

# EUROPEAN FUTURE FORMATS

Results, modes of effect and shared features of European future formats – based on the Ruhr Metropolis example



Foto: ©Aochen Tack

## IMPRINT

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» Green Capital does not mean that we are already living in a green paradise, but it is an important milestone. «

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The conference ›European future formats. Results, modes of effect and shared features of European future formats – based on the Ruhr Metropolis example‹ foregrounded in December 2017, at the end of the successful project year of European Green Capital, relevance and impact of different formats.

The title of ›European Green Capital – Essen 2017‹ has been awarded by the European Commission to the City of Essen as a European city that has demonstrated high environmental standards and consistently pursues ambitious targets to further improve environmental protection and sustainable development.

The ›European Future Formats‹ conference was a highlight of the past title year, and aims to showcase the processes of change that have taken place in the Ruhr Metropolis over the last thirty years. The Ruhr Metropolis serves as an example and role model for the world's many growing and changing conurbations. The different models, typologies and results were considered, analysed and discussed during the conference. The wide range of participants as well as topics from science, politics and administration can be found in the documentation that is now available.

The ›Essen Declaration‹, adopted during the conference, supports further cooperation within various European future formats. In December 2019 we will pursue this idea and have a look at the current developments of the Green Decade and I am happy to cordially invite you to take part in this discourse.

Yours sincerely

Thomas Kufen  
Lord Mayor of the City of Essen

## Greeting

**Anke Brummer-Kohler**

Federal Ministry for the Environment,  
Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety



» Nothing ventured, nothing gained – this adage applies to urban and regional development too. If you aren't open to new initiatives and don't support change by spurring on your city and region, you miss out on opportunities. Essen and the Ruhr Metropolis have ventured quite a bit in terms of future formats in the last 30 years, and gained a significant image boost as a result. But successful change, be it economic, social or cultural, can only work if all the stakeholders play a part. Municipalities, provinces and citizens must actively support the process of change. Topics such as digitalisation, the ageing population, the development of the environment and resources, and migration pose new challenges and require a new set of priorities for urban and regional development. Affordable housing, sustainable mobility and climate protection – these are the challenges that need to be addressed in cities. «

## Greeting State NRW

**Ina Scharrenbach**

Ministry of Home Affairs, Municipal Affairs,  
Construction and Equality in NRW



» The City of Essen appropriately completed its year as Green Capital by hosting the ›European future formats‹ congress. It showed that apart from the visible success achieved in the environment and climate, overarching questions must also be addressed: What effect do international formats have in the long run and how can we use them for regional developments? As the first former coal and steel industry location to be named European Green Capital, Essen was called upon to put these questions on the agenda. Because here and throughout the Ruhr Area, all parties know that structural change can only be a success when carried out together. Cooperation is the key to success: between cities and counties, between communities and state, with business and academia, with non-governmental organisations and not least with the members of the public.

The conviction that we can only shape the future together will continue to determine political action in North Rhine-Westphalia. The end of the hard coal mining industry in 2018 is a memorable date, a historical reminder, so to speak, to take an active lead in economic and ecological development. This is another reason why we paved the way for the next big format, the International Horticultural Exhibition in 2027 in the Ruhr Metropolis. This is a great opportunity for the region to dynamically continue structural change and to further improve the quality of life for its people. «

## Introduction

### Simone Raskob

Councillor for the Environment, Construction and Sports of the City of Essen



All over the world, the 21st century is the century of towns, cities and metropolises. By 2050, seventy percent of the world's population will be living in towns, cities and urbanised metropolises. These are the location for economic developments, innovations and education. At the same time, the majority of our resources are being consumed in the conurbations in the form of food, energy and goods.

The Ruhr Metropolis has undergone an enormous process of change over the last 20 years: The move away from the coal, iron and steel industries has been successful – today it is the universities which are the places of the future. They produce knowledge and provide the people within the Ruhr Metropolis with work and a livelihood. The Ruhr Area is the densest concentration of major cities in Europe and, as a high-performance educational and service landscape, offers good foundations for economic growth. The diverse range of housing on offer and the proximity to green spaces and the countryside offer an outstanding quality of life.

No other region in Europe has seen and implemented such a dense sequence of planning processes. Many of the projects and initiatives in the Ruhr Metropolis which are committed to sustainability repeatedly place the topic of sustainability at the heart of urban development: The International Building Exhibition Emscher Park (1989 - 1999), the Emscher Redevelopment Masterplan, the European Capital of Culture RUHR.2010, the Innovation City in Bottrop and several other towns and cities – as well as the Green Capital of Europe – Essen 2017 – have followed one another in quick succession. The Klima EXPO North Rhine Westphalia (NRW) has been set in motion for 2022 and the preparations for the International Horticultural Exhibition in 2027 have begun.

Regional projects such as these can lead the way for future decade projects: The different development concepts and campaigns are all aimed at improving the quality of life of people in towns and cities. The invariably holistic approach of the different development processes has had one declared aim above all: ›Good governance‹ and sustainability. The perspectives and objectives of the various campaigns, projects and initiatives address a visionary blueprint for the future, characterised by justice, sustainability and social change. Media attention has had a positive influence on the self-image of the Ruhr Area and created a new perception of the Ruhr Metropolis.

The model of the European Green Capital can lay the claim to be pioneering in nature. The EUROPEAN FUTURE FORMATS Congress aims to compare the various formats, plans and campaigns as well as to develop new formats. With experts, scientists, politicians and stakeholders at all levels and from different disciplines the topic of ›good governance‹ and integrated urban development will be discussed. Which factors, framework conditions and structures are both effective and promising?

As the ›European Green Capital – Essen 2017‹ in the heart of the Ruhr Metropolis comes to an end, this provided an opportunity for everyone to reflect in detail on the last three decades and take a courageous look into the future.

