

FUTURE FORMATS FOR THE REGION

Paths into the mobility transition and out of the climate crisis

26.02.24 – 27.02.24

Speakers' Brochure



Kai Lipsius, Head of Green Capital Agency, City of Essen

Kai Lipsius has been Climate Commissioner for the City of Essen since 2012. Since 2018, he has headed the Green Capital Agency of the City of Essen as a staff unit of the Department of Environment, Transport and Sport. He previously studied geoecology at TU Braunschweig and environmental sciences at Nottingham University. During this time, the Green Capital Agency coordinated the “Modal Split 2035 Action Concept” and implemented the BMBF joint project “Be-MoVe” with real-life experiments for the mobility transition. Prior to this, he gained five years of experience in the Climate and Energy Department of the Federal Environment Agency.

Foto: © Stadt Essen Moritz Leick



Simone Raskob, Vice Mayor of the City of Essen for Environmental Affairs, Traffic and Sport

Simone Raskob has been an alderwoman for the city of Essen since 2005. She is head of Division 6 for Environment, Transport and Sport. She was also the project manager of the “European Green Capital – Essen 2017” for the City of Essen. She graduated with a degree in landscape architecture from the Technical University of Munich and worked as a landscape architect in Kolding, Denmark, from 1986 to 1988. She then took over the project management of the Landesgartenschau Pforzheim in 1992. Until the beginning of 1995 she worked for the International Building Exhibition Emscherpark and was at the same time Managing Director of Ökozentrum NRW GmbH & Co. KG in Hamm.

Until 2001, she was responsible for the Planning and Building Department in Göttingen and was also Managing Director of the Society for Economic Promotion and Urban Development. She then managed the business of Wasserstadt GmbH in Berlin and Société de Développement AGORA s.à.r.l. et CIE in Secs, Luxembourg.



Dr. Björn Ahaus, City of Essen, Green Capital Agency, Project Management Be-MoVe

Dr Björn Ahaus has been a project manager for mobility in the Be-MoVe project at the Green Capital Agency of the City of Essen since 2021. Previously, he worked as a research assistant at the KWI Institute in Essen and Ruhr University Bochum in the field of social science climate and participation research since 2008 and completed his doctorate on the topic of “Urban agents of change for social innovations in sustainability”. Among other things, he worked with the City of Essen on the participatory project “Beweg Dein Quartier” (Move Your Neighbourhood), which developed project ideas for the mobility transition in the northern part of Essen's city centre together with citizens. Before his time at the City of Essen, he was one of the initiators of the citizens' petition “RadEntscheid Essen”, for the continuous expansion of the cycle path network in Essen, which collected around 25,000 signatures in 2020 and was adopted by the Essen City Council in August 2020. He lives with his family in Essen.



Cornelia Perthes, Greta Schulte-Eversum, Markus Schürmann – residents in Essen-Holsterhausen

In “normal” life, we are a translator, a psychotherapy student and a mechanical engineer and have no points of contact with urban development projects. We have lived in Holsterhausen for many years and, motivated by the BeMoVe project “Stadtterrassen” in 2022 and the workshop in the community centre, we decided to start our own project. The dreary Gemarkenplatz square, which lacked any quality of stay in our neighbourhood, was to be used in a completely different way for 10 weeks. The core elements were to open up the square to pedestrians, give it a strong colour makeover, organise activities on the square and involve a local primary school in the design of the elements.



Dr. Klaus Kordowski, Be-MoVe Project Team “Open Bardelebenstraße”

Klaus Kordowski is the father of a nine-year-old daughter who goes to Bardeleben School in Essen-Holsterhausen. Like many parents at the school, he was concerned about the dangerous traffic situation in front of the elementary school and the neighboring grammar school. Together with two committed mothers from the parents' association, originated the idea of the “Open Bardeleben Street” – and as part of the Be-MoVe project, the temporary trial of a school street became a reality in cooperation with the City of Essen (and with the help of many parents!). Encouraged by the great response, the project team now wants to work towards a permanent implementation and thus make the routes to school in the city a little safer. Klaus Kordowski's main job is as a project manager in the field of climate protection at the Mercator Foundation and is committed to the sustainable design of the mobility sector, among other things.



