

# DIVERSITY DOES WELL

Local Activity Programme Marzahn-Mitte 2007-2010



## » Foreword

## „Diversity does well“

Yes, it's right and could be seen by many people in the region Marzahn –Mitte during the last years; they could feel it and could have taken an active part in different manner!

As the Ministry for family, seniors, women and youth for more than four years ago started the preventive orientated Federal Programme “Diversity does well. Youth for diversity, tolerance and democracy” our regions’ advertising was positive voted and so we had a chance to be participated within the pre-procedure.

Representatives of the district and of Associations, initiatives and institutions of the district, as well as inhabitants, children and young people of the regions developed a lot of ideas and visions to realise concrete projects to organise a life together with more diversity, more tolerance and democracy.

They initiated meetings, which took part for a better understanding for other views and lifestyles. They created the framework conditions for taking and practising responsibility, especially children and young people got the chance to develop and realise their own projects. Together we collected experiences and had to realise and to understand that a good idea is only the beginning and up to the success of such a project it needs staying power, energy and force and the readiness for changing and modification of the projects.

We had a lot of fun, learned of each other, looked for new ways, were successful, lost the way, but arrived on unplanned ways at a better living together and had a better and more concrete knowledge about the strength and power of our region. All together we realised 53 projects at an amount of 450000,00 € grants within our action plan in the framework of Federal Programme Diversity does well in Marzahn-Mitte.



Dr. Manuela Schmidt  
Councillor of the district Marzahn-  
Hellersdorf for Family and Youth  
affairs

*Dr. Manuela Schmidt*

The existing brochure offers to you detailed information about the project work.

I thank all who took an active part in the successful realisation of the Local Action Programme Marzahn-Mitte.

I have the wish for all of us, that we will succeed in using the collected experiences and realised diversity as resource for the district and to foster lasting the developed network.

## » Diversity does well

## The Federal Programme “Diversity does well, youth for diversity, tolerance and democracy”

The Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth created on the 1st January 2007 the new programme “Diversity does well, Youth for diversity, tolerance and democracy” for a lasting fight against right-wing extremism, xenophobia and anti-semitism and for strengthening the educational-political and pedagogical work in this field. The first part of this programme dated up to the end of 2010. 19 million € out of the Federal budget were at the disposal for the realisation of the programme.

## What is the aim of the Federal programme?

Right-wing extremism, xenophobia and anti-semitism damage the democracy and endanger the solidarity within the society. So it is the aim of the Federal Programme to develop the understanding for the joint basic values and cultural diversity, to strengthen the respect of the human dignity and to struggle against every kind of extremism, especially right-wing extremism. It is a task for all forces of the society and stately institutions.

Here it will be the main task to strengthen diversity, tolerance and democracy as central values of the whole society and to convince especially children and young people in an early stage on these basic rules for a peaceful and democratic social existence. “Diversity does well” is situated within the preventative – pedagogical field, serves the shaping of political ideas and is directed on long terminated effectiveness.

The main point of the Federal programme “Diversity does well” was the development of local activity plans. With the help of such an instrument there were forced discussion processes for strengthening tolerance and democracy and about handling right wing, xenophobic and anti - Semitic phenomenon’s within the local context. The local activists had the responsibility on the decisions for the grants. Why: The readiness to action of the local activists is the main point how effective we are able to reduce right wing extremist influences.



The Federal Programme  
“Diversity does well, youth for  
diversity, tolerance and democracy”



All informations about the federal  
program:

[www.vielfalt-tut-gut.de](http://www.vielfalt-tut-gut.de)



Get more information about the programm and projects in Marzahn-Mitte.

