GERMANY AND THE
GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA

2018

That’s how sustainability works!

Germany and the global sustainability agenda

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This is how sustainability works!

Civil society initiatives and proposals for sustainable policies

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Dear readers,

With Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the world's governments have set up the framework for global sustainable development policy over the next twelve years. The Agenda and its Goals also hold the potential to shape German policies at Federal, State and Local Government level. They stress the need for changes in Germany itself while emphasising the country's international responsibilities. What becomes clear here again and again is that the key to the success of Agenda 2030 is at national and sub-national level. This applies both to development cooperation and to the external effects of German policies and the country's economy, ranging from CO2 emissions to procurement and trade policies. We, the publishing organisations, networks and associations, have kept a critical eye on German policies implementing Agenda 2030 since 2016. We point to alternatives, refer to solutions and thus contribute to getting Germany on a sustainable track, both in its own interest and in that of the world as a whole.

The two first editions of *Germany and the Global Sustainability Agenda* present a not exactly flattering picture of the situation in Germany or of the Federal Government's international efforts to achieve the SDGs. In practically all the target areas, the group of publishers have had to note that much remains to be done – especially in terms of the need for the government to take action.

Berlin/Bonn/Frankfurt am Main, in September 2018

What becomes clear here again and again is that the key to the success of Agenda 2030 is at national and sub-national level. Instead of merely updating the results of the previous reports covering 2016 and 2017 or focusing on the continuation of processes, the organisations, networks and associations publishing this report decided to concentrate on which measures to implement had already been put into practice in 2018 despite an inadequate political framework in Germany or elsewhere.

In *Germany and the Sustainable Development Agenda: This is how sustainability works!* the authors and interview partners explain how sustainability policy can be actively shaped and where it has already been put into practice. Civil society and trade union initiatives as well as measures at local level and examples from other countries serve to illustrate developments. We make use of these approaches to hold up a mirror to "politics". We show that sustainability is indeed possible – provided that the political will is there.

The Publishers

CorA – Network for Corporate Accountability, Deutscher Bundesjugendring, Deutscher Naturschutzring, Forum Menschenrechte, Forum on Environment and Development, Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft, Global Policy Forum, German Platform for Peaceful Conflict Management and Verband Entwicklungspolitik und Humanitäre Hilfe

This is how sustainability works!

Civil society initiatives and proposals for sustainable policies

THE PUBLISHERS' VIEW

Adopted unanimously by all United Nations Member States in September 2015, Agenda 2030, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), represents an ambitious framework for sustainable development that needs to be filled with content and put into practice. The German Federal Government actively participated in formulating Agenda 2030. The revised "Deutsche Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie" (DNS – German Sustainability Strategy) is to provide the framework to implement Agenda 2030 and the SDGs in, together with, and through Germany. Implementing Agenda 2030 and promoting sustainable development are also referred to as a guideline for government action in the new Federal Government's Coalition Agreement.

Despite these avowals, it has to be noted that the Federal Government's policies are still far from sustainable. This applies to the situation in Germany and affects people here with regard to social (e.g. growing inequality and poverty), economic (e.g. obsolete infrastructure and abandoning of the energy turnaround) and ecological (e.g. fine particulate air pollution and drinking water quality) issues. Our non-sustainable mode of production and consumption, which accepts human rights violations and is oriented on an overexploitation of natural resources, as well as our unfair agricultural and trade policies are having a massive impact on the living conditions of people in other countries, above all in the poorest ones. In the two civil society reports *Germany and the Sustainable Development Agenda* published so far and covering 2016 und 2017, the authors made it clear that there was still a lot to do in all policy fields. A critical review and analysis of government action regarding the implementation of Agenda 2030 continues to be required and, given counter-productive policies, e.g. in combating global warming, seems more necessary and urgent than ever.

Beyond government policy and partly facing staunch resistance from politics and business, civil society initiatives and organisations are more and more often taking sustainability into their own hands. They point to deficiencies and grievances, develop alternative approaches and win over people with innovative ideas, engagement for others and a lifestyle that does no, or at least less, harm to nature and fellow humans. They significantly contribute to environmental protection and promote social justice. The large number of organisations making an effort to care for and integrate refugees in cities and local communities since 2015 is a good example of the latter.

Here, civil society engagement for sustainable development above all becomes visible and is actively implemented at local level – although it also addresses "big" politics beyond local contexts. Such engagement does not always explicitly relate to the global Sustainability Goals agreed by governments.
Civil society engagement has various motivations. Initiatives and organisations are striving for concrete improvements in the living conditions of people at local level. They are prompted to take action themselves by inertia perceived as failure or sometimes even harmful (in conflict contexts) government action or influence regarded as excessive of actors blocking or slowing down progress. It is especially experiencing one's own effectiveness that contributes to civil society engagement as a whole, but also to sustainable development, having continuously been at a high level for years and being on the rise among those who were previously not involved as well. Often, the ideas and approaches of initiatives and organisations

are so good that they can be transferred to a larger context and may set examples for politics at regional or national level. Many of the changes in society – ranging from the energy turnaround to fair procurement in public administration and more international cooperation – would not have been possible in their present form without civil society engagement.

This report therefore focuses mainly on which civil society (but also government) approaches for a concrete implementation of the Sustainability Goals already exist in Germany and other countries, where success has been possible on a "small" scale despite inadequate political framework conditions, and what obstacles activists and campaigners have to struggle with in implementing their goals. They have been chosen because they stand for civil society, local government and state approaches to sustainable development and because they are potentially transferrable to a larger societal context – in our case in Germany.

Of course there are countless further examples that we were unable to consider in the report. Our aim is not to provide a representative analysis of civil society sustainability engagement. Rather, we want to show examples of who is changing what, and how – and which obstacles such engagement is facing. The examples are meant to present ideas and concepts to civil society initiatives and organisations that they can make use of in their own work. But they are also meant to motivate an engaged pursuit of good ideas for sustainability, also in inclement conditions. People in each of the initiatives presented have succeeded in mobilising much political strength and thus making the world a little more fair and sustainable.

Just to avoid any misunderstanding, the chief responsibility for the implementation of Agenda 2030 and achieving the SDGs lies with governments. They adopted them, and they are responsible for setting a course towards sustainable development in all political, social and economic sectors. In order for civil society engagement for sustainable development to develop and multiply, resistance has to be reduced, better framework conditions need to be created and, in particular, the structural obstacles to sustainable development must at last be addressed by politics as well. The projects, initiatives and activities presented in this report are meant to hold up a mirror to politics. They are intended to show where and how concrete political alternatives to a "carry on regardless" policy exist. In other words: "This is how sustainability works!"

Sustainability crosses borders

Policies that seek to be transformative in the sense of sustainability have to comprise all its dimensions (social, economic, ecological and societal). They have to consider structural, global and concrete challenges. They have to be taken up at and between all levels and by a multitude of actors, and they have to opt for different implementation instruments and strategies.

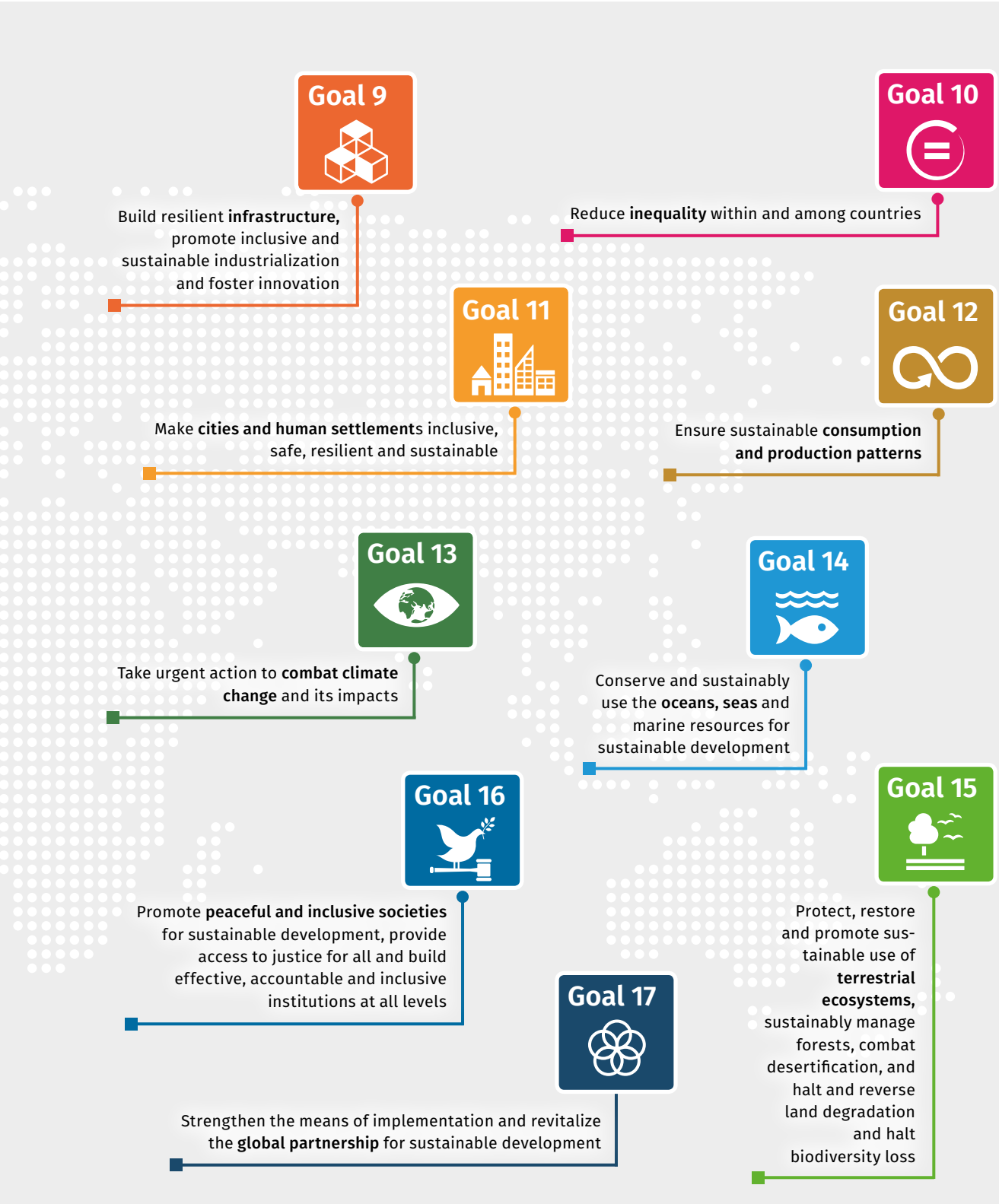
One of the central objectives of transformative politics is to end social inequality and hence poverty as its most extreme form – however, this requires a multidimensional approach that is strategic and creative. In accordance with one of the Agenda 2030 core principles, "leave no-one behind" those people who are affected most by poverty, conflicts and environmental destruction have to be reached first, and to a disproportionately high degree. They are mainly women, children and youths, people with disabilities, refugees and displaced persons, migrants, indigenous peoples and further marginalised groups.

Considering the sustainability dimensions

Many civil society initiatives and organisations have been pursuing corresponding approaches far longer than Agenda 2030 has actually been there. They became active to achieve changes in society in the sense of a comprehensive transformation of our lifestyle. Our report contains encouraging examples of how projects for the common good that consider their impacts on different areas of society can sustainably cope with challenges posed by society.

For example, the "Streetwear Campaign", which seeks to create opportunities for youths from families affected by poverty to take part in recreational activities, has opted for eco-fair material and local production for its clothing brand (Chapter 1). The "Food Councils" see changes in the production of agri-

Figure 1
The 17 Sustainable Development Goals


Goal 9
Build resilient **infrastructure,** promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10
Reduce **inequality** within and among countries
Goal 11
Make **cities and human settlements** inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12
Ensure sustainable **consumption and production patterns**
Goal 13
Take urgent action to **combat climate change** and its impacts
Goal 14
Conserve and sustainably use the **oceans, seas** and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of **terrestrial ecosystems,** sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16
Promote **peaceful and inclusive societies** for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17
Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the **global partnership** for sustainable development

cultural goods and consumer behaviour towards sustainability as interrelated processes. The goal of food sovereignty can only be achieved if as many food system actors as possible join forces to support ecologically sustainable, socially compatible and economically feasible patterns of production and consumption – and to campaign for the political framework that this requires. To this end, they bring together producers and consumers (Chapter 2). The civil society smallholder initiative "Towards Sustainable Use of Resources Organisation" (TSURO) from Zimbabwe aims to establish community management of the scarce water resources in order to improve the social and economic situation of the smallholders and ensure the level of environmental protection that agriculture requires. Here, the self-responsibility and self-effectiveness of the water users in the sustainable management of a common good is particularly important in this context (Chapter 6). The project on coastal marine protection "Friends of Marine Life" in the Indian Federal State of Kerala is working towards both the preservation of small-scale fisheries as the local people's livelihood and towards changes in the way that all authorities – in particular those of the government – handle the common good of the coastal sea (Chapter 14). And finally, "UferLeben e.V." has both environmental protection and saving jobs in the "Leipziger Neuseenland" region in mind – also when it calls on local businesses and local administrations to come up with a sustainable tourism concept for the "Leipziger Neuseenland" region (Chapter 15).

Peace is a key prerequisite for sustainable social development. Given the severe social and ecological impacts of rapid globalisation and the corresponding social conflicts, the peace dimension is of central importance – not only in those countries that are plagued by violent conflict or have restricted rights of free movement and participation. In this volume, the peace policy dimension is above all considered by those initiatives that are devoted to conflict management in the (post-) war contexts in the Philippines and Colombia (Chapter 16). However, "Bündnis Zukunftsbildung" also calls for tolerant and peaceful togetherness. It promotes the implementation of education for sustainable development at all education institutions, ranging from the KITA day-care centres for toddlers to vocational and higher education (Chapter 4). The current debate on flight and migration, in which democracy and human rights are exposed to a populist discourse and xenophobic thought, shows just how important this issue also continues to be in Germany.

Ending poverty and social inequality

The gulf between poor and rich is getting wider and wider in most countries. Inequality between countries is also still very high on a global scale. Across the world, 783 million people are affected by extreme poverty, which means that they have to live on less than 1.90 US dollars a day.[1] The overwhelming majority of these people live in the countries of Africa and South Asia. In Germany, 15.7 per cent of the population are believed to be at risk of poverty. Among children and youths, the poverty vulnerability rate is as high as 19.7 per cent.[2] Our report also contains good examples of projects seeking to reduce poverty and end social inequality. A project on the improvement of healthcare for mothers and children in Nepal is above all intended to reach out to women affected by poverty (Chapter 3). The initiative "Tausche Bildung für Wohnen" in Duisburg-Marxloh offers children from families hit by poverty education programmes (Chapter 10). The "Mietshäuser Syndikat" creates housing that people with a low income can also afford. It combines self-organised housing and residential projects in order to counter the profit-oriented valorisation logic of the current housing market with an alternative (Chapter 11).

Achieving gender justice

We still have a long way to go before we reach gender justice – also in Germany. Both globally and here at home, women are more frequently affected by poverty. They perform three times as much unpaid domestic labour as men. And on a global average, they continue to earn 38 per cent less than their male colleagues.[3]

1 United Nations (2018).

2 "Paritätischer Gesamtverband" (2017). A person or household is said to be at risk of poverty that has to live on less than 60 per cent of the total population's average income (Median).

But women and girls are also affected by social taboos and discrimination resulting from these taboos. This above all replies regarding their reproductive rights. Our report contains a number of good examples of how the situation of women and girls can be improved and brought closer to the goal of gender justice. The #freeperiods campaign has set itself the target of eliminating period poverty. It broaches the issue of the social taboo surrounding menstruation, and hence a significant aspect of social discrimination against women and girls, in public (Chapter 5). But fair local authority procurement of work clothing is also an important contribution to gender justice.

Especially in the clothing industry, women are employed who frequently have to work under exploitative conditions. Fair procurement and the observance of human rights in production contribute to improving their situation.

A small initiative with a big impact – but how does it work?

The civil society initiatives and organisations presented in our report pursue tried and tested concepts as well as, partly, new approaches to achieve sustainability. The "Kampagne", the "Projekt vor Ort" and the "gelebte Alternative" are three "classic" examples of civil society engagement. Taking legal action tends to be a more recent approach. All the initiatives and organisations presented make full use of the political, legal and administrative scope of options to pursue their causes. Here, they have to rely on cooperation with very different actors in society and the business world, but also with government or local authority institutions. Furthermore, some of them perform a change of roles by crossing the border between civil society initiatives and business activities.

The campaign – pointing out shortcomings in society and calling for action

Campaigns are meant to draw attention to societal problems or political aberrations. While they only run for a limited period, they are aimed at long-term changes in society and politics. For example, the #freeperiods campaign seeks to highlight discrimination against girls. But with its demands for free menstruation products, it is above all addressing politics, members of parliament and the UK government. The Streetwear Campaign points to a problematic situation in society. Most young people from poor families are unable to go on holiday. However, instead of simply demanding that local government provide more finance for youth work, the campaign addresses the better-off and appeals for subsidies via the purchase of the Streetwear brand "arm™".

The project – achieving real change at local level

Many of the projects presented in our report evolved from grassroots initiatives or were developed by civil society organisations or social enterprises seeking to reach concrete improvements of the environmental and living conditions for locals. The "Volksentscheid Fahrrad" initiative in Berlin campaigned for a more sustainable cycling transport policy in the Federal capital and is now being continued in further cities (Chapter 9). The project run by "Tausche Bildung für Wohnen" improves the education situation in Duisburg-Marxloh. "UferLeben e.V." supports the sustainable use of the Leipzig Neuseenland and above all seeks to preserve the environment for the people living in the region and create jobs for them.

The alternative – just doing things differently for a change

It is especially important to redress our economic system, which is geared to unfettered growth and the unregulated market, and to convert it to sufficiency. Politicians often claim that a sustainable regulation of the private sector would entail social cuts. Many civil society initiatives and organisations demonstrate that changes towards a socially and ecologically sustainable economy are already possible right now, under the existing conditions. The "Bündnis Bürgerenergie" campaigns for sustainable energy generation that is organised on a decentralised basis, does not harm the environment or climate and considers the needs and wishes of citizens (Chapter 7).

3 United Nations (2018). In Germany, for example, the wage gap is still at 21 per cent. Whereas men earn 20.71 euros on average, women are paid a mere 16.25 euros per hour (cf. Federal Statistical Office (2017)).

The members of the "Bündnis Bürgerenergie" are thus practising the local energy turnaround without suffering economic losses. The founders of the "FairWorldFonds" (Chapter 17) are also exercising applied sustainability by providing a fund for ethical issues.

Contending for sustainable development through legal action

Civil society initiatives and organisations regularly call for legally binding regulations or more stringent administrative provisions, for example in order to protect workers' human rights and the environment against exploitative companies or to force companies to at last establish environmentally friendly production. In some areas, binding ecological, social and human rights standards already exist, such as the core labour standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO) or the Paris Climate Agreement. One example in our report shows that taking legal action is not ruled out in such areas. Together with local non-governmental organisations and private individuals, the Climate Litigation Network takes governments to court for not meeting the international commitments they have made 2020 to really reduce CO_2 emissions by 25 per cent compared to 1990 levels through corresponding national regulations (Chapter 13).

A further example of how sustainable development can be achieved by law comes from one of Germany's neighbouring countries. On the initiative of civil society organisations, the French Parliament has adopted a law that obliges businesses to monitor and curb negative human rights impacts of their business activities – a milestone for the protection of human rights. Many governments, including the German Federal Government, have so far rejected such legislation. But in times of globalisation, corporate responsibility does not stop at a country's borders. German enterprises share responsibility for the business practices of their international suppliers or business partners (Chapter 8).

However, the scope for action provided by new laws then has to be made use of. Once an EU Directive has been translated into German law, the Federal and State governments could change the allocation structures for public procurement so as to enable fair and sustainable procurement to become standard practice. This yet remains to be achieved. Nevertheless, individual local governments are taking their own steps forward. One good example of this is also presented in our report: the fair procurement of service clothing, as practised e.g. by the cities of Dortmund, Bonn, Cologne and Stuttgart. It is an achievement of civil society lobbying activities (Chapter 12).

Sustainable development through cooperation – and role change

Many civil society initiatives and organisations work together with government or local administrative institutions to achieve sustainable development. Some initiatives and projects address the demands arising from their work directly to local or government institutions such as local administration or the Federal Government and its downstream authorities. As some examples in our report show, civil society performs different roles in this context. For example, following the severe earthquake of 2015 in Nepal, the "Johanniter-Auslandshilfe" provided an emergency relief team and subsequently cooperated with a local partner organisation in order to support public healthcare in one of the affected regions. "Naya Health Nepal" has been commissioned by the government to improve women's health. In the Indian state of Kerala, the coastal marine conservation initiative Friends of Marine Life supports the local authorities by providing specialist consulting. But in Germany too, civil society initiatives and organisations are in close contact with local authorities and advise them on issues such as fair procurement.

Business tends to play a role as a cooperation partner more rarely. And if it does, companies are involved that maintain sustainable production. The Streetwear Campaign and the "arm™" label have opted for eco-social material and local production of their clothing, while the Food Councils cooperate with regional organic farmers. Above all companies that have so far failed to produce sustainably ought to be obliged to do so via binding social, ecological and human rights standards.

Sometimes, civil society initiatives and organisations have to change their roles. The initiatives supporting "Bürgerenergie" are at the same time economic actors in the energy sector. While the "Mietshäuser Syndikat" works as an association, it also performs another function, that of a limited company, in order to be able to pursue its goals on the housing market. The initiators of the "FairWorldFonds" have become financial market actors with their fund. Other organisations, such as "Tausche Bildung gegen Wohnen", are acting in an intermediate area and see themselves as social enterprises.

Sustainability – achievable despite resistance

Civil society initiatives often have to assert their sustainability projects against resistance. In many countries in the Global South, but also in Europe, it is governments that are imposing restrictions on civil society engagement for human rights and sustainable development. But business interests and their political support often represent obstacles to civil society sustainability engagement as well. Furthermore, many civil society initiatives and organisations face the challenge of securing sound and lasting financing of their projects.

Maintaining and extending the scope for civil society

In many countries of the Global South – and not just there – civil society engagement is restricted by autocratic or populist governments or takes place in (post-) conflict situations. Generally, the space for civil society engagement for human rights and sustainable development is shrinking more and more. Our report shows examples from countries in which democracy is still in its infancy and is therefore fragile (Zimbabwe) or in which democratic and civil society participation is considerably hampered by violent conflict and conservative, populist policies (Colombia, Philippines) or natural disasters (Nepal).

Overcoming economic power and interest-driven politics

But even basically positive political framework conditions far from guarantee that the political will is there to achieve sustainable development. Conflicts of interest between sustainability and economic development, but also social taboos, an absence or lack of legal frameworks and poor financial resources are challenges that initiatives and projects face. Often, it is economic interests that counter sustainable development. This does not mean that most companies generally reject sustainability. But many of them still give it far too little consideration in their business activities or attribute sustainability the status of a sideline activity. Often enough, politicians are more ready to lend an ear to the wishes of enterprises than to civil society initiatives and organisations oriented on the public good. Businesses have the potential to generate tax revenue in cash-stripped communities and create jobs or promise additional prestige and (partly illegal) income opportunities for politicians.

Of course some companies exist that are already observing social and ecological standards in their production. Civil society initiatives and organisations are then keen to cooperate with them as partners for sustainable development. Business and sustainability are not contradictory terms. Sustainability need not result in lower profits or unemployment. Companies ought to make much bolder efforts to become sustainable.

Mastering financial challenges

Many civil society initiatives and organisations that have committed themselves to sustainable development operate on a voluntary and donation basis. Our examples also suggest that good and successful sustainability projects often lack secure financing in the long term. But many of the projects take time to develop their positive impacts. Therefore, many initiatives and organisations are dependent on public support. Some of our examples demonstrate this too. Since many initiatives contribute to the public good and, furthermore, frequently perform government services and tasks, they ought to be provided with sufficient public funding. But since public funds do not always represent a suitable means of financing a project, it is important to find medium- and long-term alternatives to finance civil society initiatives. This does not bear on the fact that money has to be reallocated within public budgets as well. More money for sustainable development or a more sustainable transport policy can easily be saved elsewhere. Moreover,

tax revenue has to be used to minimise negative follow-up costs.

What politics now has to do – demands on Local, Federal and State Governments

Für diesen Bericht haben wir zivilgesellschaftliche Initiativen und Organisationen ausgewählt, die mit ihren Projekten beispielgebend auch für die Politik in und durch Deutschland sein können. Aus den gewonnen Erkenntnissen ergeben sich fünf zentrale Forderungen an Bund, Länder und Kommunen:

For this report, we have chosen civil society initiatives and organisations whose projects can also set examples for politics in and by Germany. Five key demands on Local, Federal and State Governments can be derived from the insights gained:

1. **At last muster political will!** It is high time for policies at Federal, State and local level to show determination to consistently achieve sustainable development. This is also possible in the face of populist and economic inertia tendencies and contrary to the complacence of a "carry on regardless" attitude. Political decision-makers should no longer give in to such tendencies. Instead, they should provide determined support for civil society initiatives and organisations that are already successfully practising sustainability.

