



European Network

Cities for
Children

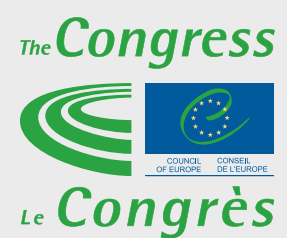
STUTTGART



Robert Bosch Stiftung

The European Network Cities for Children is supported
by the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

Patrons



Dear members, partners and patrons,

The future development and sustainability of our European urban communities depend essentially on our children. European cities today are confronted with demographic changes that require a comprehensive rethinking of our urban environment. Hereby, cooperation is necessary with different societal actors and all levels of state, national and European government, so that our cities become places where children can grow up and develop, and families can live under the best possible conditions.

Considering these challenges, I developed a strategy in 2003 to make the City of Stuttgart more child- and family-friendly. As a vital element of this strategy, it is my aim to promote the exchange and the development of best practices and child-friendly strategies with other European cities, as we are all facing similar challenges. Consequently in 2007, we founded the European Network Cities for Children with the support of the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

Meanwhile the Network comprises 57 cities from 28 countries and is growing steadily. The practical focus in the Network's seven Working Groups is on the question, how we as municipal policy-makers and administrators can build an urban environment where children live, play and learn.

We have gained valuable support at European level with our patrons, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions and the Committee of the Regions. I hereby invite further European cities to become active members of the Network. Together we can make child-friendliness a priority in policy-making on local, regional and national level in Europe.

Yours sincerely

Wolfgang Schuster

Dr. Wolfgang Schuster
Mayor of Stuttgart



The European Network Cities for Children

Mission

The Cities for Children are aware that the demographic changes in Europe constitute an enormous challenge for the long-term viability of our urban societies. Children are crucial for the sustainability and future development of our cities.

In view of this demographic challenge, the rise in pluralism of family forms and the growing diversification within our urban communities, cities need a comprehensive, sustainable strategy to become more child- and family-friendly. This strategy should include ensuring the equality of opportunities for all children through education, the accessibility of high quality living and recreational space, the promotion of health and well-being, the necessity for a new dialogue between the generations, youth participation and the insurance of children's safety in the city.

By developing more child and youth-friendly city environments, cities not only place the well-being of children, young people and parents in the heart of their actions but these cities also create frameworks in which - as an important outcome of child and youth-friendly policies - family life is facilitated and encouraged.

As the challenges facing European cities are similar, sustainable children, youth and family policies should not be limited to local or national entities. Particularly in Europe, cities have the possibility to exchange and to develop progressive concepts across national borders: The Network Cities for Children serves as a forum for major European cities pursuing innovative and sustainable policies in these fields.

In cooperation, Cities for Children can gain support from governments, partners and patrons at the national, European, and international level more effectively. These organisations are invited to contribute to the necessary raising of awareness and the change in perspective concerning the importance of child and youth-friendly environments in our European urban communities.

Principles

A City for Children makes child-friendliness a political priority. It takes political will at the highest level to make our cities child-friendly.

A City for Children follows a comprehensive, cross-sectional child-friendly strategy. All municipal policy areas will introduce the perspective of child-friendliness into their decision-making. In the interest of child-friendly strategies, municipal departments will be linked when implementing policies affecting children.

A City for Children respects children's rights as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. As a pre-condition for child and youth-friendly societies, it is a city's responsibility to ensure the implementation of children's rights at the local level, in their everyday lives.

A City for Children focuses on pro-active prevention policies. Cities for Children create urban environments which actively promote and protect children and thereby prevent impediments to their healthy and fruitful development.

A City for Children does not discriminate against any child for reasons of birth, gender, economic status, race or any other grounds. The Cities for Children Strategy includes all children up to the age of 18 years.

A City for Children builds partnerships with civil society, the private sector, NGOs, churches, sports associations, cultural institutions, neighbourhood communities, kindergartens, schools and the police. These partnerships highlight the responsibility of the entire urban society for its children.

A City for Children needs to network with other cities and different levels of government. The cooperation among cities facilitates the exchange of child-friendly strategies and initiatives.