[www.vielfalt-in-marzahn.de](http://www.vielfalt-in-marzahn.de)

### What does it mean- Local Activity Plan?

A local activity plan develops with concrete measures and steps a long termed strategy for democracy development in a fixed territory and in the mean time it strengthens the local network and communication structures. The main aim is to create long terminated unions against right wing extremism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism within the region by the inclusion of the activists on the basic on the way of a strategic acting for a strong democracy. Within such a Local Activity Plan act together the local responsible parties and the local representatives of the civil society – beginning from church up to associations, active citizens and young people. Every Local Activity Plan has an accompanying committee, members of such a committee are local authorities and in the majority representatives of the civil society. The committee develops strategies in the framework of thematic discussion and decides about the grants for the different projects within the four year lasting period.

### Target groups of the Local Activity Plan

Citizens of all age groups should be reached as activists for the realisation of such a plan for the region Marzahn-Mitte, especially people who are active and who are interested in civil work and acted for diversity, tolerance and democracy. Especially young people were interested in the process because of the content and themes of the different projects and took an active part within the realisation process with their own ideas.

A main point was to include emigrants and emigrants of German origin from the former Soviet Union States as target groups and to motivate them to take part in groups of different origin. This process needs longer times and must be promoted. The content is the cooperation of emigrants and native people, not the segregation.

The engaged activities, especially of the honoraries, were the most important precondition.

The development of social networks with citizens of all age groups of the part of town is always of main importance, networks which include not only young people and do more as to coordinate the acting of offices, associations, organisations, institutions and enterprises. The engagement of schools in the territory must be activated.

### The accompanying committee

The accompanying committee was the organisational head of the Local Activity Plan.

Within the Local Activity Plan act professional as well as honorary specialists of different institutions and have the same right to vote. Also the responsible officer for migration, the local coordination office of the Youth office and Polis (office for coordination against right wing extremism and xenophobia) had consulting voices.

The accompanying committee analysed the different problems of the district and the realisation of the different projects. On the base of the projects the annual continuation of the Local Activity Plan was realised.





Here we offer you different projects, which were realised within the last 4 years in the framework of the Local Activity Plan Marzahn Mitte by different responsible authorities.



#### Children act as mediators

The project children act as mediators was realised in the primary school Peter-Pan at Marzahn Mitte. 11 peoples from the 4th and 5th forms continued the conflict solving training up to the summer holidays.

Modules were among others:

- » knowledge passing and sensitization for the theme conflicts
- » reflection on the own conflict handling
- » basic techniques of the verbal and non verbal communication
- » procedure of constructive passing (media phase and its using)
- » ability for realisation
- » techniques for negotiation
- » position of the mediators
- » formulation of agreements and practical realisation in a role play

The basic idea of this project was that children took responsibility and helped each other by solving conflicts in school (and also after school). The conflict mediators act as Peer-mediators (children speak with children). The conflicts were solved on the base of clear regulations, so the conflict parties had the chance to explain their own views on the

conflict situation – without being interrupted or being insulted. Other important regulations were – the parties had to listen on each other carefully, nobody was attacked, the conflict parties spoke about themselves and nobody from outside got information of the conflict parties and that they seriously tried to find a solution solving the conflict. In the middle of November 2007 the team of mediators the first time acted in practise and they had the task to solve a “real” conflict and they were successful. The offer of the mediators’ team was at the disposal one or two times a week within the long break.

#### Participation in the part of the town (Action fond)

At the total 8 activities or events were realised within the action fond, which were coached by HAFEN – Centre for women, girls, female founders. HAFEN also realised the administrative work and the calculation of the whole project. Citizens of different age groups were requested to participate in public with different activities for tolerance and against xenophobia and right wing extremism, especially in the run-up of the election for the German Parliament. HAFEN used different events to motivate the citizen to participate actively. This was sometimes difficult to realise. But nether the less, they had also success. The family day with the visit in the Jewish Museum with a lot of participants and the following family workshop, the project “refugee helpers” and the project “chain of lights – against poverty and discrimination, for an unconditional basic income” of the protestant church community in the framework of the intercultural week shortly before the election for the German Parliament were good examples. Other good examples were the intercultural event in the club “Schalasch” and the Moon festival in the Kiezhaus Marzahn in the Vietnamese Meeting Centre LOTOS, these events had a large number of interested participants of this part of town.