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the success of this congress, especially to my former colleague Dr Ernst Kratzsch, for whom the issue was particularly close to his heart.

All of the stakeholders and institutions involved are invited to take part in this discussion in the future!

**Simone Raskob**

Councillor for the Environment, Construction and Sports of the City of Essen



## European Future Formats of the Ruhr Metropolis

Prof. Dr. jur. Oliver Scheytt  
KULTUREXPERTEN GmbH

›The 21st century is the century of cities and metropolises throughout the world. By the year 2050, seventy percent of the world's population will reside in them.‹ This is how the Essen Declaration on the European Green Capital 2017 begins. Essen is located at the heart of the Ruhr Metropolis, and is in the midst of a transformation process whose impact is still far from creating a new European metropolis, but though it has not happened yet, it very well may. The formats ›International Building Exhibition‹, ›European Capital of Culture‹ and ›European Green Capital‹ themselves each have a special effect, and are simultaneously embedded in a series of further side effects and lasting consequences. The International Building Exhibition Emscher Park, for example, was also the basis for the development of the Ruhrtriennale, a festival whose remarkable character and international influence make it the most important festival of the arts in North Rhine-Westphalia, and within a very short time it has come to be mentioned in the same breath as the Salzburg Festival and the Bayreuth Festival, despite the fact that these both have a tradition going back decades. The Green Capital in turn will be followed in 2022 by the Climate Metropolis Ruhr 2022 as the regional partner of KlimaExpo.NRW; and starting in 2027, as another decade project, the International Horticultural Exhibition Ruhr Metropolis (IGA).

The impact of these European future formats thus lies not only in a changed perception both inwards and outwards, but also in their structural and economic effects. The statistics for overnight stays throughout the Ruhr Metropolis, have grown disproportionately relative to the national average, which has also resulted in the corresponding construction of new hotels. Over recent years, Essen has for the first time again had a growing number of residents, which is not just due to the influx of refugees, but is also thanks to the increased attractiveness for businesses investing here, creating jobs, and initiating office and residential construction projects. A decisive factor here is that the population themselves are claiming the new spaces, whether they are cultural locations

or cycle paths and green areas, and is thus becoming conscious of the transformed quality of life. It remains to be hoped that the ›political class‹ of the Ruhr Metropolis recognises that these forms of improved cooperation, laboriously developed for these future formats over the last three decades, can generate effects that no individual city could ever achieve on its own. The transformation competence acquired by the Ruhr Area and the changed perception of this conurbation as the ›Ruhr Metropolis‹ will only truly be able to reveal their full effects when further structural changes have taken place, which have been discussed time and again over the last decades, but which have ultimately been thwarted by individual interests. Major fields for action are: Further reforms in the administrative structures, including the political legitimisation of the Ruhr Regional Association; concentration of the tourism and marketing activities for the Ruhr Metropolis with the agents created for that purpose (Ruhrtourismus, Wirtschaftsförderung Metropole Ruhr etc.); the development of a mobility concept along the lines of electric vehicles and bicycle mobility, as befitting the 21st century, and including a link between individual and public passenger transport; investments in the cultural and creative economy; and retaining and strengthening the decentralised social spaces in the sense of ›local facilities‹, particularly in education (kindergartens, schools) and social prevention (social work, youth welfare services etc.). The Ruhr Metropolis can thus become a modern new metropolis that is outstanding in balancing ecology, social responsibility, cultural facilities and economic prosperity, with exceptionally high quality of life, which is unique to Europe.



### WE LIVE IN REVOLUTIONARY TIMES

Two hundred years after the industrial revolution the digital revolution is transforming our societies, changing the way we think and act. Networking is a visible feature of digital modernity. Networking of what? And with what? The industrial revolution in the 19th century also triggered an urban revolution. The step out of the fortified city beyond its medieval city walls, the grinding of ramparts, was a step into the open air, a step into the landscape. Generally, the expansion of the urban environment was at the expense of the natural. The future of the city continued to be defined by the buildings, nature remained the decor or was at most allowed to express itself as a landscaped park like an island surrounded by buildings and streets. Meanwhile, the surrounding countryside became an ›intermediate city‹ and the growing cities threatened to become the periphery of themselves.

### NETWORKES GREEN IS THE FUTURE

Today, a new awareness leads to a change in the parameters of valuation in society. Landscape has long ceased to be a passive resource. It is penetrating our cities, where people are looking for their own nature again and city dwellers are acting as advocates for their environment. Disused industrial or infrastructural facilities create unimaginable freedom. Last but not least climate protection requires a radical rethink. Nature plays a role in the process that is existential for the digital revolution on other levels: it mediates and networks.

### PARADIGM SHIFT: PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES

The new urban landscape networks are advancing the development of cities. Green networks that mediate between the basic needs of living and doing business, moving and relaxing. Green infrastructures are seen as a social duty and are now promoted by the public sector with investments. A process that, as a national strategy, had its

starting point in the urban fabric of the Ruhr Metropolis. Nature provides the city with various ecosystem services that provide concrete advantages for the environment, the economy and society. Nevertheless, nature as a service provider needs care: cultivation is our commitment to the sustainable management of the city and the countryside, with special consideration given to a new productive landscape.

For this, we need European laboratories to apply and monitor these issues, and to cultivate them in exchange with industry, local citizens and institutions. We should give greater emphasis to the economic dimension of green infrastructure and these planning models.

### FORMATS WANTED! THE GREEN DECADE

According to the experience of the European Green Capital, ahead of us there are exciting ten years, a ›green decade‹. Seven green corridors exist in the Ruhr area between Ruhr, Emscher and Lippe as an existing structure, as a heritage of culture. Settlement development must be completely redefined, based on an ecological footprint for the 53 cities that position themselves accordingly and then allow new projects to flourish, from which a green infrastructure grows.

