



Cities for All • Städte für alle

LOCAL HEROES 21

European Meeting of Urban Grassroot Movements – ufa-Fabrik Berlin, 3. July 2000, 1. Edition

Local Heroes Instead of Global Players

"Super Barrio" has demonstrated it in Mexico-City. Resistance to compulsory evacuation and expulsion, to privatization of social welfare housing, to discrimination of migrants and refugees etc., etc. this list could be continued almost indefinitely. And this is why Local Heroes are fighting for: participation in budget planning politics, foundation of co-operative housing forms, self-organisation against expulsion etc, etc., fortunately, this list is getting longer, too.

"Thousands of new forces are emerging everywhere. Manfred Max-Neef defines these forces as a swarm of mosquitos. He says, these swarms of mosquitos have more power than a rhinoceros, they grow bigger and bigger. Apart from a few exceptions like the Zapatistas in Chiapas or the Movement of the Landless in Brazil, these groups seldom get the attention of a broader public, but they do exist!!", says the Uruguayan author Eduardo Galeano in "Century of the Storm" (El siglo del viento, Mexico D.F. 1986). Not the "Global Players" should decide on the future of the cities, the "Local Heroes" have to interfere world-wide and form a network of co-operation. The meeting in Berlin is one step in this direction.



Welcome to Berlin!

Super Barrio und Kollegin



Foto: Stefan Thimmel

Who's Future?

Wessen Zukunft steht bei Urban 21 eigentlich auf der Agenda?

■ Stefan Thimmel/Klaus Teschner, Berlin

"Stimmen von unten" sind bei Urban 21 nicht gefragt. Der Ausschluss „normaler“ und benachteiligter Stadtbewohner wird gekrönt durch hohe Eintrittspreise zum Kongress selbst: Obdachlose, Arbeitslose oder Menschen mit geringem Einkommen können draußen bleiben – an sie ist offensichtlich nicht gedacht worden. Viele gute Gründe für eine Koalition aus Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung, Habitat Forum Berlin und TRIALOG zusammen mit vielen Partnern, den EXPO-Kongress Urban 21, die „Weltkonferenz zur Zukunft der Städte“ vom 4. bis zum 6. Juli 2000 in Berlin zum Anlass zu nehmen, um zu einem Treffen von Nichtregierungsorganisationen und städtischen Basisbewegungen einzuladen. Vom 3. bis 6. Juli treffen sich deshalb in der Berliner ufa-Fabrik VertreterInnen von Mietervereinen, aus umwelt- und entwicklungs-politischen Initiativen, aus Obdachlosen-Initiativen und stadtpolitischen Gruppen zu „Städte für alle – Local Heroes 21“. Die Tagung dient gleichzeitig als Vorbereitung für das im Oktober 2000 in Mexiko-Stadt geplante „Welttreffen von Stadtbewohnern“, das unter dem Motto „Die Stadt von ihren Wurzeln her neu denken“ stehen wird. Aus diesem Anlass werden auch Initiativen aus Italien, Spanien, Frankreich, Großbritannien, aus mittel- und osteuropäischen Staaten und u.a. aus Brasilien, Südafrika und Mexiko bei „Local Heroes 21“ erwartet. In Frage gestellt werden soll, ob Urban 21 als selbsternannte Weltkonferenz und als Expertentreffen überhaupt das Mandat besitzt, im Namen

der Menschheit über die Zukunft der Städte nachzudenken.