The “Girl-Meeting Days” and the small project “Meetings– 365 days multicultural life” were initiated by young people and strengthened a living together in tolerance in the participating youth clubs.



The project was realised yearly on the base of different modules, in which to the young people were offered different fields for experiences. The project was qualified and enlarged in the period between 2007 and 2009. Beginning in the year 2009 trained Peer helpers took on the training of the new participants.



#### Peer Helper Training 2007/2008/2009/2010

Young people support young people is to understand as a long termed project with the main points in the out school education of young people, creating of networks and the qualifying and training of young multipliers. Such a project supports the readiness of young people to take over responsibility for themselves and others and safeguards lasting changes in the living together of the people in the part of town. The young people develop fairly long term new social contacts. In the project there were trained new forms of participation, of the understanding of democracy, education and personality strengthening.

The attempt of Peer helping was successful in the work with young downshifters of right and violent circles. Some young people found new orientations on the base of this programme. On the base of common experiences there were developed individual, case independent networks. Tolerance, esteem social manners, objectivity and liability were trained und strengthened. Young people in an age between 14 up to 22 took part in the Peer Helper Training.

Different themes young people are interested in were realised by experience-pedagogical and youth oriented methods as well as in open discussion circles and meetings.

The Peer-Helper Groups realised within the year the following training modules and contents, among others in experience-orientated holiday and week end camps.

- » first-aid courses
- » support for self support
- » anti violence training
- » seminars group relevant misanthropic
- » Methodology/didactic lessons
- » Lesson on nature and environment
- » Teamwork and group dynamic "Hot Chair"
- » Planning, realisation and calculation of youth projects

The regularly meetings of the crucial groups took place weekly. The content of the project includes such themes like: becoming acquainted with social institutions, becoming familiar with mediation, communication strategies, group stabilisation and strengthening, group processes, basic knowledge about methods for conflict for conflict solution. In talking groups they spoke about such themes like love, hate, mobbing, violence, extremism, recruitment of comrades, lobby work for the ideas "Peers" and mediators.

The mediators had in the Virchow-school their own room, they were responsible for it, and met there people, teachers and parents, who wanted to contact them. They participated in projects and events in the youth club "House of Meetings M3" and acted in their school, in the leisure time and within the region. After successful finishing the Peer Helper Training they got the youth leader certificate and the pass for voluntary work of the Berlin Senate.

The participants in high number and actively took part in activities of young people in Marzahn-Mitte for example in actions within the city part, in events for all generations and international youth change. The Peer Helper project was created in cooperation with young people knowing the concrete situation within the region and could be made concretely and specially for young people, so they were opened for the ideas and the contents of the Local Action Plan.

The idea of the project Peer-Helping and mediator training are very attractive for young people: they are directly combined with the interests of the young people and force the contact finding among each other and with other youth cultural groups. The participants learn in, for and with the group. The project has for all a personality forming and qualifying effect. They can use the knowledge in different other fields. Young people develop if they have responsibility for themselves and others. They realised the necessary efforts, that they have to be active every day, but also the feeling that they can influence processes with personal engagement and participation.



We want to thank the cooperation partners of the dropouts of right helpers of the Ministry for Justice of Lower Saxony, the Anti-violence centre Berlin (2008-2010), the Alice-Salomon High school (2007), the Youth hostels at Binz and Bad Saarow, the Youth club "Labyrinth" at Greifswald and the German Red Cross Bergen (Rügen) for the very good cooperation.

With this Biss-Mobil a meeting place without violence was created in the contact work with visitors, different inhabitants, children- and youth groups were contacted and they used the offers and acted together.



Consultation-, information-, sport-, and playing Mobil (BISS-Mobil) 2007/2008/2009

With the help of a person, who is well-known and accepted in the social area accepting dealings were lived and demonstrated. The mobile manner of the project offers a chance to find contacts to very different groups very easy. It made it possible to inform the inhabitants about the contents and to transport the ideas in the community.