2027 and beyond: ›2027 plus‹ is a green decade open to the future. Fortunately, the planning is also being carried out with scenically networked projects elsewhere. Munich is heading towards ›deceleration, densification, transformation‹ in the open space concept 2030. Berlin develops the urban landscape strategy: ›Natural, urban, productive‹. In the new edition of STEP 2035, Vienna is offensively considering an efficient green and open space concept. All of them are equipping far beyond 2030. In the European context, the Nordic countries are avant-garde. But even metropolitan regions such as Paris, London or Milan have meanwhile embarked on their journey.

Our challenges are climate change, new forms of coexistence and, ultimately, improving the performance of our urban systems. The European Union calls this ›nature-based solutions‹. The Ruhr metropolis can be a catalyst for this. It is in the middle of a process and symbolizes this as a blueprint for a green future that can be experienced. The city is not dead; it finds itself in green networks and comes to life again.

# EUROPEAN FUTURE FORMATS

Results, modes of effect and shared features of European future formats – based on the Ruhr Metropolis example  
Thursday, 15.12.2017

THE CONCEPT OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL FROM A NATIONAL AND MUNICIPAL PERSPECTIVE

LOCAL PROJECTS – RETROSPECTIVE OF WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

LOCAL PROJECTS – PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

PANEL DISCUSSION

KEYNOTE SPEECH

## International formats as municipal and regional sources of strength using the example of the Milan Expo 2015

Dr (I) Arch. Andreas Kipar  
BDLA/AIAP/IFLA Landscape Architects



» The issue at stake is a major one – the shaping of our living spaces. The focus is on people, our cities and the relationship between country and city. If we want cities to do well, the city-country relationship needs to be good too. In today's postmodern era, being green, inclusive and connective is essential. It's not just here in the Ruhr metropolis that we are dealing with constant change, it's across in the world in the agglomerations searching for a new vision of the way we live together. How can we take these topics forward so that we can work on them collectively? This brings us onto EXPO. The challenge was to create energy for life – in the grey metropolis of Milan – the exact same challenge that Karl Ganser set by providing the Emscher with a park. A challenge without which we wouldn't be here today. EXPO 2015 managed to combine the achievements of the last twenty years and, in so doing, create a green infrastructure that extended as far as Switzerland. This shows that large-scale initiatives can bring major regional leaps in development forward so they must not get stuck within themselves. «

## European Green Capitals – Role models on the way to a green infrastructure

Dr Fabian Dosch  
Federal Institute for Research on Building,  
Urban Affairs and Spatial Development



» This year's European Green Capital title is not only confirmation from Europe that our claim to be a green city is justified, it also ensures that lots of good projects will be continued and initiated. If the European Green Capital initiative didn't already exist we would have had to invent it. Because through the initiative, the European institutions have managed to achieve the oft-quoted aim of enabling citizens to experience Europe's relevance to them in a positive way. To be a good role model, a city has to take responsibility and the City of Essen has succeeded in doing this as well. The impetus provided by the Green Capital campaign is enormous and has led to the implementation of a great many processes that will make the city a worthwhile place to live with a promising future. But green cities that are fit for life aren't a sure-fire success – so it's important that the green city, green infrastructure policy is not only supported, but sustainably promoted by the Federal government as well. «



## The format of the European Green Capital – A municipal success story

**Simone Raskob**

Councillor for the Environment and Construction of the City of Essen



» What is perhaps unexpected is that 54 percent of our city area is unsealed. And that's after a 150 year history of transformation from a city of coal and steel to what is, in terms of surface area, the greenest city in North Rhine Westphalia. This green history is the product of at least four generations of planners, politicians and citizens. The father of the Green Capital, Robert Schmidt, recognised as early as 1927 that people need healthy open spaces and fresh air. The master plan produced by Andreas Kipar in 2005 sees the Emscher conversion as a major opportunity for a regional infrastructure based around water resources. Since then we have renaturalised 26 watercourses and implemented over 500 projects. Despite being relatively new, the Green Capital initiative has already gained increasing significance and is all about a comprehensive vision for the environment, incorporating issues such as traffic, climate, green areas and energy efficiency. In the last three to four years Essen has been able to draw attention to the fact that the city is a place worth living in. As a result, Essen won over the jury as a role model for cities going through structural change. «

## The International Building Exhibition Emscher Park – Impulses for a sustainable development in the cities and regions

**Dr Jan Heinisch**

Ministry of Home Affairs, Municipal Affairs, Construction and Equality in NRW



» The Emscher Landscape Park is the main connecting element that, as part of the International Building Exhibition, raises awareness of the issue of landscape in the very industrialised Ruhr metropolis region. The course of the river is the common thread that brings together extremely diverse areas within Essen. Looking at it today, we see slag piles grown over with grass, blast furnaces no longer in use, and footpaths and cycle-paths where the Ruhrkohle AG railway tracks once ran – and it's thanks to the IBA that something so large and coherent has been made possible. These processes of change are important if we want to preserve historic evidence and identity whilst shaping the future. In the Ruhr Area specifically, but also in Germany in general, industrialisation has left its marks on the region – with its huge collieries, furnaces and shaft towers. Alongside the International Building Exhibition we find many initiatives specifically aimed at shaping the future whilst preserving the past. «