2. **Protect and extend space for civil society!** Policies at Federal, State and local level have to protect civil society engagement and the universally valid human rights. This applies in particular to the Federal Government's cooperating with autocratic states in which freedom, the rule of law and political participation are threatened. But neither must political measures in trade and commerce, foreign trade and investment promotion, migration or security result in human rights restrictions. Civil society engagement for sustainable development is active human rights campaigning!

3. **Taking civil society seriously as an initiator of and advisor on coherent policies!** Policies at Federal, State and local level have to become more coherent in order to achieve the global development goals. This is why they ought to draw more strongly on the experience gathered by civil society initiatives and organisations. They ought to view them as serious initiators and advisors and actively consult them, especially where they are attempting to offset the negative impacts of political decisions on sustainable development. Civil society policy counselling is efficient and strengthens citizens' trust in democracy, politics and administration.

4. **Asserting rights, creating and simplifying frameworks!** Sustainable development requires a legally binding framework and corresponding regulations. These have to at last be created and then consistently implemented at Federal, State and local level! Voluntary self-commitments, e.g. on the part of businesses, to observe due diligence regarding human rights and socio-ecological standards are not sufficient.

5. **Securing financial support!** Federal, State and local governments ought to simplify and develop the framework for financial support, such as budget lines, eligibility conditions for financial support, self-contributions and the administrative effort for civil society sustainability initiatives. In addition, in dialogue with civil society, alternative models of financing ought to be discussed so that those initiatives that are not eligible for government support can be financially secured in the long term. Furthermore, Federal, State and local governments ought to support civil society initiatives and organisations by expanding volunteer services and through a systematic promotion of engagement in the field of sustainability.

What the examples here also show quite clearly is that sustainability does not require any master plan or tutelage from above. It thrives on diversity, and in the long run, its elements feed into large-scale socio-ecological transformation. Agenda 2030 and the Paris Climate Agreement as well as all national sustainability strategies can support this development provided that they are consistently implemented. But this is above all the way that sustainability works: just by doing it for a change! And politics ought to support civil society doing it. Politics ought to follow the example the latter sets – or at least not get in its way.

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This is how sustainability works!

With the fashion label "arm™", the "Frankfurter Jugendring" is drawing attention to youth poverty and is using income from sales to finance youth camps.

Streetware versus youth poverty

MICHAEL SCHOLL INTERVIEWS VANESSA LEHR, SÉBASTIEN DAUDIN, MAREN BURKHARDT AND ANNA LATSCH

With attention focusing on child poverty and poverty in general, youth poverty has been somewhat forgotten. But not only do youths growing up in poverty face have to cope with more difficult conditions. There is also a considerable danger of their being affected by poverty as adults.

An initiative in Frankfurt am Main is seeking to tackle this spiral of poverty ("whoever grows up poor stays poor"). The "Frankfurter Jugendring" (FJR), a coalition of several youth organisations in the Main metropolis, has launched a campaign against youth poverty. Part of the campaign is devoted to making youth poverty visible in a special way: with Streetware.

What are the key problems in youth poverty?

But not only do youths growing up in poverty face have to cope with more difficult conditions. There is also a considerable danger of their being affected by poverty as adults. It is this spiral of poverty ("whoever grows up poor stays poor") that we want to tackle.

Although it is not their poverty but that of their parents, the lives of children and youths are shaped by poverty. Pupils who haven't had a breakfast at home and are sitting in class hungry will achieve more poorly than other pupils. The odds of getting a good school leaving certificate are not so favourable. Lacking financial resources usually bar children and youths from participating in social and societal life – from places offering informal education that are important learning environments for an individual's development.

Children and youths have to cope with the sense of shame. With the feeling of being left out. With the feeling of injustice and stigmatisation. Inferiority complexes develop. They have less courage to fight for themselves, for example to achieve good marks or for an apprenticeship.

We focus on youth poverty because child poverty receives far more attention in Germany than youth poverty does. There are fewer support services and programmes for youths to compensate for the impacts of poverty. Acceptance of youths and their problems is not as high as it is of children, "children are sweet, but youths are just annoying".

What does youth poverty look like in Frankfurt?

In Frankfurt, nearly every fourth child under the age of 18 lives in a community of dependents. Children and youths in families that are not regarded as communities of dependents also often have to accept restrictions in a wide range of areas, not least because of the high cost of living in Frankfurt. Affordable housing for families is hard to come by, and rent is a considerable financial burden, not only for families.

Our youth associations and public institutions observe a frightening prospect of child and youth poverty in their day to day work in group sessions, youth camps or open support facilities. More and more children and youths are unable to travel to youth camps because their parents cannot afford the participation fee. Often, the first euro to be paid is already a problem. This means that even low-cost programmes are not made use of. Many children and youths only get proper food in the open support facility, and even then, only in the afternoon. Excuses are looked for not to accept invitations to birthday parties because there is no money for presents.

Rapid population growth in the cities is putting additional pressure on the housing market, on the demand for affordable housing. Especially for poorer families, this means cuts and a difficult housing situation. Children and youths have to share their rooms with more and more brothers and sisters. Kitchens are turned into living rooms and bedrooms, and there are no facilities to cook. Poorer families are pushed to the city outskirts and have to live along noisy main roads or the motorway, or they are plagued by aircraft noise. This raises the demand for recuperation and recreational facilities in order to make up for a "poor" and stressful day to day life.

What is your campaign aimed at?

We want to bring the topic of youth poverty to the fore in discussions and make it a focal issue for the public. We want to show that poverty is not a blemish and can hit anyone. We are seeking allies and want to get politics to take action. We want to make a contribution of our own and are pursuing the goal that every youth in Frankfurt should be able to visit a youth camp once a year, regardless of his or her parents' income situation.

What are the key political demands?

Our political demands focus on affordable housing, participation and mobility, education and care, leisure time and establishing the topic as a cross-cutting responsibility in administration and education institutions.

How can affordable housing be ensured?

In Frankfurt, it is essential for politics to intervene, given that housing has become an extremely scarce resource and an object of speculation. So far, free competition has not solved the problems. In addition to new, subsidised housing, efficient rent control and an environmental protection statute, more incentives also have to be created for private investors and house owners so that families can gain access to affordable housing. They often have to compete with financially strong singles and couples who are more in favour with landlords.

And how can the mobility and participation of youths be maintained?

Local public transport ought to be free of charge for everyone under the age of 18 or up to completion of the first vocational training course or a secondary education degree. Today's rebate policy fails to solve two problems. Families are unaware of the rebates or are ashamed of applying for them. In addition, applying for them is complicated. Moreover, other families whose income is above a certain threshold cannot claim rebates even though they may be in need of them.

What is the significance of leisure time for young people affected by poverty?

Leisure activities are the first items to be cancelled in a family budget when money gets tight. This is why taking part in holiday youth camps run by youth associations or public institutions is usually the only chance that children and youths have to get out of Frankfurt. Furthermore, youth camps are a good opportunity to get away from it all, have valuable social experiences with peers without being branded poor and be strengthened as individuals. Open child and youth welfare institutions have free-of-charge offers, and qualified education staff provide support in difficult situations.

Do poor youths enjoy equal education and care opportunities?

Many surveys, such as those by the OECD, demonstrate again and again that education degrees and vocational training depend to a high degree on the education level of parents. In order to get out of a spiral of poverty when parents have poorer professional qualifications, special support has to be provided for youths. They must be able to achieve a good school-leaving qualification and lay the foundations for good vocational training.

The campaign is accompanied by the sale of Streetware. Where did the idea come from?

Our aim was to put down a clear and provocative marker. Streetware promotes solidarity and creates long-term public awareness of youth poverty. The idea evolved in cooperation with our advertising agency "U9 visuelle Allianz". We soon realised that in taking it up, we were addressing one of the basic problems of poverty. We seek to make poverty visible and draw attention to the issue by wearing a T-shirt, whereas those affected often hide their poverty and feel ashamed. Poverty has no lobby because poor people make every effort to keep what is ostensibly a blemish from the eyes of the public.

What are the standards that production has to meet?

It was important to us for the product to be ethically justifiable in terms of various aspects such as organic, sustainable and being produced in fair conditions. We also took care to find local partners backing the idea and supporting us in putting in into practice and marketing the clothes. Production is performed by a manufacturer certified in accordance with our standards. A Frankfurt family company prints the T-shirts. Delivery is done by a charitable daycare centre for people with mental illness.

Are youths affected by poverty involved in the project themselves?

"arm™" clothes aren't meant to be sold by the youths who are affected by poverty themselves but by people who seek to demonstrate solidarity, both via a donation and through wearing the clothes.

What happens to the returns from the fund?

The returns cover the manufacturing costs. Each sale contains a donation of at least ten euros that is paid into an account for donations. This money forms the "FerienFonds", the holiday fund, which we created in the course of the campaign. Money can also be donated directly to the fund.

What does the fund actually do?

The fund is there to subsidise holiday camps organised by the youth associations of the "Frankfurter Jugendring" – including open facility measures – up to 100 per cent. Youth associations inform us of their demand, and we pay part of or even the whole participation fee. Every youth and every child affected by poverty is to be able to travel to a youth camp at least once a year to have a break from day to day life and experience important communication and activities with peers away from school and the family.

How are youths made aware of the possibility to use the fund?

The youth camps run by the youth organisations are advertised with the note that financial support is possible. The associations advertise their youth camps themselves or publish them in our holiday portal Frankfurt-Macht-Ferien.de.

In individual cases, the youths or their parents get in touch with the respective youth association to find out whether a subsidy can be paid. How they test applications is up to the associations themselves. Red tape ought to be avoided, and the procedure should be needs-oriented – without any proof having to be provided, because this often represents an additional obstacle in applying for financial support. In many cases, the association or institution staff are also aware of the families' financial situation because they are working with the children every day.

Does it make sense to first of all only focus on youth work?

We are the lobby for all children and youths in the city. All of them have to get the opportunity to escape from the spiral of poverty. Because they rarely have achieved this in their own hands, stigmatisation-free spaces and contact persons are needed that they can seek in the institutions and programmes of the youth associations. There, they can enjoy trustful support, acquire new skills and recuperate.

There are many areas and measures that address combating youth poverty in which we raise clear demands. But youth camps are one of the core activities of youth associations, for example in addition to regular group meetings. Having rooms of their own and common experiences with peers are indispensable for these youths in developing an identity and finding their place in society. It is a conscious decision that donation money is only used to subsidise youth camps. Holidays and leisure activities are first among expenditures that are cut once money becomes tight. This is also the area in which money is least "visible" and hardly addressed because the focus is often above all on basic needs such as food, housing and education.

How do you get the city and the government to take responsibility?

We have approached the Lord Mayor, the city councillors, parliamentary parties and city departments and discussed the topic with the civil society networks that we are represented in.

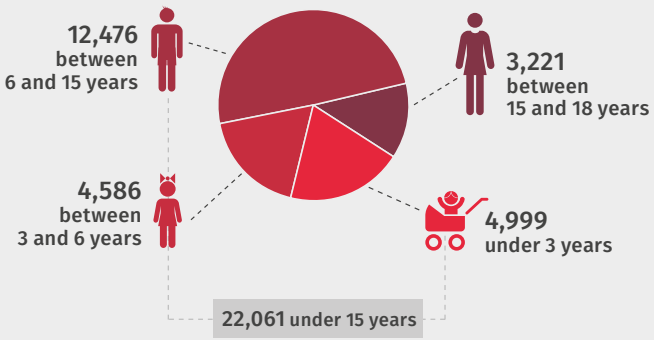
In 2010, we ran an initial campaign against child poverty. As a result, a number of measures that were needed in the area of youth welfare were analysed in order to respond to the impact of poverty on children and youths. They fed into a city councillor meeting on combating youth poverty in 2012. In late 2017, a status report gave an account of what had been implemented. From our angle, the result was alarming. Only little progress had been made. Since then, we have emphatically called on the city councillor meeting to get down implementing the required measures in earnest.

Figure 2
Youth poverty statistics in Frankfurt/ Main

The total of **741,093 people** live in Frankfurt am Main.[1]
16.7 per cent of them, that is 123,762 people, are **under the age of 18 years.**

There are **13,598 communities of dependents** with children.

A total of **25,285 children** under the age of 18 years live in these communities of dependents. They consist of:



87 per cent of the families at risk of poverty in Frankfurt cannot afford holiday travels or cultural events.

62 per cent cannot pay for any leisure activities.

Sources: Citizens Registration Office, Statistics and Elections (2018): Frankfurt Statistik Aktuell. Frankfurt/Main. www.frankfurt.de/statistik_aktuell

Dezernat für Soziales, Senioren, Jugend und Recht der Stadt Frankfurt am Main (2014): Frankfurter Sozialbericht. Teil X: Familien in Frankfurt am Main – Lebenswirklichkeit und Unterstützungsbedarfe. Reihe Soziales und Jugend | 41. Frankfurt/Main. https://www.frankfurt.de/sixcms/media.php/738/Frankfurter%20Sozialbericht_Teil%20X_2014.pdf

1 Status: 31.12.2017; registered in the Resident Register with principal domicile

1

So are the campaign and the initiative really achieving something? Will they both be continued?

There was a very positive response to our campaign, and the topic met with more acceptance in Frankfurt city policy and city society. While a link with new measures of Frankfurt city policy cannot immediately be recognised, the resolution by the magistrate to do away altogether with care cost fees in daycare centres for children of three years of age and older meets one of our demands in the area of education and care. We have roused an interest among partners and specialists to continue to cooperate with us on the topic. We have the notion of institutionalising an annual conference on the topic in Frankfurt. We will introduce our campaign to the upper school classes and discuss the topic with the pupils. All this demonstrates that our cause clearly gets feedback.

The "arm™" label is popular. In addition to online distribution, six local Frankfurt retailers have joined in so far and added "armTM" clothing to their range of items. Sales are going well, the holiday fund is growing, and the first children already benefited from the holiday fund by taking part in a youth camp during the summer holidays of 2018.

The campaign is also meeting with a supra-regional response. Youth associations and other youth federations are interested in association-specific special collections or are seeking to sell the label locally in other cities. The donation share of every sale benefits the children and youths of the city in which the clothes were bought. However, extending the range to the Federal level requires a deeper analysis of the project's business model and looking for local partners in the respective cities. But this is already underway.

What should others bear in mind seeking to copy the idea?

They should first of all find a cool, modern and provocative approach that appeals to youths. Then they should take care that the product is sustainable, so that manufacturing and retailing are not at the expense of others or the environment. Local partners have to be found who back the idea and support its local character. And last but not least, ways have to be found to cut red tape so that subsidising via the holiday fund does not depend on filling in application forms and producing documents, as is usually the case with benefits.

Further information:
https://armtm.de
www.Frankfurt-Macht-Ferien.de

Vanessa Lehr is Chair of the Frankfurt Jugendring (FJR).

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Michael Scholl heads the field of media & communication at the Deutscher Bundesjugendring.

Vegetables from the immediate neighbourhood – also in the city. More and more people are taking an interest in urban horticulture initiatives.

Food sovereignty you can feel

Food policy councils in Germany

BY JOHANNA BÖLL AND NIKLAS AMANI SCHÄFER

"It's time to rethink how we grow, share and consume our food." This statement taken from SDG 2 could be the guiding principle for the food councils. Not satisfied with the present health system, neither at local nor at global level, a growing number of people have felt a desire to intervene in our food supply politics. The days of mere consuming are over.

Here, it is especially the aspect of food sovereignty that plays a central role. The enormous market power of globally operating corporations and the lack of will on the part of politics to stand up for socially just and sustainable creation of value have resulted in a loss of democracy in our food system. Agricultural means of production, breeding, cultivation, processing, trading and consumer habits – all of this is increasingly being determined by a handful of corporations. The results are dependence and merciless price pressure on the producer side and restrictions in decision-making and alienation from the value of food on the consumer side. Food policy councils seek to get the needs of people producing, distributing and consuming food back centre-stage in a future food system."

Food policy councils in Germany

The first food policy councils emerged in the USA in the 1980s in response to cuts in social benefits that were jeopardising the food security of the urban poor in particular. Today, alone in the USA, Canada and Australia, there are more than 250 councils. Two or three years ago, this kind of civil society co-determination also came to Germany. After the first food policy councils had been set up in Cologne and Berlin in 2016, more and more German cities and regions joined the movement.[1] Everywhere in Germany and in the German-speaking region, things are starting to move in the food system. Through the annual network meetings, a critical mass thus evolves that develops common strategies for social, economic and political change

The role and tasks of food policy councils

A food council has the task of bringing together a multitude of actors from as many sectors of the food system (production, trade, distribution, consumption and waste disposal) as possible and commonly guide attention to food-related topics and the way to a socially just and sustainable food supply for the city. Here, the political framework conditions are critically reviewed in particular, and communication with politics is sought. The guiding notion is the food democracy. Ultimately, people at local level are to regain control of what they cultivate, how they process food and distribute food and how they eat and drink. Food policy councils operate in a wide range of forms: as associations, as civil society initiatives or as urban advisory councils.

Food councils are there to point to tangible alternatives. They define an alternative model to the constantly growing power of corporations and export orientation in the agricultural and food sector and food at dumping prices, all based on violations of human rights and environmental destruction.

Thus they provide a forum for those seeking to start in their own backyard and contribute their fair share to a transformation of the global food system.

A grassroots democracy food policy council in Berlin

The Berlin Food Policy Council can be regarded as a classic grassroots initiative. Its founding in April 2016 was preceded by a two-year communication process initiated by, among others, the civil society federations INKOTA and Slow Food and joined by further civil society initiatives, universities and active citizens. The founders opted for a grassroots democracy structure according to which the most important body is the general assembly, which meets twice a year and is open to all those interested and coming from Berlin and its surrounding areas.[2] The assembly elects a circle of spokespersons consisting of around 14 individuals.

Compared to its predecessors in Brazil, the USA, Canada or the UK, the Berlin initiative is still very young. It has nevertheless already established itself as an important pioneer as far as the food turnaround in the capital city region is concerned. In the autumn of 2017, it published a comprehensive catalogue of demands that had been compiled with the support of numerous experts over a number of years. The Berlin Senate is called on to address concrete issues referred to in nine thematic blocks.[3] They include, for instance, access to land, stepping up the creation of regional logistics and further processing structures, converting mass catering supplies to regional and biological products, a diversity of distribution structures in the city, reducing food waste, creating an “eatable city” and more space for urban gardening, access to good food for all, learning practical dietetics and better coordination between the Senate, urban districts and the environs of Berlin.

1 Some of them are already established food policy councils, while other initiatives are in the founding stages. An overview can be found here: www.ernaehrungsraete.org.

2 With the exception of racist or otherwise contemptuous actors and organisations. Explicated in the Statute of the 7th March 2016

3 Cf.. http://ernaehrungsrat-berlin.de/ernaehrungs-demokratie-fuer-berlin/.

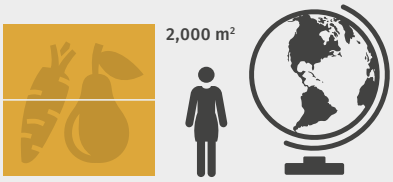
Figure 3

Facts and figures for Berlin's regional food supply

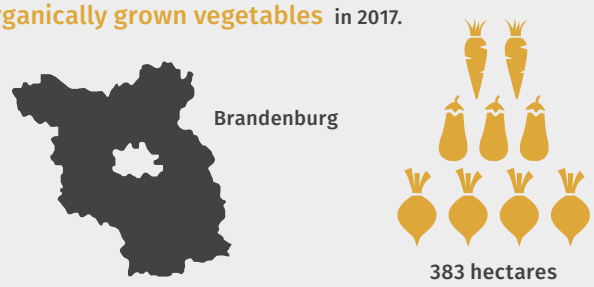
A brief glance at area consumption and regional production structures shows that a lot also has to change with regard to the food system of the capital and its environs for it to achieve viable food supply. Almost all of Berlin's food demand could be covered by regional supplies, even with a shift to organic farming.[4]

Every Berliner requires 2,347 square metres for his or her food needs.

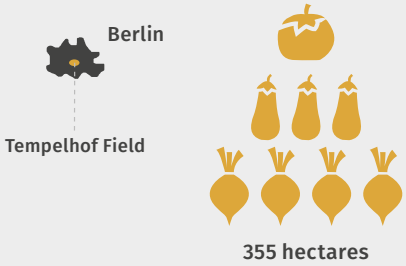
World-wide, everyone should have 2,000 square metres.[5]



At the same time, there is underproduction in the vegetable and fruit area. For example, Brandenburg had 383 hectares of cropland for organically grown vegetables in 2017.



The Tempelhof Field (including Tempelhof Airport) has an area of 355 hectares.



Furthermore, there are 479 hectares of rooftop area in Berlin that would be very suitable or at least suitable for rooftop farming.

328 hectares are fairly suitable.[6]

4 Cf. Wascher/Kneafsey/Pintar/Piorr (2015).

5 Cf. Hönle/Meier/Christen (2016).

6 Zero-Acreage Farming Project (2013). These are only the surfaces that hold a potential for more large-scale production. One criterion in the survey was a minimum area of 500 m².

Just like in most other German cities, there can be no mention of a systematic food policy in Berlin. This is reflected in an exemplary manner that so far, the topic has only been established at department level at the Senate Department for Justice, Consumer Protection and Anti-discrimination. Overarching approaches, let alone a department in its own right, do not exist. While this means that there is still a long way to go even in terms of developing structures, the existing vacuum does also offer opportunities to create new concepts. After all, the catalogue of demands presented by the Food Policy Council does represent the so far most comprehensive programme for the transformation of the Berlin food system.

Local food politics: getting lost in details or a nucleus of transformation?

Here, critics may object that food and agricultural policies do not make sense at local (or urban) level since the important decisions are made elsewhere. A little urban gardening, community supported agriculture and small organic food shops are a nice thing to have, but the urgently required turnaround cannot be achieved in this manner, it could be argued. What certainly is true is that a new course also has to be set at Federal and EU level (and of course globally). This is why the Food Policy Council is calling on the Berlin Senate to correspondingly make use of its having a say at the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and in the EU.

But local food politics is far more than mere fine-tuning. If no majorities in favour of a progressive policy develop at Federal or EU level, experiments can be conducted and progress can be achieved at local level with regard to many aspects:

For example pesticides: more than 200 German cities have already pledged to increasingly phase out the use of glyphosate and other pesticides. Berlin has taken initial steps, although more could be done.

For example trade: instead of selling retail space to large supermarket chains, it could be offered to small traders. In order to reduce food losses, waste collection fees could be raised, tax incentives for the free-of-charge dispatch of remaining products could be introduced, and hygiene regulations could be adapted.

For example production: stringent sustainability criteria could be introduced for the sale of cropland belonging to the City of Berlin with the medium-term aim of converting it 100 % to organic farming.

For example public procurement: in public tendering, the contract volume could be distributed in order to facilitate access for smaller bidders.

This list could be continued. These are all demands raised by the Berlin Food Policy Council, and they show that just a few green strips and raised beds are not enough but that a system change is required.

Setting a clear sign with local projects

The Berlin Food Policy Council's activities are not restricted to taking political influence and networking. For example, the RegioWoche that the Food Policy Council is organising in cooperation with other partners is going to give an impetus to transforming mass catering. From the 1st to the 5th October 2018, in parallel to the "Stadt Land Food-Festival", more than 150,000 bio-regional meals will be provided for schools in Berlin. The campaign, which is going to reach around half of all schools in Berlin, shows that things can also be achieved on a large scale! In addition, the Food Policy Council is discussing a conversion of staff catering with Berlin's three major utilities (corporation transport, water utilities and city cleaning). A research project accompanying the campaign and headed by the TU and Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development (HNEE) is in the planning stage. Furthermore, one of the Food Policy Council's working groups has started to look for facilities to accommodate the "LebensMittelPunkte" in the urban districts. A "LebensMittelPunkt" is meant to be a place that everyone can go to for example to hand in food that has been saved or cook it together with others, and at which depots are set up for community supported agriculture, direct marketing takes place, small manufactories process their products or workshops are run. This is intended to be a contribution to diversified supply structures as well as to solidarity in urban districts.

The Berlin Senate – initial steps in the right direction

The Social Democratic, "Linke" and Green Berlin State Government, which has been in power since late 2016, appears to have recognised the significance of local food politics and has committed itself in the Coalition Agreement to developing a "viable, regionally conceived food structure". This is strongly welcomed. In mid-June 2018, the consultation process required for this goal at last started. Three plenums with 20 to 25 representatives of different sectors, including a Food Policy Council delegate, are to take place. This is to result in recommendations for the Senate being completed by the end of the year. At this early stage, it is still difficult to assess how the result will be developed and whether it is going to meet the requirements of a sustainable food system. The Food Policy Council will insist that a comprehensive approach be pursued, rather than merely initiating a few eye-catching projects promising quick success. Moreover, especially with regard to other Senate departments, a considerable information and persuasion effort is still required.