The BISS-Mobil did on different repeating places contact closing and mediating work. The aim was to close the visitors by simple consultation and play offers, if possible to arrange for them contacts with consultation-, help- and leisure time institutions. A large cooperation with projects, institutions and initiatives within this region was necessary to reach this aim.

The specialists who worked with the project passed their knowledge on existing leisure time- and consultation offers and structures within the Region Marzahn Mitte to visitors, forced networks and initiated contacts with cooperating institutions.

During winter months a sport hall was used for consultation and playing offers at fixed times. So it was possible to continue the work and to strengthen the cooperation and existing structures.

In participating at part of town festivals, holiday activities and on other high lights of the region were created activity- and meeting places in addition to the places of the BISS-mobiles. It was created an over generation contact work. Young mothers with their children (especially from social poor families) got, after getting contact, good ideas for age equal playing. They were motivated to test these offers together.

The contacts were used to reflect in this context school and professional perspectives. If necessary there took place an imparting to consultation institutions or ordinary institutions, for example to the youth club XXL, the youth department, the education and family consultation.

Offers and contacts to single young men (for instance with drug- and alcohol problems) existed too, the specialists listened to them and if it was needed, contact to consultation offices was arranged and a first accompaniment to the supporting structures took place.

Besides that, there were organised contacts to children and other young people (for example with migration background); they got ideas for practicing sport and useful move orientated leisure time activities. Partly, we succeeded the children to integrate the children and young people in the existing structures of children and youth clubs in the region (like M3, FAIR, Offener Treff des DRK - open meeting place the German Red Cross).

The project was developed with the responsible institutions of the region and so it was possible to plan it methodologically and contently according to the concrete situation of the town part Marzahn-Mitte. The project existed on the base of the network- and cooperation structures and mainly influenced the character of the living together of the inhabitants.

Mobiles – social area- activation project 2010

The so-called Kiez-Mobil was situated with playing- and consultation offers on public places with the aim to organise direct contacts with the inhabitants. Sport activities and first of all playing activities or offers made it easier to organise common activities of the different generations, especially of young people. Persons who looked after the projects are young people who have passed the Peer-Helper-Training in the framework of the Local Activity Plan during the last years.

Community work, social region orientation in combination with democracy development are the main points of the project. At the same time it is the aim to organise a network with social institutions (for instance Youth clubs, kinder gardens and schools) and to use their existing resources for specific target groups. Activists of different inhabitants structures were activated in this way and at the same time being



They are very successful in organising contacts to children and young people. They also organise a large number of consultation offers which support a common living without aggression and violence in social focal points.



The aim of this project was to make the participants familiar with the views of Jewish, Christian and Moslem on specific religious and social questions. In the focus there were the common grounds of the three monotheistic religions in past and in our days. Real and supposed controversies were not left out.



enabled to act offensive and in a critical manner with the excluding mechanisms.

**Jewishness, Christianity, Islam – unifying and separating of the religions 2009**

Basic knowledge about each religion was mentioned in different events. In following events the participants discussed the religious and cultural content like the position of women in Jewishness, Christianity and Islam. On the base of the project the participants should have learned how many points of contacts exist between the different religions. Children, young people as well as adults, at first women of different cultural environments, should have made sensitized for this variety and should be encouraged to see the society with the eyes of people who have another religion. We succeed. We could realise a very good participation of representatives of different age and sex groups, groups of different origin on the events, like on seminars, workshops, city excursions, exhibition- and museum visits. Of special interest and productive was the difference of the participants concerning their cultural roots. (Intercultural women groups of ethnic German from Russia, German women and Vietnamese women, mixed children and youth groups with a large number of Vietnamese children).13 events and workshops were organised in the framework of this project.

