NOW Mayors' Network

7th International Mayors' Conference NOW Mayors' Day, Seestadt Aspern 16 February 2020





Agenda

- 10.30 Introduction: How can urban planning support social cohesion?
- 11.15 Thematic City Tour
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 Presentation: NOW Mayors' Network
- 15.00 Coffee Break
- 15.30 Workshop: How Mayors can support civic engagement and participation
- 16.30 Departure to the Hotel
- 19.00 Welcome Dinner



People involved

- Patricia Kahane & Elke Zuckermann
- George Antoun
- Tjark Bartels
- Mathis Dippon
- Uta Zeuge-Buberl
- Manuela Kräuter
- Robert Schafleitner



About Act.Now

- Independent not-for-profit organisation
- Aim: Social cohesion at the local level
- Conviction: Engaging young people
- Regional scope: From the Middle East to Northern Europe
- Objective: Initiate local action



Genesis





Transition to the next level

- After 3 successful years: Make good things better and sharpen our aims
- Better anchoring of Promising Practices
- Making learning successes more sustainable
- Achieving a broader effect
- Give more hand tools to take home



Principles

- 1. We are connected across borders.
- 2. Diversity is our strength.
- 3. We strengthen social cohesion to counteract polarisation and exclusion.
- 4. It is on us we drive local change.
- 5. We involve young people from all walks of life.



What the Network offers

- Access to an international and progressive mayors' network
- Meetings 2020:
 - 13 16 June
 - 7 11 Nov
- Meetings including field trips and trainings
 - Expanding its members' knowledge & relevant skill-sets
 - Training of municipality staff in undertaking local actions
- Information about potential funding opportunities



Membership Criteria

- Mayors
 - committed to supporting and believing in our principles
 - who want to proactively strengthen inclusive social cohesion
- Senior administrative staff
 - in the position and eager to bring about concrete local change
 - speaks English
- Medium-term: proof of local action
- Act.Now encourages mayors to get a mandate from their local council during the first year of membership



What can you expect from a meeting?

Tailored workshops for

mayors

e.g. Counteract hate speech, project communication, campaigning against populism

Training of municipality staff

...in planning and undertaking local actions

Field Trips

...offering first-hand insights about local challenges and promising practices

Exchange in focus areas

...to develop your local actions



D	ad Man	
Road Map		Tasks
16 - 18 Feb	NOW Conference	• Evaluate the conference
13 - 16 June	Summer Meeting	 Formulate objective for local action Become part of a focus area Diagnage local product
		 Diagnose local needs Exchange local challenges Learn how to diagnose local needs
		 Analyse local needs & challenges
7 - 11 Nov	Autumn Meeting	 Create local action Learn how to plan & create action Exchange problem solving ideas Design a Promising Practice
		Implement the Practice
Feb 2021	NOW Conference	Present your Practice at the Conference



Evaluate the Conference

- Please rate
 - Conference Categories
 - NOW Promising Practices
 - Workshops



• Hand the evaluation to Mathis or Uta until Tuesday, 1 pm (lunch)



Evaluate the Categories

Name of your Municipality: _

Conference Categories

We identified 5 categories, all of them support ways to overcome division and bring people together locally. Please rate them from 1 (not so relevant) to 5 (very relevant) for being possible action fields in your municipality.

		Your rating: 1 (less relevant) 5 (very relevant)
E	Joint local engagement for the common good Sharing a common goal and working towards it collectively can help create a sense of community between very different people. How can community engagement be organised to be both effective and welcoming to everyone to participate?	
A	Connecting activities & community events Organising community events or getting people together for engaging activities is a common suggestion for improving social cohesion. What kinds of activities and events have shown to be particularly successful in enabling exchange and connection?	
S	Community spaces where diverse people meet The design of (public) spaces influences the way people spend time there and the kind of interactions that can occur. What do places have to look and feel like for diverse people to feel welcome and meet each other?	
F	Formats overcoming conflicts & division In many cases conflict and division between different groups run so deep that almost every encounter is shaped by prejudice or even hate. What kind of formats can help to move people from prejudices and hate to understanding and connectedness?	
P	Inclusive youth participation Young people need to be involved in decision making. But often enough only more privileged young people are invited to participate which reinforces existing inequalities. How can youth participation be organised to include young people with all sorts of backgrounds?	



Evaluate the NOW Promising Practices



NOW Promising Practices

You will get to know up to 20 NOW Promising Practices — living examples of how to strengthen inclusive social cohesion in diverse communities. Please rate them in regards to relevancy for your municipality.

	Not relevant for my municipality.	We already have a similar initiative.	Might be interesting for my municipality.	Definitely want to do something similar.
Athens Open Schools Athens, Greece After regular school hours, school buildings are opened for everyone and turned into a place for community activities and lifelong learning.				
Celebrating the beauty of diversity Dublin, Ireland A one-day festival lets visitors experience diverse cultures and faiths, and brings to light the value of people from diverse backgrounds working together.				
Collaboration through Social Media Essen, Germany A Facebook group that spontaneously coordinated volunteers after a storm turned into a low-barrier volunteer organisation active in various fields.				
Connected Living Zurich, Switzerland A housing project chooses its residents deliberately to represent a diverse mix of backgrounds and promotes interaction in attractive shared spaces.				
Cool Streets Vienna, Austria Reacting to urban heat, selected streets are declared car-free and turned into inviting spaces to cool off and interact with neighbours in.				



Evaluate the Workshops

Workshops: From Knowledge to action

Please tick which Workshops of the conference are of special interest for your work.

Monday

Joint efforts for climate-resilient cities
Fighting polarisation.
Gardens: Where humans find themselves and others.
How to give children and young people a voice?
Using dialogue to strengthen social cohesion
Understanding the Culture of Consent in different settings
Modules for youth participation in the Middle East
Arki_nopoly: Participatory urban design boardgame
Youth participation in municipalities.
Who are we? We'll write our stories!
Favoriten Storytelling Tour
Objekt 19 – a community hub (guided tour)

Tuesday

- Coloured Glasses
- Do you dare shift perspectives?
- □ Creation of the Mayors' and Youth Manifesto
- □ How not to ask bad questions and analyse!
- Restoring buildings to restore communities
- □ Supporting vulnerable groups for social cohesion
- □ Methods of youth participation in decision-making
- Methods to strengthen public-civic cooperation
- Community gardens as spaces of encounter
- □ How to counter online hate
- □ Testing the quality of urban open spaces
- Objekt 19 a community hub (guided tour)