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COMMUNITIES IN ONE WORLD



MATERIAL

FIRST CONFERENCE ON MUNICIPAL
PARTNERSHIPS WITH EASTERN EUROPE

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The Service Agency Communities in One World

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INTRODUCTION

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In cooperation with the City of Esslingen am Neckar, Engagement Global's Service Agency Communities in One World organised its first nationwide conference on municipal partnerships with Eastern Europe. Around 90 delegates from German and Eastern European municipalities followed the invitation; they included some **20 actors from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Macedonia**. The three-day conference focused on **strengthening municipal partnerships and mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda at the local level**. By staging a dialogue with the Eastern European actors, the conference made it possible to develop new approaches to partnership-based cooperation and to discuss ideas about concrete projects and cooperation options. Furthermore, the Eastern European participants took this opportunity to hold work meetings within their respective German partner municipalities in order to discuss specific details of their partnerships' future design. Overall, the conference proved a successful platform for kick-starting further events with actors from this region.

The regional conferences on municipal partnerships provide an important networking platform for sharing municipal expertise. Here representatives of federal and local government, municipalities and civil society, as well as other actors, have the chance to explore topical issues surrounding municipal development partnerships and to network at an international level. Very often, a lot of municipal partnerships find that they are confronted with the same challenges and that engaging in an exchange about them helps open up new solutions and possibilities for moving forward.



Participants arriving

DAY 1 – MONDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2017



Moderator team

Moderator team **Marie Garnier Raymond** and **Björn Kulp** welcomed the participants and guided them throughout the conference agenda. Dr. Markus Raab, Mayor of the City of Esslingen, and Ulrich Kaltenbach from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) got the event underway. After a reciprocal meet-and-greet, Kurt-Michael Baudach, who heads up a Service Agency division, gave a keynote speech on the topic of municipal development cooperation. In the afternoon, Ms Natasha Ilijeva Acevska, an expert for communities and municipalities with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Macedonia, gave a talk on the challenges of sustainable development in Eastern European municipalities and the role of partnerships. This was followed by a lively round of debate with various city representatives. Day 1 wound up with a creative working phase dedicated to building different kinds of ‚partnership bridges‘.

1. WELCOME ADDRESSES

Dr. Markus Raab, Mayor of the City of Esslingen, opened the conference and welcomed the guests to Esslingen's Old Town Hall. He especially welcomed Esslingen's partners from Maladzyechna in Belarus, saying that Esslingen has eleven partnerships in all and supports numerous associations and individuals. This international flair is reflected in the city's population: Around 40 per cent of the inhabitants are from a migrant background.



Dr. Markus Raab

Dr. Raab asked what municipalities can do in global terms and referred to climate change as evidence that global challenges can only be overcome by working together. Cities and municipalities could point the way forward here and redirect current trends by continuing to consult each other and provide mutual support. Against this backdrop, he singled out the personal networking taking place at the conference as a positive side-effect and wished all participants interesting encounters and beneficial insights.

Ulrich Kaltenbach, Deputy Director of the Division for Federal states, local authorities and development education, welcomed the participants on behalf of **Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).** He was pleased to welcome so many municipal actors with German-Eastern European relations to Esslingen and extended Minister Dr. Gerd Müller's greetings to them all. In his speech, he highlighted the importance of municipalities for development cooperation, pointing out that cities and municipi-

palities had the practical knowledge required to generate local solutions, especially for major challenges such as urbanisation, migratory movements, poverty and high CO2 emissions but also for issues such as the impacts of climate change and the provision of essential goods and health-care services to the public.



Ulrich Kaltenbach

Mr Kaltenbach underscored the fact that, in a globalised world, people are dependent on each other and can only resolve global challenges by cooperating, a conviction that is reflected in the 2030 Agenda and its 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ultimately, it is the cities and municipalities that are actually shaping sustainable development. BMZ has therefore set itself of the goal of working with local actors to implement the international resolutions on a sustainable basis. This shows that local, national and international concerns are inseparably interlinked. He went onto say that BMZ aimed to mainstream and strengthen municipal partnerships as part of the 2030 Agenda process. At the start of the legislative period, some 260 municipalities had committed to participating in BMZ's development programmes. Today, there are already more than 640 – the target is more than 1,000. To this end, BMZ has increased its funding for municipal cooperation threefold: after five million euros in 2014 and 15 million euros in 2017, the budget is now set to be increased again for 2018. Through mutually beneficial partnerships and joint projects, development cooperation is to become a standard feature of municipal work.

2. FACE-TO-FACE DIALOGUE

Participants then had an opportunity to get to know each other better. To facilitate this, participants were invited (amongst other things) to position themselves along timelines illustrating the age of their partnerships, which varied. One line-up for instance encompassed both the past and the future: While Nuremburg and Skopje have maintained a partnership for 35 years and Esslingen and Maladzyechna for 30 years, the partnership between Bersenbrück and Ruma in northern Serbia was not officially finalised until November 2017.

Furthermore, participants were able to fill in 'mini-profiles' documenting their experience and interests and the fields in which they wished to dialogue. This method enables participants to quickly establish who is working on which topic, or who has already gained experience. It also enables them to share opinions and network after the conference, too. The mini-profiles are included in the Annexes.



Getting to know each other



Line-ups

3. KEYNOTE SPEECH ON MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Input provided by Kurt-Michael Baudach, Department Head, Service Agency Communities in One World, Engagement Global



Kurt-Michael Baudach

Kurt-Michael Baudach delivered a keynote speech on the topic of development cooperation. He started off by presenting Engagement Global and the Service Agency Communities in One World.

In Germany, **municipal development cooperation** is understood as the totality of all measures undertaken by local authorities and political entities to promote sustainable development in their own region and in the Global South. Thus, it refers to complementary measures that municipalities conduct in their own territories (e.g. development education, fair procurement or climate change mitigation) and jointly with municipalities from other countries (e.g. sharing of expertise as part of municipal partnerships or international networks).

After referencing the close relations that exist today between the local and global level, Mr Baudach presented the following **reasons for engaging in municipal development cooperation**:

- Global challenges like climate change can only be overcome by measures at the local level → direct responsibility for several fields of action (solid waste management, wastewater treatment,

mobility etc.);

- Practical knowledge and experience on site (e.g. local public service provision).
- Responsiveness to citizens and (→ thus knowledge of their needs)
- Practice-oriented exchange and cooperation on equal terms (with a wide range of actors)
- Greater flexibility compared to the national level
- Potential synergy effects between measures within the municipality and international cooperation



The plenary group in session.

At the international level too, there is increasing recognition of municipalities and municipal partnerships, as can be seen in their inclusion and mentions in global frameworks and objectives. The starting point in this respect was the (local) Agenda 21 (1992). More recent milestones include the global Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda (2015), the Paris Climate Agreement (2015) and the New Urban Agenda (2016). At the same time, municipal cooperation is becoming increasingly professional and relying more heavily on joint and equitable action as well as mutual learning.

However, their limited human and financial resources restrict German municipalities' scope for action. Some municipalities are also heavily indebted and have strict budgetary constraints in place. Moreover, development engagement is vol-

untary (i.e., it is not a mandatory task) and municipalities are accountable for this towards their citizens. For this reason, any engagement in this field requires strong backing from local administrators and the municipal council. Federal support is also important.

