

BIEaktiv – European Knowledge Exchange

Mobility Planning with and by the Urban Society

Background

Urban transport plays a major role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to make the vision of a climate-neutral Europe real. The implementation of mobility turnaround measures, however, frequently spurs polarizing discussions and conflicts among the different stakeholders within a city.

An early and active participation of the citizens in mobility planning is often seen as an effective way to foster understanding and to reconcile the opposing positions in the urban society. Many European cities – among them Bielefeld, Parma, and Turku – have made experiences with innovative forms of citizen participation in recent years, sometimes including a transfer of responsibility and decision making authority to the stakeholders.

Objectives

The aim of BIEaktiv is to share experiences and knowledge, learn from each other's mistakes and successes, identify strategies and best practices for citizen participation that will help overcome the enormous challenges lying ahead for cities across Europe. The focus is on the question of how a stronger integration of the urban society can contribute to a successful and broadly supported mobility turnaround. The bundling of experiences should help to identify the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches.

Besides the exchange of practical experiences and research results, a mutual adaptation of proven elements of the planning and participation culture of the other cities is aimed at. The knowledge gained will then be shared with cities across Europe.



The Path

In a first workshop, common topics of interest were identified. The three partner municipalities were particularly interested in how to involve underrepresented target groups more, how to conduct a systematic inventory of participation processes, and in what characterizes good knowledge management and an effective team composition. These topics will be addressed in-depth in a mixture of online and on-site workshops using peer-to-peer learning methods and the involvement of academic experts.

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Contact

Dr. Sven Steinkamp, City of Bielefeld
sven.steinkamp@bielefeld.de
Tel. +49 (0) 521-51-27196



Partners