Not only has the Berlin Food Policy Council seen numbers of people engaging rise in the well over two years since its inception. Other initiatives have also been started in Brandenburg that seek, for example, to strengthen rural-urban relations with the people in the capital and develop regional value chains.

Where the shoe pinches – inclusion and honorary posts

The Food Policy Council sees itself as a mouthpiece for the interests of citizens and their notions of a viable food turnaround. One big challenge here is involving all relevant groups. A sufficient representation of farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises in the food crafts and trade is particularly difficult to ensure because these people usually have only little time to spare. Socio-economically disadvantaged people are also frequently difficult to reach out to. Since many of the demands raised by the Food Policy Council, such as access to land or to good food for all, concern these groups in particular, it is especially important to have their voice, assessments and needs represented in the Food Policy Council.

In addition, just like most of the other Councils, the Berlin Food Policy Council operates almost exclusively on an honorary basis, except for a fulltime coordination office that is run by part-time staff. The success of the Food Policy Council therefore depends on the engagement of its individual members. However, adequately addressing the emerging structures and demands requires sufficient financing, the securing of which is a hurdle that the Council has to clear in the long term.

How can I join?

Anyone living in Berlin or its environs and eager to get involved just needs to visit our website and get in touch with the next general assembly (the date will be announced in the website). http://ernaehrungsrat-berlin.de

Those living in other Federal States can find out where the nearest Food Policy Council exists – or can set up a Council themselves. www.ernaehrungsraete.org

Basic information and instructions concerning this are provided in the INKOTA manual. https://kurzlink.de/ernaehrungsraete

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In order to shorten the long distance people have to walk, mobile women healthcare workers are now being employed as well.

Civil society's contribution to improving he health situation in Nepal

From humanitarian emergency relief to development cooperation

BY OLIVER HOFFMANN AND MARTINA PURWINS

On the 25th April 2015, a 7.8 force earthquake shook the Himalaya Region. Nepal was worst hit. According to the United Nations, more than 8,000 people died, 191,000 houses were destroyed, and 2.8 million people were made homeless. Following an international appeal for assistance by the Nepalese Government, the Johanniter immediately performed basic healthcare at local level. Today, subsequent to the relief phase, they are contributing to long-term improvements in the health situation.

Piloted by civil society, the application of innovative solutions is leading to an improvement in access for marginal groups to the health system. Thus civil society groups are making a substantial contribution to achieving SDG 3: "Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages, reduce maternal and child mortality, and combat serious diseases."

On the 25th April 2015, a 7.8 force earthquake shook the Himalaya Region. Nepal was worst hit. According to the United Nations, more than 8,000 people died, 191,000 houses were destroyed, and 2.8 million people were made homeless.

Following an international appeal for assistance by the Nepalese Government, the Johanniter sent a team to Nepal within 48 hours in order to assess the situation. On the 30th April, a second, eleven-member medical emergency relief team followed that had the task of supporting basic healthcare for the population in the region of Sindhupalchok, which had been especially hard hit by the earthquake. A total of 16 Johanniter voluntary emergency relief workers specially trained for such missions were deployed. The team were sent to their deployment site via the coordination mechanisms of the Nepalese Health Ministry and the United Nations and were equipped to work as a self-contained unit. In addition, the Johanniter from the "Sammlungsraum Logistik und Training" (SALT) in Frankfurt organised a relief supplies flight for the donation alliance "Aktion Deutschland Hilft" (ADH). On this flight, the Johanniter brought medicine supplies and medical consumables to a local hospital. This ensured basic healthcare for 10,000 people for three months. The distribution of staple food and sleeping mats, blankets, cooking utensils, clothes and hygiene packages to especially hard-hit households was another vital measure in this period. By the end of the three-week emergency relief period, the local healthcare situation had improved to a level enabling the introduction of the transitional phase.

In order to stabilise healthcare, in late 2016, the Johanniter started to re-erect two healthcare centres that had been destroyed by the quakes. Once furniture and equipment had been provided, the centres were handed over to the government health ministry.

Development cooperation – Innovative Health Programme

In the context of a programme designed for a longer period, the ongoing follow-up measure's methodological focus is on the areas of prevention, early detection of diseases and swifter treatment. The aim here is to further stabilise healthcare for mothers and children in particular in the target areas. For this purpose, our partner organisation Nyaya Health Nepal (NHN) trains local women staff in preventive measures and improved patient treatment. In mountainous Nepal, the restored healthcare centres are immensely important, for they shorten difficult and long routes that people have to take on foot. In order to avoid them altogether, mobile women community health workers are now also being employed in the following areas:

1. Regular house calls: The health status of all pregnant women, infants and chronically ill patients is checked during regular house calls by women community health workers and entered on site in a smartphone with the aid of a health app specially developed by our partner organisation.

2. Counselling and referral: Here patients are given advice on their medication and/or further measures. Newly diseased patients are referred to local health facilities if necessary. Young women and mothers are given advice on family and birth planning.

3. Community based measures: At the health centres, the community health workers head groups on prenatal postnatal care. These are run in addition to the prenatal house calls.

The community health workers are salaried, permanently employed fulltime staff. They are trained to perform their work at the respective clinics in accordance with stringent regulations. The community health workers receive three weeks of training in their subject areas and then undergo two weeks of special training in the field of mobile data collection, and they are regularly supported by nurses when they do their house calls. With a smartphone that they receive together with a health app developed by NHN, the community health workers obtain patient data during their house calls. With the aid of a household identification number, the anamneses of the patients are established on site. During their house calls, the app reminds them of necessary basic questions and checks, such as measuring blood pressure. The data is entered offline and transmitted online once a network is reached. This provides the nurse with information on the patients visited, and in more serious cases, further action can be discussed.

But preventive measures as well as advice on family planning belong to the programme as well. For this purpose, the healthcare workers also use free-of-charge pregnancy tests with the aid of which they can identify pregnant women at an early stage. The women are immediately given advice and are then visited once a month in order to accompany pregnancy and spot and remedy possible complications in time to intervene. In the case of new-born babies, for example, breathing is regularly controlled to detect pneumonia at an early stage.

Programme approach and contribution to the SDGs

This programme improves preventive healthcare and the treatment of diseases on a decentralised basis. In the planning phase and during implementation, our partner organisation worked together closely with the population, those responsible at community level and the Nepalese Ministry of Health. In the preparatory phase, the programme was discussed with everyone concerned at community level and embedded in the health system at district and government level. This aspect is particularly significant at district level, since the partner organisation bears operative responsibility for the administration of the district hospital as well as for implementing community based health programmes. The measures and their implementation were designed in cooperation with the Social Welfare Council (assigned to the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Children and Social Affairs) and the coordinating bodies for interventions in the health sector, and developed in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health. Other initiatives are attempting to adopt these approaches and replicate them in cooperation with the Nepalese Ministry of Health. Thus they are also working towards achieving the SDG health target.

The programme contributes both to achieving the health goal for sustainable development and to implementing Nepal's strategy for the National Health Sector over the period of 2015–2020 (National Health Sector Strategy, NHSS).

The NHSS strategy follows four strategic principles:

1. **equal access to healthcare**
2. **qualitatively high-value healthcare**
3. **a reform of the health system**
4. **a cross-sector approach.**

Political framework conditions and challenges

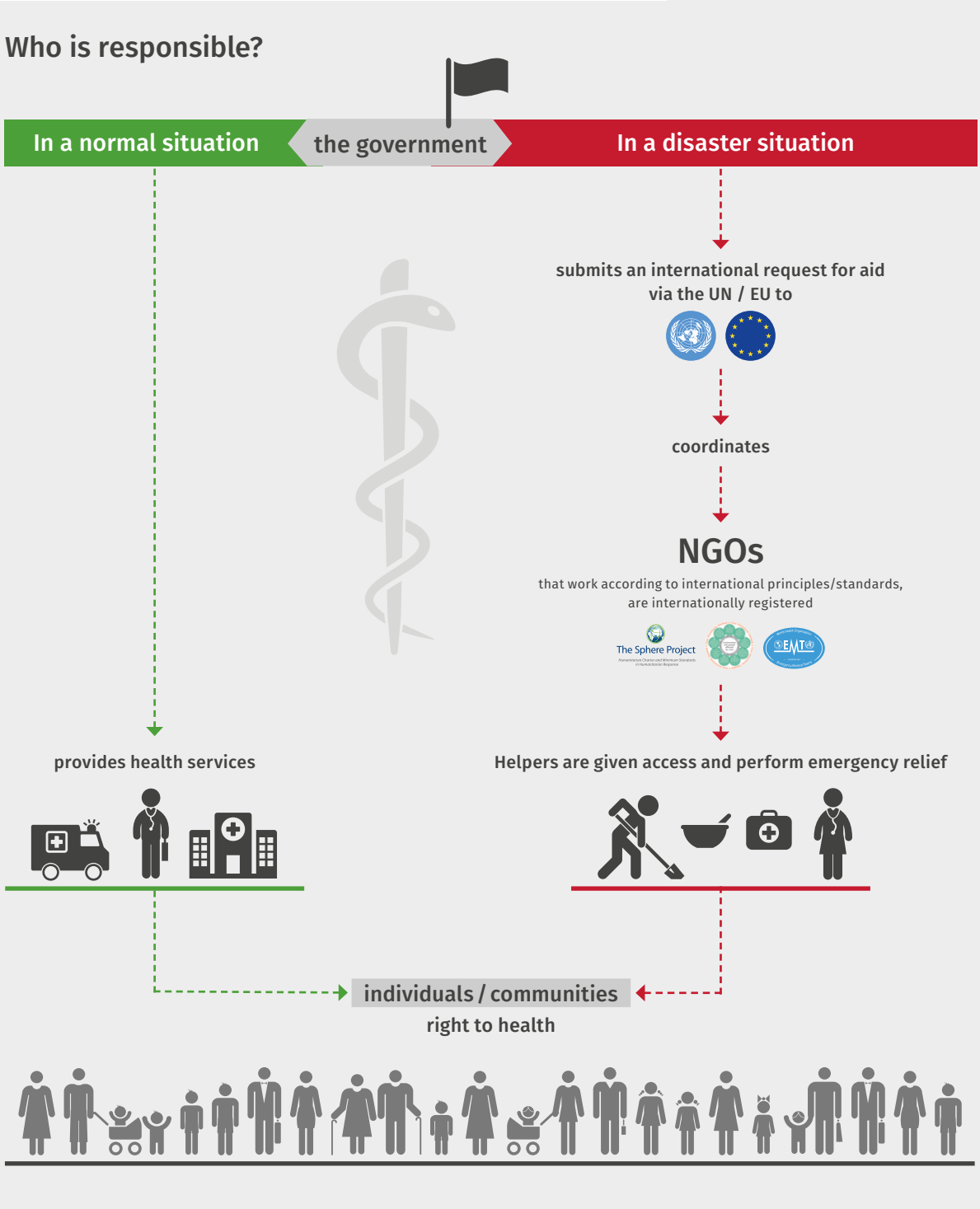
In September 2015, a new constitution entered into force in Nepal, and elections were then held at local, provincial and national level in 2017. At local level, the elections took place for the first time in 20 years.

The completion of the elections in December 2017 heralded the development of a federative state in the course of which responsibilities were newly distributed at all levels. This restructuring represents a challenge for both the many new and the experienced government representatives, and especially for the representatives of marginalised ethnic groups (e.g. Dalits) and women.

Challenges are also reckoned with in as yet unclear role allocations and responsibilities. For example, in the project area, a parallel structure has so far been in place alongside the community health workers. Female community health volunteers are also supposed to improve healthcare at local level. However, they only work in the community as a whole, not at household level. Unlike the NHN female community health workers, they are not paid and not continuously supervised or provided with further training.

As an element of development cooperation, the female Community Health Workers programme goes back to an initiative on the part of civil society, which seeks to achieve the right to health for all on a decentralised basis, and with the highest possible quality standards. Government authorities had not filled in this vacuum. A long-term assessment of this innovative approach depends both on the success of the decentralisation process and on the priorities set by the new government representatives.

Figure 4
**Responsibility and legitimation in humanitarian aid –
possibly a model for development cooperation with government authorities?**



Government responsibility and the role of civil society

In the area of humanitarian assistance, there are clear structures for emergency relief missions that have been defined by the international community of states. In the wake of the earthquake, the Nepalese health system was unable to cope with providing care for the large number of injured people. The Government of Nepal launched an international appeal for support. Only then could civil society organisations – coordinated by the Nepalese Ministry of Health and UN-OCHA – step into action and help. This system is currently being further developed with the certification of medical teams (interestingly to an equal degree by civil society and government bodies).[1] This is the basis for the implementation of the cluster system in crisis situations, in which, in the health sector, representatives of the World Health Organization jointly perform a rapid analysis of the emergency situation with government representatives in order to decide which medical team should be deployed where and with which task. National and international non-governmental organisations have committed themselves via the Code of Conduct, the Core Humanitarian Standard and the Sphere Principles and standards to work at a qualitatively high level.

Thus the right of an individual to survival and a life in dignity is achieved through non-governmental organisations seeking to meet the Sphere minimum standards developed on the basis of the consensual principle.

Conclusion

Considering the examples of emergency relief activities and development cooperation in Nepal presented above, the bottom line is always the same. If the Government, which bears responsibility for its citizens, is unable to fulfil the right to health, civil society can intervene.

Especially in the area of development cooperation, this requires clear decision-making channels, which are already better developed in the humanitarian field. However, as far as possible, no government structures should be replaced by civil society support. Applying innovative approaches piloted by civil society results in improvements in access for marginalised groups to the health system. Thus civil society groups are making an important contribution to achieving SDG 3: "Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages, reduce maternal and child mortality, and combat serious diseases."

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1 Johanniter International Assistance was the first German organisation to be successfully examined by the World Health Organization (WHO) in June 2017 and has since been officially classified as an Emergency Medical Team I (EMT).

Education for Sustainable Development in schools

Getting everyone on board step by step

BY ILKA HOFFMANN AND ANSGAR KLINGER

Our economic system and lifestyle has resulted in severe ecological and social damage and in crises resulting from it across the world. Epochal challenges such as climate change, increasing social inequality and injustice, the overexploitation of natural resources, the loss of biodiversity and fertile soil and crises linked to this such as water and food scarcity can only be mastered if we change our production and consumption patterns.

This in turn requires that the young generation have access to qualitatively high-value, effective education for sustainable development. Germany needs more education for sustainable development, more upbringing and education of children and youths oriented on a cosmopolitan attitude and an understanding of global justice, on appreciating the value of biological and cultural diversity, on respecting human rights, on participation and ownership, and on a respectful treatment of fellow human citizens and the environment. “Bündnis Zukunftsbildung” has developed a concept for what implementation at school level looks like and how it has to be supported financially. Practice has demonstrated that the concept is bearing fruit.

"Bündnis Zukunftsbildung"

Integrating Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in schools is one of the goals of the "Nationaler Aktionsplan" in Germany, which also refers to SDG 4, "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all". "Bündnis Zukunftsbildung" has worked out what implementation at school level looks like and how it has to be supported financially.

The alliance was created in 2014, on the initiative of Greenpeace. It is an association of civil society actors who have been engaged in the areas of environmental protection and nature conservation, development cooperation, democracy, peace and human rights activities, training and further education and trade union activities for many years. "Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft" (GEW) was there right from the start. Other members of the alliance include BUND, BUNDJugend, Germanwatch, Innowego, NAJU, OXFAM, Welthungerhilfe and the WWF.

The alliance aims to implement ESD in all education sectors and convince education institutions, the public and, last but not least, politics of the need to structurally establish Education for Sustainable Development. For our economic system and lifestyle has resulted in severe ecological and social damage and in crises resulting from it across the world. Epochal challenges such as climate change, increasing social inequality and injustice, the overexploitation of natural resources, the loss of biodiversity and fertile soil and crises linked to this such as water and food scarcity can only be mastered if we change our production and consumption patterns. This in turn requires that the young generation have access to qualitatively high-value, effective education for sustainable development. Germany needs more education for sustainable development, more upbringing and education of children and youths oriented on a cosmopolitan attitude and an understanding of global justice, on appreciating the value of biological and cultural diversity, on respecting human rights, on participation and ownership, and on a respectful treatment of fellow human citizens and the environment. For these reasons, Education for Sustainable Development is not just one of many ideas, but it is the topic of the future for all education institutions.

This is why "Bündnis Zukunftsbildung" seeks to become active and gain influence at different levels through common notes to politicians, active participation in the specialist forums of the Education for Sustainable Development National Platform, events, conferences and expert reports. With expertise on financing and implementing ESD Why is nobody talking about money? – Recommendations for the Financing of Education for Sustainable Development at Schools, the alliance presented a timetable for the practical implementation of ESD at schools of general education.[1]

Eight steps towards implementing ESD – Germany has to put its money where its mouth is

The report is based on the insight that ESD cannot be prescribed exclusively as a school law directive or a decree by the cultural affairs authority, quasi on top of other responsibilities that schools have, and without further support. Rather, it has to be put into practice in many small steps, and at all levels, and thus become integrated in routine school life[2] – just like in day to day life in society in general. The report proposes eight measures to credibly implement ESD and calculates how much money this would require (cf. Fig. 5 and Table 1).

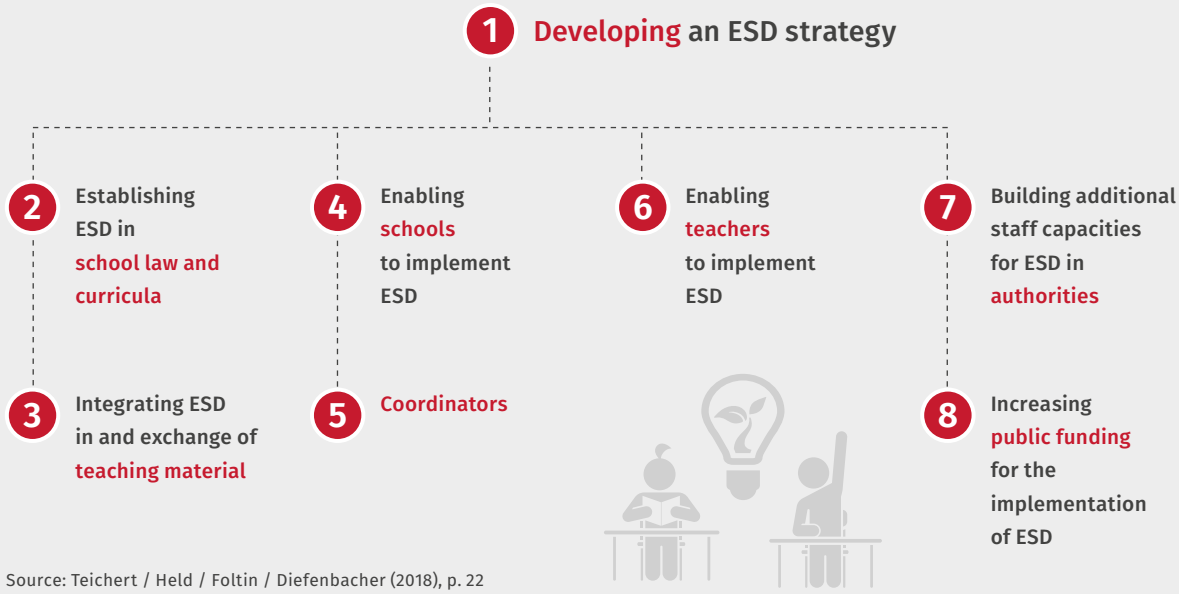
The aim of the **first measure** "Concept for an ESD Strategy" is for each Federal State to develop a strategy within a period of three years, from 2018 to 2020, to implement ESD according to the State's education structure. This includes organising small workshops for teaching staff as well as major events for entire schools. Education researchers calculate average overall costs of 300,000 euros per Federal State. For 16 Federal States and the Federal Government, this amounts to 5.1 million euros.

The **second measure,** which rests on this one, consists of "establishing ESD in the school law regulations", i.e. in school legislation at State level and in the

1 Teichert/Held/Foltin/Diefenbacher (2018).

2 Cf. ibid., p. 4.

Figure 5
Eight steps towards implementing ESD



Source: Teichert / Held / Foltin / Diefenbacher (2018), p. 22

curricula. Here too, a three-year period, from 2020 to 2022, is envisaged.

The **third measure** is reckoned to take a full eight years, from 2021 to 2028. "ESD is to be integrated in teaching material", and teaching material is to be replaced, the aim being that teaching material of high quality in terms of didactics and subjects is made available. With the aid of the **fourth measure,** running from 2020 to 2030, the schools – the report explicitly considers schools of general education – are to be enabled to integrate ESD into their own school profile, the school curricula and teaching. This is to be accomplished in the form of a project for which special ESD coordinators have to be recruited for the schools. If every school of general education joins one of these projects, costs of approx. 973 million euros will arise.

The **fifth measure** – the "introduction of ESD coordinators" – is closely linked to the one described above. At every school, at least one ESD coordinator is to be appointed, and larger schools will require several coordinators. They are there to coordinate cross-subject ESD lessons and are thus available both internally and externally as contact persons for the ESD topic. The overall costs of the introduction of ESD coordinators between 2020 and 2030 are put at around 2.15 billion euros for the hours they charge and a further amount of just below 360 million euros for further education measures.

The **sixth measure** is there for the "Capacity building for teaching staff to implement ESD". The report recommends that every member of the teaching staff take part in a one-and-a-half-day ESD further education measure at least every two years. Across all Federal States, and up to the time it is completed in 2030, this entails an annual expenditure to the tune of 375 million euros. For the period from 2020 to 2030, the education researchers are reckoning with costs of 2.07 billion euros. For implementing ESD in their own lessons, teachers are to receive payment for one teaching hour. Between 2020 and 2030, this amounts to total extra costs of 7.07 billion euros.

Implementing ESD in schools requires supervision, drawing up of concepts and support by the responsible authorities of cultural affairs as well as by the

Table 1

Funding volume for implementing the concept from 218 to 2030 (in millions of euros)

Measure	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total 2018–2030	From 2031 on
1. Developing an ESD strategy	2	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	–
2. Establishing ESD in school law and curricula	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
3. Integrating ESD in and exchange of teaching material	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
4. Enabling schools to implement ESD	–	–	24	49	73	97	122	122	122	122	97	73	73	973	–
5. Coordinators															
a) paid overtime	–	–	10	29	58	97	146	195	243	292	331	360	389	2,149	389
b) further education costs	–	–	2	5	10	16	24	32	41	49	55	60	65	358	65
6. Enabling teachers to implement ESD															
a) further education costs	–	–	9	28	56	94	141	188	235	282	319	347	375	2,074	375
b) paid overtime	–	–	32	96	192	320	480	640	800	960	1,088	1,184	1,280	7,070	1,208
7. Building additional staff capacities for ESD in authorities	3	6	9	11	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	157	14
8. Increasing public funding for the implementation of ESD	13	27	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96	104	112	120	920	120
Total	18	34	127	266	460	703	999	1,270	1,542	1,814	2,008	2,150	2,316	13,707	2,243

Source: Teichert / Held / Foltin / Diefenbacher (2018), p. 24.

"upper" and "lower" school inspectorate. Across all the Federal States, this **seventh measure** of "Raising the staff capacities for ESD in authorities" over the period from 2018 to 2030 costs just below 160 million euros, with development already being completed by 2022 and an annual 14 million euros being required from then on.

The final, **eighth measure** consists of "Raising public funding for the implementation of ESD". For at least during a transitional period, active government support will be required for projects to establish ESD reaching beyond the usual school lessons. The education researchers reckon that this will cost a total of 920 million euros for the period from 2018 to 2030.

Table 1 illustrates the measures, their respective running period, corresponding annual expenditure and total expenditure in the period between 2018 and 2030.

Education for Sustainable Development is not free of charge

The report clearly demonstrates that a credible introduction and implementation of ESD cannot be achieved on top of other responsibilities that teaching staff already have and that it is not free of charge, either. In order to ensure effective Education for Sustainable Development, the State Governments, which hold overall responsibility, have to provide a total of 13.7 billion euros in the long term for the period from 2018 to 2030, and from 2030 on, they will have to contribute an annual amount of roughly 2.2 billion euros. This is the only way that ESD for the achievement of SDG 4 can really be established in our school system. Even if these absolute figures appear to be large, they need to be seen in relation to the total expenditure of State governments on education. Once the development of ESD has been completed, State Government expenditure on ESD calculated here will account for a mere 3.6 per cent of overall school costs. The State Governments are now called upon to implement the insights described and also transfer them to the vocational schools. There are a wide range of examples showing that this can work (cf. Box 1).

Further information on "Bündnis Zukunftsbildung" at www.buendnis-zukunftsbildung.de

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Box 1

Implementing the ESD measures in practice

BY CATHERINE MENTZ

The “Zentrum Bildung für nachhaltige Entwicklung Saarland” at the “Landesinstitut für Pädagogik und Medien” – declared an ESD learning location by UNESCO on several occasions – offers a wide range of ESD further education. One key element is the certificate course for the training of ESD Multipliers. The course, which addresses all teaching staff at all types of school, trains the participants as multipliers within a single school year. They can then establish ESD at their own school. The basics, methods and overarching contents of ESD, such as those on food, climate, democracy, consumption, migration, etc., are imparted in ten programme modules concentrating on a practical context.