Nevertheless, engagement is growing and there are many partnerships with Eastern Europe, mostly with Belarus and Ukraine. The Service Agency is implementing its own project for the 50 or more partnerships with Ukraine. Furthermore, it is providing intensive support for 12 sustainability partnerships with South-East European municipalities.

Principles for building and growing an equal partnership

- **Mutual learning:** Both sides can learn from each other in every partnership
- Planning should take account of **both sides' experience and interests**
- **Shared competence and responsibility** for the measures and results
- **Realistic objectives** and **joint commitment** to the results achieved
- **Sharing of knowledge** and joint problem-solving, not just project financing
- **Respect** and **acceptance** of partner municipality's political structures, communication and decision-making processes or development strategies
- **Transparency** and **openness** of partner municipalities, both towards each other and towards their citizens
- Political backing for cooperation

4. KEYNOTE SPEECH: THE CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN EASTERN EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES: WHAT ROLE CAN PARTNERSHIPS PLAY?

Speaker: Ms Natasha Ilijeva Acevska, expert for communities and municipalities with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Macedonia.



Natasha Ilijeva Acevska

Having spent the past 15 years working in the field of local self-government and decentralisation in South-East Europe, Natasha Ilijeva Acevska used her speech to highlight the challenges that sustainable development poses for Eastern European municipalities. In addition to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Network of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS) is also operating at the local level. Founded in 2001, NALAS is tasked with promoting processes of decentralisation and democratisation and fostering cooperation between municipalities in South-East Europe. Natasha Ilijeva Acevska highlighted the way in which the global and local levels interconnect, saying that global challenges impact the local level and therefore solutions also had to be identified at this level. She set out by describing the challenges currently facing many Eastern European municipalities.

- **Urbanisation:** Since the 1960s, people have been moving away from the countryside and into the cities, mostly for economic reasons. As a result, around 25 per cent of the population now live in the capital cities while smaller towns are shrinking rapidly. Demographic decline as a result of migration is exacerbating these dynamics. Through to the present day, this continues to generate new challenges, both in rural and urban areas.
- **Recentralisation:** Fiscal recentralisation took place in response to the financial crises ten years ago. Furthermore, for a long time, various dynamics and processes (including the Balkan conflict, state collapse and transformation processes) undermined stability, making it difficult to build up permanent structures that worked properly.
- **Underfinancing:** To date, it has not been possible to achieve a balance between the competencies transferred and the resources available.
- **Good governance:** The principles of good governance are known (i.e. citizen participation, transparency, financial management) but are not being practised much.
- **Unemployment:** Owing to the difficult economic situation, citizens expect support from their local authorities.
- **Services:** The biggest challenges here concern the environment (pollution, inefficient water and energy management), social services (customer dissatisfaction, poverty and marginalisation), mobility and crisis management (e.g. civil protection measures in the event of flooding or migratory movements).
- **Waste:** The volume of waste is increasing from year to year due to consumer behaviour. There is little statistical data on waste and few databases (providing information on type, volume, recycling). This means that it is not possible to set priorities. Waste disposal sites appear to be the only practi-

cable and preferred option, also due to the low investment capacity → innovations are important here, as is inter-municipal cooperation. The private sector is now also exhibiting greater interest in getting involved in this area.



Questions from the audience

When asked how the 2030 Agenda can be implemented at local level, Natasha Ilijeva Acevska stressed the importance of joined-up partnerships along with exchanges through municipal networks (e.g. Service Agency, UCLG, CEMR, NALAS).¹ Platforms such as „Localizing the SDGs“² can promote municipal exchanges. The other success factors she stated include **local autonomy and inter-sectoral cooperation with civil society, universities and private business**. Furthermore, in South-East Europe, it is also important to collect data to generate a basis for decision-making and priority setting. More should be done to involve the local population (and women especially) and to strengthen public administration. Additional sources of funding and support also need to be harnessed. **Municipal partnerships** that go beyond cultural exchange constitute a possible **way forward: They can strengthen exchanges on solutions to specific problems and initiate new ways of thinking or innovations**, especially if they are inter-sectoral, involve various actors and generate mutual benefits. Cross-border programmes by the European Union could also be used for long-term knowledge exchange. Summing up, she highlighted the fact that the 2030 Agenda is an

important basis for working on the major issues of today's world. **However, it can only succeed if local actors are involved.** To make this happen, local decision-makers require a certain **scope for action (autonomy) and corresponding resources**. In this context, municipal partnerships represent an important area of action, as they offer a chance for cross-border and inter-sectoral cooperation.

1 UCLG = United Cities and Local Governments; CEMR = Council of European Municipalities and Regions

2 Webseite: <http://localizingthesdgs.org>; SDGs = Sustainable Development Goals

5. PANEL DEBATE

Natasha Ilijeva Acevska's presentation was followed by a panel discussion with the following guests: Horst Baier (Mayor of Samtgemeinde Bersenbrück), Ludmila Ceaglic (Mayor of Calfa Municipality, Republic of Moldova) and Katja Schmitz (Officer for City Partnerships, City of Düren). A number of key questions and insights are given below.



The panel

1. Reasons for the partnerships

- Promote exchange of knowledge, get to know and understand each other (reciprocal visits are of special importance here, as they allow both sides to gain a better understanding of the local situation and thus do much more. For example: discovering that there are still areas affected by land mines whose clearance requires a considerable amount of time)
- Mutual support at municipal level
- Inspiration for innovations and good ideas: Even though there are many constraints and difficulties, they still allow for windows of opportunity and offer a starting point for development → e.g. innovation labs or design thinking. Furthermore, services should be developed by those people who will also be using them later on → citizen participation)
- ‚Exchange is good for German municipalities‘ → They can learn to question their own situation or place it in a more helpful perspective, so that their own challenges appear in a different light.

2. Ways in which cities and municipal partnerships can contribute to the 2030 Agenda in addition to the national level

Many global challenges primarily affect cities, also because of growing urbanisation. Municipalities are thus tasked with developing and rolling out potential solutions. This means that municipal exchange will become even more important in future, as it will enable urban challenges to be discussed intensively. Municipalities also need the corresponding financial resources to do this along with a national framework, which will differ from one country to the next. In Germany, for example, municipalities adhere to the principle of local self-governance, which facilitates the development and implementation of appropriate local solutions. At the same time, there are many tasks/problems that the municipalities are unable to resolve, thus necessitating **interaction and participation** by all levels.

3. Report on the situation of solid waste management in South-East Europe

Rural regions generally do not have an organised system of solid waste management. Neither do they have a system of local authorities that could see to this task. Locals are responsible for the rubbish they generate. However, there are often unofficial waste pickers who collect reusable materials. Efforts are underway to legalise this activity, e.g. in Skopje, in a bid to find other ways of managing waste. The private sector is now also showing an interest in engaging more heavily in this sector. Even though there are currently no known expert networks on the topic of solid waste management, it might well be worthwhile bringing together experts in this sector and activating the existing knowledge base. UNDP is currently implementing a large-scale integrated project on the topic of waste and environmental pollution in Macedonia.

