

Name of the Case

Beyond Divides

Abstract

Is it possible to develop our cities without exacerbating inequalities and polluting the environment? How can we ensure access to economic opportunities, education and social services for more people living in different communities in cities and suburbs? The Beyond Divides program was developed to explore approaches to solving these problems. The Robert Bosch Foundation, in collaboration with Impact Hub, has designed and implemented this program as an innovative co-creation process with the goal of developing communities that respect and appreciate each member while respecting diversity. It supports social cohesion in four different regions in Europe (Bukarest, Istanbul, Madrid and the Ruhr Area in Germany).

The local part of the project is aimed at developing projects against exclusion and for better understanding within the community of the city district Essen-Altenessen.

Website

http://bit.ly/beyond_divides

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Beyond Divides

Objectives

Essen-Altenessen is an urban district with many cultures living side by side. Still peaceful, but increasingly irreconcilable in the current "climate change" of public discussions. Instead of talking to each other we often talk about each other and past each other - much remains unspoken. How do we get closer together so that we feel comfortable with our differences? How can we strengthen our community for the future? With Beyond Divides the Impact Hub Ruhr and the KD 11/13 are offering a "learning journey" (workshop series) with residents from Essen-Altenessen and committed people from other districts and cities and initiatives. The project wants to look behind the reasons for disengagement and separation and gain new perspectives through creative exchange with each other and with the local people. Building on the findings, the project will develop new solutions within a year to create appealing projects and implement them in Altenessen and, if possible, within the region.

Clients, audience

The main topic of Beyond Divides is strengthening the social cohesion in society. The projects' clients are mainly the neighbourhood of Essen-Altenessen.

Position along the SI Spiral

Delivering and implementing: The project delivers support, a space for communication and implements new projects.

Relationship with HEI(s) (High Education Institutions)

Relationship with TU Dortmund University (SIKE)

Finance model and resources

The project is funded by the Robert Bosch Foundation.

Methodology

The initiative collaborates with KD 11/13, a centre for cooperation and inclusion in the Altenessen district. A workshop series was started in May with residents from the

district as well as committed people from other urban quarters and cities, from business, administration and initiatives. Together they look behind the reasons for disengagement and separation and gain new perspectives through creative exchange with each other and with the local people. Building on the findings, new solutions will be developed within a year to create appealing projects and implement them in Altenessen.

Products, results (planned)

- 2 Pilot project(s) in Essen-Altenessen planned and tested and maybe even ready for implementation with additional support by Impact Hub Ruhr
- Participants will gain a better understanding of their local environment in Essen the tensions, opportunities and needs within their diverse neighbourhoods.
- Participants will have the necessary skills to be a leader towards social cohesion and an active citizen in their community
- Strong and durable relationships between participants and their organisations are created
- Through a strong focus on knowledge dissemination the new insights will spread through participant's organisations, networks and influences their own work, thus create ripple effects.

Overall impact

- A broadening in partnerships across sectors and cities resulting in new joint ventures and support for social cohesion initiatives
- A stable and committed network of actors from various disciplines grows together and continues to exchange knowledge, develop solutions and learn together beyond the program
- At least one of the prototyped projects in Beyond Divides creates traction and a long-term impact on the local level
- Continuation of these sustainable offers/projects through our key partner on site in Essen, the district centre KD11/13
- Transfer and application of the results through the network to the Ruhr region

Images



credit: Carsten Deckert