Eine Weltkommission aus 15 Fachleuten und Politikern, mehrheitlich aus Europa oder den USA, wird bei Urban 21 einen Weltbericht zur Zukunft der Städte vorlegen. Dieser Bericht geht jedoch in vielen Punkten an Interessen und Forderungen „einfacher“ Stadtbewohner vorbei. Aus diesem Blickwinkel will aber „Städte für alle“ die Stadt betrachten. Nicht nur BewohnerInnen irregulärer Siedlungen in den „Entwicklungsländern“, die dort über die Hälfte der städtischen Bevölkerung ausmachen, leiden unter schlechten Wohnbedingungen und müssen Zwangsräumungen u.a. fürchten. Auch in Deutschland fehlt beispielsweise weiterhin Wohnraum für Menschen mit geringem Einkommen. Für die Zukunft muss mit neuen Wellen der Wohnungsnot gerechnet werden. Hinzu kommt, dass sich in den deutschen Großstädten und Ballungsräumen immer deutlicher eine soziale Spaltung des Stadtraums abspielt. Menschen mit guten und mittleren Einkommen wandern aus den Kernstädten in das Umland ab, in bestimmten Stadtteilen konzentrieren sich die „Armen“ und EinwandererInnen. „Städte für alle – Local Heroes 21“ will die internationale Präsenz bei Urban 21 nutzen, um auf Erfahrungen und Forderungen der städtischen Basisbewegungen aufmerksam zu machen. Deshalb soll eine öffentliche Erklärung unter dem Arbeitstitel „Städte für alle“ vorgestellt werden. Enden soll das Basisgruppentreffen mit der Bildung einer europäischen Delegation für die Weltversammlung in Mexiko im Oktober 2000.

■ Overview

Page 2: Program and Invitations

Page 3: Program and Comments on the Urban World Report

Page 4: Program Workshop 2

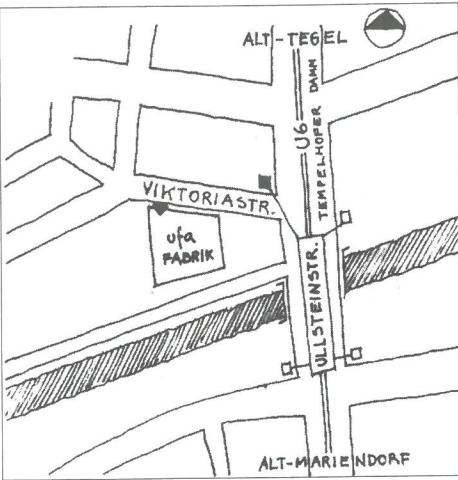
Page 5: Resistance against speculation

Page 6: Program Workshop 1 and 3

Page 7: Interview Pierre Bourdieu

Page 8: Berlin Local Heroes, Supporters and Impressum

Cities for All – Local Heroes 21



Venue/Tagungsort

Program

Venue: ufa-Fabrik, Viktoriastraße 10-18, 12105 Berlin, underground U6, station: Ullsteinstraße

Monday 3 July 2000

9:00 – 10:00 Registration of participants

10:00 – 13:30 Opening plenary

Han van Putten (Den Haag), Frédéric Lebaron (Raisons d'agir, Paris), Rainer W. Ernst (BDA Berlin), Franz-Georg Rips (German Tenants Association)

15:00 – 16:00 Report on the World Assembly of Urban Inhabitants from 2 – 6 October 2000 in Mexico City: Georgina Sandoval (Casa y Ciudad, Habitat International Coalition, Mexico)

16:30 – 17:15 Comments on the report "Urban Future 21" Jürgen Oestereich (TRIALOG)

17:30 – 18:30 "No Sustainability without Participation" Herbert Girardet (author of "The Gaia Atlas of Cities", London)

Discussion

Tuesday 4 July 2000

8:00 – 10:00 (in front of International Congress Centre – ICC) "Cities for All" meets participants of Urban 21

12:30 – 13:30 (in front of International Congress Centre – ICC) Press Conference and related activities

15:00 – 18:00 (ufa-Fabrik) group discussions

Wednesday 5 July 2000

10:00 - 13:00 / 14:00 – 16:00 Workshops

1. A City for All – without Exclusion and Discrimination

2. Housing is a Civil Right – Tenants and Dwellers share Experiences

3. Local Power and Development – Strategies for Urban Community Empowerment

16:30 – 19:00 Report on workshop results, discussion of final declaration of the meeting

19:30 – 21:00 Concluding plenary, discussion, agreement on the final declaration

21:00 Local Heroes 21 Party, ufa Fabrik

Thursday 6 July 2000

Preparation of the "World Assembly of Urban Inhabitants" Mexico-City, Oktober 2000

aims to foster exchanges and cooperation among members of urban grassroot movements, neighbourhood action groups or tenant alliances in European countries. Our meeting is a regional preparatory event for the World Assembly of Urban Inhabitants, which will take place from 2 – 6 October 2000 in Mexico City. The World Assembly in Mexico has been initiated by HIC (Habitat International Coalition), a global network of urban social movements. Under the motto "Rethinking the City from the Grassroots", the discussion in Berlin and Mexico will tackle questions including: How can urban social movements, respond in the face of growing social segregation and the new role of cities in the context of globalisation? What are our common ideals for a solidarity-based, democratic and responsible city that is worth living in, productive, healthy, safe, and enjoyable? Which kinds of strategies and actions should we develop?