4. Challenges in partnership work

- Language barriers → interpreters are needed and translations cost a lot of time and money
- Basic need for more time and money (→ example of a German municipality: only 10 per cent/4 h of a job are earmarked for partnership work)
- Increased awareness amongst policy-makers and the public at large (here in the Global North) that, as part of a globalised world, we have responsibility for people in other countries. This starts with everyday action at the local and personal level, encompasses the entire sustainability debate and thus also affects partnership work. This radical change will impact municipalities to a greater extent in future and calls for reflection and, where necessary, the realignment of activities.
- Lack of transparency regarding municipal structures and framework conditions underlying the political system in the partner cities → as a result, it is very difficult to pin down or identify opportunities for cooperation.



Participants sharing their experience and expertise

5. Recommendations for municipalities that would like to twin up with a partner municipality:³

- Initially it makes sense to start out with small, visible projects. This not only enables the municipalities to get to know each other better but gives their citizens a chance to take note of the partnership's work.
- In today's very dynamic times, it is expedient to have knowledge partnerships that focus on a topical issue of mutual interest (e.g. climate change) for a five to six-year period. No official partnerships are needed to do this. Simple agreements suffice.
- It helps if the partnership is rooted in civil society or if another basis or mainstay evolves at this level, as the political landscape can be very changeable.
- Identify key actors (→ the Service Agency also has a database with contacts).
- Since projects involving infrastructural measures are often very costly (e.g. in the solid waste management sector), it is in the municipalities' interest to focus on the sharing of expertise. Here too, the Service Agency has a portfolio detailing corresponding opportunities for German municipalities and their partners.

³ See also Service Agency Dialog Global No. 9: 'Partner in alle Richtungen – Gestaltung und Nutzen kommunaler Partnerschaften. Ein Praxisleitfaden' (Bonn, April 2013 – The new edition is scheduled for spring 2018): www.skew.engagement-global.de/dialog-global.html

6. CREATIVE WORK PHASE ON THE TOPIC OF ,PARTNERSHIPS AS BRIDGES: OUR VISION OF A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP!‘

As part of the last item on the first day’s agenda, the participants turned their attention to ways of creatively presenting and shaping city partnerships. Thus, each partnership was given the task of making a bridge out of newspaper and paper clips – without the aid of an interpreter. Within a short space of time, they produced creative works of art that symbolised their partnerships. Stable pillars were built at both ends to provide a strong foundation, and a variety of bridges were built (and woven) in-between, and cultural and culinary aspects were even incorporated. Adults standing on the bridges demonstrated that they were actively engaging in and supporting the partnerships while children on the bridge represented the future and long-term cooperation.



Building bridges

„Our bridge is wide, so that a lot of people can cross it. Ideally always together.“

„We put up a railing to make sure no one falls off. The bridge has a steep incline because it’s not always easy to cross a bridge. There are a lot of stabilising elements inside that support the bridge, but you can’t see them from the outside.“

„Bridges – just like partnerships – are sometimes prone to vertical oscillation.“

„I thought it was great to see how we built these bridges together. Given our history, we will, and have to be, friends so that we are never stuck behind a barricade on one side.“

CHECKOUT Day 1: What have I learned?

‘I’m pleased that we can be here and meet up with friends. I’ve already noticed that the partnerships are very different and have different backgrounds. Engagement by local people and civil society seems to be equally strong and important everywhere. I’m sure I’ll learn more and am keen to see what the days ahead bring.’



Making bridges out of newspaper



Finished product

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2017

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An excursion was planned for the morning of the second day of the conference, so that participants could see for themselves some hard-and-fast examples of sustainability in Esslingen. In the afternoon, participants were able to choose between one of four workshops scheduled to take place at the same time. The second day of the conference concluded with a reception in Esslingen's Old Town Hall where Esslingen's Senior Mayor, Dr. Jürgen Zieger, greeted the participants. The evening ended with a performance by the group Talaka from Maladzyechna and music by the Klezmer Quartet from Heidelberg.

7. EXCURSION

To enable participants to experience the conference topics first hand, they were given the opportunity to visit two different sites during their morning excursion: an urban renaturation project and an energy-efficient building.

1) Visit to the location initiative Neue Neckarwiesen/SiNN) to see the renaturation of the Hainbach–Neckar river intersection and to tour the Sonnenwerke Neue Neckarwiesen.



Participants at the River Hainbach

Spanning more than 200 hectares, the industrial zone Neue Neckarwiesen is the largest commercial site in the city of Esslingen am Neckar. Moreover, the approximately 150 companies based here have made the Neue Neckarwiesen into one of the largest commercial sites in the Stuttgart region. To co-represent the interests of the commercial zone Neue Neckarwiesen, companies and land owners have joined together to form the location initiative Neue Neckarwiesen e.V. – SiNN. One of the projects being conducted by SiNN e.V. concerns the area's renaturation. By narrowing Lilienthal street, the formerly heavily canalised⁴ River Hainbach now has more space. Freed from its unyieldingly straight concrete basin, the waters of the Hainbach now meander their way through

4 Dole = a tubular mantle for a watercourse used for tunnelling.

a near-natural bed. The construction of seating steps has created an attractive recreational area that make the Hainbach accessible and offer new views. Furthermore, other attractive connections and access points to the surrounding nature and River Neckar have been created for cyclists and pedestrians. With its new attractions for company employees, local citizens and weekenders, the commercial zone Neckarwiesen has undergone a real facelift. Furthermore, participants were able to visit a 'pendulum ramp' installed for fish.⁵ Lines of trees have also been planted in the area and PV systems installed for power generation. The project 'getting to work emissions-free', in which the companies donate a certain amount to charity for every kilometre their employees cycle to work, showcases ways of raising awareness and incentivising people.

Participant feedback:

„The renaturation project is great. Still, it's very sad to see that so much money was put into building all this up and turning it into concrete only to spend a lot of money to dismantle it all again. There are long-term processes at play here and I ask myself how Eastern Europe would respond – what dimensions are we actually engaging in here?'

„We are not at the same point in Eastern Europe, but it teaches us that we'd end up there too, if we don't take care of our natural environment, e.g. in Skopje.'

5 „The renaturation of the mouth of the River Hainbach has produced a small ‚bay' where it meets the River Neckar. Compared to the former situation with the evenly sloped concrete basin, the River Hainbach now intersects with the River Neckar at an earlier point. The result is a terrace that would prevent fish from swimming up the Hainbach. The pendulum ramp enables them to get to the ‚next level'.

,I like the fact that the employees were also taken into account and that they now have a couple of nice spots where they can go and relax. These are positive side-effects of the project. Furthermore, I found the social projects like 'getting to work emissions-free' interesting.

,The cycle paths impressed me. You don't get many of them in Eastern Europe.'

2) New Südwestmetall building in Esslingen. A piece of landmark architecture for the region: Architecture meets energy efficiency



The group visiting the building

In the Südwestmetall building, the participants were met by Rüdiger Denkers, the Managing Director of Südwestmetall, and the building's architects for a tour of the building. This visit to the new administrative building gave the participants a first-hand insight into energy-efficient construction. In addition to the heating and cooling system via the concrete ceiling and integrated systems, the architects informed the participants about the building's technical specifications.