Thomas RÜth, Head of Department for Outpatient Youth Welfare, Crime Prevention & Neighbourhood Development, Caritas-SkF-Essen gGmbH

Thomas RÜth was born in Essen in 1962 to a family of miners. The multiple German rowing champion and member of the national rowing team initially worked as a coach in Essen, later also abroad, including in Japan.

Thomas RÜth studied social work at the University of Essen and began his professional career in 1989 as a qualified social worker at the Essen AWO. In 1997, he founded the youth welfare network in the north of Essen. The approaches to neighborhood work and crime prevention developed by Thomas RÜth have attracted attention far beyond Essen's borders. Close cooperation exists with Berlin and Bremen. The institution has also attracted considerable interest abroad. There are contacts with universities and police authorities in Russia, England, Israel, the Netherlands, Turkey and France.

The Federal President honored the institution for the integration of immigrants. The Minister of the Interior/NRW awarded the prize for internal security. Thomas RÜth has been employed by Caritas-SkF-Essen gGmbH as Head of Department for Outpatient Youth Services, Crime Prevention & Neighbourhood Development since 2021.



Estelle Fritz, Gemeinsam für Stadt Wandel ("together for the transformation of the city")/Transition Town Essen

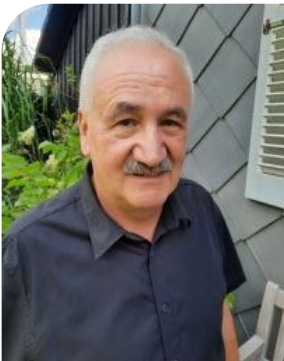
Estelle Fritz began her voluntary work for climate protection and sustainability in 2015 at Transition Town - Essen im Wandel in the "Films for Change" group, which she still helps to organise at Essen's adult education centre. In 2020, she and 15 other initiatives from six of the city's nine districts founded the Green Lungs for Essen alliance, which has been campaigning for climate resilience and climate adaptation in the City of Essen ever since. At the suggestion of the alliance, for example, a website for cooling locations in the City of Essen, which was also created with citizen participation, will be launched in the near future for the needs of Essen residents on hot days, and a pilot project with free sun cream dispensers in swimming pools will also bring the topic of "heat protection" into the everyday lives of citizens. The preservation of green spaces, forests and protected landscape areas as the basis for transforming the City of Essen into a sponge city and a shift in building policy towards preserving the existing tree population as a resource for cooling and shading is particularly important to the alliance. Since 2020, Fritz has also been part of the core team of the civic network "Gemeinsam für Stadt Wandel Essen" (Together for Urban Change Essen) with over 40 Essen initiatives for climate, environmental protection and sustainability, where she initiates and coordinates joint, cross-initiative projects and campaigns, such as the "Garden of Children's Rights" on Essen's Burgplatz.



Simon Knur Initiative für Nachhaltigkeit e. V., c/o Fachgeschäft für Stadt Wandel (Initiative for Sustainability)

As an association, we are active with numerous projects in the Ruhr region. Starting with the specialised shop for urban change in Essen or the Velokitchen in Dortmund, we as an association offer a basis for the topic of sustainability. We have been operating the first "free cargo bikes" in Dortmund and Essen for around ten years and are co-initiator of Essenerlastenrad.de together with ADFC Essen. With the Be-Move project, we were able to fulfil the demand for a rickshaw rental option, which can now be borrowed by citizens from a base in Essen-Holsterhausen and enables engagement. Previously only children could be taken along, but now there is also an option for adults.

Quiet, clean and electric, "E.Rika" enables participation for people with disabilities.



Wolfgang Packmohr, FUSS e.V. board member, DVR board member, HSPV NRW lecturer

As a professional association and pedestrian protection organisation, FUSS e.V. has supported BeMove projects from the very beginning. In addition to the demand for road safety and walkability for pedestrians, the association stands for quality of life in neighbourhoods – **for walking towards one another.**

Kopstadtplatz in the centre of Essen was converted into a pedestrian zone in the 1990s. The fact that the square was opened up for parking at night and at weekends deprived this area of meaningful uses. As part of the BeMove project, the permit for parking was cancelled and a special use was granted.