Practice is essential, which is why these modules are carried out in collaboration with local ESD cooperation partners and take place at a learning location outside schools. Direct networking with practice and actors develops. The certificate is meant to enable participants to implement ESD at their school in the sense of a whole school approach, as an interdisciplinary and forward-looking concept, and integrate it in the day to day routine work of everyone involved.

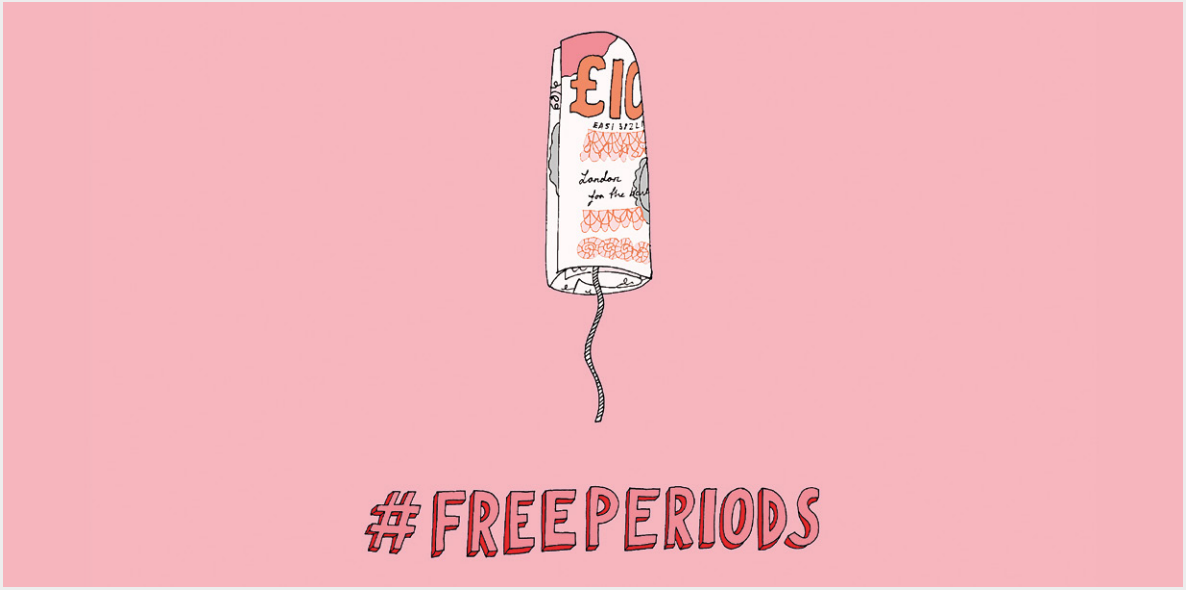
In addition, there are a number of teaching events which fit in with the curriculum and offer input on the implementation of ESD in various teaching subjects, as well as proposals for projects (e.g. bees at school), hiking events (e.g. cycling excursions) or involving extra-school partners in school life.

The ESD Centre is part of the ESD education partner networks in the greater region, with German language communities in Belgium, Luxemburg, Lorraine, Rhineland Palatinate and Saarland. At jointly organised specialised conferences, teaching staff and experts discuss best practice examples from other regions and within the network.

In addition, the ESD Centre runs internal further education programmes for all schools and offers advice on the implementation of ESD as a cross-cutting task. A media library lending out films, specialist literature, teaching material, project boxes and a wide range of other material is available, and so is a large network of extra-school ESD partners who can be contacted for joint projects

Further information and contacts at www.lpm.uni-sb.de/bne.

Catherine Mentz heads the ESD Centre at the Landesinstitut für Pädagogik und Medien Saarland (LPM).



#FreePeriods

Why the period can become a way to poverty and what to do about it

AMIKA GEORGE IS INTERVIEWED BY MARIE-LUISE ABSHAGEN

Half of the world population has it. Nevertheless, it still is hardly ever mentioned in public: the period. Besides accompanying pains, embarrassment and cultural taboos, many girls and women face one further obstacle in this natural process. Menstrual products cost money. Often so much, that for many they are unaffordable. As a consequence, a female form of poverty arises hindering girls and women to properly participate in public life, leading to health implications and limiting economic development of women and societies. This is a clear obstacle to gender equality – addressed in SDG 5. But resistance is on the rise. In the UK the campaign #FreePeriods aims at bringing the issue of period poverty to the public discussion and is organising protest.[1]

1 www.change.org/p/die-periode-ist-kein-luxus-senken-sie-die-tamponsteuer-starkwatzinger-bmfsfj.

Can you explain what your fight against period poverty is about? What is period poverty and who is suffering the most from this?

I started the #FreePeriods campaign after I heard that there were children in the UK who were missing school every month because they didn't have the money to buy menstrual products. It really horrified me that it was happening right under our noses, and that the government wasn't taking action to get these children back in school. I'd never heard of this term, 'period poverty' and it really unsettled me to think that girls were compromising on their education just because they have periods. It was clear that their missing school means sustained gaps in learning which can have a really negative impact on exam results and academic progress. It seemed so unfair to me so I decided to start a petition to lobby the government to provide free menstrual products for all children on free school meals, and decided to work to break the stigma surrounding menstruation through conversation and awareness.

I started #FreePeriods back in April last year [2017] and since then, I've met with several MPs and Peers to tell them why period poverty must be addressed and how we will never get anywhere close to gender parity if something as normal and natural as periods becomes a barrier to achievement.

Why did you get involved in this issue?

As women, we face far too many challenges as it is. There's really deep-rooted poverty in the UK which is crippling families on many levels. For the families from the lowest socio-economic backgrounds, there's a growing reliance on food banks and the Trussell Trust [the largest network of food banks in the UK] has said that food donations are on the rise which is alarming. When there's no money for food, there's never money for pads or tampons. That falls right to the bottom of the list of priorities and children then go without. It really upset me that those girls who go through period poverty go through such stress and anxiety every month not knowing if they've leaked onto their uniform and whether they'll be laughed at by their classmates. Others resort to using socks or tissues which doesn't even bear thinking about.

I think that we need to support each other, and if that means fighting to make things better for each other – if we can, and want to – we should. I felt moved to take action and I haven't looked back

What are concrete measures you are proposing to fight period poverty?

I launched a campaign calling for the government to provide free access to pads and tampons for girls from low-income families, called it #FreePeriods and got to work. As the campaign gathered pace, the signatures on the online petition began to rise rapidly. In between studying for my A Levels, I started writing about period poverty, telling everyone who would listen how girls were being held back because they bleed and were poor. I started talking about my own period without shame, without embarrassment, with pride.

In an age where everyday sexism seems firmly rooted in our daily lives, our periods simply cannot be the reason we are held back from realising real, visible gender equality. 137,500 British girls have missed school because they couldn't afford pads or tampons. For me, this is a feminist fight because we do not choose to bleed; menstruation is not something we opt into

Periods are a taboo for many. The topic of period poverty might also be perceived as a women's issue. Men might be even embarrassed to talk about it. But in most fields of gender or social policies we see that it is important to get all genders involved? Can this be achieved with the fight against period poverty?

The taboo is very much there. I still see so many red-faces when I mention the word, 'period' and hasty changes of subject, but it's definitely getting better. People are more open to talking about menstruation, and about issues, which perhaps ten years ago were off limits. I do still hear from men who say they don't want to talk about periods because it's got nothing to do with them. But having said that, there were lots of men who came to the #FreePeriods protest, who have signed the petition, who have written to me to tell me how glad they are that period poverty is being talked about.

The reality is that there are pockets of society where young girls are suffering from period poverty and cannot tell a soul. Period taboo is just the most ridiculous thing – this shame and silence around something so normal – means that those suffering from period poverty are too embarrassed to tell people. Period poverty taboo stems from the wider shame around menstruation. It's all part of the message that has spanned centuries that periods somehow make us unclean or dirty in some way; there are still parts of Italy where women can't make pasta sauce if they're menstruating. Chhaupadi, the tradition of women having to sleep outdoors while on their period, is still rife in parts of Nepal and even in the UK today, manufacturers of sanitary products have been complicit in making periods something that should be all cloak and daggers. I do believe this is changing, but there's still so much work to do. We need to talk really openly about our periods, without shame and embarrassment. Women and girls have to initiate that, and speak to boys and men about them so it becomes just an everyday thing. Conversation will normalise the subject over time, and although it's really hard to do that when we've been conditioned into thinking it's a subject that we have to keep under wraps, small steps really count in a big way.

Education is the key here. School education must be for boys and girls. It used to be the case that boys would be asked to leave the room during period education, but it's vital that they are engaged and involved. Boys need to understand that periods are not a subject to shrink away from, and that there should never be a taboo about them. This can be done in the classroom, in literature, by pad and tampon manufacturers. It can come from homes, from parents, from the media, and slowly that message will seep through.

How did politicians and the government receive it? Do you see a lack of regulation or political awareness of this issue? Did politicians respond to your protest and your demands?

There is most certainly something of a period revolution happening right now. People are talking far more openly about periods and period poverty and this is being recognised by the government. When there was a general election in the UK in 2017, I wrote to all the political parties to convince them to include a pledge to end period poverty in their manifestos. I'm pleased to say that other than the governing Conservative Party, all the other major Parties included a statutory commitment in their Manifestos, which was incredibly encouraging.

Since I started #FreePeriods, I've been working with some Peers in the House of Lords, and also with some incredible Members of Parliament. The Government has listened to some extent. In March of this year, they promised to give some of the Tampon Tax Fund (the money collected from taxing period products) to charities to tackle period poverty. This is excellent, and a very hopeful start, but we are looking for a long-term statutory pledge from the government.

I'm very disappointed that the government is, however, denying that period poverty is the underlying reason for some school absences. They've used existing school absence data to say that period poverty is not keeping girls out of school. My argument is that given the wider taboo around periods, finding that level of detail about school absences is highly unlikely.

Do you already see any changes in society and politics?

Since the protest, and since the proliferation of campaigners shouting for change in the past year or so, it's been encouraging to see politicians really making waves in Parliament and speaking openly about period poverty. Just recently, one MP spoke very honestly about the cost of pads during a session in Parliament. Period poverty is very much a term that's understood and familiar within our vocabulary now, something that wasn't the case a year ago. I'm contacted every single day by people who want to know how they can help, and #FreePeriods has been started in many countries across the globe. There's most certainly an acknowledgement that periods need to come out from the shadows and be something that we are not scared or embarrassed to talk about.

Looking at a global picture, the lack of access to sanitary products is a huge development and health factor. In many countries of the Global South girls miss up to 20 per cent of school per year because they lack the funds to buy menstrual products. This also often means that they have to use alternative materials for their periods such as banana peels, old clothing, sand or plastic bags, which may cause health issues. Does your movement address these dynamics? Should or can we have a global movement against period poverty – keeping in mind cultural and religious backgrounds of girls and women worldwide?

I think there does need to be a global movement addressing the issue of period poverty and a movement to change the cultural taboos that exist in many parts of the world. In many parts of the world, the school dropout rate for girls is at its highest when a girl starts her period. Lack of access to menstrual products means that girls think it's not feasible to continue their education and they remain trapped in a cycle of deprivation due to not being able to take advantage of opportunities to improve her life. In addition, schools simply do not provide clean sanitation and girls feel that their needs are not met. The #FreePeriods movement will aim to address these issues in the long term, but much of the solution to find long term, sustainable provision is constrained by financial resources in these countries, many of which are going through economic hardship.

It has been very encouraging to see some countries, Kenya and Kerala, a state in India, make concerted efforts to keep their girls in school by proactively implementing schemes (e.g. She-Pad in Kerala) and investing significant funding to ensure the methods used are robust and sustainable. The Kenyan government has also implemented a scheme to provide every girl in public schools with menstrual products when they need them, after recognising that girls were dropping out of school altogether and using horrific alternatives to stay adequately protected during their period.

Changing the cultural taboos, which are often so deeply engrained into customs and superstitions, is a challenge. The practice of Chaupadhi still exists in rural Nepal, and we hear all too frequently of young women being exposed to the elements because they're forced to sleep in menstruation huts when they have their period. Some have died after being bitten by snakes others are assaulted or worse. The belief that women are unclean when they menstruate is an example of how society needs to reframe menstruation completely. Periods need a total rebirth in how they are viewed. It stems from education in schools, from a young age, with boys and girls together to understand periods for what they are – a natural and normal biological process. We need organisations to penetrate sections of society in all of these countries where the need for education is the greatest and over time that change will be visible.

Further information at
www.freeperiods.org

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Sustainable pastoralism in the Chimanimani district in the eastern highlands of Zimbabwe

(Re-) communalisation of water as community management of ecosystems

BY HELGE SWARS

Three quarters of the world's poorest people live in regions under water stress, most of them not in cities but in rural areas. They account for the lion's share of those suffering hunger, despite their producing food themselves, for example as smallholders and pastoralists. However, throughout the world, ecosystems are being exploited and even overexploited by private actors. The ability of these areas to provide services such as clean drinking water or sufficient rainfall is decreasing under such conditions. Projects supporting the "recommunalisation" of water, community management of natural resources by the people depending on them, can play an important role in creating and restoring the availability of water in rural regions. The smallholder organisation TSURO, in Zimbabwe, is implementing one of these projects with the support of the World Peace Service.

Three quarters of the world's poorest people live in regions under water stress. Most of them do not live in cities but in rural areas. They account for the lion's share of those suffering hunger, despite their producing food themselves, for example as smallholders and pastoralists. One of the crucial conditions for this is the availability of water. However, water is becoming increasingly scarce in many regions that already have to cope with low levels of rainfall, either seasonally or throughout the year.

So far, people in rural areas have played a subordinate role in activities towards achieving SDG 6 "Water and sanitation for all". Starting with the United Nations (UN), through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to the WASH-Net Work,[1] the focus is on the no doubt important issues of drinking water supply and hygiene, often with technical solutions and usually for the city populations. As a rule, things are no different when it comes to defending the human right to water or struggles for a (re-) communalisation of water supply. As a result, only all too often, millions of smallholder livelihoods fall by the wayside. Free access to local water resources and stable ecosystems with intact water cycles are essential production and livelihood prerequisites for them.

However, throughout the world, ecosystems are being exploited and even overexploited by private actors. The ability of these areas to provide services such as clean drinking water or sufficient rainfall is decreasing under such conditions. Whereas individuals benefit in the short term from the profits arising from overexploitation, local communities bear the cost of use. Frequently, major agro-industry projects, mining and forestry operations, the world's largest water consumers, are behind this state of affairs. However, in many areas, inappropriate land use by the local population is to blame for water resources becoming scarce and ecosystems that play an important role for local climate being destroyed. This often happens against the background of population growth, frequently for sheer need.

Whereas one of every six people is affected by water scarcity today, the latest UN estimates indicate that by the middle of the century, every second individual will be threatened. Economically disadvantaged and marginalised people will be disproportionately severely hit – unless pressure on the global water resources can be reduced and the degradation of the natural environment can be halted. Here, projects supporting the communalisation of water in rural areas corresponding to Target 6.6, "Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems", can play an important role. Communalisation refers not so much to the definition of legal rights to land but to the community management of the resources by the people depending on them. The smallholder organisation TSURO (Towards Sustainable Use of Resources Organisation), in Zimbabwe, is implementing one of these projects with the support of the World Peace Service.

Water-related systems under pressure

In the rural district of Chimanimani, in the eastern highlands of Zimbabwe, three quarters of the 140,000 inhabitants are regarded as poor. Especially in the months ahead of the harvest, around 30 per cent do not have enough to eat. They usually engage in subsistence economy as smallholder families, in about half the area of the 355,000 hectare district. The areas concerned tend to be drier and with less fertile soil – a legacy of the colonial era. The other half of the land is used predominantly for commercial agriculture and forestry. There are also some national parks. Thirty-seven years after the country's gaining independence, only little has changed regarding land distribution.

The region has been severely affected by climate change. Since the turn of the millennia, rainfall has declined significantly, and seasonal rain patterns have shifted. Over the past ten years, people living here have experienced more droughts than the generations before them in their entire lives. The dry western areas of Chimanimani are particularly hard hit. During the last few years, harvests have failed almost completely several times, and some regions have seen widespread losses of cattle. Like in all arid zones across the world, livestock is also of considerable significance here.

1 www.washnet.de

Many people have therefore migrated to the higher altitude areas where there is more rainfall.

There, high population growth was already putting pressure on limited amount of available land in the 20th century. In order to obtain firewood, cropland and pastureland, forests were cleared and wide expanses of grassland and bushland were burnt down, in the course of which ecologically sensitive catchment areas, riverbeds and river banks were populated and cultivated. Previously, these areas had been effectively protected by traditional legal systems for hundreds of years – reflecting the spiritually interpreted bond between the people and their land. Cattle are traditionally left to roam freely and are only kept an eye on by children, if at all. Since the animals seek the proximity of water, the areas around the small number of rivers and springs and those close to the villages are strongly overgrazed. Neighbourhood conflicts are inevitable once the hungry animals, which nobody is in charge of, start entering the fields.

The loss of vegetation and hence the protective layer of the soil through overgrazing or forest clearing has triggered a negative chain of events. Rainwater does not seep into the soil, which is not protected by plants and has been baked stone hard by the sun, but flows off down the slightly sloped surface, washing away the topsoil and leaving deep erosion troughs that in turn further accelerate soil erosion once the next rainfall sets in. The groundwater table drops, and water sources dry up. Even in the mountainous areas with high levels of rainfall, this leaves smallholder families having to struggle with water scarcity. The Nyanyadzi, the region's largest river, demonstrates the dimension of these developments. From 1991 to 2015, the volume of water carried by the river dropped to a mere one per cent.

Protecting natural resources as a community task

Therefore, one important objective of the project is the communally organised protection of the natural resources of soil, water, forest and grassland. The water catchment areas of springs and rivers are of particular importance for the water balance. The communities are therefore supported in identifying, mapping and commonly restoring these areas and establishing lasting protection for them. So-called climate change action groups have been set up at village level. Each group consists of up to 20 members elected democratically by their communities who also hold the mandate to plan concrete environmental protection activities and implement them in cooperation with the community. For example, in order to rehabilitate water springs, with the support of TSURO, the most important catchment areas for the largely dried up water springs have been mapped by the local communities in their vicinity, and possible causes of their drying up as well as measures to restore them have been identified. Based on this, action plans have been drawn up, and their implementation is underway. For example, in several areas, work has commenced on filling up erosion troughs and afforestation. Felling exotic trees such as eucalyptus has also met with rapid success. Introduced by forestry, these trees, with their deep roots and high water demand, disturb water availability for indigenous trees with shallower roots and have a negative impact on the groundwater table.

Cattle as conservationists

Combating overgrazing assumes an important role since, after forestry, pastureland accounts for the largest share of land in the district. For this purpose, a holistic and communal pasture management system has been introduced in several pilot regions, covering an area of more than 800 hectares. Cattle owners have rounded up their cattle in a collective herd, which represents a drastic break with traditional customs. Following a fixed rotation principle, the animals are led from one pasture to the next. For this purpose, the viability of the areas depending on seasons and feed availability is determined first of all. Once the grass has been fed down in one section, it is allowed as much time as necessary to regrow and form seeds. Only then are the animals let back.

Just a few years after the system was introduced, a denser plant cover now protects the soil in the pilot regions from drying up again. Rainwater can once again seep into the ground, and the animals find sufficient and more nourishing food. Some large erosion troughs have been filled in again, and two

small rivers that were still dry in 2012 carried water throughout 2016, despite a previous drought period of three years. Formerly a problem for the land and its water balance, the cattle have now turned into conservationists.

The principle represents a reversion to the ecological balance of grassland and roaming herds of grazers, which goes back millions of years. In many regions of the world, some of which are the chief grain growing areas, it contributed to the formation of humus layers that sometimes reached massive proportions. These are of particular importance for the water and nutrient balance of the soil. In addition, they store larger amounts of atmospheric carbon than all forests throughout the world together. This also applies to nearly all of Africa's arid zones. They account for more than 40 per cent of the continent's entire land area and are severely affected by degradation and desertification. So it is worthwhile taking a very close look at what TSURO has achieved here.

The approach is crucial

How TSURO is achieving its goals is just as important. The holistic approach starts with the self-empowerment and ownership of the users of natural resources. This is ensured by supporting local smallholder learning and experimenting groups as well as by planning and monitoring the individual development and resource protection projects by the beneficiaries themselves. Cooperation with local governments, traditional leaders and other stakeholders, independently of their party affiliations, is a further key element. In its statutes, TSURO defines its method explicitly as "not delineating and protecting closely circumscribed interests. On the contrary, it aims to be inclusive, to be open and to reach out to others". Years of working together to improve their living conditions have trained an attitude of balancing objectives, creative thinking and skills in open communication among the individuals involved. This also makes them very well prepared to handle local conflicts in a constructive manner.

Participation as a key to climate adaptation

Based on this, TSURO succeeded in initiating rounds of dialogue between smallholder communities, traditional leaders, government authorities, civil society and private forestry in the chief water catchment areas of the region. They served the purpose of creating awareness of climate change and watershed management as well as the planning of concrete environmental protection and rehabilitation measures. The basis for this had been provided by a scientifically backed study conducted in 2015 on Climate Change and Watershed Management in the Chimanimani District.

The outcome of these dialogue rounds was that the first Zimbabwean District Policy was adopted in the field of climate change and watershed management. It contained binding directives defined by the district government and governing land use in water catchment areas as well as adequate responses to climate change and the overexploitation of natural resources. In the same year, the District Policy was transferred to a concrete political strategy for implementation. Thus some communities introduced laws against the tradition of starting fires to gain pastureland and cropland or committing pastoralists to observe sustainable grazing of community land. In the dual legal system, these bye-laws first of all transform environmentally appropriate practice into traditional law. Some of them have also already been integrated in legislation by government authorities and provide for sanctions if violations occur.

For the next few years, Chimanimani is going to act as one of three pilot districts in Zimbabwe for the implementation of a national strategy for adaptation to climate change. So a successful implementation of this approach in Chimanimani will enable strategic impulses to be created for participatory governance approaches in this field at national level.

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Energy in citizens' hands

MARCO GÜTLE IS INTERVIEWED BY ELISABETH STAUDT

With the Sustainable Development Goals, the German Federal Government has set itself the goal of ensuring "access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and up-to-date energy supply for all" by 2030. In terms of renewable energy, the Federal Republic's achievements are still seen by many as exemplary. One of the reasons for this is a movement supported by citizens that generates energy from sustainable sources and brings it to the customers. Despite all its success, "Bürgerenergie" is still facing numerous challenges ranging from the market power of major corporations to the structure of the electricity market.

To "Bündnis Bürgerenergie", the sustainable and climate-friendly provision of power, heat and mobility goes hand in hand with citizens participating at local level. Why should this be the case?

Somewhat exaggerated, one can say that citizens invented the energy turnaround. Without the citizens who got things going themselves, we would not have the success we are seeing today. Of course there were good laws that supported all this. But initially, the corporations and other actors did not join in and thought it was not worthwhile. Then the citizens who wished to do something to oppose climate change and nuclear power just took things into their own hands. They saw to it that the plants required for renewable power became cheaper and cheaper, simply by so many people buying this technology. Through research and development being given new impulses. This was also the case with wind energy, where the first pioneers started to set up propellers in fields, which later on resulted in the emergence of companies like Enercon.

What we believe is very important is that energy is not simply a product that you buy at the supermarket, but that it affects us in a very elementary way. Nothing at all works if we haven't got electricity and heat. And that is why it is also extremely important for this product to be controlled by citizens. This is where the chief argument in favour of "Bürgerenergie" stems from – that citizens themselves decide how their energy is generated.

The other argument is that we really need citizens' involvement. The energy turnaround is a gigantic task – particularly in Germany, but everywhere else in the world too. If we leave this challenge to technocrats and corporations, even if it is what we desire, the dynamics we need for the energy turnaround will not develop at all. We have to get individuals on board, integrate them and offer them opportunities to act. Otherwise we will not be successful.

Your alliance unites more than 500,000 energy citizens from all over Germany. What do you regard as special success stories in your work so far?

There are already some regions in Germany that can boast a high share of renewable energies – financially at 100 per cent – and a high share of citizens' energy. For example, this is the case in Wolfhagen, a small town in North Hessen. The town owns 75 per cent of the local power supplier and a cooperative, a citizens' energy company, 25 per cent. They even operate the power grid. This means that this infrastructure is once again being operated and controlled by citizens. Financially, they can supply up to 100 per cent of local demand from renewable sources. This is a super example. Way up north, in North Friesland, there are a large number of citizens' wind energy projects. They call themselves citizens' wind parks and produce more than enough energy for the region. This is a giant success.

