Healthy Cities Network Germany

by Karsten Mankowsky
Municipal Environment and Health Authority of the Rhein-Kreis Neuss,
member of the Council of speakers of the Healthy Cities Network of
the Federal Republic of Germany

www.gesunde-staedte-netzwerk.de
Aspects associated with urbanization that impact social, psychological and physical well-being

Waste disposal ● labour market ● accessibility ● education ● digitalization ● food products (obesity, diabetes...) ● leisure and cultural facilities ● integration, inclusion ● green spaces ● sewerage system-health care system ● urban planning and landscape protection ● noise pollution ● light quality ● air quality (asthma, COPD) ● mobility and transport system (obesity....) ● neighborhoods & networks ● local amenities ● security, criminality, violence ● social services ● stress (psychological health) ● loneliness ● water supply ● economy ● welfare housing quality ● quality of life ● risk hazard ...
Health as a resource for urbanization and human development

- Health is a prerequisite for learning ability and productivity, social security and well-being!
- Healthcare investing pays off and offers high returns!
- Demographic transition ➔ less, more diverse, older
Health revolution / Healthcare promotion / Prevention (Prof. Ilona Kickbusch)

- 19th century: improvement of public healthcare
- 20th century: improvement of medical supplies
- Currently: healthcare promotion / prevention
  ➔ Prevention act
Health is a political choice!

- Cities and local governments are well positioned to influence all essential determinants of health

- All decisions made by cities and local governments have a potential impact on health

- Urban health promotion cannot be regarded in isolation, but has to be considered as part in the wider urban development

- Whole system approaches have the best effect

→ Health-promoting cities do not have to promote health “additionally“ and instead consider potential health implications in all their decisions and measures!
Criteria for membership (9 point scheme)

1. Agree to join the Network by a council resolution.

2. Found a healthy cities office locally. The responsible local contact person fulfills the tasks of the local coordinator.

3. Develop intersectoral health promotion policies. Intersectoral structures are used, developed and strengthened.

4. Carry out health impact assessment. The responsible local contact person will be informed early and complete about urban plannings, which affect health.

5. Involce communities. The available opportunities of cooperation and participation on the part of community will be made transparent to the citizens and put in practice.

6. Report on health. Health and social reporting have to be understood as local joint task from analysis over the opportunities of advice to concrete act.

7. Participate in network activities. The local representative and self-help groups and citizen’s initiatives (including self-organized projects) have to be selected in transparent ballot. The expenses of participation at the annual general meeting have to be covered by the municipality.

8. Exchange information. The members inform the HC secretary‘ office regular and extensive about their activities in order to guarantee a lively information flow within the network.

9. Report experiences and success to the Network every 4 years. A report of experiences which reflects the insights of the local healthy cities work of the last four years is based on the `Nine-Point-Program of Action` and is minimum standards and portrays the results of the membership within the network.
The network

- General meeting
- Regional networks
- Secretary’s office
- Spokesmen’s office
- Centers of expertise
Current Challenges

- Promote regional cooperation

- Fostering social dialogue
  (joint cooperation with universities, polytechnics and other players in the health care system)

- Health in all policy areas (regional planning, urban development planning, involvement of youth welfare services, educational and health care services among others.)

- Promote sectoral and interdisciplinary cooperation

- Make use of the Prevention Act

- Climate change and health
Practical examples:

Dresden

- Guided city walks
- Climate Change and health

Rhein-Kreis Neuss

- Clima Partnership with Solano/Columbia
Background

Guided city walks since 2009

Mobilitätskampagne

guided city walks 2-times a year
The new project: „City walks for and by citizens“

Target group: elderly persons of the urban district

Meeting centers for seniors

5-10 participants
Objectives

- promotion of mental activity
- participation of creating city walks
- social inclusion
- connectedness to urban districts
- promotion of physical activity
Climate Change and health:

- Analysis of public green spaces
- Survey about climate change summer 2017
Municipal Climate Partnership between Solano/Rhein-Kreis Neuss
Solano’s challenging environment

- No road access
- No access to the public power supply system
- Former territory of the FARC
- Deforestation induced by oil exploration
- Cultivation of drugs
- Illegal gold mining...
Main goals of the climate partnership

• To foster premium cocoa cultivation according to organic and fairtrade standards
• To promote a sustainable cocoa value chain development
• To improve electricity supply (PV + hydropower systems)
• To increase knowledge about basic waste management
• To raise awareness and to promote know-how transfer about environment and climate protection as well as the preservation of biodiversity between both sides of the Atlantic
• To support the indigenous population in the protection of their identity
Renewable energy

• 6 solar panels have been installed in the main village and in two resguardos
• 120 small farmers have been equipped with Pico Solar systems
• A solar-powered boat carries out important transport services for the population
Installation of a hybridsystem in Araracuara (Solano)

✓ Grant approval of 60,000 € provided by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development in the form of partial financing in October 2015

✓ Commissioning of the company Smart Hydro Power GmbH for the supply, transportation and installation of the hybridsystem

✓ Design of a working pontoon used for storage and floating basis for equipment used on construction site; installation in process
Thank you for your attention!