Active members of FUSS e.V. have built and planted raised beds and created seating in co-operation with Cafe Konsumreform. In addition, a number of events (children's festival, music newcomers, swap meets) were organised. Neighbouring residents and business people, as well as passers-by, used the square as a meeting place. Based on the experience of the project, the square now remains exclusively a pedestrian zone.



Dr. Carsten Gerhardt, Chairman Wuppertalbewegung e. V., (Wuppertal Movement)

Carsten Gerhardt studied theoretical solid-state physics, Anglo-Irish literature and economics. As a management consultant with EY, he works in a wide variety of industries with a focus on sustainability. Carsten is chairman of the Wuppertalbewegung e.V., the initiator of the Nordbahntrasse, a 20km walking, cycling and inline-skating track on a former railway line. Since 2020 he has been committed to positioning the wider Rhine-Ruhr area as Circular Valley - a region in which globally leading solutions for a Circular Economy are developed.



Gregor Schnittker, IKU_DIE DIALOGGESTALTER

I am familiar with the topic of mobility from various perspectives. Professionally, through my many years as a journalist for the editorial offices of WDR and ZDF, and since 2019 as a moderator and consultant for the Dortmund participation office IKU_Die Dialoggestalter. In addition to many other projects, we are also involved in the process of developing the mobility plan for the city of Essen. We are also familiar with the challenges in the area of mobility and climate issues from other cities and of course – and this must be the direction – their solution strategies. The topics of the conference are also widely discussed in the private sector. Here I benefit from the impulses of my four children, who remind me on a daily basis how urgently we need answers and realisations for the current tasks in the area of sustainability. As the child of a mining family, I also feel a deep biographical connection to the Ruhr region. I am 54 years old, a passionate cyclist and tennis player. When time allows, I write books about football and its fans and enjoy sitting in the stands myself at the weekend.

Foto: © Ralf Schultheiß



Thomas Kufen, Lord Mayor of the City of Essen

Thomas Kufen was born in Essen in 1973 and trained as an office administrator in his parents' company, where he worked for a total of nine years. In 1989, Kufen joined the CDU, where he has held various positions over the course of his political career. Most recently, he was Chairman of the CDU parliamentary group on Essen City Council. From 2000 to 2005, Thomas Kufen was a member of the North Rhine-Westphalia state parliament, and from 2005 to 2010 he was Integration Commissioner for the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia. In 2012, Thomas Kufen rejoined the North Rhine-Westphalia state parliament as a member of parliament, where he was the energy policy spokesman for the CDU state parliamentary group and a member of the CDU state parliamentary group's executive committee until 2015. Thomas Kufen has been Lord Mayor of the city of Essen since 21 October 2015 and is currently Chairman of the North Rhine-Westphalia Association of Cities and Towns.



Oliver Krischer, Minister of the Environment, Nature and Transport of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

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Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Noll, Chairman of the Zollverein Foundation

Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Noll, born in Datteln in Westphalia, has been Chairman of the Board of the Zollverein Foundation in Essen (Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site) since 2018.

He has been a lecturer at the Institute of Geography at Ruhr University Bochum since 1989 and an honorary professor since 2001.

In September 2020, he was elected as a CDU member of the Association Assembly of the Ruhr Regional Association (RVR) and is Deputy Chairman of the Association Assembly (Ruhr Parliament).

In his academic and professional career, Prof. Noll has dealt intensively with the structural change of the Ruhr Region and internationally with the transformation of old industrial areas and is an expert in the redevelopment and reactivation of former mining and industrial sites.



Prof. Dr. Christian Holz-Rau, until 2022 Head of the Chair of Transport Engineering and Transport Planning, Faculty of Spatial Planning, TU Dortmund University

The topic of climate protection in transport began for me as a student in a research project at the TU Berlin and has been central to the four decades of my professional life – as a scientist in Berlin, as the owner of a planning and research office, as a university lecturer in spatial planning in Dortmund, in many committees, advisory boards and in the Research Association for Roads and Transport. Many scientists have campaigned for climate protection in transport in recent decades. Nevertheless, the climate impact of transport today is significantly higher than it was back then. This leaves me with two main questions: Why have we failed so badly? Or is there perhaps still something that can be done?