Aims

For children, young persons and families to enjoy living in our cities, the Cities for Children particularly want to promote the following specific aims:

1. Equality of Opportunities through Education

Each child should be supported according to its talents, including in the arts, music and sports, and receive an education providing him or her with fair chances in the future.



Every Child needs a fair chance for the future.

Children should be given special support in their social, physical and linguistic development in early childhood education, as this is a critical phase for children's educational success.

Special attention should be paid to the inclusion of children of ethnic, national, linguistic, religious and social minorities.

Children with physical or mental disabilities should be included into regular education programs in accordance with their needs.

Every child should be individually supervised in its transition from pre-school to primary school. Close cooperation between pre-school and primary school teachers should be ensured.

Children and youth should be supported during their transition from secondary school to vocational training or the labour market.

Recreational offers should promote children's creativity and learning skills to avoid isolated media consumption.

Parental education and support should be regarded as vital contributing elements to children's educational success and should be promoted.

The municipality should form partnerships with and encourage networks between foundations, associations, organizations and the private sector to promote equality of opportunities for all children.

2. Affordable Housing and Space for Outdoor Activities

Housing

Families with children should be able to find attractive and affordable housing. The housing offer should reflect current lifestyle and family structure changes. Subsidies from the city, state or national government should help families afford suitable housing.

Residential and neighbourhood planning should consider and include the needs of families and should develop integrated concepts for diverse, multi-generational urban neighborhoods.

Child-friendly house rules within residential buildings should appeal to the need for mutual consideration between residents when different generations live together under one roof.

Play Areas

Residential city planning should respect children's needs for recreation, play and sports.



Play areas should be clean and safe.



Children, young persons and families should enjoy living in our cities.

Children should be provided with clean and safe play and recreational spaces to promote their autonomy, creativity and sportive abilities. Public school yards and private spaces should be opened for children's play where possible.

Play areas should be well integrated in cities and children should be able to access them safely and autonomously on foot, by bicycle or using public transportation.

Children should be included in the planning process of play and recreational spaces so that they can be designed from the child's perspective.

The needs of various users of public spaces should be taken into account by city planners to promote social and intergenerational integration.

Natural green areas within the city should be preserved to promote children's interaction with nature.

3. Health and Well-being for every Child

Municipal health strategies should focus on the promotion of physical, mental and social well-being and health.

Affordable medical services should be provided for parents and children in the highest possible quality.

Health promotion should include a healthy diet.

Children should have daily opportunities for exercise and sports.

Special attention should be given to health promotion for socially disadvantaged children.

Children should grow up in an unpolluted environment.

4. Work-Life Balance

The compatibility between family and professional life should be improved for parents by encouraging flexible, family-friendly working hours and conditions.

Qualified, affordable child-care should be provided according to the needs of families.

All municipal services should be examined in respect to their family-friendliness.

Special attention should be paid to the needs of different family forms, especially single parents.

5. Local Contract between Generations

A new "local contract between the generations" should support the interaction between old and young with new networks of mutual assistance and aid in a structured way.



Young and old can benefit from one another.

The exchange between young and elderly people should be promoted, as it can have favourable effects on preparing the young for their social environment.

The increasing number of retired, active citizens should be regarded as a vital societal resource for voluntary, honorary contributions in child promotion and youth work.

City planning should facilitate encounters between generations in public space and municipalities should create inter-generational neighborhood meeting places.

6. Youth Participation

Participation of children and young persons in decision-making processes and public life should be encouraged.

The opinions of children and youth should be taken into account in all matters affecting them, for example in the design of play areas and in the school environment.

Youth initiatives should be supported and the activities of youth organisations, as well as youth volunteering should be promoted.

Youth should be included into the public sphere. Youth meeting places should be well integrated into public urban space.

Children and young persons should become actors of sustainable development in their cities.

7. Children's Safety

The protection of children against violence and crime

No form of physical or mental violence against children should be tolerated. Close cooperation between the municipality, child care centres, schools, social workers and

parents should be established to prevent the prevalence of violence against children.

A close cooperation between municipal services and the Police Department should focus on preventing criminal activity of and against children.