Otherwise, it is above all the total of initiatives and projects that supports us. When we started, the concept of citizens' energy was still in its infancy. One early achievement of getting this organisation started is that a name now exists for this phenomenon, which was already in existence much earlier. In 2012, our organisation commissioned a survey. Its result was that 50 per cent of the renewable energy plants are indirectly or directly in the hands of citizens. This is a truly impressive figure, and everyone is talking about them. Most people involved in the area were not at all aware of this. They were convinced that the cause was worthwhile fighting for and became active at local level. But it was new to them that they were really responsible for half of the success of the energy turnaround in Germany.

Can the German campaign set an example for other countries?

Of course. We certainly are a major role model – of course, that sounds really paternalistic. But I believe that it is quite justifiable to say that the notion of citizens producing their own electricity and providing themselves with their own energy is fully worth exporting. By the way, this is not solely a German idea, but is also being practised in several other coun-

tries, such as in Denmark or Belgium. These countries also have cooperatives that have dealt intensively with the issue because they want to do something against nuclear power. And of course, at the end of the day, the goal has to be to learn from one another. Merely exporting successful recipes and creating carbon copies of what has been achieved elsewhere cannot be enough. The local specialities and contexts always play a major role. There are examples of remarkable practical experiences abroad that we would not be able to have in Germany. For instance, operating a national grid 100 per cent with renewables. It is important to keep in touch with others to discuss these aspects.

In order to really become a role model, to really make the German model more successful, significantly more efforts have to be made both in Germany and internationally. For example, the EU is currently negotiating a set of guidelines and directives on energy policy, the Clean Energy Package. It is exciting to see that people in Brussels have understood just how important it is to involve citizens in the energy turnaround. This shows that something that was created in Germany and is unfortunately currently losing momentum is coming back to us via this deviation.

With the SDGs, the German Federal Government has set itself the goal of ensuring "access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and up-to-date energy supply for all" by 2030. How should success achieved so far in Germany be assessed?

I would take a look at the individual aspects one by one. Regarding sustainability, we have achieved progress in the electricity sector; here, we are at least on the right course compared to other countries. But far, far more is necessary and feasible in this area. We must opt out of coal as an energy source by 2020. By 2030, we have to have 100 per cent renewables in the energy sector. In terms of mobility and heat, we are still right at the beginning. So much for progress in performance.

Regarding reliability in Germany, we really are in a luxury position. Once a year, the Federal Network Agency publishes an index of average downtime in Germany. It amounts to an average of ten minutes a year. Most people probably don't even notice this because they are asleep when it happens. This means that reliability really is not a problem.

The affordability situation is not as could as it could be in a rich industrial nation like Germany; the catchword here is energy poverty. This is a social policy issue, and we haven't got a panacea to solve it. At any rate, we maintain that there is a clear demand for steps to be taken by politics. Generally, we believe that a sensibly designed electricity market for renewable energies with high citizens' involvement could make prices more affordable. At the moment, we have an electricity market that is not working at all for renewables. The levy on renewable energies surcharge ("EEG-Umlage") has risen over the last few years. This is not because the renewables are so expensive but because the electricity market does not pay renewables sufficiently. We expect a new form of energy policy to ensure better affordability of electricity.

Citizens' energy is made by people – and this is backed by surveys – who in the main are better educated, socio-economically better off and predominantly male. In terms of gender, there is a considerable need for action regarding citizens' energy. We have already been working out various solutions to address the compatibility of the ecological and the social dimension. The problem is that the legal framework does not allow them to be put into practice at the moment. For example, there are many home owners who have a solar plant on their roof for their own demand, which reduces their energy costs. There are no comparable arrangements for tenant housing in cities.

New regulations are being introduced. But they are not what we expect electricity for tenants to be like. What we would like to see is several tenants in one house having the option to join up and provide themselves with their own electricity with a solar plant without having to pay the renewable energies surcharge or other expenses. This would be an environmental and social policy measure that makes sense. We're still waiting for it.

What are the obstacles to sustainable citizens' energy achieving more success? What political framework does this require?

The biggest obstacle is that the framework conditions for the involvement of citizens in the electricity sector in particular and the production of renewable energy in general have become worse and worse. We are seeing competitive tendering that per se prefers major corporations. Tendering is established in the vast majority of types of generating – such as area photovoltaic plants. Within a short period, major corporations and larger firms, which have nothing to do with citizens, have asserted themselves as the sole actors in this field. The situation is exactly the same in the wind energy sector.

Better conditions also existed in the past regarding self-supply of citizens' energy. Charges have since been introduced for private consumption. Only a small allowance is still tolerated – this does not exactly contribute to more dynamics developing.

A further particularly serious problem is that our electricity market is oriented on corporate structures operating at national and European level and on traditional energy sources. When energy is sold at the Power Exchange, the marginal costs of electricity are applied, and they are set at 0 for the renewables. For every extra kilowatt hour, the wind turbine just has to turn. This is why the renewables are remunerated with zero cents at the Exchange, and this is also why the renewable energies surcharge continues to be very high. We still have far too much electricity in the grid that has been generated with coal, which puts downward pressure on prices in the electricity market. These are very poor framework conditions for citizens' involvement. At the moment, there is no option that would make sense to sell regionally generated electricity from renewable sources. The electricity market is simply not geared towards citizens joining in, towards a cooperative being able to tell people in a village that they can buy their electricity straight from the local plant. Or that someone can say to his neighbour: Look, I've got a little left. Don't you want some? We call this "Prosumer" trade, an artificial word based on producer and consumer. At the moment, the right framework conditions are lacking. Energy would have to have a much closer focus on the local level from our perspective; it would have to strengthen the local level, also in terms of energy market design. So far, there has been a general lack of ambitiousness in precisely this area.

Further information at
www.buendnis-buergerenergie.de

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Families of people killed in the huge fire at the textiles factory Ali Enterprise in Karachi (Pakistan) demanding justice. Who bears responsibility for such disasters?

Examples of globally sustainable business practice

The French Act on Reducing Violations of Human Rights and Harm to the Environment

BY JOHANNA KUSCH

In Germany, a signboard that says “No trespassing! Parents are liable for their children!” is fixed to every building site fence. Just like in this case, there are clear legal regulations in several socially relevant areas to ensure that people can live together in mutual responsibility. As yet, this does not apply to corporate human rights responsibility. German companies are not held liable if they contribute to human rights violations or environmental damage committed or caused by their subsidiaries. Even if they benefit from human rights violations in importing and exporting, this remains without any consequences as a rule. However, this is not the case for the people whose rights have been violated. Germany has no legislation obliging companies to monitor and check negative human rights impacts of their business operations. In 2017, France adopted such a law, the first country to do so world-wide. This is encouraging, for without binding rules for corporations, decent work and global sustainable development cannot be achieved.

Human rights responsibility does not end at countries' borders

The German economy is doing well. Germany is the most powerful economic nation in Europe, and the world's third largest exporter, alongside China and the USA. According to the Federal Statistical Office, Germany exported goods worth a total of 1,278.9 billion euros in 2017. German companies have transferred their production sites e.g. for textiles or car components to low-wage countries in Asia and Latin America and are creating jobs there. However, there are not only positive results.

Again and again, German companies are directly and indirectly contributing to human rights violations or environmental damage in other countries. However, agreements or laws obliging companies to observe human rights due diligence are lacking both at national and European and international level.

The consequences for humans and the environment are often disastrous. Like for instance for the 260 workers who were killed in a devastating fire at the Ali Enterprise factory in Karachi (Pakistan) on the 11th September 2012. Many of them were unable to save their lives because the windows were metal-grilled and the emergency exits were blocked. Next of kin are still mourning, and the economic impacts of their losses continue. In many cases, the livelihoods of entire families had largely depended on the income of the victims. According to its own statement, at the time of the fire, the German textiles company KiK was the factory's chief client.

Who bears responsibility for such disasters? The textiles sector as a whole (this article only takes the KiK case to illustrate the issue) as well as other sectors, in particular commodities, energy, infrastructure, industrial manufacturing and agriculture, bear massive human rights risks, whether it be exploitative working conditions in the manufacture of electronic gadgets, child labour in cobalt mines or the supply of surveillance technologies to authoritarian governments.

In many cases, the answer to the question of who is responsible tends to be complex, including the fire disaster in Karachi. First and foremost, of course, factory management of the KiK suppliers, who allowed production to proceed despite metal-grilled windows and blocked emergency exits, hold responsibility. However, criminal procedures in Pakistan were suspended. The Pakistani government itself also shares responsibility, since it failed to sufficiently fulfil its obligation to protect human rights and did not consistently check safety standards. However, in times of globalisation, responsibility does not end at countries' borders. The commissioners in Germany also hold co-responsibility, as does the Federal Government, not having met its duty to protect human rights.
In 2011, the UN adopted its Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which stipulate minimum demands for governments and companies to protect and observe human rights.

The key element of corporate responsibility to observe human rights is human rights due diligence. The term refers to a procedure in which companies are required to systematically identify the human rights impacts of their entire business operations, prevent negative impacts and remedy and compensate for any damage that may have occurred. So the German textiles company KiK has to face questions regarding its due diligence and co-responsibility for the 260 deaths resulting from the fire.

KiK itself states that in 2011, it procured 70 per cent of Ali Enterprise's production and had its suppliers inspected regularly. In spite of this, KiK did not undertake any steps to ensure that the emergency exits were cleared of obstacles. But this would have been an acceptable measure to prevent such disasters. Neither should KiK have relied on the factory having been certified that it was maintaining adequate safety standards. Commercial audits often bear considerable shortcomings. For example, they are announced in advance, or statements are forged. So KiK should at least have been aware of constructional details such as metal-grilled windows at Ali Enterprise, a company which had already been among its suppliers for many years.[1]

1 Further information on this case can be found on the website of the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, ECCHR: www.ecchr.eu/thema/textilindustrie/

International law obliges Germany to protect human rights against violations both at home and abroad through effective policies, legislation and other regulations. While the Federal Government is still seeking a voluntary consensus with business, our neighbour has already taken a step forward. France has transformed corporate human rights responsibility into a law.

The French Loi de Vigilance law – a milestone for human rights

France is the only country world-wide that has established comprehensive human rights due diligence assessment for businesses. The so-called Loi de Vigilance entered into force in March 2017. With the new legislation, in certain circumstances, the 100 to 150 largest companies of France, including Total, L'Oréal, Danone or Areva, could be made liable for severe infringements of human rights and environmental damage.

The law is aimed to reduce violations of human rights perpetrated by or with the involvement of major French companies, also if they were committed outside France. Instead of having to be named and shamed for the damage they have caused, companies are to prevent human rights violations in advance and effectively counter them. Thus the law represents a significant step towards a viable development and makes a substantial contribution both to sustainable economic growth and decent work for all (Goal 8 of the SDGs) as well as to sustainable consumption and production patterns (Goal 12).

The law prescribes comprehensive due diligence for companies, including the compilation, publishing and implementing of an annual due diligence plan, in order to identify and prevent ecological and human rights risks. Companies have to include both their own activities and those of subsidiaries, subcontractors and suppliers in the plan, although the latter are only relevant if an established business relationship is maintained with them and the human rights problems relate to the business relationship. The plan has to be publicised and implemented, and as of 2019, at the latest, the companies concerned have to account for the implementation of the due diligence plan in their business report.

If a company fails to compile a due diligence plan or does not submit a sufficient one, this can be ordered by court. In addition, companies are held liable to compensate for damages caused that would have been prevented had the obligations stipulated by this law been fulfilled. In other words, they are held liable if they have not taken any reasonable measures to prevent identifiable damage.

As far is the German context is concerned, this means that if the Federal Government were to introduce a due diligence law, companies like KiK would have to take measures in future to ensure that long-standing suppliers that they maintain close business links with themselves take adequate steps to protect workers. Many human rights violations could be prevented in this manner.

Germany is lagging behind in human rights protection

In addition to France, there are also interesting laws or bills reflecting an international trend towards corporate responsibility. In the UK, companies have to explain how they are eliminating forced and child labour in their entire production chain. Switzerland is to decide on introducing a corporate responsibility law in 2019/2020. At EU level, eight parliaments of EU Member States are calling for a general obligation for European businesses to assess due diligence.

The German Federal Government chose to seek a different approach. In the context of drawing up the National Action Plans for Business and Human Rights from 2014-2016, it decided against providing laws governing human rights due diligence. In the Action Plan, the Federal Government merely expects businesses to introduce procedures to comply with human rights due diligence. However, it intends to assess up to 2020 whether the largest roughly 6,500 companies are actually doing this. Should the assessment arrive at the result that less than 50 per cent are fulfilling their due diligence duties, according to the Coalition Agreement, it wants to introduce legal regulations and also campaign for them at EU level.

Box 2

How the *Loi de Vigilance* came about

AN INTERVIEW WITH YVES PRIGENT

What caused France to adopt a law on corporate liability?

We were a very ambitious group of non-governmental organisations and trade unions who persistently shared the same goals from the beginning to the end, that is from 2013, when the first draft law was presented, to the passing of the law in March 2017.

In addition, there have been external developments that enhanced our activities. We have all been involved in activities pressing for binding corporate responsibility for years, but tragically, it was only the 1,134 deaths resulting from the collapse of the Rana Plaza factory in April 2013 that created the necessary level of public awareness of the topic and opened doors in politics that had previously been closed. Another central aspect was that some members of parliament belonging to the governing parties consistently campaigned for the draft law under the socialist government from 2012 to 2017. And although the Government did not support the bill throughout this period, in the crucial months leading up to the elections, we succeeded in winning the support of some government members who knew that they were not going to be re-elected. Furthermore, some government members left the government, creating a political window of opportunity in which the law could be adopted.

And if you ask, why in France? Then it certainly has to be pointed out that public opinion in France perceives setting frameworks – which may also contain laws – by the government, and not via a consensus with businesses, is the right thing to do.

How do you assess the law and its implementation with hindsight?

Although we set out with more far reaching accountability demands on governments, we appreciate the law and the positive impacts it has had, for example on the international debate concerning legal due diligence commitments. 2018 is the first year in which the businesses affected have to publish their due diligence plans, so that it is still too early for more details. But our working focus has shifted. We are now opting for the highest implementation standards that the law provides for, and to ensure this, we intend to monitor the publication of due diligence plans and their implementation very closely.

Yves Prigent heads the Responsabilité des Etats et des Entreprises of Amnesty International France.

Given the human rights challenges in global supply chains, investment projects and services, this is a far too hesitant and insufficient approach. For without an effective protection of human rights, no sustainable development is possible. A human rights-based implementation of the SDGs in Germany would also mean legally establishing human rights due diligence for all German companies along the value chains and the possibility for victims of human rights violations that German companies share responsibility for to also effectively claim their rights in Germany.

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The Bicycle Referendum was already able to present more than 100,000 signatures to the Berlin Senate after three weeks instead of 26 weeks.

9

Berlin's Bicycle Referendum

Citizens force a paradigm shift in transport policy

BY PETER FELDKAMP AND RAGNHILD SØRENSEN

Ninety-one per cent of Germans would prefer a life without a car.[1] The Berlin Bicycle Referendum came to be to translate this representative survey result by the Federal Environment Agency into concrete policy. Modern campaigning, targeted rallying of activists and professional media activities have enabled the creation of something unique. Germany's first mobility law stipulates that the environmental alliance (bus, train, bicycle) has priority over car transport – a paradigm shift in transport policy. Thanks to the Bicycle Referendum, Berlin has been able to introduce a U-turn, and in the competition among metropolises for sustainability, climate protection and the quality of life, it is gradually catching up again with its European and North American partner cities. At the same time, the project's success has inspired many to take up the idea throughout Germany – a movement that one will be hearing more from throughout Germany.

1 Federal Environment Agency

Germany is lagging behind

Today, in 2018, in all major cities in Germany, the heavy load of steel and concrete is stifling attempts to develop sustainable transport policy. In the large user survey conducted by the "Allgemeiner Deutscher Fahrradclub" (ADFC), even the champions Münster, Karlsruhe and Freiburg do not exceed the "satisfactory" mark.[2] Cities in the Car Republic of Germany[3] are mere bystanders as their European and North American partners make massive investments in bicycle transport and develop local public transport in order to at least remedy the worst mistakes caused by the dogma of the car-suitable city in the decades since 1950. Whereas these cities can chalk up a return of life quality and reductions in noise and levels of harmful air pollutants, German cities are dominated by a paralysing fear of change. No German city has announced achieving climate neutrality by 2025 (unlike Copenhagen, for instance), no German conurbation is building a network of cycle clearways (unlike London), and no German metropolis is heading for a lasting reduction in the number of cars on clearways (unlike Paris).

Behaviour among the population reflects a divided impression regarding this issue. On the one hand, 91 per cent of Germans are paying lip-service by claiming that they would be better off without a car and calling for a different policy.[4] For people in the urban centres, it makes sense to opt more and more for the bicycle as the primary everyday means of transport. At the same time, in Germany as a whole, the number of kilometres driven is on the rise, car numbers are rising, and there can be no mention of a change in trend towards smaller cars with a lower fuel consumption or even emission-free electric cars. And yet there is agreement that the climate targets will be missed by miles if the transport sector does not alter course completely, and now, at that, rather than in ten years' time. It is not only scientists who have noticed this.

Large sections of the population, the media and of course the associations are calling for a new transport policy given the threat of a climate catastrophe.

People opting for a change see themselves confronted with additional negative consequences. While the number of people killed in road accidents is on the decline as a whole, ten people are still dying on German roads every day. Among the people moving on foot or by bike, victim numbers are on the increase since the rise in crash safety, weight and size of cars above all serves those sitting in them. Further classic problems of automobile transport add to the climate impacts, pollution of the air that we breathe and life-threatening hazards for people in the cities. Road and car-park sprawl is enormous and is closely related to rent price trends. Since the deindustrialisation of cities, motor vehicles have become the most permanent and loudest source of noise there. The availability of clearways is leading to the suburbanisation and further sealing of the periphery. Children, who have today almost completely vanished from the metropolis cityscape, are particularly affected by this development. This dominance of the car in urban areas is rapidly losing acceptance among large parts of the population.

Berlin, where we initiated the first referendum on cycling in Germany in 2016, presents itself in a similarly ambivalent way. Alone growth in car numbers owing to people moving to Berlin would require the entire area of the former Tempelhof Airport (330 hectares) if these cars were only parked and never driven. At the same time, the automatic cycling traffic census points have recorded annual two-digit growth rates. At individual points, increases of almost 25 per cent have been observed in just one year.

So the conditions to restructure a transport system with the aid of consistent support of cycling could not be better. Promoting cycling does not mainly mean offering people who are already cycling more comfort. This is just an intentional side-effect. Rather, the aim is to give more people, and above all entirely new groups of users, the opportunity to enjoy using the bike as their everyday means of transport. This can only be achieved if the framework conditions for mobility are consistently newly designed.

2 Cf. www.fahrradklima-test.de/. Daten für 2016.

3 Cf. Resch (2017).

4 Umweltbundesamt (2017).

Giving priority one-sidedly to motorised transport is abandoned in order to provide targeted support for other modes of mobility. Thus consistent cycle transport promotion also means strengthening local public transport. The latter ought to handle the brunt of urban transport, and ambitious developments in this direction are urgently required. However, unlike cycle transport, this is very expensive (although still significantly cheaper than road infrastructure), and above all, it is very time-intensive. A tramline decided on today will carry the first passenger in ten years' time, at the earliest. The run-up period for underground and urban railways is even longer. In contrast, given sufficient political courage and a willing administration, cycle paths can be used within a much shorter period, thus taking the strain off local public transport on inner-city short routes. This benefits commuters from the city suburbs and keeps the inner cities free from their cars.

A transport turnaround via referendum

Until 2015, Berlin City State politics completely ignored these obvious facts. Only a few euros per capita were invested in cycle transport, and not more than 1.5 staff positions were available for this area in the administration of Berlin, a city with 3.6 million inhabitants. While cycling was becoming an urgent day-to-day issue for Berlin's citizens, it had remained an insignificant niche phenomenon for the coalition governments of the last few years. We activists of the Bicycle Referendum campaign wanted to change this. And we have managed it.

The aim of the Bicycle Referendum was to translate the 91 per cent into political majorities. Berlin's City State Constitution provides for this with a popular referendum. Our vision is for each point in the city to be linked to each other point via comfortable and safe cycle paths, cycle clearways or cycle roads. A cycle law that the citizens of Berlin were to vote on was to make this legally binding. The core element of this law was a commitment to a city-wide network of cycle paths for people who like to cycle but are still hesitating to do so. Only such a safe network will encourage people to switch to cycling. Nothing prevents cycle transport more than the feeling of danger and precariousness in mixed traffic with motorised vehicles. A protected infrastructure has to be the answer to this anxiousness.

The Bicycle Referendum has organised demonstrations to achieve this safe infrastructure. A vigil is still held for every cyclist killed, so that the victim is liberated from the anonymity of a police report. We work with our own data collections, petitions, visualisations and plans some of which are specified according to certain roads, and we can draw on prominent proponents, professional media activities and an extensive network of supporters. Now a total of more than 400 sustaining members have enabled us to also afford a small team of office staff. A referendum was never held. The goal was achieved exclusively through the political pressure that this campaign generated in Berlin. That we were already able to present more than 100,000 signatures to the Berlin Senate after three weeks instead of the 20,000 after 26 weeks very clearly demonstrates that politics very frequently bypasses the interests of inhabitants when organising transport and mobility in cities.

The negotiations with the Red-Red-Green Coalition were completed towards the end of 2017. However, it was not before June 2018 that the law was passed by. Today, there are twelve posts in central administration that deal with bicycle traffic. Each of the twelve Berlin districts can finance a further two planners. A limited company belonging to the City State has created almost 20 posts for larger bicycle transport projects.

With the passing of the mobility law, the work of the Bicycle Referendum team has come to an end; its activities will be taken up in our association Changing Cities reg. Ass.. We already established structures at an early stage to be able to remain a voice for an urban transport turnaround and also to struggle for a reconquering of the urban habitat and urban quality of life. Today, the association supports other referendum initiatives and campaigns supporting cycling in Berlin and other cities. From Rostock to Stuttgart, bicycle referendums are being organised throughout the Federal Republic. Thus a movement has evolved that is campaigning locally for a transport turnaround and that is being supported, coordinated and advised by Changing Cities. Success is

clearly apparent when decisions are taken on cycling – and so is approval on the part of the 91 per cent.

Wherever people have taken to the street, got organised and collected signatures for bicycle transport, they have, without exception, met with many times the amount of approval they actually required. In some cases, like here in Berlin, this is achieved via confronting politics with the issue. In other cases, the movements organise momentum for decision-makers who have long recognised the signs of the times but still fail to display the courage to take action. With "Aufbruch Fahrrad", an initiative is bidding to tackle the transport policy of an area state for the first time; nobody doubts it will be successful. A cleverly coordinated alliance of these initiatives is also going to present the topic of a cycle transport turnaround as an active election campaign topic in the 2021 Federal Elections. The aim is to transform lip-service of the 91 per cent into a vote at the ballot box.

Further information and contacts at
https://volksentscheid-fahrrad.de/
www.aufbruch-fahrrad.de

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Right in the centre of Duisburg-Marxloh, the “Tauschbar” runs learning programmes, holiday projects and room to get together.

More equal opportunities through focused and sustainable urban district work

10

BY HEIDRUN OBERLÄNDER-YILMAZ AND LENA WIEWELL

The young project “Tausche Bildung für Wohnen” (TBfW) addresses equal opportunities in disadvantaged urban districts. Its chief focus is on promoting and supporting children in their personal, social and school development. People engaged in social activities in the Federal Volunteer Service, students and volunteers of all ages are trained as mentors. They support children, back their learning, develop holiday projects, act as role models and are just friends. In return, the mentors can live rent-free in flats belonging to the project and taken out of the vacancies market as long as they are working for the project. This remedies real estate vacancies while supporting a social mix in the urban district. The aim is to achieve a peaceful, appreciative and cooperative togetherness and thus enable the urban district to acquire a positive image. With its attitude and impact, TBfW seeks to initiate a movement empowering people, supporting social, economic and political inclusion and minimising unequal opportunities.

Challenges

Every city has a range of spaces, including social spaces. Social inequality results in social segregation. Social segregation results in unequal opportunities (access to education, healthcare, employment, culture, sport ...).[1]

Duisburg-Marxloh is an urban district with a considerable need for redevelopment. As of the 31st December 2016, 20,422 residents were registered in Marxloh. The housing environment is shaped by poor, obsolescent building stock, including junk real estate. There is a high real estate vacancy rate. The social environment is characterised by considerable and perennial poverty. Access to education and healthcare services is lacking. Forty-one per cent of the people living here draw transfer benefits in accordance with Social Security Statutes II, III and XII and/or housing benefits. The housing and living circumstances and, last but not least, the no-go area stigma created by the media have resulted in an increased exodus of stable and stabilising groups of residents.