Wolfgang Aichinger, Project Manager Urban Mobility, AGORA Verkehrswende

Wolfgang Aichinger has been working for “Agora Verkehrswende” since spring 2017. He studied spatial planning and is primarily concerned with topics that have a strong connection to public spaces (such as parking management, bicycle traffic and urban freight transport). He also focuses on projects that deal with the successful communication of the transport transition. From 2011 to 2014, Wolfgang Aichinger worked as a research associate at the German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu). Among other things, he worked on the National Cycling Plan, designed training courses to promote cycling and conducted research on commercial transport and electromobility. Since 2014, Wolfgang Aichinger has worked as a consultant for the “Verkehrsclub Deutschland VCD”.



Anne Klein-Hitpaß, Head of Mobility Department, Deutsches Institut für Urbanistik gGmbH (German Institute of Urban Affairs)

Anne Klein-Hitpaß has headed the “Mobility” research area since July 2021. Her research focuses on the urban transport transition. Her work focuses on issues relating to parking space management, land redistribution and the promotion of eco-mobility, as well as the necessary changes in mobility behaviour. She worked as a research assistant at Difu from 2009 to 2016. She has many years of experience in the field of transport and mobility research. From 2016 to 2021, she worked as project manager for “Urban Mobility” at Agora Verkehrswende, previously at the Institute of Transport Research at the German Aerospace Centre and at the Social Science Research Centre Berlin.

Anne Klein-Hitpaß is also a member of advisory boards, e.g. the Advisory Board for Climate Protection in Mobility of the BMDV and the Climate Protection Council of the State of Berlin. She regularly moderates and organises seminars and conferences.



Prof. Ellen Enkel, Department for general business economics and mobility, University Duisburg – Essen

Prof Dr Ellen Enkel is Professor of General Business Administration and Mobility in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Duisburg-Essen. With over 11,000 citations of her scientific publications, Prof. Enkel is one of the recognised international experts in innovation management in mobility.

Her research focuses on topics such as technology acceptance (e.g. the spread of electrification) and social justice, as well as the trust and trustworthiness of artificial intelligence. Prof Enkel is strongly committed to the transfer of research results into practice.

She also acts as a board member and spokesperson for the MOTION Institute, one of the largest research institutes for mobility research, a network of 12 departments with 14 professorships and 160 employees. Ellen Enkel is also a member of the board of the City of Science Essen, on the advisory board of the InnoCam NRW network and chairwoman of the BMBF's research cluster jury and an expert on networks and open innovation processes at the EU Commission.



Udo Sieverding, Head of Department VII -Mobility of the Future, cycling, Public Transport, Ministry of the Environment, Nature and Transport of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

Udo Sieverding studied geography in Münster. From 1998 to 2023, he worked at the NRW consumer advice center in the field of energy, mobility and climate protection, most recently as Head of Energy and member of the management board. In March 2023, he took over as Head of the Department of Future Mobility, Cycling and Public Transport at the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Transport of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.



Piotr Rapacz, policy officer/coordinator, European Commission, DG Environment, unit Unit C.3 – Clean Air & Urban Policy

I'm Polish, living in Brussels and working in the European institutions since 2005. I've been dealing for the most of this period with a sustainable transport policy – first railways, then urban mobility, including cycling. I was responsible, among others, for drafting the New EU Urban Mobility Framework (in 2021), the revised EU concept of Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning (SUMP) and the European Declaration on Cycling in 2023. Last year I moved to DG Environment where I'm dealing with urban environmental aspects and initiatives, including the Green City Accord. I hold a degree of international relations from Jagiellonian University in Kraków. Married, one son, one daughter, one cat.