Participant feedback:

,The building was constructed very energy efficiently and intelligently; it is interesting, elaborate, it stands out and is unusual.'

'I was impressed by the fact that it would just take seven years to recoup the costs invested in energy efficiency.'

,The innovative approaches such as interactive lamps and radiant heating from the ceiling are impressive.'

General feedback:

,The two examples showcase a full range of exciting options for sustainability: The first example stands for the end of the Industrial Age and represents the desire to get back to nature. This concept is carried forward in the building, albeit in a different manifestation: Here we are dealing with cutting-edge technology that makes a positive and, at the same time, almost slightly ghostly impression. This technology has an incredible intelligence built into it. These are all expressions of a changing attitude towards energy and sustainability.'

8. PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

In the afternoon, it was then over to participants themselves. In workshops, they dealt in greater detail with the following topics: the 2030 Agenda and its implementation at local level; citizen participation, social media tools for municipalities and innovative instruments for planning a city's future.

8.1 Municipal partnerships and the 2030 Agenda

Input provided by Vera Strasser and Sebastian Dürselen (Engagement Global / Service Agency)

In this workshop, participants had an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Here participants asked themselves which of their partnership projects were already implementing them intentionally (or unintentionally) and which goals lent themselves to future cooperation within a municipal partnership.



The group takes a look at the SDGs.

At the start, the two moderators provided a short overview of the 2030 Agenda and briefly presented the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They also gave the participants a document detailing the various targets accompanying the 17 SDGs. This paper explains which areas of action / dimensions the individual SDGs actually encompass.

Afterwards, they focused more closely on the specific features of the 2030 Agenda. One advantage, for example, is that the goals are multi-dimensional and address ecological and social as well as economic issues. Also, the 2030 Agenda does not just contain goals but also names specific instruments for addressing global challenges. However, the individual goals can give rise to conflicts of interest; for example, between economic growth and climate change mitigation or sustainable production and sustainable consumption.

Furthermore, the participants talked about 'localising' the goals. This highlighted just how important the municipalities are for the 2030 Agenda process and made it clear that local level implementation is imperative for achieving the SDGs. Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) distinctly underscores this fact.

In a short practical exercise, the participants attempted to categorise the goals in one of the following dimensions: 'economy', 'social affairs' and 'environment'. It quickly became apparent however that it is not always possible to treat the goals separately from each other and cluster them, as they sometimes touch on two or more of these dimensions. In the discussion that followed, participants also raised some points of criticism: Many participants agreed that too little attention was accorded to softer topics such as culture. They regarded cultural exchange as an important and fundamental prerequisite for actually being able to cooperate successfully with the respective partners in the SDG context in the first place.

Overall, the workshop was thus able to help raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda in the municipalities. In addition, most of the participants concluded that they were already cooperating in a lot of areas covered by the 17 SDGs and that there were certainly some areas that had potential for further development.

8.2 Innovative tools for planning the partnership's future together

Input provided by Dr. Thomas Pfohl (Taten. Drang) and Danijel Paric (Polis-Institut)

A range of – participatory – instruments for future planning can be used to develop viable and sustainable projects for partnership-based cooperation. At their core in each case lies the principle of engaging on an equal footing, and a focus on the respective target group. The following three instruments illustrate how joint planning can be conducted and/or questions can be processed and formulated.

1. Lego Serious Play (LSP)⁶

Idea: LSP facilitates the creation of haptic spaces for communication and planning. Participants can build models to represent situations, and devise planning concepts. The hand-brain connection activates creativity, while handling the LEGO bricks enables people to experience and discuss abstract issues as well. Everyone contributes equally to model construction, making this approach suitable for intercultural work or mixed teams. The method is for 5 to 15 people and takes around two to three hours.

Principles of future planning:

- Active participation
- On an equal footing
- Every voice counts
- Avoid value judgements
- Build on others' ideas
- Integrate different perspectives
- Work against and with time
- Most importantly: Have fun!

2. ExploCamp

The ExploCamp offers an opportunity to jointly discover the current situation in a participatory manner and to draw up a map ('ExploMap'). This format combines the advantages of the BarCamp with high-quality documentation, creative visualisation and a strong metaphor. Participants are invited to participate actively, asked to give their respective opinions and commended for their project work to date. In the course of the process, a map with corresponding thematic terrains is produced and the small groups engage in more in-depth future planning. At the end, the original ExploMap is updated and discussed in the plenary group. This method is suitable for 8-100 people and takes one to two days.

3. Dialogue-oriented ideas workshop



The group develops solutions.

The dialogue-oriented ideas workshop is a creative and analytical method that has its roots in the design-thinking movement.⁷ It involves a structured process in which participants open up, explore and close an issue, and develop sound ideas for resolving problems on a participatory basis. Participants are gradually integrated into the problem-solving process by means of a specific question. The dialogue-oriented ideas workshop focuses on the potential target group and its needs, behaviour patterns and typologies. The process consists of iterative loops designed to repeat and hone insights and so develop ideas as early on as

⁶ Further information available at www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lego_Serious_Play

⁷ Further information available at www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Design_Thinking

possible. The method is suitable for six people and upwards (no upper limit).

Participants were then given an opportunity to try out for themselves some of the steps involved in a dialogue-oriented ideas workshop first hand. Three smaller groups were formed and, for demonstration purposes, the following question chosen: 'How can we shape a partnership together and initiate new projects?' The first round involved five minutes of silent brainstorming in which all thoughts and ideas were to be written down before being presented to the group in the next step. Clusters were then formed and the most important topics prioritised. High on the list of priorities were communication, suitable contacts and financing options. Next, the groups chose a topic and created a fictitious individual whose perspective they were to intentionally adopt in order to develop concrete ideas; e.g. exchange of specialist personnel to get to know administrative procedures and contacts in the partner municipality. As the method progresses, it normally leads to the development of a prototype to test the concept. The workshop leaders pre-empted this part by preparing a 'Marshmallow Challenge' by way of example: Using spaghetti, a piece of string and metre of masking tape, the participants were given fifteen minutes to build the highest tower they could with a marshmallow on the top.



The group builds a spaghetti tower.

This procedure allows for the swift assessment of the added value of an idea or concept for a target group, thus helping to keep investment costs down. At the same time, the project's participatory design encourages users to identify with it, thus increasing the likelihood that it will be implemented.

8.3 How do you inspire citizens with your projects? An interactive method workshop

Input provided by Eva Engelhardt

The interactive workshop asked how representatives of the municipal administration, e.g. an elected mayor of city, could get local citizens to support their projects. A participatory method that employs a matrix to measure gender-specific usage and needs was tested. The model scenario was based on the city of Calfa in Moldova. The results were then used to formulate recommendations for urban development.



Eva Engelhardt explains the procedure.