Youth at risk of becoming caught up in criminal activity should be involved in preventive, educative programs early on.

Traffic Safety

As children should be recognized as traffic participants with equal rights, traffic planning should include children's safety needs in all planning decisions.

Public transportation, walking and cycling should be favoured over automobile traffic. Inner-city car free zones and reduced speed limits should be established.

A systematic road safety education should be provided for all children in the kindergarten and in primary schools.

Children's independent mobility should be encouraged by optimising public transportation and ensuring safe journeys to school by foot or bicycle.

Measures to raise awareness for children in road traffic should be continuously developed and implemented.

Special attention should be given to the promotion of safe driving among new, young drivers.



A systematic road safety education should be provided.

Activities

The European Network Cities for Children was officially established at the European Founding Forum in Stuttgart in June 2007.

Seven **Working Groups** were formed according to the seven main Network aims. The working groups meet under the moderation of different European cities at least once a year to exchange practical experiences and concepts.

The **Annual Conference Cities for Children** serves as a platform for the exchange between cities, politicians, European institutions and organisations and academic experts. Furthermore, the results of the working groups are presented and discussed in plenary sessions.

The Network's **internet forum** presents the Network's activities as well as concepts, initiatives, and best practice examples from cities and organisations.

The Network Cities for Children organises the competition for the **European Award of Excellence "City for Children"**. Since 2008, the Award is supported by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, the Committee of the Regions, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the City of Stuttgart, to further promote the exchange of child-friendly initiatives. It is presented to outstanding projects in the field of child-friendliness in the context of the Annual Conference.



Award Ceremony for the 1st European Award of Excellence "City for Children" in the Mercedes-Benz Museum 2009



Dr. Barbara Ischinger, OECD Director of Education holds keynote speech at the 3rd Annual Conference 2009



Display of Working Group 2 "Housing and Space for Outdoor Activities" in an open forum at the 2nd Annual Conference 2008

Commitment

ATHENS • AUGSBURG • BERN • BOLZANO • BONN • BOTTRUP
BRNO • BUDAPEST • COLOGNE • CRACOW • DARMSTADT
DUBLIN • DUISBURG • GAZIANTEP • GENT • GRAZ • HAMM
HILDESHEIM • JENA • KASSEL • KAUNAS • KOTKA • LEVERKUSEN
LJUBLJANA • LODZ • LUXEMBOURG • MANCHESTER • MUNICH
NAESTVED • NANCY • NUREMBERG • OFFENBACH AM MAIN
ORADEA • PANEVEŽYS • PÉCS • PERISTERI • PREŠOV • REZEKNE
RIGA • RIJEKA • ST. HELENS • SALZGITTER • SAMARA • SATU MARE
SETUBAL • STARA ZAGORA • STAVANGER • STRASBOURG
STUTTGART • TAMPERE • TARTU • THE HAGUE • VILNIUS
WIESBADEN • WROCLAW • ZABRZE • ZURICH

The members of the European Network Cities for Children are committed to the principles, aims and activities of the Network. Members of the European Network Cities for Children as of January 2010.

Best Practices from Member Cities

Treasure Hunt Game

Gaziantep, Turkey

The name of the project is “Parkantep – Talespark – Treasure Hunt”. It is a scavenger hunt game. The game is played with 4 teams. The team names are selected from: magic sceptre, magic lamp, magic cape and magic hat. Every team has 6-10 members as well as a coach. Teams receive a map of the park and on this map there are 9 different locations. At these locations there are 9 cards.

Teams will find on one side of these cards a hint question and on the other side a letter. When the teams collect all the cards, they have to use the letters and find the mystery 10th location. Whoever solves the puzzle and arrives at this mystery location will win the game.

Our goal with this game is to get the children to go outside in the open air and use their energy in a positive way rather than sitting on a chair in front of a computer screen. We wanted to create a real life game where the children can work in groups and build team-spirit. This game will also help the children with map reading (direction finding), quick decision making and problem solving. At the end of the game we also tried to create a balance between winning and losing so the children could experience the happiness and sadness in an equal way.