### The European Capital of Culture RUHR. 2010 and its effect as a manufacturer of identity

Prof. Dr. jur. Oliver Scheytt  
KULTUREXPERTEN GmbH

» A person's identification and identity has to do with emotionality. Capitals of Culture in Europe are good if they speak to people's emotions and trigger an emotional response to Europe. Transferring that to the Ruhr Metropolis, we have to ask ourselves »How do we enable people in the Ruhr to identify with the entire metropolis?« The RUHR.2010 Capital of Culture campaign was successful in showcasing the characteristic culture that makes us what we are and presenting it with pride. We need future formats that take a holistic view, time and again. With the IBA future format, the things that make us what we are have been steered towards a new future. The Capital of Culture campaign builds on this initiative, taking into particular consideration the Emscher area, since this is where the biggest change has taken place. Images from throughout the year are still available, even though the Capital of Culture year has ended – meaning the motto of change through culture and culture through change is still evident and a root of identity almost 10 years on. «

### The International Horticultural Exhibition 2027 in the Ruhr Metropolis – a component in the sustainability strategy of the Ruhr Regional Association

Karola Geiß-Netthöfel  
Ruhr Regional Association



» The Green Capital campaign played on topics that are important for the future of the Ruhr Metropolis as a whole and that are also supported by the Ruhr Regional Association, as a regional player. Our aim now is to organise a Green Decade, culminating in the Ruhr Metropolis International Horticultural Exhibition in 2027. By doing so, we will successfully continue the tradition of IBA Emscher Park and the Capital of Culture campaign and ensure that we can give a convincing answer to the question »How do we want to live tomorrow?«. The journey itself is actually the destination. Of course, we want to take on and overcome the challenges of a regional format and sustainable perspectives for urban and regional development. Global challenges, better networking, climate – these are all things that need to be taken into consideration. And above all, we want to bring people along with us on the journey. The issue of gardens and living close to nature is a major one here in this region, so for IGA 2027 we have created three different levels: the international »garden of the future«, the »our gardens« level with lots of good local projects and finally, the hands-on »my garden« level, involving allotments and urban gardening. This is the basic concept of IGA, which we want to develop over the next ten years. «

## The sustainable city – requirements resulting from the climate change and the energy transition

**Heidi Sørensen**  
Climate Agency Oslo



» When we are talking to people, when we are communicating, we have to realize that most people do not like change – even if you call it transition, which only is a better word – but they do not like it. So do not ask too much and only ask one thing at a time. We are not out there to save souls. We are out there to ask people to do something a little bit different. We want to change behaviour not attitudes. I do not care if a man buys an electrical wheel because he thinks the Tesla is cool – that is ok with me as long as it is an electrical vehicle because it will reduce the emissions. By changing behaviour a little bit that will do something about the attitude as well. We are communicating that we are upgrading the city – we are not only reducing climate emission. We reduce air pollution, we do public health, we reduce noise, we save an increased biodiversity and we create a more friendly city to the children. We have started raising, we have started acting and we will continue to do so and being a Green Capital in 2019 for us will mark a very, very important year. «

## European Future Formats and their impulses for the sustainable development in North Rhine-Westphalia

**Dr Heinrich Bottermann**  
Ministry for the Environment, Agriculture, Conservation and Consumer Protection of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia



» »As the largest man-made landscape in Europe, the Ruhr district has the opportunity to become the largest work of art in the world.« This quote from the 1968 manifesto Save the District (>Rettet das Revier<) was visionary and highly controversial at the time. And today? In a region where just a few decades ago the sky was black with smoke, in 2010 the City of Essen was European Capital of Culture and this year it is European Green Capital. The conversion of the Emscher is the largest renaturalisation project in Europe. These are three success stories from the region that show that the Ruhr Metropolis is already a future format in itself. A polycentric system of cities like the Ruhr Metropolis is the ideal format for sustainable urban development. To be successful in the long-term, the projects have to be created in a way that is systematic and sustainable, and their effect must resonate over a long period – only then do these formats give impetus to structural changes and contribute to an image transformation. Projects like this in Essen include the Baldeneysteig walking trail and the Innogy motor ship, the first passenger ship in the world fuelled by carbon-neutral methanol. «

## PANEL DISCUSSION

### How effective are international formats for integrated action and development plans?

Jens Geier, European Parliament

Prof. Dr Manfred Fishedick, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy

Dr Heinrich Bottermann, Ministry for the Environment, Agriculture, Conservation and Consumer Protection of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

Detlef Raphael, German Association of Cities, Department for the Environment and the Economy, Fire Protection and Disaster Prevention



» I am convinced that it is right to solve issues such as sustainability and climate protection on an international level. It's something we are all responsible for and it's a matter of changing awareness, which is why initiatives like this can be a huge help, enabling us to learn from one another. It's a responsibility that is not only shared by Europe, but can also involve cities from other regions of the world. « (Jens Geier)

» If you become European Green Capital, you have a responsibility to hold international congresses and participate in an exchange with other Green Capitals, something that Essen has achieved par excellence with various congresses this year. Promoting exchange between cities with initiatives such as these is incredibly valuable. In doing so, it's important that the exchange takes place not just at a local government level (which would be a purely top-down process) but at a peer-to-peer level between people who are dealing with the same issues and find themselves in similar situations. « (Prof. Dr Manfred Fishedick)



» Sustainability strategies are the impetus for setting other processes in motion, which then meet the criteria precisely. The things that came about as part of European Green Capital campaign and the things that still remain as a result of it have major benefits for nature and give a boost to technology – these are things that allow us to continue experiencing sustainability even after the event. And it's precisely these things that need to be included in sustainability reports to inspire others. « (Dr Heinrich Bottermann)

» We are moving vehemently into a new age – a transformation into digitalisation is taking place relatively quickly. I'm very concerned that the public authorities are missing out on a trend – platform economy. That's why I would be excited to see a new initiative – >Digital Region North Rhine Westphalia< – to spark a public discussion about what the transformation into a new era actually means and how we want to shape it. « (Detlef Raphael)