As an introduction to the topic, the group was asked to form groups according to whether they had substantial, average or little experience with methods of citizen participation in their personal or professional lives. The answers were very heterogeneous and ranged from theoretical knowledge through to experience of implementing actual procedures. Eva Engelhardt subsequently explained key terms in this context, including the concept known as the 'ladder of citizen participation':

Forms and functions of participation⁸

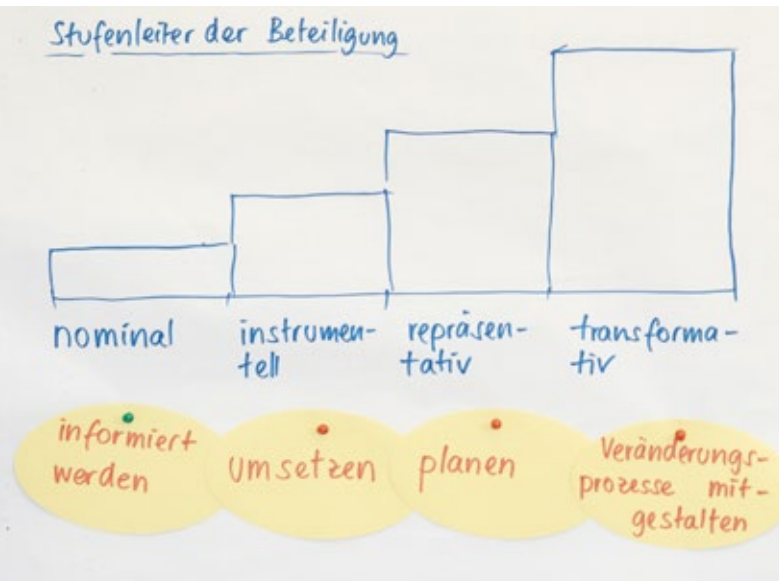
1. **Nominal participation** is used by powerful actors to assert their will and to acquire legitimacy in the process.
2. **Instrumental participation** regards citizen participation as a means to a specific end, often

⁸ See also Institute for Development Studies: www.participatorymethods.org/method/levels-participation

the efficient use of the skills and knowledge of community members in project implementation.

3. **Representative participation** means that the members of the community have a say in the decision-making process
4. **Transformative participation** empowers participants and changes the structures and institutions that lead to marginalisation and exclusion (→ empowerment).

cerned driving behaviour and the attendant level of safety. Sexual harassment in public transport was not an issue. The participants considered it equally important to sensitise children to sustainable modes of transport, so that transportation could switch from its current strong emphasis on minibuses, cars and taxis to an eco-friendlier use of trains, bicycles and the metro network.



Ladder of citizen participation

It was stressed that citizens' motivation to proactively participate in a project increases if they do not just volunteer as implementers when the project is launched, but are already brought on board during the project identification and planning phase. Therefore, a simple but effective urban development method was trialled and implemented with all participants using the concrete example of the city of Calfa (Republic of Moldova). The topic was 'Identifying men's and women's transport needs'. The participants questioned Calfa's Mayor Ludmila Ceaglic about the usage and safety of transport in the city of Calfa. She was asked to rate her responses on a scale of low, moderate and high by ticking a box in a table, a method that very quickly revealed the following result: People mostly use four-wheeled vehicles, which are regarded as the safest means of transport, also by the Mayor herself. In contrast, bicycles and mopeds were neither thought to be safe nor were they used much. This result shows that it is necessary to expand and extend the cycle lanes and the train and metro network. The table revealed only minor differences between men and women's behaviour. The biggest difference con-

Transportmittel	♂ Männer			♀ Frauen		
	Wurde genutzt?	Wie oft?	Wie sicher?	Wurde genutzt?	Wie oft?	Wie sicher?
Eigenes Auto	Arbeits Dienst Spazieren Einkauf	++	+	Arbeits Dienst Spazieren Einkauf	++	+
Fahrrad	Arbeits Sport	+	-	Sport	+	-
Moped	Arbeits	-	-	Arbeits	-	-
Öffentlicher Bus	Arbeits Dienst Einkauf	++	+	Arbeits Dienst Einkauf	++	+
Lastwagen / LKW (Lieferung, etc.)	Arbeits	+	+	Arbeits	+	+
Taxi	Arbeits Dienst Einkauf	+	+	Arbeits Dienst Einkauf	++	+
Zug	Arbeits Einkauf	-	++	Arbeits Einkauf	+	++
Metro						
andere Flugzeug						
Mikrobuse	Arbeits Dienst Einkauf	++	+	Arbeits Dienst Einkauf	++	+

Identifying transport needs in Calfa

In their final feedback, the participants agreed that this method was simple to use and could be transferred to other issues. The mayor from Moldova pointed out that implementing the citizen participation methods would require facilitators and that her city did not have any.

8.4 An insight into the world of social media tools for municipalities and partnership-based cooperation

Input provided by Christian Dingler (genuin4 | Digital Relations)

Christian Dingler provided an insight into the world of social media tools and outlined three key steps for a social media strategy.

1. Define a goal: Strategic communication requires a goal, a task that is formulated in the most concrete terms possible. Documenting the objective in writing at the start of the project helps actors make the right decisions throughout the subsequent design phase. And later on, it helps them evaluate whether or not the strategies and measures were successful.

2. Conduct analysis and research: Careful research and a more in-depth analysis of the context helps actors plan the right measures. Possible inputs include:

- Analyse the objective using the SWOT method:⁹ What are the organisation's strengths and weaknesses? What are the objective's opportunities at a public level, what are the risks?
- Define the target group: Acquire knowledge of structures on site, develop typical 'personas' (user profiles) in order to get a precise picture of the target group. Above all: Where do they go online? What do they do there?
- Research their communication environment (e.g. conduct interviews with the target group, read studies on media consumption behaviour)
- Research how others do things, if necessary transfer ideas
- Conduct a content audit: What are the digital contents? Are they suitable for the target group? How can the contents be adapted? What contents does the target group expect?
- Obtain an overview of the human and financial resources and requirements and draw up a realistic budget
- Clarify the legal framework: Local authorities can use social media platforms in general, including Facebook. For internal regulations, see the

following information: <https://amtzweinnull.com/2014/02/01/durfen-behorden-facebook-seiten-betreiben>

3. Write out the concept design with the following contents:

- Goal, interim targets and indicators for measuring success
- 'Personas' and/or target group(s)
- Key creative idea (e.g. 'We are providing people with a digital experience of the work we do in our twinning association. At the same time, we want to use digital platforms to organise ourselves.')
- Detailed description of the tools and platforms to be used and of the respective platforms' formats and the various 'personas' (ideally with examples)
- Rough timeline



Workshop 4

⁹ SWOT analysis is used in strategic planning processes to examine strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

9. EVENING RECEPTION IN ESSLINGEN TOWN HALL

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At the close of the second day of the conference, an evening reception was held in Schikhardt Halle (Schikhardt Hall) in Esslingen's Old Town Hall. It got underway with a performance by the group Talaka from Maladzyechna, which entertained the audience with their repertoire of traditional and modern songs from Belarus, Russia, Poland and Ukraine.



Dr. Jürgen Zieger

Afterwards, Esslingen's **Senior Mayor, Dr. Jürgen Zieger**, extended a warm welcome to the conference guests. In his speech, he said how pleased he was that the conference had met with such a positive response. He emphasised the fact that the City of Esslingen am Neckar fundamentally believed that being tolerant and open to the world was vital for fostering international understanding. He explained how, with eleven partnerships, the city had spent the past 60 years working to help build a shared and peaceful Europe, thanks also to major contributions by its citizens. Esslingen's early commitment to seek partnerships in the East and not just in the West had resulted in its partnership with Velenje (1970) in what is now Slovenia. He stated that East-West partnerships had played a key role in the course of the transformation processes in Central and Eastern Europe. In addition to reconciliation and exchange, they aimed to support people at the local level and promote the growth of local self-government. And it was with this in mind that Esslingen had entered into

a city partnership with Maladzyechna in Belarus in 1987. Reconciliation and rapprochement with a country that had suffered greatly at the hands of the German Wehrmacht during the Second World War were key criteria for partnership with the city of Maladzyechna.