On the other hand, there are untapped opportunities and resources. People from around 90 different ethnic groups make Marxloh colourful and diversified. With an average age of 36.4 years, Marxloh is a young urban district. 25 per cent of its residents are under the age of 19 years. The high number of children and youths offers a considerable potential to win them for a positive development of the urban district. In addition to foundations and organisations providing non-statutory welfare, more than 25 businesses and initiatives are operating in creative, cultural, social and educational areas. They are networked with one another and cooperate.

The TBfW concept, its resources and its services

"Tausche Bildung für Wohnen e.V." (TBfW), the "Tauschbar", is situated right in the middle of Marxloh. Here, learning programmes, holiday projects and meetings are run, and meetings with partners and friends take place.

As a rule, four to six education mentors work at a single location. They have committed themselves to a year of service in the context of the Federal Volunteer Service (BFD) and work together with other volunteers for TBfW. What motivates the mentors most is to support disadvantaged children and simultaneously develop a strong basis for their own life career. The education mentors come from throughout Germany, are with and without a migration background and have various education degrees. In addition to rent-free housing and qualifications in education, they are provided with needs-oriented support through training, coaching and supervision.

The TBfW services address school pupils from first to seventh grade who are disadvantaged through their family education biography and the financially precarious situation of their family as well as children who have moved to Marxloh from abroad. The mentors are integrated in the children's day to day school life via school cooperation programmes and support the children during their lessons in close coordination with the teachers. In the school holidays, the children are offered an open holiday programme that the education mentors develop projects for on topics from the children's daily life. These projects are also intended to offer the children a view of life in the world beyond their urban district.

TBfW is an urban district project that is actively represented in all relevant urban district committees and working groups. It cooperates with primary and secondary education schools in the urban district, church and mosque communities as well as established and newly launched social and cultural initiatives. TBfW is participating in the "Campus Marxloh", which seeks to extend the neighbouring "Herbert-Grillo-Gesamtschule" school location to a location for school and extra-school education. "Campus Marxloh" is to act as an education hotspot and, for this purpose, be networked with all other institutions in Marxloh.[2]

The notion of "Tausche Bildung für Wohnen" emerged in 2011, and in 2012, the project received the advancement award for social entrepreneurship, "Act for Impact", which gave the go-ahead and provided the

1 Häussermann/Siebel (2004), pp. 139.

2 Entwicklungsgesellschaft Duisburg (2017), p. 24.

basis for founding the association. In 2014, the first education mentors started their activities. The original business model of TBfW aimed at obtaining 80 per cent of its income from funds via the Federal Education and Participation Package (BuT)[3] 20 per cent was to be financed through its own activities, foundation funding and further financial support. This turned out to be unfeasible. The hurdles in applying on the organisers' side and those in approving on the local authority's side are so high that the effort is simply not worthwhile.[4]

Currently, around 85 per cent of income consists of foundation funding and donations, while 15 per cent is provided via the BuT. In addition to the foundations located in the city, local businesses are invited to participate in urban district projects such as TBfW and invest in people living here.

Up to 85 disadvantaged children between the ages of 6 and 14 years are reached in an urban district. The education mentors provide up to 8,000 hours of support in the course of a year. All mentors have completed their Federal Volunteer Service and subsequently taken up vocational training or studying. Two mentors have stayed on in the enterprise, and two others will be continuing their professional career as trainees in the context of a dual study course as of September 2018.

The education mentors impart positive role models. They show the children and youths perspectives that the latter are denied owing to the lack of communication processes in their segregated residential environment. Negative socialisation effects can be interrupted, and alternatives can be demonstrated.

Scaling – challenges and framework conditions

The TBfW "pilot phase" has been successfully implemented. From the project idea up to today, processes have been optimised, every support has been further developed, and the partnerships in Duisburg have been consolidated. The modified business model has proved to be viable. Owing to the demand situation in the big cities, scaling the business model appears to make sense and be suitable. Within the Federal Republic, it can be implemented in other cities. Scaling is currently in the implementation phase in Gelsenkirchen-Ückendorf.

Scaling throughout Germany requires that the Federal, State and municipal governments create the framework conditions for such a development. In concrete terms, this means that both material and non-material support is provided for civil society engagement of urban district actors. Cities have to be in a position to develop and maintain their own support networks.[5] Initiatives, actors and social enterprises already ought to be integrated in the planning of projects and promotional phases. They are the ones who can establish and evaluate community microdata, who know exactly what efforts and resources are required, which persons are disadvantaged and what measures and projects are required.[6] This means that social entrepreneurs are seen as drivers of positive developments in the field of urban redevelopment and are on a par with urban development measures in urban planning for districts. Representatives of smaller enterprises have to be on administrative committees and have a say there, just like the welfare organisations.

Public relations activities and positive advertising of the urban district ought to be performed by the city administration. Via all relevant channels of the municipality (homepage, district authorities, special events), information ought to be provided on what opportunities there are to get involved, how and where one can engage and what the effects are.[7]

Financial support for social enterprises could be provided in the context of microanalyses. The municipalities pay for the services rendered by the social enterprises. Government-supported general offers are offered not only to start-ups but also for successfully implemented ideas and projects at fixed intervals.

3 Cf. here: www.bmas.de/DE/Themen/Arbeitsmarkt/Grundsicherung/Leistungen-zur-Sicherung-des-Lebensunterhalts/Bildungspaket/bildungspaket.html

4 Bartelheimer et al. (2016), pp. 228–243.

5 VCf. Kersting (2017), pp. 44–47.

6 ZEFIR/Bertelsmann Stiftung (2017), pp. 2.

7 Cf. in the following Bartelheimer (2016), pp. 228–143. 8

A fixed annual budget is available for this purpose. The indicators for impact assessment have to be defined in cooperation with the social enterprises.

Publicly accessible information on support funds, allocation guidelines and reasons for allocation (transparency) has to be available. Application procedures have to be designed in a manner also enabling smaller institutions to submit applications in the correct form and observing the deadline, and to produce where-used lists correspondingly. Free-of-charge consulting and application services for smaller social enterprises are also conceivable. Both short-term withdrawals of funding and less rigid funding provisions would allow actors to be able to respond spontaneously and appropriately to changes. Before a funding phase is planned, the expertise of potential recipients ought to be consulted.[8]

Whether scaling of TBfW can be performed in cities outside Germany largely depends on the opportunities to raise income, which vary among different countries. As far as Europe is concerned, a European Funding Programme that systematically supports Social Entrepreneurs would be desirable.[9]

Further information and contacts at www.tbfw-marxloh.org

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8 Like e.g. the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, which has addressed TBfW in the context of designing planned funding guidelines and invited it to join in developing them.

9 Braem (2017), pp. 14-17.

The “Vier-Häuser-Projekt” in Tübingen, former LBBW real estate, was taken from the speculative market together with the Tenement Syndicate.

Housing for all – the Tenement Syndicate

BY JAN BLECKERT

11

With Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, the German Federal Government also approved the goal of ensuring “access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services” by 2030. That there should also be increasing problems in this area in a rich country like the Federal Republic is not least a result of rising rent levels over the last few years. For the socially worse off in particular, but also, increasingly, for middle-income earners, housing at affordable prices is no longer available. This is a state of affairs that a more reticent funding of council housing has contributed to. But the Tenement Syndicate demonstrates that one does not have to wait for major investments via public spending or by real estate companies.

The Tenement Syndicate is the connecting link in a network of more than 130 housing projects and project initiatives committed to the notion of solidary transfer from experienced to newly developing projects. The general independence of the projects is restricted by the Tenement Syndicate’s right of veto in the case of access to the real estate assets in order to prevent a possible reprivatisation and renewed selling off of the houses.

A simple notion: decent housing for all

The Tenement Syndicate is guided by an idea that immediately makes sense and has its origins in the City of Freiburg in the 1980s and the squatter movement there. In times of increasing real estate speculating and profit maximising among different actors on the housing market, this notion of decent housing and a roof over everyone's head has considerably gained in significance. Affordable and socially compatible rent levels for all have become a political issue.

The motto of the Tenement Syndicate, "Self-management – Non-saleability – Solidarity", offers the ideological superstructure for what are now more than 130 housing projects and 20 project initiatives in Germany. They all seek to confront a profit-oriented valorisation logic with an alternative. The projects maintain housing that is affordable in the long term with stable rent levels and is self-organised by the community. This is made possible by real estate becoming non-saleable through a legal construction and thus being withdrawn from the real estate market.

This legal construction forms the core of the Tenement Syndicate model. It stipulates that each of the existing house projects is organised in its own house association and retains legal independence. The respective real estate object remains the property of an enterprise in the shape of a limited company. The respective house company, ltd., has two partners: the house association and the Tenement Syndicate, ltd., as a sort of controlling and supervising organisation. Each of them holds one vote whenever property law issues are concerned, such as selling a house, turning a house into owner-occupied flats, etc. This is established in the partnership agreement of the house company, ltd.. The consequence is that decisions on issues of principle can only be taken with the consent of both partners. Neither the house association nor the Tenement Syndicate, ltd., can be voted down.

However, the right to vote of the Tenement Syndicate, ltd., is limited to issues of principle. This asymmetric distribution of the right to vote ensures the full self-organisation of the partners. In all other matters, the house association has the sole right to vote. These matters can only be addressed by the people living and working in the house project.

This legal construction also takes opting out of the house association or a hostile takeover into account. Although the house association could give notice as a partner and leave the house company, ltd., the Tenement Syndicate, ltd., would continue to be a partner holding the real estate assets. Furthermore, the partnership agreement stipulates that opting out means forfeiting any claim to shares of increases in the value of assets held by the partners. This eliminates the economic incentive for opting out.

One further important element of the Tenement Syndicate model is solidary transfer. This transfer is performed both materially and immaterially. On the material side, each project commits itself to paying a certain solidarity contribution into a fund, the amount of which depends on the respective housing space or space used for other purposes. The solidarity fund is a special asset administrated by the Tenement Syndicate. Over the past years, authorised capital assets of the Tenement Syndicate have been paid into new limited house companies or used to cover infrastructure costs or finance joint public relations activities.

Of course there are also other forms of solidary transfer between the individual house and housing projects. For example, established projects intervene with loans in order to bridge financing gaps when a house is bought for a new project. Partly, already established projects also cover the initially higher administrative and office effort for the newly developing projects, or project partnerships have been formed. However, immaterial solidary transfer is just as important as material solidary transfer. This is reflected for example in a permanent exchange and sharing of knowledge among the projects.

Solidary financing models

No matter how much solidarity develops between the projects, this alone will not finance a house or housing project. The money, which the respective project cannot raise on its own, is borrowed from a bank. To

banks, financing real estate means taking a fairly calculable risk, provided that securities are ensured via an entry in the land register or even seizure of real estate. Furthermore, monthly rental revenues provide a very sound source of income.

As a rule, however, banks require proof of equity totalling around one third of the amount of financing needed. And since banks usually only lend money, the idea arose at an early stage to shorten the path between the provider of money proper and the project. Thus, for many years, sympathising private individuals or groups have been directly money to the house companies, ltd., directly, without taking the diversion via finance intermediaries. Not only does this reduce the cost of capital that has to be met and maintain rent at a tolerable level that allows planning as well. It also bridges the financing gap, for the money borrowed directly is accepted by numerous banks as a substitute for equity.

Furthermore, it enables the model of direct credit to provide people outside the project or the Tenement Syndicate with solidary support. Many who can afford it demand only a low rate of interest or make do without any profit altogether. Repayment of bank loans is performed not only via rental revenues but usually also via taking out new direct loans. This mode of debt rescheduling allows amortisation costs and hence also rent to be kept at a low level.

Of course direct loans are not without risk. House and housing projects are not banks, and correspondingly, they are not allowed to provide securities. Despite the notion of the syndicate having proven to be a successful concept so far, the failure of individual projects can never be ruled out.

Regional and international cooperation

In order to minimise the risk of the projects failing and to fill the constantly growing structure of the Tenement Syndicate with life, ideas and suggestions, contact, consultancy and communication centres have been established in some regions. These centres call themselves Regional Coordination. At the moment, they exist in the regions

- Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia
- Berlin-Brandenburg
- Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Bremen and Hamburg
- Nordrhein-Westfalen
- Middle Hessen, the Marburg and Gießen Region
- Rhine-Main
- Rhine-Neckar
- Baden-Württemberg, Region Tübingen and Stuttgart
- Baden-Württemberg, South Baden, the Freiburg Region
- Bavaria

At the same time, these centres also form the pillars of the Tenement Syndicate in the respective regions. They perform the voluntary consulting and supporting activities for newly developing projects and frequently see to the political participation of the house and housing projects in the region. In addition to working in Regional Coordination, it is possible to join cross-project working groups. There are thematic working groups addressing the situation of refugees, conflicts and social issues, the structure of the Tenement Syndicate and international cooperation.

Over the last few years, the latter have been processing more and more inquiries. Of course, the desire to create one to one copies of the model in other countries is confronted with different legal systems. Nevertheless, activists have started to initiate similar models in their countries in order to make houses unavailable for the real estate market and enable socially compatible housing. In France, the Netherlands and Austria, such models have already been successfully established. These projects, as well as those who have newly taken an interest in the concept in other European countries, are attending the members' assemblies of the Tenement Syndicate again and again.

The Syndicate model's attractiveness results from the individual design of the various projects. For one thing, the founding generation can define certain criteria within their project. Furthermore, the auton-

omy and self-administration of the project is always ensured. In addition, of course, there is the non-saleability of the real estate and cross-project solidarity. And with the model of direct loans, the Tenement Syndicate breaks the linking of investments with material values and the co-determination rights within the project.

Self-administration – non-saleability – solidarity

With the three-pillar model of "self-administration – non-saleability – solidarity", speculating with housing is confronted with something that can be concretely applied. The Tenement Syndicate has considered the many various problem fields of the housing market and the problems of putting a project into practice and has developed structural answers. Of course this structure cannot comprehensively answer all problematic issues, especially if they are on a personal level or lie in the future. The voluntary activists in the Tenement Syndicate fill the structure with life and respond, for example, to changes in the law.

One example of such a relevant reform was the reorganisation of the equity market as planned from 2014 on. The Syndicate would also have been affected by the new measures, since direct loans (as well as other forms of financing such as Crowdinvest) might no longer have been possible. At the end of the day, exemptions were established for social projects that continue to enable the model of direct loans. Such legal reforms bear the greatest risk potential for the Tenements Syndicate model.

Further information at
www.syndikat.org

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When the Government goes shopping ...

Cities and local authorities as pioneers of sustainable public procurement

BY ANNE NEUMANN

12

It is not only private individuals who buy products manufactured in global value chains. Government authorities do so too. This is a crucial aspect in achieving SDG 12 “Sustainable consumption and production”. For not only does the “public consumer” dispose of considerable power in the market. Using tax revenue also bears a special responsibility. It is for good reasons that in SDG 12.7, the UN Member States explicitly commit themselves to promoting sustainable procedures in public procurement. Legally, the procurement authorities now dispose of various options to link tendering to compliance with social and ecological criteria. In practice, however, this presents them with considerable challenges in correspondingly formulating requests for tenders and checking whether bidders really are fulfilling the criteria. Some local authorities are pointing the way forward with exemplary model projects.

Public procurement and sensitive products – the example of professional clothing

Each year, Germany's public contractors procure products and services worth an estimated 350 billion euros.[1] An estimated 58 per cent of the procurement volume is accounted for by the local authority level (cities, counties, rural communities), 30 per cent by the State level and 12 per cent by the Federal level.

Unfortunately, human rights and ecological minimum standards are regularly violated to a high degree (also cf. Chapter 8). In recent years, the debate focused e.g. on exploitative child labour in the natural stone industry or serious cases of forced labour in mining mineral resources for IT equipment.[2] Products bearing a particular risk of the ILO Core Labour Standards not being met in their manufacturing in "critical countries"[3] have since been regarded as "sensitive" in terms of legal principles governing public contract awards. As a rule, this affects textile products, paper products, information technology, food and timber products. Local authorities in Germany procure textile products e. g. as service and protective clothing for staff in green-space maintenance, builders' yards, public order offices and fire brigades. At State and Federal level, police and Federal Army uniforms are also relevant.

Structurally, the same labour law violations and lack of assuming corporate responsibility occur in the production of professional clothing as they do in the fashion sector. For example, in its studies Made in Morocco[4] and Made in Europe[5], the Clean Clothes Campaign demonstrates examples of violations of the ILO Core Labour Standards as well as further ILO norms in sewing factories: excessive, obligatory overtime prescribed at short notice, wage discrimination, prevention of getting organised in a trade union, precarious employment relations (no labour contracts, no social welfare insurance, short-time work contracts), wages well below the minimum living wage, severe health hazards. To give an idea of proof of serious ecological and social deficits at other manufacturing levels as well, the latest studies on the leather industry in India and Turkey coming from the project "Change your shoes" are referred to here.[6] The branch is marked by a considerable lack of transparency. Just like in the fashion branch, we can still not find any engagement across the board for the observance of human rights due diligence among the manufacturers of professional clothing, who usually also supply products for the public sector.[7]

The legal framework offers opportunities – practical implementation remains hesitant

Over the last few years, the EU and the German Federal Government have turned sustainability into a fundamental principle of public contract awarding. In addition, in several Federal States, laws on respecting collective agreements and public contract awards have been introduced explicitly obliging contractors working for the public sector to observe ILO Core Labour Standards and certain ecological standards when being supplied with sensitive products. However, the effectiveness of these regulations remains limited, since a mere self-declaration by the businesses concerned is usually accepted as an assurance fulfilling the provision. This need not have much to do with local reality. And yet there are alternatives. Often, procurement practice is not aware that a wide range of options exist to demand credible proof of compliance with sustainability standards that reach beyond the usual level in a branch. It is therefore important for individual, committed procurement authorities to point the way and develop models that are sound from a contract award law perspective. Here, the municipalities of Dortmund, Bonn,

1 The statement is based on an assessment in the context of the study Eßig/Schaupps (2016). In its estimate, the European Union assumes a total of 400 billion euros a year.

2 An overview of research on human rights violations for various product groups in public procurement is provided in the portal www.sachsen-kauft-fair.de of the "Entwicklungspolitisches Netzwerk Sachsen".

3 Often, the DAC list of developing countries and areas is taken as a base.

4 Piñeiro Orge/Sales I Campos (2011).

5 Luginbühl/Musiolek (2012); a portal that additionally provides film interviews with workers and further information: https://sachsen-kauft-fair.de/made-in-europe/.

6 In Germany, the organisations INKOTA and Südwind are involved in the project. The German versions of the respective studies can be obtained via the organisations.

7 Barski/Fincke/Wimberger (2016). All information of the Christian Initiative Romero on Professional Clothing can be viewed in the portal: www.ci-romero.de/berufsbekleidung/.

Figure 6
Integrating social criteria in tendering procedures

Social criteria used to be regarded as "extraneous" to the award. Today, they are seen as principles the award of a contract is based upon and can be established in various stages of the procurement process.

Bidder / Tender	Award	Full service provision
Specifications for tenders (§ 31 VgV)	**Tender assessment** (§ 58 VgV)	**Execution conditions** (§ 128 GWB)
Here, social criteria may be integrated as contractually agreed **performance criteria.**	Products that have demonstrably been produced in compliance with social criteria may be **assessed more favourably** here.	Here, social criteria can be demanded as **contractual conditions** with controlling and sanctioning options (for example in the format of phased declarations by bidders with targeted measures).

Cologne and Stuttgart have performed pioneering feats in the professional clothing area.

Pioneering municipalities point the way forward: Dortmund, Bonn, Cologne, Stuttgart [8]

In centralised tendering in 2015 for service and protective clothing for fire brigade, zoo and environmental authority employees as well as other institutions and facilities, the City of Dortmund considered social criteria in particular. The contract was awarded to a retailer whose manufacturers were able to confirm that they were taking credible steps to rule out violations of labour law in production, either via membership of the Fair Wear Foundation or with the Fairtrade Certified Cotton certificate.

In 2016, Bonn's green space authority ventured on applying a modification of the model developed in Dortmund in tendering for service and protective clothing. Items procured included cut-protective trousers, forestry jackets and winter vests. In addition to credible proof of observing the ILO core labour standards, compliance with further ILO standards was considered. In the procedure, agreements with two traders were reached on so-called targeted measures. They were bound by contract to compile a code of conduct and disclose the suppliers of their products as well as the results of a social audit. The result of tendering was very satisfactory. There were at least four tenders for all products demanded that met the requirements on all counts. Furthermore, the result

8 For all the examples referred to, the tendering documents as well as information brochures provided with the can be called up at the "Kompass Nachhaltigkeit": : www.kompass-nachhaltigkeit.de.

Table 2
Different tendering procedures

Depending on the purchase value, there are different tendering procedures. Social and ecological criteria can be applied in all of them.

Direct purchasing	Direct award / restricted tender	Restricted tender with call for competition / public tender:
▮ Purchasing products that have demonstrably been manufactured under fair conditions → guided by seal	▮ Only calling for tenders from companies that offer products that have demonstrably been manufactured under fair conditions → guided by seal ▮ Integration of ILO standards / including Fair Trade in tendering → e.g. as condition for execution of order, contractually agreed performance features or evaluation criteria	▮ Einbindung der ILO-Normen/ Kriterien des Fairen Handels in die Ausschreibung → etwa als Bedingung zur Auftragsausführung, verbindliche Leistungsmerkmale oder Wertungskriterien

demonstrated that the procurement of fair clothes need not necessarily be significantly more expensive. The difference in prices was a mere 3.2 per cent. However, in day to day practice beyond pilot projects, it requires a considerable effort to continuously check compliance with contractual terms. After all, whether the businesses really do meet all their commitments has to be assessed, and proof of the measures carried out has to be established and reviewed. This is why, in subsequent tendering in 2018, the procedure was adapted, so that it can now be integrated in all tendering procedures of the City of Bonn as a flowchart and a binary decision diagram.

The Cities of Cologne and Stuttgart then focused on a product group in which only little credible proof has been provided of complying with environmental and social standards: work boots and safety footware. Cologne's landscape conservancy and green space authority developed its own questionnaire for the assessment of measures by businesses to ensure their human rights and ecological due diligence. The City of Stuttgart subsequently integrated this questionnaire in a tendering procedure covering the demand for work boots and safety footware in almost all authorities.

Success factors: research and communication

In all municipalities, it was obvious that good internal research and communication was key to success.[9] Depending on the purchase value, there are different tendering procedures. All of them can be based on social and ecological criteria.

Just like with all other demands on products, procurers have to be well familiar with the market situation. In which products do which ecological and social problems frequently occur and should therefore be eliminated? Which credible verification procedures have been established for this purpose? Which measures can businesses also take where hardly credi-

9 Full details on this are published in FEMNET e.V. (2017).

ble verification procedures have so far been applied? Communication with civil society actors and other procurement authorities is essential in this context. In the cases referred to, two supporting organisations of the Campaign for Clean Clothes – the Christian Initiative Romero and FEMNET – have contributed knowhow. In addition, communication with the businesses in the respective branch is crucial. Once businesses recognise that their standing up for human rights also pays its way in terms of contracts, this will provide important incentives. In the municipalities referred to, so-called bidder dialogues were held for this purpose. They were well attended and had a considerable impact. Businesses, users of clothes, procurers and civil society actors hold roundtable discussions on what demands on the products and their manufacture are desirable, necessary and implementable. The aim is to create market conditions via steering of demand that does not punish committed businesses for implementing human rights due diligence via pure price competition.

Structural demands – the Federal and State Governments have to take action

In order to enable public sustainable procurement demands to be implemented at all levels of administration, the Federal and State Governments have to take action.[10]

1. **Procurers** must be regularly trained in sustainability topics, both in their initial training and in professional practice.

2. **Skills centres** have to be established in the authorities that concentrate knowledge and knowhow regarding sensitive products, credible proof and tendering-law sound, ambitious models.

3. The Government information portals **"Siegel klarheit"** and **"Kompass Nachhaltigkeit"** on credible proof regarding social and environmental standards have to be continuously maintained and extended.

4. **Tendering statistics** have to be established considering sustainability criteria. This is the only way to enable checks on whether targets have been reached.

5. Violations of human and labour rights obligations in global supply chains have to be recorded in the German **Competition Register** so that those responsible for procurement can easily assess whether there are reasons to exclude a business.

6. The Federal Government has to swiftly compile the step by step plan announced in the **"National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights"** to achieve binding human rights minimum standards in tendering law and provide a good example by setting concrete, scheduled objectives for contract awards for sensitive products in **Federal procurement** and giving account of progress.

Socially responsible public procurement is possible throughout the country, both at municipal, State and Federal level – this has long been demonstrated by good practice examples.

10 Also cf. CorA (2018).

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A wide range of strategies, from demonstrations to litigation, are being applied against climate change and those causing it.

Climate justice – how climate change conflicts are increasingly being settled in court

BY TESSA KHAN

Despite clear alarm signals, governments are lagging behind dangerously regarding necessary measures to achieve the goal of keeping temperature increases below 2°C and making further efforts to limit temperature rise at 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level. Reduction commitments so far result in an arithmetical increase in average temperatures of 3.2°C. This would mean a change towards a disastrous new reality for the poorest and most marginalised countries, communities and individuals.