**Compass Marzahn-Mitte- integration in neighbourhood 2008**

The main idea of this project was, with the help of the mother toque, to develop contacts with young men with German origin from Russia, who met at different places in this part of town. Especially young men should be contacted who were realised because of their violence and consumption of alcohol.

The project should have opened the interests, problems, but also ideas of the young people and contact to open offers in the part of town were developed. At the beginning the young Russian men of German origin were met on their meeting points and contacted in Russian language.

Very soon, the responsible person for the project succeeded in getting contact to these young people and discussed with them about their problems and wishes. They found their common interests in sporting events, music and party celebrating. The ideas were the input and existing facilities in the youth club “Meeting house M3” (fitness centre and sport hall) were used. Later they organised cooking courses, and talks about professional orientation as well as information events on law questions. Step by step the young men took part in the planning and organisation of the different events. Later they had the complete and concrete responsibility. They without assistance organised a sport competition with a group of young people from Moscow and took an active part in the preparation of the Christmas party in the youth club. They practised together sport, analysed the school day and discussed the problems several times a week.

Their interest in professional education and learning increased in this period. The project succeeded in interesting young people to practise useful leisure time activities. They became more and more active.

**Most/Orientacia (Bridge/orientation)**

The projected was continued in 2009. The responsible person for this project, a man of Russo-German origin, was respected by the young people.

A lot of small projects were developed, they visited international youth meetings at the “Mellowpark”, had meetings with Brazilian young people and organized excursions to Potsdam, in the Berlin surroundings, to Poland or on ecological themes. They discussed such problems like drugs, roll behaviour or racism. They also used the leisure time- and sport place Schwarzbürger Strasse, which is an area full of problems, under cooperation with the Gangway Association. The young people newly built a wooden small hut which was destroyed. The music group and also the sport group regularly had training lessons in the youth club “House for Meetings M3”.



Events took place, as well as adventure excursions, for instance in a sport camp, which opened the chance to meet German young people. So the participants had a chance to become familiar with tolerance and respect to young people with different origin.

» Public Relation Work

Success and effectiveness, as well as the transfer and the lasting of initiatives and activities like the Local Activity Plan need effective information about all the participants and about projects and concrete communication about results and successes. In the framework of the Local Action Alan 2008 a platform [www.vielfalt-in-marzahn.de](http://www.vielfalt-in-marzahn.de) was created on which the aims and results of all the participating projects at the Local Activity Plan Marzahn-Mitte are demonstrated. In cooperation with the projects and the coordination centre were collected information and photos which were published on the platform. So the platform supports with the information the knowing in public and the discussion of the project and aims of the Local Activity Plan and strengthens its over regional effectiveness.

A travelling exhibition demonstrates the projects of the Local Action Plan Marzahn-Mitte and supports the basic ideas of the wide und effective information of the public. The mobile exhibition was shown to Berlin inha-bitancies on the occasion of the Activity Day against right at the Alexander place in September 2008, at the open space “Fresh Air” and informed the accompanying committee for the Local Activity Plan as well as participants at different meetings and consultations and bodies of the district admini-stration of Marzahn-Hellersdorf and at meetings for citizens.

Flyers and posters strengthened the public communication of the aims and projects of the Local Activity Plan. A summary documentation introdu-ces the successes and experiences of the projects in detail.

» Conclusion

Conclusions drawn from 4 years Local Activity Plan Marzahn-Mitte

In a 4 years period 53 projects were realised in the framework of the Local Activity Plan, projects for children and young people, for families and neighbours, for inhabitants. The success of these different projects for strengthening tolerance and social integration was guaranteed by different contents, methods and sponsorship.

Good experiences and examples of different projects were collected and compared if the aim to analyse what basic contents and methods are especially successful. The effects the projects had were the main ideas.

It was very difficult to consult people who directly or indirectly were reached with the projects. They did´nt want to be asked. In realising the projects were developed new ideas for further work of the projects of the activists within and outside the part of town.



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