The great effort the people of Esslingen had put into developing and maintaining these relations had resulted in a lively exchange and many encounters between the people of the two cities, including Germany's first-ever German-Soviet school pupil exchange and also an exchange scheme for craftspersons to promote business startups in Maladzyechna. With regard to the SDGs, the partnership had also secured funding from NAKOPA for a gender project on domestic violence.



A performance by Maladzyechna's Talaka

Following German reunification and the collapse of the Soviet Union, Esslingen's local council decided to embark on two more city partnerships in Eastern Europe: namely with Eger in Hungary (1991) and Piotrkow Trybunalski in Poland (1992). Dr. Zieger said that city partnerships constitute a piece of history but an even greater part of the future and explained how, in our modern times that are epitomised by globalisation and digitalisation, it is particularly incumbent on municipalities to rise to these challenges. And many cities were becoming increasingly aware of the fact that local

and global topics cannot be separated. In future, municipal development cooperation will be a component of city partnerships and will thus sustainably help shape the future. Dr. Jürgen Ziegler closed by saying he hoped all participants would enjoy the rest of the evening, which continued with a concert by the Klezmer Quartet from Heidelberg.



The Klezmer Quartet played on the evening...



... and the audience danced.

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2017

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The final day of the conference was dedicated to various support instruments. After a presentation of the Service Agency's human and financial resource instruments, participants had an opportunity to find out about other offers of support from various sectors at a 'market of opportunities'. Following a round of feedback and some final words by Dr. Stefan Wilhelmy (Service Agency), the participants returned to their municipalities after a joint lunch.

10. SERVICE AGENCY'S SUPPORT OPTIONS

Input provided by: **Brigitte Link**
(Engagement Global / Service Agency)



Brigitte Link

Brigitte Link provided an overview of the Service Agency's human and financial support instruments for municipal partnerships.

1. Financial support

Eligible to apply are municipalities, policy-making bodies, municipal associations, or in some cases also municipal enterprises (such as water or waste management utilities). Civil society organisations can be project partners. Normally the support provided is equivalent to 90 per cent of the total amount, i.e. 10 per cent must be provided by the partners themselves or third parties.

→ **Partnership Projects for Sustainable Local Development (NAKOPA):** Grants of 20,000 to 250,000 euros (in the case of very experienced partnerships up to 500,000 euros) for development projects focusing on sustainable public services, good local governance or climate change mitigation and adaptation with a maximum term of three years.

Link: <https://skew.engagement-global.de/unterstuetzung-durch-nakopa.html>

- **Current call for proposals:** The two-phase application procedure is kicking off with a call for expressions of interest up till 22 December 2017.

The final deadline for actual project proposals is 30 March 2018.

- **Examples:** The administrative district (Landkreis) of Kassel launched a collection measure for separated waste in the Moldovan district of Anenii Noi. The city of Esslingen is conducting a social policy project in Maladzyechna that is designed to strengthen women in the municipality by raising awareness of domestic violence and setting up advice centres on site.
- **Small-Scale Project Fund:** Grants of 1,000 to a maximum of 20,000 euros for all measures and topics covered by municipal development policy in Germany and abroad for a maximum term of 12 months. The fund aims to assist interested municipalities to get involved in new municipal development measures and partnerships. Applications can be made throughout the year.
Link: <https://skew.engagement-global.de/kleinprojektfonds.html>
- **Examples:** Education and information work, studies, analyses, research or networking and dialogue formats

Read more <https://skew.engagement-global.de/finanzielle-unterstuetzung.html>

2. Human resource support

→ **„ASA-Kommunal“:** Placement of students and newly qualified young professionals aged between 21 and 30 in partnership projects for a practical internship of three or six months in cooperation with Engagement Global's ASA learning and training programme.

Link: <https://skew.engagement-global.de/asa-kommunal.html>

- **Example:** Education work at schools, pre-studies on a project and so on.

→ **Experts for municipal partnerships worldwide (formerly IFKW – Integrated Experts for Municipalities Worldwide):** Placement of experts in cooperation with GIZ.

Link: <https://skew.engagement-global.de/integrierte-fachkraefte.html>

- **Examples:** As part of the partnership between

Nuremberg and Kharkiv, an expert is compiling an energy efficiency concept for public buildings. It would also be feasible to commission an expert for several municipalities.

- **Coordinators for Municipal Development Cooperation:** Funding of a position in German municipal administration to coordinate and implement engagement for development in municipalities for a maximum of 24 months (annual tenders).
Link: www.skew.engagement-global.de/koordination-kommunaler-entwicklungspolitik.html

Read more <https://skew.engagement-global.de/personelle-unterstuetzung.html>

Brigitte Link generally recommended that interested parties consult the Service Agency as soon as possible. This is important not only in terms of input quality, but also for clarifying issues relating to grant law or support criteria. In principle, it is also possible to arrange a one-on-one appointment with the Service Agency to find out more about municipal development cooperation and the Service Agency's range of services. The Service Agency also runs special introductory seminars for interested actors (to find out more, contact the mobilisation team at +49 228-20717-6709). The Service Agency can also help strengthen networking amongst German partner cities.

11. 'MARKET OF OPPORTUNITIES' FEATURING SUPPORT OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Afterwards, participants were able to visit the 'market of opportunities' and find out more about other sources of support.



Market of opportunities

1. Instruments providing financial or human resources in support of municipal development cooperation

At this table, participants had an opportunity to access advice on those offers of Service Agency support that had already been presented at the conference. Together, the actors deliberated which support was best suited to the targeted goals, available human resources and the status of the partnership. Many of these ideas feature in the examples given in the Service Agency's online financing advisory service. Alongside real-life examples, this site provides access to current funding opportunities by Germany's federal states, the German Federal Government and the EU, and well as non-profit foundations.

Website: www.skew.engagement-global.de/finanzierungsratgeber.html

Contact: Ulrich Held,
Telephone: + 49 228-20717-336
Ulrich.Held@engagement-global.de

2. International Foundation for Research and Exchange (IBB)

Now ongoing for more than 15 years, the German government's programme 'Support to Belarus' is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the International Foundation for Research and Exchange (IBB) Dortmund in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The programme's overarching goal is to promote non-governmental actors who, through German-Belarusian partnerships and Belarusian associations, networks and other institutionalised cooperation structures, are committed to jointly advocating reform processes at national and regional level. This programme is based on a dialogue-oriented approach and supports cooperation between non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and public institutions and authorities in order to facilitate innovation and reforms in key areas of society.

Website: www.ibb-d.de/soziale-gesellschaft/foerderprogramm-belarus

Contact: Hanna Robilka, robilka@ibb-d.de

3. The 'Kontaktstelle Deutschland 'Europa für Bürgerinnen und Bürger' (KS EfBB) – the official national contact point for the EU programme 'Europe for Citizens' in Germany.