The project is implemented by the Environmental Protection and Control Department of Gaziantep Municipality each school year from September to June.

www.gaziantep-bld.gov.tr



Play Area in the Augarten

Graz, Austria

Since the beginning of the 20th Century, the Augarten pleased large and small visitors with large meadows and parkways. With an area of approx. 75.000m², it is used intensively by children and adolescents. The toddlers' play area with a size of approx. 1750m² therefore needed to be redesigned to suit the high visitor frequency.

The aim of the redesign was to include the potential users in a participation process and create a play area for toddlers, older children and young people. The project target groups are children and adolescents of ages 0-18 and their accompanying persons (parents, teachers, grandparents, etc).

The original area of the small playground was enlarged to 4500m² and now not only includes a play area for children, but also different opportunities for older children and adolescents.

The participatory process was conducted under the supervision of the Association Fratz Graz. In the planning, the biggest attention was given to the implementation of the submitted requests for adventure, water and retreat areas.

Gentle, clear spatial divisions separate areas for different user groups:

- Toddlers' play area: toddlers can experiment with different materials and various climbing equipments
- Large sand and water play area: pirate ship, dinghy, foot-bridge, animated lighthouse
- Jungle landscape: ropes, Mikado seesaw, merry-go-round hammock, Tree House. Adventure and movement are at the forefront. The special planting with slings and climbing plants reinforces the "jungle effect"
- Free lawn areas: space for free play and seating. Giant swings and bouncing elements complete the offer.

The redevelopment of the children's play area in the Augarten is characterized in particular by a very comprehensive and broad-based participatory process, whereby the wishes and concerns of young people could be implemented to a large extent.

The participation of user groups in planning and implementation led to a strong identification with the new play area and ensured that many different groups in Graz from different cultural backgrounds actively and peacefully use the park together.

The project was implemented by the City of Graz' Department for Greens and Water, Autumn 2006 to April 2007.

www.stadt.graz.at



Program of Local Partnership

Rijeka, Croatia

The Rijeka Program of Local Partnership is based on of the Citizens' Participation Plan. The project was stipulated on a seminar and workshops with the representatives of local Committees, NGOs, the City of Rijeka, USAID and the Urban Institute, and it was adopted on the session of the Rijeka City Council on the 28th February 2002.

At the stipulation of the Plan it was appraised that the local residents should be involved. So, the necessity for direct participation of local committees, citizens' groups, children and NGOs in decision making processes with regard to smaller parts of public utility infrastructure was evident, in order to cover a part of the needs of the citizens in their local communities more effectively.

Goals to be reached by this program are:

- Motivate local committee councils, civil society, citizens' groups and children for common participation in solving problems of public utility infrastructure, beginning from defining the problem proposal and participation in the realization process.
- Develop a partnership relation between the City and the citizens, and sharing responsibility in solving the problems.
- Foster competition among local committees for giving initiatives and solving problems of their citizens.
- Achieve better economical effects using fewer funds from the City Budget.

Local committee councils, schools, civil society groups and citizens' groups have the right to apply for the grant. The Rijeka Local Partnership Program looks for creative approaches that will bring about the positive long-term changes. This program pays attention to the fact that projects develop in a sustainable way.

The project was implemented for a duration of six months in 2002 by the City of Rijeka's Department of Education and School System.

www.rijeka.hr



Children Design their City Jungle

Zurich, Switzerland

The policy objective of the City of Zurich is to develop the schools in the neighbourhood into key locations, in order to revalue the neighbourhood. A playground with as size of 400m² was designed and built adjacent to a nursery in the district of Hardau, a socially disadvantaged immigrant neighbourhood.

In spite of its small size, the playground is optimally exploited. It is repeatedly used by school children and as a neighbourhood meeting place. For the City of Zurich, the focus of this project was on the participation process: 50 children were involved in a two-year process. Through its unique design and the intensive participation process, the project serves as an enrichment of the home environment, especially for children. The play equipment and play area, designed by the children themselves, encourage imagination, role play and social behaviour.

