Project „Building bridges" (Stadtentwicklung und Gesundheit – disziplinärer und sektoraler Brückenbau): Brief project portrait for Deutsches Stiftungszentrum, Dec. 2020

Not only in Corona times: Urban development should also promote health, sustainability and social compatibility

Long before Corona, it was already clear that the issue of health is closely interwoven with all sectors of society, including housing, education, work and transport. "All sectors are health sectors"; and they themselves are also dependent on health. Therefore, the funding programme "City of the Future" develops new concepts and strategies for healthy, sustainable metropolises. Within this framework, the "Building Bridges" project is about providing impetus for Sustainable Urban Health, supporting exchange on the topic, bringing together research results and promoting their dissemination.

The Corona pandemic is like a crash course on health issues. We are witnessing in fast motion how social disadvantage is intensifying and environmental sustainability is threatening to take a back seat. At the same time, the pandemic is also generating calls for change(s) of course: towards careful foresight, better protection for the disadvantaged and increased resilience in society. The view is gaining ground that efforts to protect biodiversity and conserve resources must also continue in order to mitigate future dramas. Accordingly, green and blue infrastructures must be developed in a sustainable manner.

Here, the current discussion points in a direction that also underlies the funding programme "City of the Future": in addition to countless individual questions, it is also a matter of better recognising important interrelationships by looking "at the whole", making comparisons, strengthening prevention and health promotion and making course corrections. For this purpose, the concept "Sustainable Urban Health" was developed, which aims both at gaining knowledge ("*broadening the field of vision*") and at practical action ("*building bridges*").

"*Broadening the field of vision*", among other things, implies the coupling of health with ecological sustainability and social justice, as presented in the first volumes of a dedicated book series and represented as a condensate on the website www.stadt-und-gesundheit.de. In order for the numerous institutions in the city and region that are involved in the major goal of "health" to use common ground positively and to reduce possible conflicts, it still makes sense to "*build bridges*": among other things between scientific disciplines, urban sectors and also between science, politics and civil society, e.g. through working groups and discussion events

In the new project phase, a case study on sustainable urban health in the city state of Hamburg is being expanded; the willingness to participate in this new form of health reporting is gratifyingly high in science and practice, and the interest in the result is great. A planned conference is aimed at experts and civil society with the aim of bringing together sub-topics such as urban health, urban epidemiology, urban green and urban blue, mobility, and urban and regional planning, in a meaningful way. The conference will take place in cooperation with partner institutions and networks and is intended to formulate concrete recommendations, for example, on planning practice and training courses

For the cooperation of specialised institutions and the exchange between science and society, the project wants to filter out promising options and show ways of implementation. Furthermore, international cooperation is to be intensified. - It seems certain that integrative approaches and community actions will gain in importance and that effective (expert) planning is necessary. The approaches to CityHealth should contribute to the solution of these tasks.

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Optional fig.: Inner-city parks and water bodies - supportive of both health *and* sustainability.