Our meeting is as a response to the "Global Conference on the Urban Future – Urban 21", taking place from 4 – 6 July 2000 in Berlin. The "Global Report – Urban Future 21" which will be presented at this event neglects many of our needs and legitimate claims as urban inhabitants and falls short of the agreements adopted at the UN conferences in Rio and Istanbul. Since we were not involved in the preparation of Urban 21, from which we feel excluded due to high admission fees, we will take advantage of our own meeting to explore questions such as: How to build a city without exclusion or discrimination? How to implement legitimate rights to secure decent housing? How to contribute to a responsible local and global governance? What has changed since the UN conferences in Istanbul 1996 and Rio 1992 and what should be done?



Ciudades para Todos – Héroes Locales 21

La intención principal de este encuentro es facilitar el intercambio y la formación de redes entre los movimientos de barrios, organizaciones de vecinos, cooperativas de vivienda, iniciativas de los sin techo, organizaciones ambientales y de desarrollo u otros movimientos urbanos en Alemania y en otros países. Es el evento preparativo Europeo para la "Asamblea Mundial de Pobladores" del 2 al 6 de Octubre del 2000 en la Ciudad de México. La Asamblea Mundial en México surgió de una iniciativa de la Coalición Internacional para el Habitat (HIC) y de importantes movimientos sociales urbanos de varios continentes. Bajo el lema "Repensando la Ciudad desde la Gente", la Asamblea Mundial en México enfocará las siguientes inquietudes: ¿Qué actitud pueden tomar los movimientos sociales urbanos frente a las crecientes rupturas sociales y al nuevo papel de las ciudades en el contexto de la globalización? ¿Qué ideales de una ciudad incluyente, democrática, sustentable, habitable, productiva, saludable, educadora, segura y disfrutable tenemos en común? ¿Qué estrategias, acciones y alianzas son útiles para lograr estos fines?

El encuentro Europeo será un contrapeso de la sociedad civil frente a la reunión de distinguidos

especialistas "Conferencia Mundial sobre el Futuro de las Ciudades – URBAN 21". URBAN 21, un evento oficial de la exposición mundial de Hanover, se realizará del 4 al 6 de Julio del 2000 en Berlin tras el encuentro de los alcaldes de las veintiún ciudades más grandes del mundo.

Para un gran número de organizaciones sociales urbanas y no gubernamentales, las visiones del Informe Mundial y sus conceptos urbanos parecen ser mundos lejanos. En su trabajo diario están confrontados con problemas totalmente diferentes. Las organizaciones sociales urbanas y no gubernamentales que se encontrarán en Berlin bajo el lema "Ciudades para Todos" van a dedicarse principalmente a las siguientes preguntas:

¿Qué estrategias sirven para promover una ciudad sin exclusión o discriminación así como el acceso equitativo de todos los habitantes a los recursos urbanos? ¿Qué estrategias promueven el cumplimiento del derecho a una vivienda digna, la creación autodeterminada del hábitat y la seguridad jurídica de la vivienda social? ¿Cómo se pueden fortalecer las organizaciones sociales urbanas? ¿Qué aportes pueden venir desde la sociedad civil para un desarrollo urbano con responsabilidad local y global?

A Fairy Urban Future

Comments on the "Report on the Future of Cities URBAN 21"

■ By Jürgen Oestereich, Ratingen

Issuing worldwide reports is an often underrated activity of the UN-System. Such reports deal with subjects like media, climate change, child diseases or nuclear arms. With the immeasurably complex world in the background they are full of facts, tables and cautious statements – hard stuff to swallow.