With this project, the Zurich city administration and politics succeeded in creating an atmosphere of enthusiasm, commitment and networking within their structures, for the benefit of children and young people. The process and the experience of this building project will serve as a model for further projects in Zurich and can also be exemplary for other municipalities. The project can serve as an excellent example for more child-friendly outdoor play area planning.

“We understood very well, how the planning of the playground worked. The participation was a lot of fun. I liked the pizza eating and the table football in the children’s meeting house best! Once, we were allowed to look at the construction site from the gymnasium, which was really exciting. The playground looks a little different from the model but it is still okay. The playground is cool but not anymore for me. I am already a little too old – it is more for the smaller children. From ten possible points, I give the playground nine and a half”. Twelve year-old boy

The project was implemented by the School and Sports Department of the City of Zurich from November 2003 to November 2008.

This project was a shortlist nominee for the 1st European Award of Excellence “City for Children” 2009 in the Category “Design of Open Spaces and Play Areas”.

www.stadt-zuerich.ch/ssd



K.i.d.S – A Children’s License

Hamm, Germany

The number of children involved in traffic accidents in Germany lies above the European average. Despite a decline, in North-Rhein Westfalia this number lies above the German average. The City of Hamm belongs to the worst cases.

With this background, the “Foundation Criminal Prevention” (Münster) offered its help to the city and the police and financed a scientific study on child casualties in Hamm. A detailed evaluation followed for the years 1996 – 2000. The resulting recommendations, which have meanwhile been implemented in the majority, was accompanied by researchers from 2001 to 2007 in form of an impact assessment.

Not only the city and police were involved in the implementation of the recommendations but all of the associations involved in the “Traffic Initiative Hamm” (VSI).

As a result, there was a 30% decline of accidents involving children in Hamm.

Project aim:

While traffic education is a regular part of the curriculum in primary schools, there is a nationwide lack of it in advanced schooling and in the kindergartens.

The goal of K.i.d.S is to link existing traffic education work and develop it further into an exemplary traffic safety concept from kindergarten through to secondary school. In order to reach this goal, a concept and numerous working aids were developed, which are to enable teachers and pedagogues to take up their task more effectively.

The experience of the police is hereby combined with didactical and methodological work of pedagogues. The work materials are at the disposal of the pedagogues for free.

For participating, each child receives the so-called “K.i.d.S License”, which is to accompany the child from kindergarten through to secondary school.

To date, the possibility of a price reduction in acquiring a driver’s license upon completion of the K.i.d.S License is being looked into.

The project was implemented by the City of Hamm’s Traffic Planning Division in the Department for City Planning in 2002 and is ongoing.

www.hamm.de



Spitzwegpassage Fredenberg

Salzgitter, Germany

In order to link two settlements and make the largest school center of Salzgitter more accessible, the Spitzweg area-way was created as an innovative concept for a path for children and youth. A large car-free path with a cross-over point was positioned at the Erich-Ollenhauer Street.

The passage not only fulfils the role as a path but as a high quality meeting space within the settlement area. Due to the high proportion of children in the area of the school center, the path is one of the most frequented pedestrian connections of the entire Fredenberg.

Moreover, it is a pivotal play and adventure axis with several playgrounds, a youth club, sports facilities and parks. The needs of the users were involved in the redesign. Children participated and residents' conferences were held. In neighborhood projects, the residents made art work which was set up at the side of the path. The youth center "Kreml" is located in an old train carriage and was newly designed and furnished together with youth.

Adjacent to the movement axis, a games area took form for various age groups, which was designed together with the children. The children and young people can now fulfil their play and movement needs on the dragon playground, which was inaugurated with a large celebration. The stadium by the Salzgitter Lake is now also well connected due to the new pathway. Furthermore, a high rope garden was constructed for youths. In the neighbouring, redeveloped, multipurpose citizen's park, there are ballgame, recreational and play areas as well as a large lawn for young and old.

With the Spitzweg area-way, a new place for play, art and movement was created with which the inhabitants can identify and which is very well accepted.

By using PPP funding, European funds and urban development funds and a low proportion of 12% municipal share, a project could be implemented which otherwise would have been difficult to achieve in these proportions.

