

Developing the adult education centre “Förde-vhs” into a third place/ a place for all - Kiel, Germany



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The pilot in Kiel is about developing the adult education centre (Förde-vhs) into a third place. Spaces for people to meet, socialise and connect must be created that are not tied to commercialisation. We believe this in turn promotes cultural, educational and social participation of all citizens.

Through the medium of this pilot project, the City of Kiel intends to increase the attractiveness of educational offers and make the institution itself more visible, open and adaptable to different user needs.

WHY | Purpose

The aim is to rethink public services and make the adult education centre more attractive and accessible to different target groups. The pilot, located in a heterogeneous neighbourhood, is characterised by a diverse building structure and population structure with a high number of single-person households. The pluralisation of society is visible here in all its facets. It is therefore important to create a space for interaction and education that is inviting and empowering for all.

Creating these spaces can empower the public by creating a non-commercial space that is easily accessible to all citizens and an open space for experimenting with new formats of participation and education. As an intangible benefit, education has the potential to have a long-term impact on citizens' lives.

For public services, this pilot project is an opportunity to work coherently between different departments and to gain new perspectives.

HOW | Field of Action

- The pilot will develop an existing public space using the Liveability principles. Existing strategies of the city of Kiel will be taken up further developed and coordinated - making public services more user-friendly, refining existing structures and public services, making the city administration more accessible, creating open learning and meeting places, including digital education.
- It will be in collaboration between two different departments within the city, thus strengthening cross-cutting cooperation within the public administration. An important part of this is to design new educational offers together with the citizens for tailor-made educational offers.
- The City of Kiel aims to increase the attractiveness of educational opportunities and make the institution itself more visible, open and adaptable to different user needs.

WHO | Actors

- Employees of the city administration,
- Adult education centre and the city library,
- Citizens from the neighbourhood and beyond,
- Civil society organisations and independent social services.

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"In our society more and more people are becoming isolated. However, we can only tackle the challenges of daily life and multiple crises if we unite and support one another. That's why it's crucial, now more than ever, to create inclusive spaces where we can gather and connect with each other."