An example which is exceptionally rich in information, is the "Global Report on Human Settlements – An Urbanizing World", commissioned by the Nairobi-based UN-Habitat Centre for the Habitat II-Conference in 1996. It deals with all conceivable elements of settlement, housing, land use, land market and property management, urban administration, planning, financing and running of super- and infrastructure, poverty, crime, environmental conditions, administrative structures and sustainable life style. Together with publications such as "Implementing the Urban Environment Agenda", compendia of statistics such as "The World's Largest Cities" and expert reports such as "Putting the Poor on the Map" the available wisdom of the field could not be assembled better.

Maybe, the initiators of URBAN 21 wanted something more commensurable and dynamic. They commissioned experts to produce a specific "World Report on The Urban Future". The experts set to work on demographic and social change, infrastructure and transport, land market and urban management, on urban environment and informal housing and job markets topped up with a speculation over three alternatives of urbanite development, yet neglecting, unfortunately, much of the UN work. Using two tricks they were able to brush over problematic facts such as water scarcity, environmental dangers, poverty, violence etc.: They keep to aggregates and disregard critical spots, and confront, whatever remains disquieting, immediately with counter-measures. Thus emerges a world without hard conflicts and bitter needs, where once will run ecologically sound ecocars and a free land market will allow

the economy to produce efficiently the riches for affluent cities. Such observations and conclusions are contained in the CD attached to the printed summary report. It may be called the cupboard of the Anderson's emperor's false clothes.

The dynamics of urban development are dealt with by means of alternative scenarios of urban development, the one taking a rather evil turn of events, the other a good and, hence, recommendable one. Like the hero Ulysses, cities are seen more or less successfully navigating between Scilla and Carybdis. Such scenarios, while being able to relate to the passing of time are double-edged. Seen from outside, cities look like bee-hives which can be manipulated by a bee-master provided he understands the bee-rules. Seen from inside the inhabitants feel like free human beings ready and entitled to take any unforeseen turn in their behaviour.

Throughout the Report, there is a constant confusion of "urban" defined as the comportment of men or bees-in-hive and "urban" defined as the comportment of bee-hives as collective entities. In fact, the report does not take into account that political units always are intricate objects composed themselves of hierarchies of units all of which exist only as long as they constantly re-establish their identity, with no guarantee that a specific behaviour will go on or be transferable to other units.

Taking thus, for the sake of commensurability, the city to be an undisputed entity, the Report turns to the recommendable behaviour of bee-masters. This the report calls "Good Governance" presenting it in form of a diagram. It is introduced like a kind of mandala, having been revealed, as a logo shows, to the company responsible for the World Report, "empirica". This mandala is based on the magic number seven, pointing to seven realms of action designated by magic words and demanding seven rules of conjuration to be observed in order to achieve the prescribed "Good Governance".

The Report concludes with an "Action Plan", presented as a catalogue of measures on what cities (i.e. the bee-masters) should do with cities (i.e. the bee-hives). These measures are put mild terms according to the now fashionable "positive pedagogy". In former times pedagogy was more imperious and using the "black pedagogy" of, for example, the "Struwwelpeter". But the aim is the same: an orderly appearance.



Programm

Tagungsort: ufa-Fabrik, Viktoriastrasse 10-18, 12105 Berlin, U 6 Ullsteinstrasse

Montag, 3. Juli 2000

9:00 – 10:00 Anmeldung der TeilnehmerInnen
10:00 – 13:30 Eröffnungsplenum:

Han van Putten (Den Haag), Frédéric Lebaron (Raisons d'agir, Paris), Rainer W. Ernst (BDA Berlin), Franz-Georg Rips (Deutscher Mieterbund)

15:00 - 16:00 Bericht zur Weltversammlung von StadtbewohnerInnen vom 2. – 6. Oktober 2000 in Mexiko-Stadt: Georgina Sandoval (Casa y Ciudad, Habitat International Coalition, Mexico)

16:30 – 17:15 Anmerkungen zum Weltbericht „Urban Future 21“: Jürgen Oestereich (TRIALOG)

17:30 – 18:30 „Keine Nachhaltigkeit ohne Beteiligung der Betroffenen“ Herbert Girardet (Autor von 'The Gaia Atlas of Cities', London)
Diskussion