This project was implemented by the City of Salzgitter from 2002 to 2007. It received a Certificate of Special Recognition in the Category "Mobility and Traffic Safety" from the jury of the 1st European Award of Excellence "City for Children" 2009.

www.salzgitter.de



Safe to School Monitor

The Hague, The Netherlands

The objective of the safe to school monitor is to improve the traffic safety in the surroundings of schools by using an integrant, structural and neighbourhood specific working method. To reach this objective, a combination of education, infrastructure, influencing behaviour and control is used. Cooperation with the support of the schools is an essential element of the working method. The Municipality of The Hague also aims at more independence of children in traffic: walking and cycling more will improve the independence and the health of children and contribute to a better environment.

The project started with research that took place in the fall of 2007. The research had the following results:

- A structural cooperation between municipality and schools with regard to traffic safety in the school surroundings
- Evaluate ways children go to school (walking, cycling, car)
- Insight in the routes that the children use to go to school
- Insight in the traffic problems that the children and their parents encounter on the way to school
- Insight in the wishes of the stakeholders and insight in the need for measures that solve the traffic problems and improve safety around schools
- Insight in the need for practical traffic education and measures that influence behaviour in traffic

The wishes of the stakeholders and the measures that solve the traffic problems are written down in a concrete implementation program for 2008/ 2009. The first measures are already implemented. Another output of the Safe to School monitor is an extensive range of traffic education methods that schools can use free of charge. Target groups: school children, parents, teachers at primary schools.

The research is done by order of the Municipality of The Hague and is conducted by the company SOAB in Breda. There were 19 schools that participated in the project, located in 5 different neighborhoods. Three represented the recently built town quarters, and two who represented the older town parts near the city centre. Therefore, another distinguishing characteristic of the project is the neighbourhood specific approach.

What distinguishes this project from other traffic safety projects is the direct involvement of the schools (teachers, parents, children) in the project research. On a pin board with a map of the school surroundings, the children indicated their route to school with a thread. The colour of the thread indicates the means of transport. The children



themselves also pointed out traffic problems they experienced on the way to school. By means of an enquiry, the parents indicated their view on unsafe traffic situations. The teachers studied the modal split by checking the means of transport of each child every morning for one week.

Using an integrant approach, combining infrastructural characteristics, traffic education, influencing traffic behaviour, communication and police control, also makes the project special, as does the integrant cooperation. The municipality improves the physical infrastructure, schools provide information to the parents and take care of practical traffic education for the children, and the police controls on a regular basis.

The City of The Hague implemented this project from 2007 to 2009.

www.denhaag.nl

Invitation for Membership

The Network Cities for Children, the City of Stuttgart and the Robert Bosch Stiftung have the pleasure of inviting cities, patrons and partners to work together in the Network to channel the best ideas and concepts for developing and implementing children, youth and family policies in our cities.

The Network Cities for Children supports members in improving their children, youth and family policies conceptually and practically. Membership facilitates mutual learning by working on realistic examples in the search for innovative solutions.

The Network Cities for Children serves as an information platform, as well as providing members with contacts to other European cities and institutions. The necessary lobbying by our cities at the national and European level will be more successful with joint forces.

The Network Cities for Children offers the opportunity for a continuous exchange of ideas and concepts among experts and political decision makers in European cities. Scientific approaches for adjustments to the needs of children and young persons could thus be linked to challenges with the practical implementation.

The Network Cities for Children supports members in taking a leading role in developing child, youth and family policies in their countries.

The Network Cities for Children encourages and actively supports bi- and multilateral cooperation between member cities.

Procedure

Membership is open to all European cities with **over 100,000 inhabitants**. Active participation from member cities and associated members is expected, in order to develop common concepts and to achieve sustainable results.

Member cities are expected to participate in the Annual Conference in Stuttgart and contribute to the Network's Working Groups.

Owing to the support from the Robert Bosch Stiftung and other partners of the City of Stuttgart, **there is no membership fee for the participating cities**.

The Coordination Office Cities for Children is based within the Office of the Commissioner for Children Affairs of the City of Stuttgart, which is a part of the Mayor's Office. Cities interested in becoming a member of the European Network Cities for Children are invited to contact the Coordination Office.

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