Harriet Tiemens, Directeur, Groene Metropoolregio Arnhem-Nijmegen, The Netherlands (Nijmegen, European Green Capital 2018)

Currently at the head of the Dutch city region Groene Metropoolregio Arnhem-Nijmegen, Harriët Tiemens puts her extensive experience in the fields of climate adaptation, circularity and biodiversity to use, to develop the region as a prime national and international example in sustainable and green urban development. In the past years Harriët Tiemens has built an excellent European track record. For example, by heading the campaign for the City of Nijmegen to become European Green Capital 2018 but also by being a recognized contributor to European and international conferences like COP, EURESFO, POLIS and Velo-city.

Tiemens studied Environmental Science at Saxion University of Applied Sciences and Public Administration at Leiden University.

She is a member of the political party GroenLinks (GreenLeft) and was Deputy Mayor for the City of Nijmegen from 2014 to 2021 and Deputy Mayor for the city of Rheden from 2007 to 2014.



Juan Carlos Escudero, Head of Mobility and Data Science Unit, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Juan Carlos Escudero-Achiaga is Head of the Mobility and Data Science Unit at the Centre for Environmental Studies of the Vitoria-Gasteiz City Council (CEA), a public body responsible for implementing and promoting innovative strategies in sustainable urban planning, environmental information and mobility. He has coordinated the development of the city's Sustainable Mobility and Public Space Plan and is supporting the city council by formulating innovative pilots to shape more effective urban policies. Other milestones in his career include several EC-funded research, development and innovation projects and technical cooperation projects with UN-Habitat and UNEP in European, Asian and Latin American cities. Also with UNEP, he coordinated the Vitoria-Gasteiz Global Environmental Outlook. He is member of the European Commission's Expert Group on Urban Mobility and was member of the technical committees in charge of the European Green Capital and Global Green City candidatures. He holds a degree in Technical Biology.

Simon Labouret, Project Director / Public Space Development Mission, Grenoble, France (European Green Capital 2022)

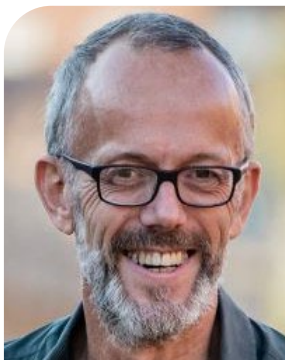
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Dr. Christine Wilcken, Deutscher Städtetag, (Association of German Cities)

Dr. Christine Wilcken heads the Department of Climate, Environment, Economy and Fire and Disaster Protection as a member of the Association of German Cities. The Association of German Cities is the largest municipal umbrella organization with the special feature of 200 direct member cities. All large independent cities are direct members of the Association of German Cities, as are many large and medium-sized cities belonging to districts. Christine Wilcken has a doctorate in law. She was previously Head of the Office of the Chief Executive of the Association of German Cities. She represents the Association of German Cities in numerous associations and institutions, such as the Association of Municipal Enterprises, the Federal Association of Public Services, the German Institute of Urban Affairs and the German Tourism Association. Christine Wilcken is a lecturer at the University for Sustainable Development in Eberswalde.



Filip Watteuw, First Deputy Mayor, City of Ghent, Belgium (online participation)

Filip Watteuw is deputy mayor in Ghent (pop. 270.000) since 2013. His focus is on Mobility, Public Works and Urban planning. In 2017 he implemented the '*Ghent circulation plan*', a plan that fundamentally changed mobility in Ghent. The share of cyclists in all trips increased from 22% to 35%, car use fell markedly, air quality improved (NOx -18%) and the number of traffic accidents decreased by 30%.

Before he became deputy mayor, he was chairman of the Greens in the Flemish Parliament (2009-2013) and councilor in Ghent since 2001. He has a Master in Urban Planning and Regional Development and a Master in Criminological Sciences. His favourite quote is 'Nothing compares to the simple pleasure of riding a bike'.



Trude Rauken, Senior Advisor International Climate Collaboration, City of Oslo, Norway

Trude Rauken is a senior advisor on climate to the City of Oslo, with a particular responsibility for leading Oslo's work on international climate collaboration. In 2022, she put her city hat back on after four years with the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance, where she served as Deputy Director and Interim Director. Prior to joining CNCA she was with the City as well, and prior to that she worked as a senior researcher at CICERO Center for Climate Research. Trude brings expert knowledge on the role of local government in solving climate issues and she says that "the world is local" whenever she gets the chance. She holds an MSc in Political Economy from BI Norwegian School of Management and a BA in Journalism from the University of Oregon.



