

MARGE – Integration of disadvantaged districts in the Upper Rhine area

Summary

The trinational project "MARGE - Integration of disadvantaged districts in the Upper Rhine area", which is funded by the European INTERREG V programme, Swiss federal and cantonal funds as well as by all project partners, aims to systematically promote the exchange between professionals from administration and social work in the partially disadvantaged districts of France, Germany and Switzerland in the Upper Rhine region.

By means of a toolkit, an exchange platform and a trinational continuing education programme, social innovations are to be made possible and transferred across borders, taking into account the contextual framework conditions.

Starting position

For several years now, social urban development programmes have been in place in the three countries of the Upper Rhine region with the aim of overcoming challenges and issues of social permeability, integration and equal opportunities in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

Although the programmes are similar, there is already a wide range of experience and innovative potential as well as practical approaches, there is hardly any exchange between the actors of social urban development in France, Germany and Switzerland. So far, there has been a lack of practical structures for cross-border cooperation between these actors as well as transferable examples of good methods and techniques.

ESTES in Strasbourg, together with the partner universities Catholic University of Applied Science Freiburg (CUF) and the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland School of Social Work, has launched a trinational project aimed at addressing similar challenges and difficulties in a cross-border perspective, which are evident in the partly disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

Participating districts/communities:

- France: Meinau Neuhoef (Strasbourg); Port du Rhin (Strasbourg); Saverne
- Germany: Kehl Kreuzmatt; Freiburg Haslach; Freiburg Weingarten
- Switzerland: Klybeck Kleinhüningen (Basel); Pratteln; Suhr

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Project plans

The aim of the project is to encourage mutual acquaintance and an exchange of methods and practices between the three Upper Rhine region countries in order to initiate, in the long term, stronger cooperation and a move closer together of the involved actors in the sense of social urban development in a cross-border perspective.

To this end, research teams of scientists and experts from the field conduct surveys on projects and methods that are or have been applied in a neighbouring country's neighbourhood. Focus groups in the neighbourhoods identify current needs and select a project that has already been tested in one of the neighbouring countries, adapt it and carry it out with support from there. The aim is to facilitate social innovations and strengthen transnational exchanges.

The trilateral cooperation project thus includes the following three actions:

- Develop systematic exchanges and transfers between professionals and local actors to disseminate innovative professional practices in the field of social urban development. The basis for this is the toolkit.
- Development of a trilateral further education programme in the field of social urban development to impart cross-border competences in this area.
- Conducting cross-border research to analyse and document the project.

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Prospect

The toolkit - a collection of methods, instruments and concepts from the participating neighbourhoods - is intended to facilitate the transfer and implementation of projects from neighbouring countries and to promote the exchange of information between all participants in the Upper Rhine region. This project is supported by the construction of a homepage as an exchange platform and a further education curriculum for professionals of social urban development, which is to be developed in parallel.

Project duration: January 2017 to December 2019

Further information: www.marge-trinational.eu

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