of children should influence all of the city's work. Gothenburg aims at being a city where the welfare of children is of central importance. In addition, what is beneficial for children and young people is also beneficial for adults. The perspective of children should influence all of the city's activities and important decisions.

Keith Whitmore

President of the Congress of Local
and Regional Authorities of the
Council of Europe



It is important to involve all types of family structures in urban design and in shaping services so as to achieve family-friendly neighbourhoods. Transport systems, neighbourhood planning and leisure facilities will more likely meet families' needs if citizens are involved in their design. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe lays great store by an urban design and development that promotes a new form of urban "living together" as laid down in its "Manifesto for a new urbanity, European Urban Charter II". The Charter defines social and spatial cohesion as the central aim of urban policies. Local and regional authorities must mobilise citizens in urban policy design so as to build together a cohesive, inclusive and diversified society.

Frédéric Vallier

Secretary General,
Council of European
Municipalities and Regions



It is vital that our urban spaces be child-friendly and open to all social groups, bridging social, age-related, ethnic and national divides. Diogenes Laertius once said that "the foundation of every state is the education of its youth," and what better place to start than in our neighbourhoods. City leaders should thus work together with local actors and the different spheres of government to explore new and innovative neighbourhood planning projects both for the construction of new neighbourhoods and the evolution of existing ones.

Gerhard Stahl

Secretary General,
Committee of the Regions



The family is the backbone of our society. It is the basis for personal development and social and economic progress. In a quickly changing world, demands on families are increasing: education of children has to be supported; professional life (very often for both parents, and especially demanding for single parents) and private life have to be reconciled. Family interests should therefore be of high importance for urban development. Urban development and its links to the future EU cohesion policy is currently an important part of ongoing debates at Council, Commission, and at regional and local level. I hope that the best practice of family friendly neighbourhoods which will be presented can be shared with a lot of cities and regions. All Europe's cities should be encouraged to reflect upon the way we can develop our cities in an integrated way in order to create inclusive, sustainable communities and true neighbourhood fabrics.

Dr. Ingrid Hamm

Executive Director of the
Robert Bosch Stiftung



Urban accommodation forms important living spaces for its youngest inhabitants. Here, children learn how to cross a road safely, where to find new friends and how to respect their environment. European local authorities therefore need to ensure that urban planning creates family and child-friendly areas. This concerns not only playgrounds; rather, cities must fundamentally consider the issue of being child- and family-friendly in neighbourhood planning. Holistic approaches are needed, which take into account the criteria of both social and ecological sustainability.

Your city is invited to join: enter the competition with your best projects and make your innovative ideas for children and families known across Europe!

»City for Children« 2012

1. Aim

In view of the demographic transformation which is currently in progress, a sustainable paradigm shift is called for throughout European society: One which will place family policy and child-friendly framework conditions firmly at the focus of all political policy. Because it is only with children that our cities will be competitive and maintain their vitality in the future.

The fact that there are no easy answers or patent remedies to make our cities and our urban communities more child-friendly increases the importance of exchanging experience gained through political strategies and their practical implementation in the urban environment. It was this thinking that prompted the launch of the European Award of Excellence "City for Children" in 2008. Every year, European cities will be honoured for the successful implementation of outstanding projects aimed at children and young people in different policy areas. By directing the public spotlight at the issue of child- and family-friendly policy and attitudes throughout Europe, the aim is to pay tribute to successful, innovative and cost efficient initiatives and thereby encourage other cities to follow positive examples from practice.

2. Award Topic

For the award 2012 the following topic has been selected:

"Child-Friendly Neighbourhood Planning"

In the context of increasing international local competition, child-friendly urban planning has become an important location factor. Cities need to attract families by providing child-friendly living spaces. The standard of urban neighbourhoods is especially important for children's quality of life. The 4th European Award of Excellence "City for Children" is therefore directed at projects in the field of "Child-Friendly Neighbourhood Planning".

How do European cities create child-friendly neighbourhoods? How do municipalities develop and create urban spaces that are open to all social groups and encourage interaction between all citizens, regardless of age, social position and ethnicity? How do municipalities manage to meet the high quality standards of ecological sustainability when developing strategies for the infrastructure and construction of neighbourhoods for children and their families?

The Award will be presented to projects which manage to answer these questions with a comprehensive approach. The jury searches for innovative neighbourhood planning projects which take the perspective of children and their families when conceptualizing the qualities of urban areas with regards to development, architecture, free spaces and usage. Submitted projects should focus on being socially inclusive as well as ecologically and socially sustainable. Subjects to submission must be projects of neighbourhood planning that either lead to the construction of new neighbourhoods or which remodelled existing neighbourhoods. The projects must be conceptualized according to the needs of children and young people in the context of integrated, interdisciplinary strategies of urban planning.

3. Selection Criteria

The submitted project must already have been implemented in your municipality.

- Child-Friendly Neighbourhood Planning
- Innovation
- Expected yield
- Acceptance by users
- Degree of participation
- Transferability to other municipalities
- Publicity strategies
- Sustainability

4. Participants

European cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants are invited to apply, also in cooperation with organisations, associations, institutions, companies, churches and other partners who are involved in running or organizing the projects on the ground.

5. Jury

The selection process will be performed by a panel of experts and representatives of the initiators. The Network Cities for Children is represented by the City of Gothenburg.

6. Award

The jury intends to present one award to the winning city. In the case that projects are deemed to be of equal merit, several awards may be conferred. The flagship projects will be presented with the European Award of Excellence in the form of a sculptured trophy donated by the Trumpf Group and a certificate issued by the initiators at a festive evening event, attended by prominent persons from politics, industry and society on the 14th of May 2012. It will be celebrated in the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart. The prize-winning cities will be invited to deliver a presentation of their successful projects as part of the 6th Annual Conference of the Network Cities for Children on 14th and 15th May 2012.

The 4th European Award of Excellence is supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

Application Requirements

Every city may apply with one flagship project. The application form must be filled in completely and submitted by post to the Cities for Children Coordination Office together with

- two A1 sized posters (upright format) displaying the quarter in a 1:500 or 1:1000 map scale and the urban context in a 1:10.000 or 1:20.000 scale
- two A3 downsizing of the posters
- The plans are to be submitted as print material **as well as** electronic data (CD, USB, DVD etc.)
- 20 high resolution pictures of the project, stored on CD, USB or other electronic device, giving a comprehensive and lively impression of the project
- completed application form, sent via e-mail **and** regular mail

Incomplete application forms cannot be submitted to the Jury. In Parallel, the application form is to be sent via e-mail. Illustrative material such as photos, DVDs and plans should be sent by post only.

Applications must be submitted in English.

The application deadline is **15th December 2011**. The date of receipt stamped on the application by the Cities for Children Coordination Office is authoritative.

No right of legal recourse exists.

Application period: 20th September – 15th December 2011

Forms for download: www.citiesforchildren.eu

Contact:

Cities for Children Coordination Office: Lena von Seggern
Commissioner for Children's Affairs: Roswitha Wenzl

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