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Friday, 15.12.2017



REFLECTION ON WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION AND DEMOCRACY –  
A BASIS OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL

REQUIREMENTS FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMMES IN THE FUTURE

DECLARATION IN THE OCCASION OF THE GREEN CAPITAL  
YEAR ESSEN 2017



#### ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS

### IBA Emscher park – Motors and laboratories of urban development

Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Christa Reicher  
TU Dortmund University  
Prof. Dr Rolf Heinze und Prof. Dr Jörg Bogumil  
Ruhr University Bochum

» The International Building Exhibition always has a particular air of innovation, geared towards going above and beyond the conventional to facilitate projects. The topic of communication – how do I communicate my messages – is a central one, because some of the project ideas are very innovative and visionary. Equally central is the formulation of the mission for the future, since the principle aim of the IBA is to serve as a basis for this mission, act in a planning capacity and show what contribution it can make in terms of urban development. « (Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Christa Reicher)

» At the time the IBA began, regional thinking in the Ruhr Area was not particularly well-developed. The IBA was one of the first projects that compelled people to think regionally and work together. The Capital of Culture campaign was a second project that attempted to do the same. As a result, things have changed dramatically in recent years. Focusing on projects has produced a regional mindset that goes beyond city boundaries and urban development has been driven forward through cooperation, rather than competition. « (Prof. Dr Jörg Bogumil)

» The biggest challenge comes from the fact that we have districts in the Ruhr Area, which have become somewhat disconnected in recent years. There's no point creating individual super-districts that are outstanding ecologically and socially. In regions and districts that are heavily disadvantaged we have to set a completely new course. In my opinion the IBA has provided some impetus, but it doesn't go far enough. It's crucial that we give thought to the types of activity in particularly disadvantaged districts. « (Prof. Dr Jörg Bogumil)

### European Cultural Capital – More than one year of celebrations. Opportunities and risks for success and failure

Dr Ulrich Fuchs  
EU Selection Panel for European Capitals of Culture



» Gaining the title of European Capital of Culture doesn't guarantee success – but it brings with it major opportunities for urban and regional development. One of the biggest opportunities is the aspect of urban renewal – not just in the cultural sector, but in the public arena and in infrastructure as well. The Capital of Culture programme, which must be developed for the year under the guiding principles of artistic excellence and popularity, provides a further opportunity. It has to be geared internationally and include answers to the questions »What can the city in question learn from Europe and what can Europe learn from the city?«. In the best case scenario, the European Capital of Culture project functions as a catalyst for sustainability, thanks to potential alliances between culture, politics, economy and tourism. The risks, on the other hand, include underestimation of the opportunities, political instability and a lack of sustainability in project planning. «

### European Green Capital – Essen 2017: central significance and appeal of an integrated approach

Prof. Dr Manfred Fishedick  
Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy



» Under the umbrella of conservation, the European Green Capital is a very integrative approach, highlighting twelve indicators in total. These range from climate change, transport and air quality, waste management and noise pollution to ecological innovation. European Green Capital is about describing the status quo honestly and establishing clear objectives through these twelve indicators. But it's also about creating a strategy for transformation, setting up a suitable monitoring system and systematically identifying interfaces and areas of conflict through the twelve indicators, whilst providing an opportunity to recognise and use synergies between the different sectors. The chosen cities don't have to be perfect – they are allowed to have weaknesses, but they should be dealing with them honestly and transparently, and should have at least an idea of how to rectify these weaknesses over the next few years. «

### Transformation of urban governance – Examples and prospects for the Ruhr Metropolis and NRW

George Ferguson  
CBE PEIBA / People & Cities



» The first task when I became mayor was to raise environmental awareness in the city. The vital issue to me, with very little money available, was how we make sure people realise what they can do to help make a healthy city and a healthy world. I have always said that Bristol is a good city, not because of its leadership, but because it has many individuals and organisations who take the initiative, whether it be about food, wildlife, cycling or play etc. To me, good leadership is enabling those individuals to be free to do things, to give them space to experiment and to take risks. What has happened following our year of being European Green Capital is that local neighbourhoods are now taking the action themselves more than the city. Hence, neighbourhood streets and communities are now driving such issues as car free days and street play. To me that is a healthy situation that is more sustainable than initiatives that are reliant on the city council. The whole agenda of the European Green Capital has been excellent for branding of cities that are seeking a post industrial future, such as Essen and Bristol, and that branding acts as a useful challenge to successive administrations to maintain the environmental momentum. «

### The transformative power of cities using the example of the Ruhr Area metropolitan region

**Prof. Dr Sabine Schlacke**  
Westphalian Wilhelms University Münster



» A global transformation towards sustainability cannot be achieved without cities. The majority of the world's population lives in small and medium-sized cities. The Ruhr Area is an example of a transformation process par excellence. With almost 5.5 million inhabitants it is the biggest polycentric agglomeration in Germany. In the Ruhr Area's polycentric governance architecture, rather than each city fighting for itself there has been a great deal of growth together. The transformation from an industrial region to a region of knowledge and culture is unique worldwide. This unique nature can be seen in governance structures too. There is inter-municipal cooperation and coordination in certain areas, implemented by the Ruhr Regional Association. We need to expand these areas to include transport and climate protection for further transformation towards sustainability. The Ruhr Area must also use its political strength to become an international player and strengthen and promote the green agenda on an international level. «

### Sustainable Development Strategies at the EU, Federal and NRW level as basis for an ecological transformation of the Ruhr Metropolis

**Dr Marc-Oliver Pahl**  
Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Agriculture,  
Conservation and Consumer Protection NRW