Neither Agenda 2030 nor the Paris Agreement have created effective measures to hold governments to account when they violate their obligations. Despite or precisely because of this, more and more civil society groups are pursuing a new strategy in the struggle for more climate justice: litigation against the insufficient plans of governments to combat climate change.

It is difficult to exaggerate the threat that climate change poses to sustainable development, equal opportunities and respect for human rights. Rising global temperatures have already contributed to the unrecoverable loss of natural resources on which millions of people depend for their food security, their livelihoods and their wellbeing. They have caused serious droughts, floods, forest fires and mega-storms. Climate change intensified the force of Typhoon Haiyan. It is regarded as one of the most powerful storms in history and claimed the lives of around 7,000 people in the Philippines as well as having damaged or completely destroyed more than a million houses. It is reckoned that climate change will also result in an intensification of further risks such as a greater threat caused by vector-transmitted diseases[1] and deep-reaching stress for critical infrastructure.

In 2015, with SDG 13 and the Paris Agreement, the governments committed themselves to "immediately take steps to combat climate change and its impacts". In the two years following the adoption of this Agreement, the world experienced the so far highest temperatures ever measured[2], and extreme weather events devastated regions world-wide, such as the disastrous hurricanes Irma and Maria in the Caribbean and the deadly floods across the Indian subcontinent.[3]

Despite these clear alarm signals, governments are lagging behind dangerously regarding necessary measures to achieve the goal of keeping temperature increases below 2°C and making further efforts to limit temperature rise at 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level. Reduction commitments so far result in an arithmetical increase in average temperatures of 3.2°C[4]. This would mean a change towards a disastrous new reality for the poorest and most marginalised countries, communities and individuals.

Moreover, neither Agenda 2030 nor the Paris Agreement have created effective measures to hold governments to account when they violate their obligations.

A new approach

The enormous discrepancy between the commitments made by governments in the context of the climate protection agreements and their measures taken so far has led to a new approach to holding them to account: litigation at national level. Verdicts aimed to ensure that governments consider climate change in their decision-making processes – e.g. in authorising energy infrastructure – are nothing new. According to a survey, by 2017, almost 900 complaints had been lodged that had something to do with climate change in the widest sense.[5] But in there last few years, complaints have been on the increase relating to the systematic climate protection or adaptation plans of governments.

One of the most successful of these cases was litigation against the Government of the Netherlands in 2015.[6] The proceedings, initiated by a Dutch NGO, the Urgenda Foundation, and 900 individual plaintiffs, caused Den Haag Administrative Court to oblige the government to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent by 2020 compared to 1990 levels. In this case, the judges drew on the scientific insights of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), international political commitments and international law and Dutch civil law principles. They concluded that the Dutch Government was displaying gross negligence in its climate policy. The verdict and the campaign accompanying it brought about changes in the development of climate policy in the Netherlands forcing a new Centre-Right coalition to adopt one of the most ambitious climate protection packages in the EU.

Only a few months after the Urgenda case, a Pakistani farmer successfully lodged a complaint with the Lahore Supreme Court that the Pakistani government was not doing enough to limit the global impacts of

1 These are diseases transmitted by e.g. mosquitos or other "vectors"; the Editors.

2 NASA (2017).

3 King (2017).

4 Cf. http://climateactiontracker.org.

5 UNEP (2017).

6 www.urgenda.nl/en/themas/climate-case/

climate change and adapt to them. This was jeopardising the country's food, water and energy security.[7] The Court agreed with the plaintiff's argumentation and ruled that the Government had to fully implement its climate protection programme. Furthermore, the Court appointed a Climate Change Commission to monitor Government progress.

Since 2015, court proceedings have again and again been initiated against government climate protection measures and programmes perceived as insufficient. For example, complaints have been lodged in Belgium, Switzerland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Norway, India, Colombia and the USA. Legal argumentation in these proceedings is based on a series of principles of human, constitutional, environmental, civil and administrative law. In the USA, for example, 21 youths have brought the government to court because the Federal Government's policy is threatening the climate and violating their right to life, freedom and property.[8] Ten families from Germany, Portugal, France, Italy, Romania, Kenya, Fiji and the Sami youth association Sáminuorra are seeking to assert their basic rights, given climate change, and its threatening consequences, at the Court of Justice of the European Union. They are accusing the European legislator of violating their basic rights through the climate goals up to 2030, which are too weak. Their health, property, livelihoods and (traditional) professions as well as educational opportunities are affected by climate change.[9]

Court proceedings are also regularly being used to as an instrument to hold private sector actors – especially those in the fossil fuels industry – to account for their role in the climate crisis. At the request of Philippine citizens and international NGOs, the Philippine Human Rights Commission is currently examining the responsibility of 50 fuel corporations, including Chevron, ExxonMobil and Rio Tinto, regarding their contribution to the impact of climate change on human rights.[10] Saúl Luciano Lliuya has lodged a complaint with the Hamm Court of Appeal against energy utility RWE, arguing that RWE is emitting greenhouse gases that have led to glaciers melting in the Peruvian Andes and are consequently threatening this farmer's house and livelihood.[11] More than a dozen US-American counties and cities are suing against so-called "Carbon Majors" (corporations that together caused around two thirds of cumulative global carbon emissions between 1854 and 2010) for costs relating to adaptation to climate change. This also includes follow-up costs owing to rising sea levels and damage caused by extreme storms.[12]

The number of cases in which political responsibility and accountability of businesses knowingly contributing to the climate crisis is demanded is set to grow further in the coming years. Each year, the impacts of climate change are getting stronger and more acutely tangible. At the same time, our ability to assign specific events and impacts to anthropogenic climate change is becoming ever more sophisticated. These developments, together with growing public impatience regarding the gulf between words and deeds of politicians and chief executives of corporations, are making legal proceedings an ever more effective instrument to enforce measures against climate change.

7 Ashgar Leghari v Federation of Pakistan, 4 September 2015 (WP No. 25501/2015, High Court of Lahore).

8 Juliana et al. v USA et al, US District Court for the District of Oregon Case No. 6:15-cv-01517-TC.

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Box 3

A race against time – ahoy phasing out coal!

BY ANNA SCHÜLER

The German Federal Government appointed the so-called Coal Commission on the 7th June 2018. This committee seeks to outline a phasing out of coal for Germany and come up with proposals for structural transformation and its implementation in the regions affected. Phasing out what is the most harmful way to generate electricity for the climate has long been regarded as one of the key steps towards a globally just climate policy and the so-called energy turnaround. We urgently require a fair contribution on the part of those states and regions that are and have been most strongly responsible for the current climate crisis. Without a globally conceived, equitable climate and resource policy, we will burst the planetary boundaries.

However, it is also clear that phasing out coal could already take too long and come too late for Germany. In order to achieve the Paris Climate Goals by 2020, i.e. a CO2 reduction by 40 per cent, major coal capacities have to be switched off by then. Phasing out coal across Germany would already have to be completed by 2025. But so far, the coal corporations, investors and open-cast mining regions above all have stubbornly clung to coal and are refusing to take committed and urgently required action towards mitigation.

Berlin has gone a small step further. The Red-Green Senate has committed itself to coal being phased out "by 2030 at the latest". So by then, the city's remaining anthracite-fired power stations have to be switched off, and their capacities have to be replaced. At the same time, the renewable energy sources aimed at decarbonising electricity and heat generation have to be further developed – after all, Berlin seeks to be carbon-neutral by 2050. So far so good. But even in allegedly progressive Berlin, phasing out coal by 2030 would come far too late for the planet.

Of course a binding commitment to phasing out coal is a positive development for Berlin. Nevertheless, just like in the regions affected or in Federal politics, strong voices are required again and again to urge politicians and energy utilities to take swift action. One such voice is "Bündnis Kohleausstieg Berlin". The active climate, environment and divestment groups are involved in our campaign.

We have above all established networks at local level, are mobilising urban society and are seeking to pressurise politics and energy utilities. We draw red lines and organise human chains in front of the city's coal-fired power stations, organise a major demonstration on the River Spree, in front of one of the power stations, together with the raft communities, and encourage urban residents to locally engage in combating the particulate and nitrogen gushing plants in their districts. For local coal combustion bears much greater threats to human health than was previously assumed.

Furthermore, we again and again point out to politicians in Berlin that they have to be more ambitious and must not subordinate the wellbeing of the city as a whole to particular economic interests. Of course our action is also rooted in the conviction that the climate crisis has to be seen as a global topic. Using coal has a direct impact on the livelihoods and living conditions of people in Germany and Europe as a whole, but also beyond our continent and in the Global South. Furthermore, coal mining must not go hand in hand with human rights violations, as is the case e.g. in Russia. We are therefore linking our local campaign against coal in our urban district with the struggles of people worldwide and in the extracting countries.

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Ocean clean-up underway on the shores of Kerala, India.

Traditional knowledge in marine protection

ROBERT PANI PILLA IS INTERVIEWED BY MARIE-LUISE ABSHAGEN

The Indian state of Kerala has 590 km of coastline and is among the most biodiverse places in the world. For centuries, people of Kerala have lived of the ocean and its rich fishing grounds. Similarly to many other places worldwide, increasing industrialization and global marine pollution are threatening the ocean and the coast. Consequently, not only the marine environment but also the cultural identity and means of existence of many coastal communities is endangered. In order to prevail the region's uniqueness and people's livelihoods, local activists and organizations are working to strengthen the political and public awareness of the ocean and its meaning for the lives of people. The inclusion of coastal communities and fisheries is and integral element in marine protection as shown in the work of Friends of Marine Life.

Why did you get involved in marine protection?

My father and elder brothers are traditional fishermen. In my youth, they went to fish in the sea facing my village, looking for rocky reefs, and brought back a lot of fish. I noticed that most local fishers caught pelagic fish in their daytime forays; but experienced fishers like my father worked at any time, day or night, depending on the season, and caught many different kinds of fish. They told me about the places they went to fish, the seabed there, and nuances of fish behaviour.

After my school days I worked in an NGO engaged in research, training and organisation in the fishing sector. I could work closely with many fisheries scientists and watch how they worked. The turning point came when I could compare traditional and scientific knowledge.

Artisanal fishers have a deep traditional knowledge about the seabed. I later documented bits of their knowledge and started focusing on conservation activities. They know the sea, they caress its delicate marine environment, negotiating their way over the rocky reefs, protecting these features.

Can you explain what Friends of Marine Life is and does?

Friends of Marine Life (FML) is an indigenous coastal community voluntary organisation that aims to safeguard the marine biodiversity and coastal ecosystems services in South India. For some years, FML has been undertaking seabed ecosystem studies with a team led by experienced citizen scientists, marine biologists, scuba divers and coastal youth together with the support of indigenous fishermen.

The main purpose of the organisation is to safeguard the marine biodiversity and coastal ecosystems services in South India. FML is also engaged in documenting and sustaining the traditional and local knowledge of the coastal communities in India especially in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Under seabed studies, we have so far covered the Gulf of Mannar, Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu, Trivandrum and Quilon districts in Kerala, around 2,000 square kilometres of near inshore and up to 43 meters depth of the sea area. As part of the Ocean literacy programs, we conduct photo and video exhibitions in schools, colleges and other academic institutions and also, we publish our findings through media as a part of dissemination of our activities. Most recently, in a response to UN Sustainable Development Goal 14, FML undertakes some activities in

South India which includes marine debris clean-up and ghost net removal drives, capacity building of the fishing community through SCUBA diving training.

FML has an interdisciplinary, inclusive and collaborative working group to oversee the objectives of the voluntary commitments. This group initiates, recommends and reviews the organisation's action plans and progress. It consults partner organisations, indigenous community members, government officials and other stakeholders to make appropriate decisions. FML governing body supervises the decisions, actions and responsibilities undertaken by the working group. It ensures collaborative and participatory decision-making and accountability.

What does it make different to other Marine Protection projects?

FML uses scuba diving to study the marine environment, document it, and initiate knowledge-based action for conservation. Recent FML activities such as marine debris clean-up and ghost net removal were aimed at generating public awareness about marine conservation, and rampant plastic pollution – serious issues that warrant an urgent response. In contrast, much of the ocean research in India is laboratory-based. Even the rare field studies of corals and seaweeds are often limited to the shallow waters under 15 metres depth. The scientists seldom study the livelihoods of artisanal fishers.

How do you include fishermen and local communities in marine protection? Why is this so important? Do you do any training for them? Does this have impact on more than marine protection?

All FML studies on the marine environment are indigenous and local knowledge-based. It is the artisanal

fishers who encouraged us to learn more about the seabed. Our experience shows that the knowledge, experience and presence of the local fishing community are very important in conserving the marine environment. In this context, FML provides scuba diving training for members of the coastal community. Free divers, students of fisheries sciences, and citizen scientists are part of this initiative.

Today there is no representation of the fishing community in the Coast Guard, Coastal Police or marine enforcement agencies. Our capacity-building programmes aim at securing jobs for local youth in such agencies. FML could include trained scuba divers in marine conservation activities such as marine debris clean-up and ghost net removal, and in seabed studies.

What makes the aspect of doing marine ecosystem studies using oral history so relevant? What are the stories being told?

FML's experience shows that members of the artisanal fishing community have better knowledge and experience in certain parts of the marine environment, such as the seabed. We need to document this knowledge. FML takes this need into account in our oral history initiatives. For instance, the seabed lying adjacent to the district of Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala state of south India has 100 rocky reefs that are potential fishing zones. The fishers know this environment very well. FML personnel document this knowledge, visit the field sites, and confirm the presence of the reefs using traditional methods. We can prove that the knowledge of the artisanal fishers in this field is unique.

Does it match your academic findings? What is the status of the ecosystems in your region? And is there a chance to better their conditions through FML's activities?

I am a citizen scientist. Therefore it is the job of the scientific community to compare our knowledge with that of academic findings. Unfortunately scientists in India are rather dismissive of citizen science. The total lack of knowledge on the local marine environment in our curricula highlights this negative attitude. It is FML that first brought out underwater visuals of areas that support fishers' livelihoods. People are just about getting to know about the environmental problems that affect these livelihoods.

Our ocean literacy programmes are expected to bring about a change for the better. In our area, two years of dredging for a harbour has destroyed about 30 rocky reefs. An ecological impact assessment that preceded these activities did not include information about these reefs. Had these studies used traditional and local knowledge this would not have happened. FML now concentrates on the capacity building of the coastal community and maximum documentation of the seabed features. Besides, we promote ocean literacy. These two activities will contribute to better conserve the local seabed.

How are your activities received by politicians and government? Do you see a lack in regulation or political awareness of this issue? Do you already see any changes in society and politics? Or are they on the contrary trying to back your activities?

When we presented our findings to the local governance bodies we realised that it is for the first time that they were becoming aware of the features and problems facing their own coastal waters. Because of this lack of knowledge, there has been no effective legislation on conservation of the marine environment. Politicians and policymakers do not know much about the marine ecology, so they sometimes get confused while making decisions that affect the coastal and marine environment. In this context, FML needs to play a very important role in creating awareness. It is, however, a positive sign to see some officials are committed to the cause of environmental protection, and they take marine conservation seriously.

What is the next step? And what would be the biggest obstacles to your work? And where do you see limits?

We aim to continue our actives more vigorously. Scientists, policymakers, and politicians have not included marine conservation into the development agenda of India. We do not expect a top-down approach to include the knowledge, experience, and talents in development projects. Organisations such

as FML play the important role of learning about the marine environment and conserving it. Through indigenous and local knowledge systems link knowledge with action in conservation. Voluntary groups engaged in this field do not receive adequate encouragement or support. That is the biggest obstacle that FML has been facing.

Things are changing. I could represent FML in the 2017 UN Ocean Conference[1] and give a presentation about our work with support from the German NGO Bread For the World. We hope to get more such opportunities.

Robert Pani Pilla
is founder and Chief Coordinator of Friends of Marine Life (FML).

Marie-Luise Abshagen is Policy Officer on Sustainable Development at the German NGO Forum on Environment and Developement.

1 Cf. https://oceanconference.un.org/.

Under the motto “Offene Höfe Dreiskau-Muckern”, UferLeben organised an information day for the local residents.

After the coal

UferLeben e.V. is campaiging for ecological tourism in the former lignite coal region

BY ANNA GEUCHEN

The Leipzig New Lakelands is a region that is partly still evolving from the former lignite coal-mining areas south of Leipzig. From the beginnings of lignite coal mining to the early closing down of the open-cast mines in the 1990s, the region underwent massive socio-economic and ecological transformations. The intensive changes and experiences that these brought about have strongly shaped both nature and residents up to this day. The Verein UferLeben is campaigning for increasingly commercial tourism to be developed in an ecologically sustainable manner in order to conserve natural habitats that have only just begun to recover.

The re-naturalisation of the Leipzig New Lakelands

In the course of the re-naturalising and re-cultivating of the lignite coal-mining area south of Leipzig, 18 lakes have evolved from the remaining open-cast mining pits that are to fill up over the next few years and decades, will partly be linked by canals and are to have a total water surface of around 70 square kilometres. The environment is intended to be developed as a balanced landscape consisting of nature conservation areas, leisure and recreational zones and traditional agricultural and forestry land.

The Störmthaler Lake is a successful example of this process. Whereas Espenhain, which is also the name of the open-cast mine located there, was regarded as the dirtiest place in the GDR in the 1960s owing to its high levels of environmental pollution, the area has since turned into a local recreational area. Following corresponding brownfield redevelopment and re-naturalisation, flooding the remaining pits created the Störmthaler Lake, which, through favourable succession, now once again provides a habitat for plants and animals, including rare and protected species such as the sand martin, the red kite, the marsh harrier, the common stonechat, the common skylark, the lapwing and the sand lizard.[1]

Intact ecosystems form the basis of a healthy environment and are vital for human life. They provide clean drinking water, clean air, the conservation of biological diversity and food security, and they have a balancing effect on temperatures. As CO_2 sinks, ecosystems also make an important contribution to climate protection. Thus the Leipzig New Lakelands represent an example of how an exploited and ecologically severely damaged region can once again be turned into an intact habitat. However, long-term conservation depends on a sustainable use and maintaining of the landscape. Since 1994, the Lausitzer und Mitteldeutsche BergbauVerwaltungsgesellschaft mbH (LMBV) has been responsible for the restoration, administration and sale of the property and legacy of the disused lignite pits. It is represented by the Federal Ministry of Finance and is fully owned by the Federal Government. Out of the 107,000 hectares of property, two thirds has been sold to new users with the aim of "reintegration in the natural and economic cycle, also in order to create local employment".[2]

The legal basis for the brownfield redevelopment of the former open-cast mines is provided by the Mining Act and the Saxon brownfield redevelopment framework plan as well as the provisions of European and German environmental law.[3] The "lignite coal plans define spatial planning framework conditions for the development of a post-mining landscape that is typical of the region, can be used in many ways and is safe", with the plans chiefly being oriented on a subsequent use of the land in the interest of an economic and settlement structure.[4] Therefore, in addition to the lakelands and the nature conservation areas, cropland as well as wind and solar parks have been developed. The accompanying moving in of people and young families has revitalised the local communities.

Conflicts of interest and the founding of UferLeben e.V.

With the Störmthaler Lake becoming more and more attractive as a local recreational resort, tourist numbers increased as well, and lake and lakeside development began. Hotels, guesthouses, roads and cycle-paths were provided, and local public transport was improved. In order to enable a wide range of leisure activities, the focus was set chiefly on water-tourism activities: yachting harbours, (motor-) boat hire, jet-skis, diving and surfing schools and excursion boats. Beaches were also created. Various actors compete to use available space: tourism companies, holiday resorts, sports clubs and real estate businesses. The lakesides in neighbouring areas have already been concreted over by investors. With its (as yet still) green banks and (almost completely) preserved natural environment, the Störmthaler Lake remains a positive exception.

1 The re-cultivation of post-mining landscapes is a complex process consisting of various mutually conditioning factors and observing legal provisions. Detailed information on the ecological development of the Lausitz and Middle German region is provided in the study by Landeck/Kirmer/ Hildemann/Schlenstedt (Eds.) (2017).

2 Cf. www.braunkohlesanierung.de/braunkohlesanierung/lmbv/.

3 Cf. Regionaler Planungsverband Westsachsen (2002).

4 ibid., p. 4.

The focus of the regional development strategy has shifted from re-naturalising the landscape to a profit-oriented tourism industry. Preserving thriving nature and biological diversity that has just been reclaimed has to make more and more room for economic objectives also promoted by politics. Result-oriented dialogue with residents and their effective participation in planning and using the Störmthaler Lake did not take place or at least did not have any outcome – despite the inclusion of the residents still having been an essential element for the compilation of the restoration plan.[5]

Ultimately, the conflict potential between the actors rose, with residents' interests, community interests and business interests confronting one another. There was no noticeable willingness on the part of official political representatives to take moods seriously, hear what residents had to say and involve them with a view to finding solutions. The lake's economic potential and further tourist industry development it offered following the old pattern dominated.

In order to counter these developments, residents of the Dreiskau-Muckern community founded the UferLeben Störmthaler See e.V association in May 2017.[6] Their aim was to show what kind of citizens' participation they desired, and they sought to create awareness that tourism involving interested and committed citizens could lead to significantly more sustainability and to strengthening the region as a whole. The association's overarching goal is to campaign for an ecologically sustainable development of the lake area and establish this objective in the political development process.

The setting up of the association was prompted by the announcement that a large-scale campsite was to be created for 400 camping pitches in a ten-hectare area on the shores of the Störmthaler Lake in the autumn of 2016, with a bus service and a car-park right by the lake. An information event held by the mayor at the request of a citizens' initiative early in 2017 was perceived by the residents attending it as a "fake event".[7] Inquiries by residents were not answered in any detail, and they were just put off. Alternatives such as an environmentally compatible concept were not reviewed. Since then, the association has been concentrating and organising interests in order to provide political support at regional and local level for individuals seeking to assert their objectives. The association now has a membership of 65, and numbers are set to rise.

Wide support for more citizens' involvement and ecological alternatives for area use

In order to back its case, the association is opting for broad engagement and various activities involving the relevant actors, above all in order to raise its objectives at all political levels:

Developing alternative concepts: The association does not object in principle to the lake being developed for tourism, but it does regard protecting and conserving nature and the already existing community structures too little considered. Proactively, the UferLeben e.V. members have worked out alternative proposals for nature tourism and are submitting them to political and business representatives for debate. A holistically oriented concept has been created for the ten hectares on the lakeshores that centrally integrates the local actors. (cf. Fig. 6).

Dialogue with politics: UferLeben e.V. has requested talks with politicians at local community, State and Federal level. This has resulted both at local and at Federal level in contacts with the responsible representatives. While both the independent mayor of the community of Großpösna and the Christian Democrat Member of the Federal Parliament lent a sympathetic ear, talks did not go beyond an exchange of views. So far, no serious efforts to implement the alternatives presented for environmentally compatible tourism have so far become apparent.

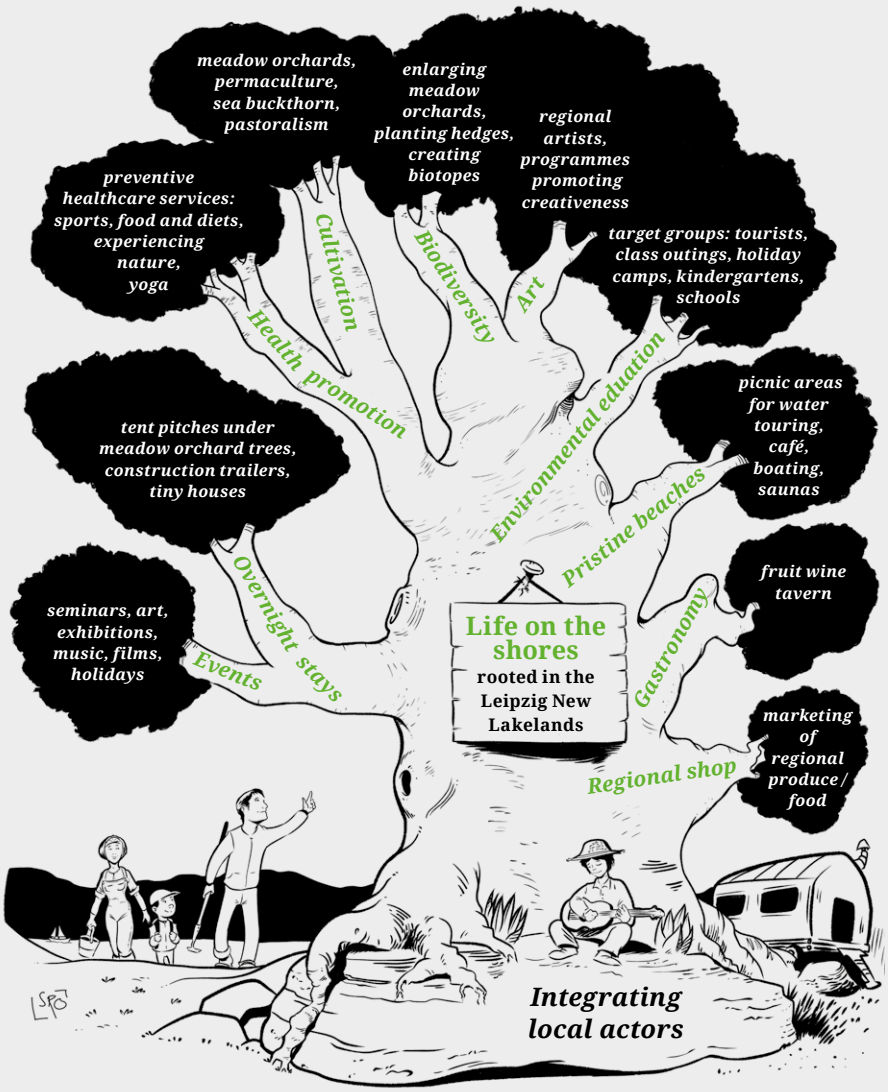
Citizens' participation: UferLeben e.V. has become actively involved in various citizens' participation

5 Cf. LMBV (2009), p. 7.

6 Cf. http://uferleben.de/.

7 Telephone interview with the founders of the association on the 9th July 2018.

Figure 7
A holistic concept for the Störmthaler Lake



Source: UferLeben Störmthaler See, reg. Ass.

procedures and has, for example, written statements on construction projects on the shores of the lake or on plans to revamp local public transport services to support new developments. With these alternative concepts, important civil society contributions are fed into the decision-making process. Nevertheless, it is again and again sobering for those involved not to receive any feedback on statements, inquiries and proposals. Thus they are now asking themselves whether participation is only perfunctory.