Dienstag, 4. Juli 2000

8:00 – 10:00 (vor dem Internationalen Congress Centrum – ICC)
„Städte für alle“ grüßt die TeilnehmerInnen von Urban 21

12:30 – 13:30 (vor dem Internationalen Congress Centrum – ICC)
Aktion und Pressekonferenz

15:00 – 18:00 (ufa-Fabrik) Erfahrungsaustausch der Gruppen

Mittwoch, 5. Juli 2000

Arbeitsgruppen:

1. Eine Stadt für alle – ohne Ausschluss und Diskriminierung
2. Wohnen ist ein Bürgerrecht – BewohnerInnen im Erfahrungsaustausch
3. Lokale Macht und Entwicklung – Strategien zur Stärkung städtischer Gemeinschaften

16:30 – 19:00 Bericht der Arbeitsgruppen, Diskussion der Abschlusserklärung

19:30 – 21:00 Abschlussplenum, Diskussion, Verabschiedung der Abschlusserklärung

21:00 Local Heroes 21 Party, ufa Fabrik

Donnerstag, 6. Juli 2000

Vorbereitung zur „Weltversammlung von Stadtbewohnern“ in Mexico-City, Oktober 2000



Foto: Juergen Oestereich

No legal Right to Housing in Germany

Even during the most prospering periods Germany wasn't able to give shelter to all. Constantly a minority of homeless people coexisted with the normal and rather rigid standards of living defined by the concepts private ownership and social housing.

Although it would be payable and easy to install into German law, homeless and evicted people don't have a right to a minimum standard of housing. They are sheltered in special homes for homeless people, often living there for a long time but without legal rights comparable to normal tenants. Migrants with a special status are legally forced to live in similar houses. Other homeless people live in the streets. Within the last years many municipalities started law and order policies against them – often without a legal right to do so.



Workshop 2

Housing is a Civil Right

Movements of Tenants and Dwellers share Experience

Wednesday, July 5th 2000, 10:30 – 16:00
Moderation : Han van Putten, Den Haag

Inputs:

- **Habitat – European Perspectives**, Cesare Ottolini, HIC Focal Point Europe, Padova
- **Report from Poland**; Zygmunt R. Kich, Krakow, Polish Association of Tenants
- **Introducing markets in eastern Germany**. State and results. Armin Hentschel, Institute for Social Development of Cities, Berlin
- **Deregulation and privatisation in western Germany**. Knut Unger, Tenants Association of Witten, Germany
- **Resisting the privatisation of miners' homes**. Report from NRW/Germany. Trauedel Tomshöfer, Veba-Tenants'Action Coalition, Gelsenkirchen
- **Housing Conflicts in a transnational Banking-Metropol**, Jürgen Lutz, Tenants helping Tenants, Frankfurt/Main, Germany
- **Report from Italy**: N.N. Unione Inquilini
- **Housing- and Land Rights in Bombay**, asked: Sheela Patel, SPARC, Bombay, India
- **Improvement of Settlement by Grassroot Organizations**, Cristina Almazan Villalobos, UCISV - VER, Veracruz, Mexico
- **Improvement of Habitat by local NGO**, Hilda Bezerra and Olinda Marques, Cearah Periferia, Fortaleza, Brazil
- **Perspectives of European Networking**



Global Negotiation

Social Movements between Protest and Cooporation

■ by Knut Unger

In spite of the rhetoric progress worked out by national and international conferences the right to adequate housing seems less realised than ever. Looking for reasons we may recognise some common tendencies.

Violent transformations of housing markets took place in former communist countries. Over night and without respect to tenants needs an unregulated market economy was introduced to housing sector. Many millions of people who lost their jobs and incomes now have to pay highly increased rents. Most former communist states failed to establish a legal rights system that would be able to protect the tenants and to regulate market. Millions were evicted, became homeless.

In western countries some of the laws and rules founded during the era of welfare state and Fordism were deregulated. States shortened the housing-subsidies and started a process of privatisation of public housing. Becoming global players industrial companies no longer have an interest in giving homes to their workers. In abstract: housing economy changes from a regulated and normalising system of social com-

promises into a special sector of share-holder-value-capitalism. This weakens communities and shortens the public resources to solve the present and future housing problems.