The aim of the programme 'Europe for Citizens' 2014–2020 is to contribute to citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and diversity. The second component 'Democratic engagement and civil participation' gives organisations, institutions and local and regional authorities etc. the opportunity to access project funding for measures that will bring citizens together in municipal partnerships. This also includes town networking and civil society projects. In addition to EU Member States, the following are also eligible to take part: Albania,

the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Website: www.kontaktstelle-efbb.de

Contact: Christine Wingert,
wingert@kontaktstelle-efbb.de

4. Actors of Urban Change (cooperation project by MitOst e.V. and the Robert Bosch Foundation)



Learning more at the market of opportunities

The Actors of Urban Change programme aims to achieve sustainable and participatory urban development through cultural activities. It enables actors from the cultural, public and private sectors to strengthen their capacity for trans-sectoral cooperation. A trans-sectoral team, formed of one actor each from the fields of culture/civil society, the public sector and the private sector, implements an innovative local project. Over an 18-month period, ten such teams from different European cities receive support for the implementation of joint local projects. Assistance is also provided for vocational training and networking activities. Participants on the programme get to apply their skills first hand in local projects, process-oriented consultancy and Europe-wide exchanges. With two programme cycles now completed (2013-15 and 2015-2017), the third cycle is now scheduled to run from autumn 2017 to summer 2019.

Webseite: www.mitost.org/kulturaustausch/actors-of-urban-change.html

Contact: Dr. Sebastian Schlüter,
schlueter@mitost.org

5. Renovabis

The German Catholics' solidarity initiative with the people in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe, Renovabis operates in 29 countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The initiative is able to offer German municipalities a wide spectrum of materials and services, including training services, and can assist, advise and promote existing or new city or school partnerships. Furthermore, it accepts applications for funding for mutual visits. Foreign partners can submit project proposals if their local bishop approves.

Website: www.renovabis.de

Contact: Carolin Starz, sca@renovabis.de

12. FINAL ROUND

At the end of the conference there was a feedback session that underscored the positive response the conference had generated. **In his concluding words, Dr. Stefan Wilhelmy, Director of the Service Agency**, thanked the participants for their positive and frank contributions. He was pleased that the 2030 Agenda has now evidently become established as a central list of goals for sustainable development in municipalities. He explained that this was important in order for municipalities to be able to act on these guidelines. He also stated that the Service Agency would be happy to assist the municipalities with implementing the Agenda and their strategic approaches. According to Dr. Wilhelmy, the conference had shown there were many points that lent themselves to further cooperation and he hoped these would be harnessed in the future. He thanked the City of Esslingen and the organisation team and wished all the participants a safe journey home.



Dr. Stefan Wilhelmy

Some impressions from the feedback session:

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„I'm thrilled! Thanks for three interesting days! We've started to build bridges. It was just great and I'm convinced that it's worthwhile continuing.“



Final comments

„I'm surprised about everything I got to experience here. It far exceeded my expectations. I noticed there are many stable partnerships, but we also spoke about the problems. I thought that was very agreeable.“

„I appreciate that we are entering into a totally new dimension of partnership work that goes beyond cultural collaboration and also embraces projects that have to do with the 2030 Agenda. Working together in temporary projects is changing the way we look at partnerships. My perspective has broadened considerably as a result.“

„I wish we could have a second conference right now. I was able to learn new things today and make contacts, engage in discussions and share experience. That’s so motivating and gives you new ideas for the future. More partnerships should get involved and be invited in the future.’

„I would like to say thank you for the great time I’ve had. The atmosphere was good, the organisation excellent, the moderation lively and the translations outstanding.’

„I thought there was a lot of energy everywhere and now I’m extremely motivated. It was inspiring and exciting. Thank you all for the many insights.’

„I’m really happy about all the interesting discussions we were able to engage in. Many new ideas were tabled. Next time I would like to find out more about the actual projects underway.’

„The event format was excellent – I’ll make a note of it for when we’re planning our own events.’

„The workshop on the SDGs got me thinking for a long time afterwards. In fact, I’m still reflecting on it now.’

„It was a brilliant conference! There was plenty of time for informal talks and I still have to assimilate it all. Once I’ve done that, I’ll have a better idea of what we can do with experiences. Thank you very much.’

ANNEX

Agenda

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First Conference on Municipal Partnerships with Eastern Europe
3 to 25 October 2017 in Esslingen

Languages translated: German, Russian, Bosnian/Croat/Serbian (BCS)

Monday, 23 October 2017	
09:30 onward	Registration and welcome coffee
10:30	official welcome addresses - Dr. Markus Raab, Mayor of the city of Esslingen - Mr Ulrich Kaltenbach, Deputy Director of the Federal States, Local Authorities and Development Education Division, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
10:50	Welcome by the moderator team and participant meet-and-greet
11:30	Keynote speech on municipal development cooperation Mr Kurt-Michael Baudach, Department Head, Service Agency Communities in One World, Engagement Global
12:15	Group photo and lunch
13:45	Keynote Challenges of sustainable development in Eastern European municipalities: What role can partnerships play? Speaker: Ms Natasha Ilijeva Acevska, Expert for municipalities and communities United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Macedonia Discussions Ms Natasha Ilijeva Acevska, Expert for municipalities and communities UNDP Macedonia, Dr. Horst Baier, Mayor of Samtgemeinde Bersenbrück Ms Ludmila Ceaglic, Mayor of Calfa Municipality, Republic Moldova Ms Katja Schmitz, Officer for City Partnerships, city of Düren
15:45	Coffee break
16:15	Creative work phase on the topic of 'Partnerships as Bridges': Our vision of a successful partnership!
17:45	End-of-day check-out
19:00	Joint evening meal in the Alte Aula (Old Aula)

Tuesday, 24 October 2017	
09:00	Excursion in Esslingen (departing directly from the hotels) Visit the location initiative Neue Neckarwiesen (SiNN) to see the renaturation of the Hainbach -Neckar river intersection and to tour the Sonnenwerke Neue Neckarwiesen, including the new Südwestmetall building in Esslingen – a piece of landmark architecture for the region: Architecture meets energy efficiency
13:00	Lunch in the town hall
14:30	Bilingual workshops (German-Russian and German-Bosnian/Croat/Serbian) 1) Municipal partnerships and the 2030 Agenda (Russian-German) 2) Innovative tools for joint planning of partnership's future (BCS-German) 3) How do you inspire citizens with your project? An interactive method workshop with Eva Engelhardt (Russian-German) 4) An insight into the world of social media tools for municipalities and partnership-based cooperation (BCS-German)
16:30	Coffee break
17:00	Insights and check-out
19:00	Evening reception in Esslingen Town Hall Traditional music from Esslingen's partner city Maladzyechna: Talaka Event opened by Senior Mayer Dr. Jürgen Zieger Balkan beats with the Klezmer Quartet, Heidelberg

Wednesday, 25 October 2017	
09:30	Registration, welcome address & start to the day
09:45	How do I finance my partnership work? Presentation of support options provided by the Service Agency Communities in One World Ms Brigitte Link, Project Manager, Service Agency Communities in One World, Engagement Global
11:00	Coffee break
11:45	Plenty to do, but no money to do it with: Where can I apply for funding for my ideas? A market of opportunities provides some answers
13:00	Final round
13:30	Lunch and departure

