

## ENTER.HUB kick-off meeting

Lisa Schanz, SPD, elected representative of the Ulm city council

Good morning, first of all, thank you for the opportunity to talk to you about the pilot training for elected representatives which took part in Bruxelles from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of April. I was given the chance to represent Ulm as one of the cities participating in the Urban project "Enter.Hub".

I would like to use the opportunity also to thank Mr.Wetzig for the development of Ulm without him it would not happen like this.

It was the first time that elected representatives of different European cities, all of which take part in the Urbact Projects, were invited to take part in such a training workshop.

30 Participants from all over Europe: Copenhagen, Riga, Pecs, Glasgow, Bristol and so on were invited to this training. Ulm and Leipzig with Siegfried Schlegel ( CSI project) were the only two German cities chosen to participate in the Enter.Hub.project.

The training is in three parts and will continue with the same participants in September and December of this year.

The group which I participated in, as I already said, was Enter.Hub which also included the Lead partner Reggio Emilia/Italy and Ciudad Real/Spain. Two cities with similar projects with regards to creating new train networks for the connectivity of the population.

The Urbact training also included other projects, such as sustainable food, job town and others.

The aim of this training is to directly connect with other elected representatives from other European countries and to create a network for sharing experience and hopefully to find solutions together.

It is a training which provides us with problem solving strategies and helps us to learn from a variety of different projects which should then allow us, the elected representatives, to inform and evaluate our decision making processes.

2 groups were formed for this training which presented current projects. My group worked with the "sustainable food project" from Lyon, presented by Francoise Rivoire and the Enter.Hub project from Reggio Emilia, presented by Andrea Capelli.

The essential component of all these projects is citizen participation, which is something Ulm already has a long track record off.

Examples being the development of the tram network and of the newly developing area of Lettenwald or the most current development of the train station site which includes the shopping compound Sedelhof.

These experiences over many years are one of the things Ulm and I as the representative of Ulm can bring to the table at Brussels. One of the topics raised in the training, which all participants agreed upon, was that projects should not only be handled by the communal department in charge of it, but also connected horizontally to other departments within the administration.

This means widening the viewpoint and including other aspects into the planning. Not just structural development, but also social, cultural and educational aspects.

This interdisciplinary planning is something Ulm has also experience with and would like to share with the other participating cities. And although it sounds like Ulm already has much expertise and it undoubtedly has, I feel, that nevertheless there are many things we and I can learn from our European neighbours.

I am certainly looking forward to go to Brussels again and to learn about new aspects of European urban planning and to make connections with other elected representatives which will help to improve the citizen participation and citizen inclusion in our decision making processes here in Ulm.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the team in Brussels, Willem van Winden, Corinne Hermant and many others for an excellent training program, and of course Dorothea Hemminger and her team for bringing the project to Ulm.

Thank you for attention.