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How sustainable is sustainable urban planning in Hamburg?

M1-Project: Project description

The global trends of rapid urbanisation, environmental degradation and climate change urge cities worldwide to become more sustainable environmentally, economically and for the good of their inhabitants. The development of sustainable cities requires new models for production and consumption of resources and necessitates innovative ways for organisation of the urban functions and infrastructures. The transition to a sustainable urban future is thus largely influenced by the manner cities are planned and managed. It significantly depends on the ability of cities to create conditions to maintain the balance between short-term needs and long-term desired outcomes of high quality of life, competitiveness and sustainable environment. Keeping this balance is particularly challenging for big metropolitan cities which face growing inflow of people, concentration of economic activities and environmental problems. How should the further development of metropolitan cities be planned and managed in a way that reduces their negative land-use and ecological footprints and enable them a sustainable future?

Looking for answers of this question the M1-Project will study what principles should be considered when planning and implementing sustainable urban developments in metropolitan cities. The project will focus on the city of Hamburg as one of the fastest growing metropolises in Germany. In recent years, Hamburg has seen extensive new and re-developments on large urban areas and has signed an ambitious programme for provision of large amounts of new housing stock in the years to come. In how far are the implemented and planned urban developments sustainable

in terms of mixed-use, accessible green spaces, social mixture, etc.? What means sustainable planning for Hamburg and is this already a reality or still a distinct future goal?

In the course of the term the project group will have the task to:

- study the current discussions on the planning of sustainable cities and why it is important to plan cities in a sustainable way;
- develop a catalogue with main principles and requirements for the planning of sustainable urban developments. The catalogue should be based on the study of literature sources and best practices from Germany and abroad and should be completed with findings from talks with planners from Hamburg;
- apply the developed catalogue in selected recent urban developments in Hamburg and analyse in how far the different principles and requirements have been considered during the planning of these urban developments. The students are free to select the area(s) of analysis. It is recommended to focus the analysis on development projects that have been seen as “sustainable” by policy-makers in Hamburg;
- develop and discuss recommendations on how the principles for sustainability could be better integrated in the future planning of urban developments in Hamburg.

Formalities:

The M1-Projects in the Master Program of Urban Planning at HafenCity University are interdisciplinary result-oriented group projects. They promote team work, self-organization and discussion skills and focus on analysis and conceptualization of a current urban topic as well as the cooperation with practice partners. The achieved project results are summarized in a final presentation and in a written project report.

- Project group: Max. 7 students
- Project language: English
- Requirements: Presentation and written project report
- Number of ECTS: 10 ECTS
- Supervisors: Galya Vladova, Prof. Dr. -Ing. Jörg Knieling
- Time and venue: Mondays, room 3.101