Mini-profiles

<p>Düren – Gradacac (BiH) Contact: Katja Schmitz, Partnership Officer Email: k.schmitz@dueren.de gradacac@dueren.de</p>	<p>Expertise/projects/topics: Exchange of municipal experts (municipal internships) Interested in an exchange/cooperation on: Project financing (application, design)</p>
<p>Esslingen – Maladzyechna (BL) Contact: B. Straub, Equal Opportunities Officer Email: barbara.straub@esslingen.de</p>	<p>Expertise/projects/topics: Gender equality Interested in an exchange/cooperation on: %</p>
<p>Langenhagen – Bijeljina (BiH) Contact: Wolfgang Lanrehr, Council Member Email: wlangrehr@t-online.de</p>	<p>Expertise/projects/topics: Municipal policy, urban planning Interested in an exchange/cooperation on: Green energy sources, social projects</p>
<p>Bruchsal – Mogilev (BL) / Samara (Rus) Contact: Jörg Tauss, Chairman Email: wog@tauss.de</p>	<p>Expertise/projects/topics: Health projects/ children's hospice Belarus/Russia Interested in an exchange/cooperation on: Health projects/ children's hospice Belarus/Russia</p>
<p>Darmstadt – Uzugorod (Ukraine) Contact: U. Wissmann, Management Board Email: dachsrl@gmail.com</p>	<p>Expertise/projects/topics: City partnerships + university, business promotion, moderation, business consultancy, support programmes for businesses in Eastern Europe Interested in an exchange/cooperation on: City partnerships, UA and Moldova + business promotion</p>
<p>Kassel – Anenii Noi (Calfa, Moldova) Bistrita Nausand (Romania) Contact: Christien-M. Borschel, Desk Officer, PR and international cooperation Email: christien-madeleine-borschel@landkreiskassel.de</p>	<p>Expertise/projects/topics: NAKOPA – solid waste management project component Interested in an exchange/cooperation on: Solid waste management in Eastern Europe</p>

<p>Wismar- Pogradec (Albania) Contact: Frieder Weinhold, Projekt Manager Email: frieder.weinhold@web.de</p>	<p>Expertise/projects/topics: Humanitarian aid, establishing structures, volunteer motivation, promoting cooperation, Albanian culture Interested in an exchange/cooperation on: Cooperation in the Balkans, applying for financial support, establishing social institutions</p>
<p>Ravensburg-Weingarten – Brest (BL) Contact: Bertram Nold, Twinning Association, Council Email: b.nold@t-online.de</p>	<p>Expertise/projects/topics: Pupil exchange Interested in an exchange/cooperation on:</p>
<p>Brühl – Calarasi (Moldova) Contact: Bettina Streicher, Europe and Partnerships Unit Email: b.streicher.stadt@buehl.de</p>	<p>Expertise/projects/topics: Internal organisation, youth camps, cooperation with volunteers and fire services Interested in an exchange/cooperation on: Municipal partnerships with the Republic of Moldova Integrating volunteers in Eastern Europe Partnerships, fire service cooperation</p>
<p>Langenhagen – Bijeljina (BiH) Contact: Willi Minne, Deputy Mayor Email: wilhelm.minne@gmail.com</p>	<p>Expertise/projects/topics: Supervising Langenhagen's partnership communications Interested in an exchange/cooperation on: Communication</p>
<p>Watklingen –Fruskavets (Ukraine) Contact: Roland Danner, Partnership Officer Email: rolanddannernhg@t-online.de</p>	<p>Expertise/projects/topics: Interested in an exchange/cooperation on: Local economic development</p>
<p>Bijeljina (BiH) – Langenhagen Contact: Mile Pejčić Head of Mayor's office Email: mile.pejčić@gradbijeljina.org</p>	<p>Interested in an exchange/cooperation on: Localising SDGs, practical examples of successful partnerships, NGO, partners, SDGs</p>

List of participants

Family name	Title/ Given name	Organisation / Municipality	Position	Country	E-Mail
Apel	Heike	City of Eisenach	Second honorary deputy	Germany	heike.apel@eisenach.de
Baier	Dr. Horst	Joint Municipality of Bersenbrück	Mayor	Germany	sgbgm@bersenbrueck.de
Balysh	Yury	Children Cultural Center ,Rostok', Moldodechno		Republic of Belarus	
Baudach	Kurt-Michael	Engagement Global / Service Agency Communities in One World	Head of Department	Germany	kurt.baudach@engagement-global.de
Berghorn	Dr. Gregor	Minsk-Club Bonn e.V.	Deputy Chairman	Germany	gregor.berghorn@gmail.com
Bilay	Sascha	City of Eisenach	Mayor's office administrator	Germany	sascha.bilay@eisenach.de
Borschel	Christien-Madeleine	Administrative district Kassel		Germany	christien-madeleine-borschel@landkreiskassel.de
Ceaglic	Ludmila	Municipality of Calfa	Mayor	Republic of Moldova	primaria_calfa@mail.ru
Charapovich	Viktoryia	Children Cultural Center ,Rostok', Moldodechno		Republic of Belarus	
Claus	Joachim	West-Ost-Gesellschaft Schwäbische Alb e.V. / Laichingen	Chairman	Germany	jo.claus@freenet.de
Danner	Roland	Joint Municipality of Wathlingen		Germany	rolanddannernhg@t-online.de
Dingler	Christian	genuin4 Digital Relations		Germany	dingler@genuin4.de
Domansky	Florian	Landschaftsverband Rheinland		Germany	florian.domansky@lvr.de
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Engelhardt-Wendt	Eva		Consultant	Germany	engelhardt.moderation@gmail.com
Fahrion	Jutta	City of Esslingen am Neckar	Head of Division	Germany	jutta.fahrion@esslingen.de
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List of abbreviations

BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CEMR	Council of European Municipalities and Regions
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
IFKW	Integrated experts for municipalities worldwide programme
NAKOPA	Partnership projects for sustainable local development
NALAS	Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe
NRO	Non-governmental organisation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SiNN	Standortinitiative Neue Neckarwiesen e.V.
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

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- No. 40: 50 Municipal Climate Partnerships by 2015. Documentation of the third phase of the project. Bonn, May 2016
- No. 32: 50 Municipal Climate Partnerships by 2015. Documentation of the second phase of the project. Bonn, December 2014
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- No. 77: Second Conference of German-Palestinian Municipal Partnerships. 10 to 13 November 2015 in Jena. Bonn, July 2016
- No. 70: International Workshop of the Municipal Climate Partnerships. Presentation of the Programmes of Action July 1 – 3, 2014. Bonn, February 2015
- No. 60: International Workshop “50 Municipal Climate Partnerships by 2015 – Presentation of the Joint Programmes of Action”. Documentation. Bonn, January 2014
- No. 54: International Kick-off Workshop “50 Municipal Climate Partnerships by 2015” 14th -16th November 2011. Documentation. Bonn, May 2012

Sonstige Publikationen:

- About Us. Bonn, February 2016
- The services we offer. Bonn, March 2017

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