» From the perspective of North Rhine Westphalia state government, the European Green Capital initiative is important because it can lay the foundations for a fundamental change in urban politics in future, to make them compatible with the principles of sustainable development. It's all about creating long-lasting structures and more integrative thought processes and not just letting off fireworks all year long to celebrate. It's clear that many of the ideas from the Green Capital Project can only be implemented if there is a future concept that extends beyond the project year. In the Ruhr Metropolis, this concept primarily concerns the ecological transformation of an energy and resource intensive economic structure. However, the objectives will only be achievable if all levels of the public system engage with one another and the political framework is conducive to long-term success in the cities. We need strategies for sustainability at all political levels, and these must be compatible with one another. «



## The Horticultural show – A format for integrated urban and regional development

Jochen Sandner  
Deutsche Bundesgartenschau GmbH



» For over 65 years, so since the introduction of modern garden shows, the terms BUGA (>National Garden Exhibition<) and IGA have been synonymous with a six month long exhibition including a summer festival. We have always provided impetus for urban and regional development processes. The term sustainable open space landscaping is high on the agenda, as is the development of residential development processes. Garden shows create parks for citizens and green infrastructure, and if done well, cities become an attractive tourist destination. At the end of the day, the >green sector< is backing us to play our part in making cities greener. Garden shows are instruments for implementing ideas and concepts for sustainable, green urban development, and not just for large green areas – we put small patches of green in order too, including dealing with neighbourhoods, participating on a small scale, allotments and building recreational gardens. Green has to be very democratic and not just about flagship projects. «

## The sustainable transformation of cities and social cohesion

Wolfgang Teubner  
ICLEI European Secretariat



» When we talk about transformation towards sustainability, we are talking about a radical structural change. In the current climate, people and politicians are not entirely open to this kind of structural change, and yet it is unavoidable if we want to still be living peacefully and healthily on this planet in 50 years time. We have a systemic problem and we must analyse it systemically. Since the discussion on sustainability started, we have not found any new approaches, particularly in the field of economics, that ultimately translate the issue of sustainability, i.e. the finite nature of the resources available, to economic concepts and approaches on the other side of the growth paradigm. To manage the challenges of a sustainable transformation we need completely new forms of governance that share responsibility between elected representatives, executives and citizens. As a citizen I want to be able to invest in renewable energies, social housing or designing public spaces and help to shape these things along with others, in order to create more solidarity, better community and a sense of social responsibility. «

## The >European Green Capital< – A model for the future of all cities in Europe

**Dr Peter Pluschke**

City of Nuremberg / Environmental Committee of the  
Association of German Cities



» What are the benefits of the Green Capital initiative? Firstly, it brings together people, cities and structures that would rarely come into contact without the initiative. These people, cities and structures are always the ones geared towards innovation, solidarity and sustainability. For me it's also important that cities extend the range of their international collaboration as a result. I am convinced that cities thrive better in international networks than when they focus purely on themselves. As an expression of what a city does, the Green Capital title always provides a push forwards. This could be a boost to projects that are already ongoing, but sometimes it's only as a result of the title that certain projects are set in motion. Of course, it depends greatly on the dedication of civil societies, church groups and private initiative. Citizens become ambassadors for the city – to the outside world, but equally importantly, to other citizens. As a result, cities strengthen their profile and develop new strengths, as well as rekindling an appreciation of their existing strengths. «



## ESSEN DECLARATION on the European Green Capital – Essen 2017

### PREAMBLE

The 21st century will become the century of cities and metropolises all over the world. By the year 2050, seventy percent of the world's population will live and work there. Cities and metropolises are the place for economic developments, innovations and education. At the same time, the majority of our resources are used in conurbations in the form of food, energy and goods. Europe is consolidating its structures. It optimises with much planning and innovation and thus creates an up-to-date, new and vital model of the city. The ›Leipzig Charter for a Sustainable European City‹, which condenses the city as socially mixed, compact and accessible to the public everywhere, clarifies the efficiency of this urban type. The future of our planet is determined by the sustainability of the use of resources of the cities. The use of renewable energies, the application of new mobility concepts, sustainable construction, environmental protection, and an active design of landscape and green areas are the essential fields of the progressing urbanization. With its future formats, Europe is showing how sustainable development processes can be designed and implemented and how they can be realized into urban planning for the transformation of the stock.

### EUROPEAN FUTURE FORMATS

Different formats, such as the World Expositions (Expo), the International Building Exhibitions (IBA) and the International Horticultural Exhibitions (IGA), the European competition formats of the European Capitals of Culture and the European Green Capitals as well as the KlimaExpo formats introduced in NRW, the ›Regionalen NRW‹ and the redevelopment of the Emscher can give examples of how these need to be designed, implemented and communicated in order to be successful and to achieve effective results in the transformation of the cities. The methods and campaigns are designed to make citizens the actors of the content, to involve and to inform them about the successes as well as the new topics. Both cooperation as well as dialogue is particularly important for the impact of all these formats. No other metropolis has implemented various EUROPEAN FUTURE FORMATS in regional cooperation in such close succession as the Ruhr Metropolis. With the current formats, starting from the European Green Capital – Essen 2017, the Emscherumbau, the KlimaExpo.NRW, up to the International Horticultural Exhibition IGA 2027 we are at the beginning of a Green Decade, which is also supported by the Masterplan Green Infrastructure Ruhr. This region – the Ruhr Metropolis – can be used internationally for the many, growing and changing metropolitan areas in Europe and beyond as an example and a role model. Here, in the middle of Germany and Europe, models, typologies as well as results of such formats can be recognized, viewed and evaluated.