Information events: The association provides considerable capacities to public relations activities in order to present its objectives and the problems it addresses.

Efforts are made to persuade people to also campaign for a development of the lake that is oriented more on nature. In events such as nature walks, information evenings, or farmyard fetes, more and more local actors are becoming involved, too. This makes the diversity of sustainable consumption, farming and tourism more visible.

Network education and consulting: Cooperation schemes and partnerships concentrate interests, multiply resources, are a source of advice and, particularly for non-governmental organisations, can thus bring about a greater political impact. A relatively small and young initiative, right from its inception, UferLeben e.V. has been eager to involve as many local residents as possible. This includes both individuals and organisations or businesses. What they all share is the common goal of sustainable tourism and the conservation of ecological diversity. The supporters also include regional politicians, nature conservation associations, university professors, local restaurant and wholefood shop owners, craftspeople, service providers, artists and the eco-centre Borna-Birkenhain e.V.

Acquiring plots: The association's greatest concern is possible external investors whose ventures are oriented on financial value added while ignoring local ecological and social aspects. Unfortunately, the current framework conditions seem to be favourable for this. Tendering suitable area real estate is performed by the LMBV in a competitive bidding procedure in which, even in an alliance with other actors, UferLeben e.V. probably would not stand a chance. The initiative nevertheless seeks to acquire the plots that are for sale with its own land management.

Environmental education: UferLeben e.V. devotes a considerable effort to imparting ecological knowledge to tourists and residents. Education activities focus on local nature conservation, lake development and, given the history of lignite extraction, the energy turnaround that is in progress. In environmental education holiday camps, they are above all explained how fossil energy sources and climate change are linked, against the background of structural transformation in their own region.

Obstacles that association activities face

Both structural, organisational and conceptual factors are unfavourable regarding the achievement of the Uferleben e.V. goals. For example, there is no sustainability concept that defines the framework for handling the Störmthaler Lake.[8] Neither the Mining act nor the brownfield redevelopment plan contain programmes addressing a sustainable re-naturalisation of the ecosystems. They primarily serve the purpose of reviving land use in the sense of an economic and settlement structure. An imbalance is created between profit-oriented use and nature conservation efforts. The landscape, which already suffered destruction and has spent years of tedious recovery efforts, is threatened with new stress and pollution.

In addition to conceptual deficits, the association above all has a structural problem regarding a lack of transparency and insufficient consideration of citizens' interests. Local community politics does not open up to the democratic processes of negotiating with the actors who are actually affected. It avoids debates with and co-participation of citizens. Experience gathered by UferLeben e.V. in talks with those holding political responsibility creates the impression of perfunctory participation to the disadvantage of citizens and the environment.

In terms of its membership numbers, UferLeben e.V. is a small initiative that depends on voluntarism. Therefore, depending on the intensity of the project, capacities quickly reach their limits and allow the network's outreach to grow only slowly. The financial framework also limits the association's activities. Membership fees alone do not cover the cost of activities, so that the association has to rely on donations, financial support for projects and readiness to carry the costs itself.

Nevertheless, factors are recognisable that could bring about positive developments. For one thing, the initiative has been able to get organised and network with other actors within only a very short time. In the

8 While a "Charta Leipziger Neuseenland 2030" was introduced in 2015, the same tourism business is in fact behind it. Cf. www.charta-leipziger-neuseenland.de.

long term, the growing number of partners and cooperation schemes can ultimately raise pressure to act on politics and lead to more transparency through co-determination. The commitment of UferLeben e.V. demonstrates that civil society initiatives and projects are simply indispensable. They are a necessary corrective to profit interests and the use of land purely for business interests. Thus UferLeben e.V. is making an important contribution to maintaining and protecting terrestrial ecosystems – and hence, as a result, to implementing SDG 15 "Protecting, restoring and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems".

Further information and contact:
http://uferleben.de/

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Around 83,000 people "disappeared" during the civil war in Colombia.

Civil society as a driver of processes

Colombia and the Philippines as examples of inclusive peace processes

BY BIRGIT REICH, STEFAN TUSCHEN AND RICHARD KLASEN

When it comes to implementing SDG 16, i.e. the creation of "peaceful and inclusive societies", politics likes to think in big dimensions. Heads of state and government meet for peace talks integrating warlords and religious leaders. Traditionally, the military is also attributed a major role in creating peace. This logic suggests that it is necessary to provide the German Federal Army with more finance or allocating more development assistance to making the armies of third countries more effective. But numerous examples demonstrate that peace cannot be brought about "per decree", with a top-down approach. Two of them are Colombia and the Philippines.

These two countries are suitable for comparisons because peace processes have been underway in them for a long time. They are being attacked by various sides and interest groups. For example, reconciliation with the rebel groups is seen critically by the majority of society in both countries, while revolutionary splinter groups are countering peace efforts. In addition, with Rodrigo Duterte and Iván Duque, both countries are led by politicians whose attitude towards the peace process has to be seen critically. How does civil society in Colombia and the Philippines cope with this?

Colombia – peace and reconciliation from a grassroots level

In Colombia, tens of thousands of people are regarded as forcibly disappeared individuals. The National Center for Historical Memory[1] registered around 83,000 cases for the period between the outbreak of the conflict in 1958 and its ending in 2017.[2] For more than half of them, information is available on the actors involved in having them "disappear". Around a quarter are accounted for by various guerrilla organisations; in 75 per cent of the cases, paramilitary groups , state actors, or both acting in concert are responsible.

During the peace negotiations between the Santos government and the FARC guerrilla, MISEREOR partner organisation Corporación Colectivo Sociojurídico Orlando Fals Borda (Colectivo OFB) had campaigned together with other groups to find a way to deal with this massive level of having people disappear. In the context of the agreed "Integral System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition" [3], the 2016 peace treaty provides for the setting up of a "Special Unit for Tracing Disappeared Persons".[4] The corresponding decree had been signed by Ex-President and Nobel Peace Award Winner Juan Manuel Santos in April 2017. However, the special unit was unable to commence its activities owing to blockades in the Congress and for lack of a budget release before Santos's successor Iván Duque, an outspoken critic of the peace treaty, took office.

The processes initiating an investigation of making people disappear, which have been supported by civil society actors for years, are all the more important. In the remote regions, there are hardly any actors who have succeeded in establishing links at community level. Colectivo OFB has achieved synergies with citizens' committees, smallholder associations and other groups and can count on the communities trusting it. OFB is politically active at local and regional level in its endeavour to find the anonymous graves as quickly as possible. For this purpose, it is disseminating information on the search process among the remote communities and getting next of kin in touch with government authorities that look for and identify disappeared persons. The families are offered the opportunity to elucidate the fate of their disappeared relatives and are supported in contacting the authorities, in whom they often have little faith. Psychosocial support for next of kin is a further important element in the OFB approach. It includes communication and taking farewell together when the mortal remains of disappeared persons are handed over. In addition, OFB advises the families of next of kin on legal issues and assumes legal representation in national and international bodies e.g. when witnesses are admitted as witnesses.

At national level, the collective has made an important contribution to the Colombian judicial authorities commencing preliminary activities in investigating the situation of disappeared persons. New challenges are arising in the context of the transitional legal system. For the integral system to work, numerous institutions and legal principles yet have to be created, and above all, financing has to be released. Because the institutions created in the context of the peace agreement operate from the capital of Bogotá, direct access remains complicated for the victims. Thus local organisations such as Colectivo OFB remain extremely important.

From a methodological angle, interaction between information, legal and psychosocial support as well as political influencing has proven to be suitable to effect improvements in providing adequate care for victims and reducing impunity in cases of forcibly disappeared persons. OFB is making an important contribution to the peace process and reconciliation from grassroots level in Colombia and is simultaneously assisting in strengthening the rule of law and boosting respect for human rights. Supporting and accompanying cooperation between government authorities and the families of disappeared persons

1 Spanish "Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica"; cf. www.centrodememoriahistorica.gov.co/de/nationales-zentrumdes-historisches-gedaechtnis (in German).

2 Cf. www.centrodememoriahistorica.gov.co/noticias/noticiascmh/en-colombia-82-998-personas-fueron-desaparecidasforzadamente.

3 Spanish "Sistema Integral de Verdad, Justicia, Reparación y No-Repetición".

4 Spanish "Unidad especial para la búsqueda de personas dadas por desaparecidas en el contexto y en razón del conflicto armado"; cf. www.altocomisionadoparalapaz.gov.co/Documents/informesespeciales/abc-del-proceso-de-paz/abc-unidad-especialbusqueda-personas-desaparecidas.html.

opens up new opportunities to process the gruesome practice.

The Philippines – indigenous people caught between the fronts

Since Rodrigo Duterte became President, the peace process in the Philippine region of Mindanao between the government and the communist rebels has suffered a setback. After he had taken office in 2016, there was an approach between the two sides. Duterte himself had initiated further talks between the Maoist Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and their armed faction (New Peoples Army, NPA). After three rounds of negotiations at high level in Oslo and Rome, relations between the two sides at first seemed to be improving.

Both sides had declared unilateral ceasefires for the duration of the negotiations. But during the negotiations, locally confined, violent incidents perpetrated by both sides occurred while the negotiations were in progress. Moreover, the two sides were suspecting each other of merely taking advantage of the ceasefire to perform strategic preparations for further combat. In February 2017, the Philippine President ultimately declared a "war without compromise" against the communist fighters in the country. Shortly before that, the sudden cessation of the ceasefires had already led to the cancelling of the peace negotiations.

Armed conflict has above all meant suffering for the indigenous population. These people often get caught in between the fronts of the two conflict parties. Thus they are regularly accused by both conflict parties of supporting the respective other side. This leads to violent and deadly incidents and to entire village communities being driven away. At the same time, decades of structural discrimination against the indigenous population offers fertile ground for ideological doctrine and recruitment by the NPA.

Above all in the Caraga region, the Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst (forumZFD) works together with partner organisations looking after the needs and demands of the indigenous population. Based in the provincial capital of Butuan, the forumZFD team train civil society organisations and local communities in non-violent conflict management. The organisations learn how to cope with violent conflicts. Issues this involves include extracting natural resources (mining, forestry, land issues), which often forms the core of conflicts between government-affiliated combatants and rebels. The organisations intervene in local conflicts. forumZFD provides background support by accompanying them, offering consulting and running training programmes before and after contact with the conflict parties.

Although the work of forumZFD and its partners is too low-threshold and locally limited to attract the critical attention of the government, the project and its target groups are struggling with political, structural and legal problems. During the declaration of the "war without compromise", for example, members of the organisations cooperating with forumZFD were referred to as supporters of the NPA. Such attributes can be dangerous, and persons affected have refrained from taking part in project events.

The project's target group, the indigenous population, are struggling with structural disadvantages. "Indigenous people are marginalised in many ways," says Balazs Kovacs, Project Head of forumZFD in Mindanao. "This is true both in terms of economic aspects such as assets, income or land titles, their remote communities, cultural discrimination both by Christian and by Muslim cultures and upbringing and education issues. Often, indigenous people have no access to government-run schools, and the military sometimes views their self-administrated schools as training camps for the rebellion and attacks them."

At legal level, Kovacs complains of the antagonism between seemingly progressive legislation (de jure) and the country's regressive legal situation (de facto). "The Philippines have established one of the best acts on the protection of indigenous rights world-wide. But none of its laws have been implemented. In addition, poverty within indigenous communities, which has already been referred to, complicates their members' access to the legal system or to lawyers, and knowledge of laws and rights is at a very low level in indigenous societies."

Against this background, and given the intensity of armed conflict, the future of the peace process looks uncertain. The fact that large sections of the population and some of the politicians in the region support the peace processes gives some hope.

Civil society as a key to peaceful conflict management

According to SDG 16, "effective, accountable and inclusive institutions" are to be established "at all levels" in order to create peaceful and inclusive societies. The examples shown above demonstrate that here, it already makes sense to start at local level and integrate civil society. For when peace agreements are implemented, government institutions often enjoy little faith among the population or civil society – especially if the government itself was not present in remote regions in periods of conflict or may even have been acting as a conflict party itself. This does not lessen the duty and responsibility of the government to strengthen, support and accompany grassroots peace initiatives in particular.

This applies not only to action by (post-) conflict governments, but also to the German Federal Government. For example, Germany closely followed and supported the peace negotiations between the Colombian Government and the FARC Guerrilla. The Federal Government should therefore take a particular interest in the new Colombian government fulfilling its obligations resulting from the peace agreement. At the same time, the running of major bilateral peace programmes should not destroy the work of local grassroots peace initiatives. Germany should urge the Philippine Government to seek a revival of the peace process with the Maoist Communist Party and the NPA.

It would be a good thing for Germany to provide more support for peace initiatives of civil society actors in conflict and post-conflict countries. Tangible, sustainable and stable financial and political expanding of civil society peace promotion is needed to implement the peace dimension of Agenda 2030 in and through Germany.

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The financial sector is (just) one of several instruments with which a sustainable transformation of the real economy for the common good can be supported.

Sustainability through investment?

The FairWorldFonds and Agenda 2030

BY UTE STRAUB

With the signing of Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, the international community has taken important and urgently needed decisions regarding a more sustainable development benefiting the environment, society and the economy. Since then, the role of the financial markets, above all with regard to their role in steering capital flows towards a socio-ecological transformation of our economy and societal framework conditions, has also come to the fore in public debate.

On the investor side, more and more shareholders are giving attention to investing their assets in an ecologically and socially responsible manner. On the provider side, numbers of sustainable products or products labelled “green” are growing. Even on the part of regulators and standard setters, initiatives are developing under the catchword “sustainable finance” that are aimed at making financial markets (more) sustainable. The notion of what “sustainable” implies often varies considerably and is sometimes restricted to a single or just a few ecological aspects. The FairworldFonds can set an example of a coherent and systematic implementation of sustainability principles in the financial markets.

The FairWorldFonds

In 2008, the Lehman Bank's going bankrupt triggered a world-wide financial crisis that had a massive impact on the real economy and the chief burden of which was once again borne by the poorest of the poor in particular. The Südwind Institut and Brot für die Welt were prompted by this to intensively address the issue of how financial investments can be put to use effectively for sustainable development.

The notion of orienting financial assets on ethical criteria is not new and evolved long before the SDGs were conceived. Already in the 18th century, for example, Methodists started taking care that their capital was not invested in breweries, gambling or prostitution. In the 20th century, Quakers began not to invest in the arms industry or in states maintaining armies. For the Anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa, withdrawing capital from companies operating in this branch was a considerable success.

Fair trade had demonstrated that it was possible for international trade relations to be guided by ethical standards and thus enable thousands of families in Africa, Asia and Latin America to live in dignity. It was intended to transfer this model to the financial markets, and the notion of a "fair investment fund" came about whose investment policy was guided not only by ecological and social criteria but also by stringent development cooperation criteria.

Together, the Südwind Institut and Brot für die Welt drew up a catalogue of investment criteria based on the values of peace, justice and the integrity of creation. Exclusion criteria were formulated ruling out right from the start, for example, companies with particularly controversial products or business practices, such as the production of nuclear power, or countries systematically violating human rights. The idea was to move beyond such a do-no-harm approach and not only exclude the "worst" companies and countries but invest specially in securities making a positive contribution to sustainable development. For this purpose, positive criteria were formulated that particularly rewarded e.g. social and/or ecologically sensitive products such as water treatment plants, generic drugs or achievements scored by governments in combating poverty. With the aim of demonstrating that a financial product with high ethical standards can hold its own on the market, Südwind and Brot für die Welt sought partners to engage together in practical efforts to realise such a fund.

Launched by Union Investment, and with Bank für Kirche und Diakonie and the GLS Bank as retail banks, the FairWorldFonds has now been on the market for more than seven years and has impressively demonstrated that even in the stock market, profits and high ethical standards need not be a contradiction in terms. As a mutual fund that is open to all investors, the fund is subject to stringent regulation and only invests in selected asset classes such as company shares and bonds like e.g. government bonds and Green Bonds. Compliance with the criteria is monitored by a committee of development, human rights and financial experts. For every security that enters the fund, an independent institute draws up a detailed business profile and assesses whether the investment criteria are met. Once a company has cleared this hurdle, it can theoretically be adopted in the investment universe. In practice, however, almost every security is critically discussed in the circle of experts in the criteria committee for a second time. Only when a security has gained full credibility here is it adopted in the investment universe.

The criteria committee updates and develops the investment criteria on an on-going basis. Recently, the criteria for government bonds were reviewed and adapted regarding their compatibility with the SDGs. Since, right from its inception, the fund's investment criteria have been based on a comprehensive concept of sustainability, hardly any fundamental alterations were required for this objective (cf. Table 3). In a further step, the criteria for businesses will be adapted to the SDGs.

In the day to day practice of the fund, looking for a sufficient number of businesses meeting its requirements is a particular effort. On the one hand, companies must not violate the exclusion criteria and ought to contribute to sustainable development. On the other hand, they also have to fulfil the necessary market criteria (e.g. being big enough and hence eligible for trading on the stock market). But many listed com-

Table 3
Examples of FairWorldFonds criteria

Examples of criteria for countries

Exclusion criteria	Relevant SDGs
Systematic violation of political and civil human rights, economic, social and cultural rights and the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities as well as migrants by government bodies	  
Countries in which the basic principles of the rule of law are systematically violated and countries in which the death penalty is practised	 
High or rising income inequality	 
Disproportionately high arms expenditure	

Positive criteria	Relevant SDGs
Campaigning for equal treatment and support of developing countries in an international context (only for industrial countries)	 
Evaluation of measures to combat poverty and their effectiveness	 
Evaluation of measures to restrict arms exports and their effectiveness	
Expansion of the share of renewable energy sources in the energy mix	 

Examples of criteria for listed companies

Exclusion criteria	Relevant SDGs
Systematic violation of the ILO Core Labour Standards Systematic violation of human rights	  
Arms production	
Nuclear power production	 

Positive criteria	Relevant SDGs
Implementation of human rights due diligence in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; Creating and maintaining formal employment	  
Anti-corruption measures	
Science transfer to developing and emerging countrie	 
Treatment of supplier companies	
Tax compliance	 

Source: http://www.fairworldfonds.de/kriterien.php

panies, in particular, fail to meet transparency standards or criteria relating to working standards. For the criteria committee, this means that looking for new securities for the investment universe is often a very difficult venture.

With an investment volume of just below a billion euros, the fund has become one of Germany's largest sustainability funds. The market for ethical financial investments is booming as a whole, too. Alone in Germany, at an investment volume of around 172 billion euros, the sum of all sustainable financial investments has reached a new record level. Compared to the previous year, assets invested considering social, ecological and good management criteria grew by nine per cent.[1]

Investments and the real world

Even though investors display considerable willingness to invest sustainably, the growth of the market for ethical financial investments is again and again reaching its limits. The capital market can only be as climate friendly and sustainable as the companies in the real economy are. Every euro invested sustainably and in a socially responsible manner has to be reflected somewhere in the real economy.

In the case of the FairWorldFonds, funds management saw itself forced to temporarily stop the inflow of investments, so-called soft closing, in 2017. This means that no new share certificates were issued or no fresh capital was accepted. First, enough new sustainable business securities had to be found in order to correspondingly enlarge the investment universe and ensure that financial inflows were invested in accordance with the criteria. The fund has been open again since May 2018.

The exemplary development of the FairWorldFonds shows clearly that if one wants to provide fair investment options for the growing demands of investors for sustainable investments, a number of very concrete changes in the real economy are needed:

Regulating businesses in the real economy: As far as the real economy – and hence the only place where sustainability can be realised – is concerned, this means that businesses must at last have clear rules. Continuing to put one's faith merely in voluntary self-obligations is not enough. This has become clearly apparent over the last few decades. Here, both German and global politics are required to create binding sets of rules for businesses, such as legal provisions for the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (cf. Chapter 8).

Providing a binding definition of "sustainability": Shifting capitals flows towards more sustainable economic activities has to be backed by a common understanding of the term "sustainable". A uniform classification system and a uniform taxonomy within the EU would ensure clarity regarding which activities can be regarded as "sustainable". In spring 2018, the EU is publishing its Action Plan on Financing Sustainable Growth.[2] At the moment, this is the most important and most urgent measure of this action plan. With the aid of clear guidelines on activities that can contribute to climate protection and adapting to climate change, as well as on environmental policy and social goals, investors are provided with useful advice. Based on evaluation criteria, threshold values and parameters, detailed information is provided on individual branches and activities contained in them. This is an important step in supporting capital flows into sustainable sectors with a financing demand. In order to create more legal certainty, the EU taxonomy is being integrated step by step in the EU legal provisions. It is important that here too, sustainability continues to be established with its three dimensions of environment, social issues and economy rather than being reduced solely to "green" environmental aspects.

Closing the investment gap for sustainability: Ethical investment is an instrument that provides private investments for the benefit of sustainability. However, the current investment level is not sufficient to develop an ecologically and socially sustainable economic system and implement Agenda 2030. For example, in order to implement the EU climate

1 Forum Nachhaltige Geldanlagen (2018), p. 24.

2 European Commission (2018).

and energy goals by 2030, Europa would have to make up for an annual investment backlog of almost 180 billion euros.[3] The European Investment Bank (EIB) estimates that the annual investment backlog in the areas of transport, energy and resource management amounts to the staggering sum of 270 billion euros.[4]

More is needed to bridge this financing gap. It is up to politics to tap further financing sources. Good proposals are already there. Effective corporation tax and combating tax avoidance or the introduction of a financial transaction tax and meeting the 0.7 per cent ODA rate would be steps to take in this direction.

Investments alone are not the full answer: In order for humankind to remain within the planetary boundaries, it is not enough to complement our non-sustainable modes of production with a set of sustainable investments. Rather, incentives have to be created to completely replace non-sustainable modes of production with sustainable ones. Here, an initial step could for example be to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies as quickly as possible. Money saved in this way could then be used to get our economies onto sustainable paths instead of maintaining old, harmful structures. And it shows that sustainability need not always cost money but can also help to save it.

Initiatives with a comprehensive understanding of sustainability, such as the FairWorldFonds, can demonstrate in an exemplary manner that investing in sustainability is worthwhile. In order to enable the implementation of Agenda 2030 as a whole, further reaching measures in the financial sector, but above all also beyond the financial sector, are required. For ultimately, the financial sector is only one of several instruments that can support the necessary transformation of the real economy towards a sustainable economy oriented on the public good.

Further information at
www.fairworldfonds.de

3 ibid., P. 3.
4 ibid.

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GERMANY AND THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA | 2018

That's how sustainability works!

Civil society initiatives and proposals for sustainable policies

With the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the world's governments have set the framework for the global sustainability policies of the next twelve years. The agenda and its goals have the potential to shape German policies at the federal, state and municipal levels. They emphasize the need for changes within our country and at the same time Germany's international responsibility. Time and again, we find that the key for the success of the 2030 Agenda lies at the national and subnational levels. Instead of merely updating the results of the previous reports from 2016 and 2017 or getting bogged down in the continuation of processes, in 2018 the publishing organisations, networks and associations decided to draw attention to approaches to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Germany that have already been successfully realised despite inadequate political conditions.

In Germany and the Global Sustainability Agenda: That's how sustainability works! the authors and interviewees show how sustainability policy can be actively shaped or where it has already been put into practice. Initiatives from civil society and labour unions, but also measures at the local level and examples from other countries serve to illustrate this. We use these approaches to hold up a mirror to the political sphere. We show that sustainability is indeed possible – if the political will exists.

VENRO Verband Entwicklungspolitik und Humanitäre Hilfe

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GPF Global Policy Forum