**Katja Ojala, Project Manager Cities mission pilot, Lahti, Finland
(European Green Capital 2021)**

Katja Ojala is a seasoned mobility and travel professional with +25 years of expert and leadership experience spanning from early career travel management and tour operators to mobility start-ups in diverse industries like mobility-as-a-service and micromobility. In her current role, she leads the Sustainable Commuting City Pilot in Lahti, Finland. The purpose of the project is to innovate ways to decarbonize commuting in co-operation with local and regional case organizations and their employees.

Before joining team Lahti, Katja led the operations of a mobile bike service start-up Yeply, whom she joined from Tier Mobility. Before bringing e-scooters to Finland, Katja was leading the international partner network of a Finnish digital start-up MaaS Global.

Katja likes to keep on the move also in her spare time, enjoying the Finnish nature across all four seasons.



Mika Kulmala, Project Manager, City of Tampere, Finland

Project Manager Mika Kulmala works in the urban environment development unit in the City of Tampere. His areas of responsibility include traffic lights, traffic management, ITS systems and Smart Mobility. Mika Kulmala is a member of the ITS Finland board and chairman of the ITS Factory Management Team.



Stefan Kuczera, Deputy Planning, Ruhr Regional Association

Stefan Kuczera, born in Dortmund in 1982, is responsible for regional development and mobility planning at the Ruhr Regional Association. He studied spatial planning at TU Dortmund University and completed his traineeship in urban planning at the Cologne district government. Since 2011, he has worked in project development for renewable energies and most recently headed the NRW branch of a medium-sized project developer. From 2018, he initially headed the property and building construction administration at the Ruhr Regional Association and was elected as an alderman in 2020.



Niklas Börger, Managing Director, Rhine-Ruhr 2025 FISU Games gGmbH

The 38-year-old Master of Business Administration graduate can look back on extensive experience in the planning and implementation of major sporting events. Since December 2022, Mr Börger has held the position of Managing Director for Rhine-Ruhr 2025 FISU Games gGmbH, where he is responsible for the strategic management and operational implementation of the organisation. Prior to this role, he headed the "WUG25" project group in the NRW State Chancellery.

Prior to this, he was a long-standing project manager at the Ruhr Regional Association, where he was responsible for the organisation, implementation and financing of the Ruhr Games, among other things. In this role, he worked closely with local, national and international partners in the fields of sport, youth culture and event organisation.



Axel Biermann, Managing Director, Ruhr Tourismus GmbH

Since 2008 has been Axel Biermann a full-time Managing Director of Ruhr Tourismus GmbH (RTG) and Chairman since 2023. After completing his studies, the geography graduate was Managing Director of the Saarburger Land e.V. tourist office and then Managing Director of Tourismus & Marketing Oberhausen GmbH for over ten years. In addition to his professional activities, Axel Biermann has repeatedly lectured on cultural tourism at the University of Paderborn, Harz University of Applied Sciences, Wernigerode University of Applied Sciences, Bad Honnef International University of Applied Sciences and ISM in Dortmund. He is also deputy chairman of Tourismus NRW e.V. and a member of the following committees: Marketing Committee of the German National Tourist Board (GNTB), Tourism Committee of the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK), Tourism Policy Working Group of the German Tourism Association (DTV). He is born in Stuttgart, he is married, has a grown-up son and lives with his wife in Oberhausen.



Matthias Mühlen, Head of Sustainability / CSR, VfL Bochum 1848 GmbH & Co. KGaA

Matthias Mühlen is Head of the Sustainability/CSR department at VfL Bochum 1848. The business economist has been working at VfL Bochum 1848 since 2017 and is responsible for all topics relating to the sustainability strategy and social commitment. He is also involved in various national and international networks. He is currently a member of the "Working Group Sustainability" of the European Club Association (ECA).

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