### THE RUHR METROPOLIS AS A DRIVING FORCE FOR EUROPE

A platform that is carried by an effective network can be combined with the corresponding personnel and budget in the future:

- The platform to be created, plans and organizes every two years a conference in the Ruhr Metropolis.
- As far as possible, this platform will be internationally represented at further conferences and congresses or organise those in order to strengthen communication and cooperation between the formats.
- Visiting programmes for exemplary planning and implementation of projects of the formats are conceived and offered.
- A digital networking of existing information offers and knowledge levels makes the various approaches and international campaigns accessible.
- The platform offers exchange for cities, metropolises and regions, which work their way into an application for one of the formats or create their own formats.
- The evaluation procedures for the mode of action of the various formats in the sense of a common reflection are brought together. This initiates a discourse on quality standards and the ongoing monitoring of the formats themselves.

### RESULT AND CONCLUSION

The Essen Declaration aims to address the challenges of the 21st century as well as the question of how we can give answers to these questions with international urbanisation and urban development processes. It emerges that the EU, national states or regional institutions implement large integrated development concepts in many ways. There is the chance to constitute an interdisciplinary platform that will give the opportunity to organise a dialogue on common objectives, to exchange experiences and knowledge, thus promoting the transformation of the cities and to design metropolises into places that are suitable for the future and worth living in.

## Changes in climate policy from 2009 to 2017: On the way from Copenhagen via Paris to Bonn – how far have we come?

Prof. Dr Manfred Fischeck  
Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy



The international climate policy can now look back on more than 25 years of history. After the first climate change conference in Rio in 1992, the annual conferences experienced many highs and lows.

It is about nothing other than limiting the progressive increase in the global mean temperature, at a level that limits the resulting damage. To achieve this goal the forces of the international community have to be combined and all states have to be involved in the mitigation efforts of the greenhouse gas emissions (especially carbon dioxide). After this objective failed at the climate negotiations in Copenhagen the 2015 Paris Climate Summit can be regarded as a milestone. In Paris 194 states agreed to make their contribution to climate protection and to help limit global warming to a maximum of 2 °C (if possible 1.5 °C). To this end, they have promised to lower their greenhouse gas emissions to the limit as quickly as possible and to aim for a largely greenhouse gas-neutral economic system by the middle of the century. In Paris, it was not only possible to obtain a general commitment, but also to persuade the participating states to specify already in the run-up to the conference, how much they will be able to reduce their emissions in the coming years. These INDCs (intended nationally determined contributions) now provide a basis from which to measure the actions necessary for climate protection.

The main reason for the success of the conference in Paris is the consensus principle in the Framework Convention on Climate Change, which had so far led to the fact that reluctant states have set the pace and that the formulation of sufficiently ambitious and internationally binding obligations was not pushed through. Changing to the principle of voluntarism in the context of the Paris Conference avoided this problem. The basic principle of ›blaming and shaming‹ is intended to ensure a serious commitment by the countries involved; a legal liability, however, was consciously abstained from. In addition, the French leadership of the summit managed to break the game of passing

the buck between key groups of countries (especially between the rich industrialised countries that have emitted a lot in the past and the emerging economies that emit a lot today) and by establishing a grand ›Coalition of the willing‹ to create a positive dynamic. Finally, the economic framework conditions for key climate protection technologies (such as solar cells) have changed significantly from 2009 to 2015, and these technologies are now considered competitive in most countries.

However there were some disruption, especially with regard to the decision of the US President on 1st June 2017 to get out of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The shock was initially deep, not least because the USA, as the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases, thus would no longer play a role in the agreement. However, it quickly became clear that the US President does not speak for his entire country. Just one day after the announcement of the decision to withdraw, which, according to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in any case can only come into effect after a long period, the ›We are still in‹ initiative was formed, which is a powerful alliance of US states, cities and companies that are committed to climate change and who wish to take action to reach the goals set out in Paris. Today, this alliance represents more than 120 million Americans, well over 1,000 large companies and more than half of the country's economic power.

What is to do now is the detailed work. While the major political lines have been agreed in Paris, the follow-up conferences have the task of deriving from the fundamental political decisions a comprehensive set of rules, which coordinates the concrete implementation of the decisions and provides a framework valid for all countries. The last climate conference which took place in Bonn in 2017, in cooperation with the Maldives, has shown that this is not so easy. So far only initial steps in the right direction have been possible, therefore additional meetings have been agreed upon, in order to have a realistic chance of adopting the rulebook at the next Conference of the Parties in Poland at the end of 2018.

It is now important to translate the spirit of the Paris decisions into concrete action. On the one hand, the government is required to set adequate framework conditions. On the other hand, every single emitter of greenhouse gases is also called for, as climate protection is a task for society as a whole. In this context cities play a key role, as they account for more than 70% of today's emissions. Sharing experiences via city partnerships can help us learn from each other and achieve our goals faster and easier.

**The International Horticultural Exhibition in the Ruhr Metropolis Ruhr 2027 – A building block in the sustainability strategy of the Ruhr Regional Association**

Karola Geiß-Netthöfel, Sabine Auer  
Ruhr Regional Association



The Ruhr Metropolis is exposed to global challenges such as climate change and ongoing urbanisation. Our goal is to constructively counter these developments and to shape further structural change in such a way that people will still enjoy living and working here in the future. With core tasks such as formal regional planning as well as informal concepts for green infrastructure, tourism or culture, we aim to ensure a good quality of life for more than five million inhabitants.

