SHARING experiences and working together with German municipalities!

HOW CAN MUNICIPALITIES TAKE PART?

 Participating municipalities are expected to show initiative and commitment, and to use their own staff for municipal partnership work.

The establishment of functioning municipal administrations will play an important role in rebuilding Syria. German municipalities can also provide support at an early stage here by offering refugees a qualification in municipal administration.

All municipalities can obtain advice regarding the terms of the programme. The online portal www.initiative-middle-east.com can be used by interested parties to quickly and easily indicate the areas in which they require or can offer assistance. We have identified an overview of needs based on their projects and partners.

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Version: February 2018
Printing: Bonifatius GmbH - This printed matter has been awarded the Blue Angel.

An initiative of

On behalf of

with its

in cooperation with
WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Since the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011, millions of Syrians have fled the country. The most important first host countries are the neighbouring states of Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. A large proportion of the refugees live in towns and communities, as opposed to refugee camps.

In view of the rapid growth in the population, host communities are facing massive challenges, for example, in the areas of waste management, water and energy supply and municipal administration. Exchange between experts at municipal level can play a major role in overcoming challenges.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung – BMZ) has launched a programme to this effect that promotes cooperative partnerships between the host communities in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey on the one hand and German municipalities on the other.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS?

The host communities in the region can be strengthened through exchanging municipal expertise with the German partners. The focus is on professional dialogue and constructive cooperation between the partner municipalities for the joint development of local solutions.

With our new „Municipal know-how for host communities in the Middle East“ programme, we arrange partnerships between communities from Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, and German municipalities. German municipalities also benefit from exchanging experiences. They strengthen their international profile, promote awareness amongst local people about global links and support successful integration.

WHAT OFFERS AND INSTRUMENTS EXIST?

The following offers are available for cooperation between German municipalities and municipalities in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey:

- a multilateral, municipal learning and exchange network addressing key topics of sustainable urban development and communal services;
- an expert pool, providing municipal practitioners from Germany who are available for international assignments to provide their practical experience from German cities and municipalities;
- support, professional guidance and financial and personal assistance for bilateral project partnerships (e.g. for secondments, project planning workshops and technical project implementation). In the partnerships, project ideas regarding core community topics and sustainable development are implemented jointly. German municipalities that develop project ideas with their partners are eligible to apply for financial assistance.

WHO CAN TAKE PART?

The opportunities are aimed at German municipalities with their municipal companies and other local actors, as well as their municipal partners in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

The “Municipal know-how for host communities in the Middle East” programme has been set up by Engagement Global with its Service Agency Communities in One World, together with the cooperation project International Community of Practice for Sustainable Development (Connective Cities).