Thus, the regional open space concept ensures that individual local measures make a meaningful contribution to the green space network as a whole – for nature and landscape as well as for leisure and recreation. In the densely populated metropolitan region, open spaces are multifunctional and provide many ecosystem services. This creates a unique urban cultural landscape. As a result of this integrated approach to green infrastructure, the Ruhr Metropolis is already seen as a role model in Europe. The Regional mobility concept emphasises climate-friendly mobility with the Ruhr cycling district and innovative bike expressway. Since 2017, the Ruhr Metropolis environmental report has been a good basis for coordinated environmental policy. The Regional Climate Protection Concept provides technical information and tools for our municipalities and districts. When it comes to climate change, there is much at stake. With the end of hard coal mining in the Ruhr Metropolis in 2018 the question of how to realign ourselves economically as a former coal mining area is highly relevant right now. Sometimes, in addition to constant work, experimentation for innovations is also required, so that all parties can join forces for a new beginning. The European Green Capital ›Essen 2017‹ has made a great start by making important sustainability issues known. The Ruhr Regional Association takes over the reins and is the initiator and regional coordinator of the International Horticultural Exhibition Ruhr Metropolis (IGA) 2027 – the culmination of this ›Green Decade‹. Previous large formats have had a very sustainable effect in the Ruhr Area: The International Building Exhibition Emscher Park with its flagship projects



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Emscher Landscape Park and Emscher conversion for the development of a green urban landscape and the European Capital of Culture RUHR.2010 for tourism, image building and networks. The IGA 2027 continues with this tradition. It aims to answer the key question ›How do we want to live and work tomorrow?‹. In less than ten years, investments will be made in a variety of green urban development projects on the basis of a decentralised spatial and exhibition concept. Strong regional economic effects are to be expected. This will lead to a show of excellence for green infrastructure and a laboratory to answer important questions about the future of big cities. The associated cooperative network process with all 53 municipalities, districts, economic and civil society partners and the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) has been successfully launched. It also includes participation formats for members of the public. The UN Declaration Habitat III on the city of the future indicates that decentralised spatial structures, strong municipal governance models and a strong focus on public space offer very good opportunities for development. The Ruhr Metropolis already has these advantages and strengths and is on its way to a liveable future.

## Sustainable Development Strategies at the EU, Federal and NRW level as basis for an ecological transformation of the Ruhr Metropolis

Dr Marc-Oliver Pahl

Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment,  
Agriculture, Conservation and Consumer Protection  
NRW



For future formats to be successful they must be integrated into a sustainable development concept that specifically addresses the respective major regional challenges. The main challenge in the Ruhr Metropolis is the ecological transformation of an energy and resource intensive economic structure to a perspective climate-neutral economy. However, coexistence and mobility in a densely populated industrial region, demographic change and digitalisation are also important future topics for the Ruhr Area. The concept of sustainable development is the political guiding principle for such development concepts because of its integrative consideration of ecological, economic and social aspects and its long-term orientation.

The future formats will be able to provide long-term impulses insofar as they can either already build on a coherent sustainability concept in the region or initiate the development of such a conception. It is therefore a question of creating lasting structures and of thinking in a more integrated way, with the help of the Green Capital format or another future format. A year of action is not enough for long-term success. These strategic concepts for the respective region must be flanked by the fact that the other levels of our community also offer support and use a strategy that is as consistent as possible.

There has been a common starting point for such long-term strategies since the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. With the German Sustainability Strategy of January 2017 and the compatible NRW Sustainability Strategy of June 2016, NRW has particularly good prerequisites for transferring the impulses of future formats into long-term successful regional strategies for the future.



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The City of Essen, the neighbouring cities of the Ruhr Metropolis and the RVR should courageously lead the way. It would be highly desirable if the EU too, with its multiannual Financial Framework from 2021 and its future structural and innovation policies, would take greater account of the concept of sustainable development in order to also contribute to the long-term, successful effects of the European future formats it has created.

## International significance of European Future Formats

**Wolfgang Teubner**  
ICLEI European Secretariat



In 2015, both the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and its global sustainability goals, as well as the Paris Climate Agreement and its agreed global warming limit of less than 2 °C were adopted. This is the first time a boundary of the global ecosystem has been clearly defined, but recent studies suggest that even if this boundary is adhered to, serious consequences may have to be faced and human life in parts of the world will be exposed to considerable threats. At the same time, it has to be said that the old industrialised countries and increasingly the emerging economies, when looking at the per-capita emissions and resource consumption (reference ecological footprint), are clearly within the non-sustainable range, i.e. they operate at the expense of the future as well as at the expense of other regions of the world. This means that adhering to the limits of the global ecosystem through our economic and social development requires a sustainable transformation, or in other words, profound social structural change. The fact that the available resources are limited, almost automatically leads to the question of the distribution of these resources and the associated possibilities and opportunities and thus to distributional justice. In addition to the temporal dimension, i.e. the distribution between present and future generations, the current distribution between continents, states, regions, municipalities and individuals is paramount. The prevailing modus operandi is to defuse or mitigate emerging distribution conflicts with growth. However, if the limited resources available and the issue of global distributive justice call into question any further growth, at least in industrialised countries, the issue of distribution will become even more prominent. Distribution issues and justice issues are essential to social cohesion and a functioning democracy at all levels. In countries where the vast majority of the population lives in cities, those cities are the place where people shape their lives and questions are turned into concrete experiences. This concerns basic services such as housing, water, energy and food as well as mobility services, education, work, culture and social participation. At present, the



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aspect of housing and its social problems are in the foreground, with the control over soil as a scarce resource playing an important role. In general, questions arise as to who owns, who controls and who uses the soil and the public space? What is private and what is public? Who finances and who profits? Fostering cohesion while sustainably transforming society at the same time requires new forms of governance and involvement of civil society, enabling co-determination, active participation and co-financing. These forms are by no means self-propelling and require a lot of hard work, since a responsible and supportive society – as a prerequisite – is only partially recognisable and must first be created in this individualistic age. It is an effort, however, that can lead to a peaceful and sustainable future on a local, national and international scale.