In "southern" hemisphere poverty and the number of urban poor is increasing continuously while in many cities basic infrastructures, public services and a legitimised local governance do only exist at very low levels. The problems of land- and housing-rights are still not solved.

While on the one hand globalisation becomes the ruling force, in north and south new ideas and projects of local self-organisation and bottom up-strategies for the improvement of housing are raising up – some of them supported by international agencies.

Political conditions and ideologies are very different, but in many cases Social Movements have to negotiate between social protest and political co-optation, mobilisation and consultation, global demands and local solutions.

Instead of reproducing a new ideology – either pro- or anti-global – we should investigate the concrete forces and their relations strengthening or hindering cities, individuals, communities to improve housing conditions.

Workshop 2:

REPORT ON POLAND

The actual shortage of flats is estimated for some 1,5 million units with further 1 million to be pulled down within the next three years because of their poor technical condition. 15% of people (2,5 million) are unemployed. Homelessness is estimated from 100.000 to 500.000 (depending on sources) produced within last years. More and more families are approaching the edge of poverty because of continuously rising prices (electricity, water and gas supplies), fees, rents, and other charges. Practically no nation-wide adopted programs for building new tenement houses (except for rich people) exist. Last year 12.000 tenants were legally evicted, 5000 of them to nowhere. Privatisation threatens more and more people with possible eviction. Free market rents will be introduced next year. State authorities avoid the housing problems and try to solve them by the "invisible hand of the free-market". You can hardly be optimistic."

Zygmunt R. Kich and Elzbieta Adach, activists from several grassroots movements will report on housing situation in Poland on Wednesday in workshop II.

Workshop 2:

REPORT ON ITALY

The recent introduction of the law 431/98 liberalised the real estate rent market, provoking an increase of 50% in the levels of rent. Privatisation will reduce social housing sector by half in a brief time. Government in order to meet the monetarist parameters imposed by EU cuts social policies. New poverty and social exclusion is growing. The exclusion of immigrants is utilised by the racist right wing to indicate the immigrants as responsible for the Habitat crisis. On the other hand new impulse were given to the sectors of the collective property Habitat co-operatives. In Rome the Corallo Co-operative has obtained the assignment of buildings from the City Hall, while the Lazio region has approved a revolutionary law that, for the first time in Italy, supports the co-operatives involved in self recovery. In Padova, another co-operative has succeeded in realising Italy's first inter ethnic urban centre with the participation of Italians and immigrants originating from tens of countries. Cesare Ottolini and other activists of Unione Inquilini will report in workshop II.

Europas größter Spekulant

Mieter wehren sich gegen den „nachhaltigen“ Wohnungskonzern Viterra AG

■ von Knut Unger, Witten/Wuppertal

der Angst der Leute. Kaufen die Mieter nicht, können die Wohnungen nämlich auch an andere Eigentümer gehen.



Fotos: Knut Unger



wurde die Abwehr der Verkaufspläne immer wichtiger.

„Wohnen bei Viterra ist zu einem Risiko geworden“ klagten Mitglieder des Aktionsbündnisses bei der letzten Aktionärsversammlung der Veba AG im Mai. Die Aktionäre ließ es kalt. Nach der Fusion von Veba mit Viag zu E.ON soll das Umwandlungsgeschäft weiter ausgebaut werden. Die Viterra AG steht in den Startlöchern, noch mehr öffentliche Wohnungsunternehmen in anderen Bundesländern aufzukaufen und dann umzuwandeln. Auch zum Sprung auf die europäischen Immobilienmärkte setzt der Wohnungsgigant bereits an.

Bei der Weltstädtekonferenz „Urban 21“ im ICC darf die Viterra diese Politik aller Welt als „nachhaltiges Wohnungsmarktmanagement“ (Donnerstag) verkaufen. „Viterra ist der größte Wohnraumspekulant Europas“, sagt dagegen das Aktionsbündnis. Am Montag bietet Urban 21 eine Fahrt zu angeblichen Veba-Vorzeige-Siedlungen im Ruhrgebiet an. Mieter werden die Besucher vor Ort über die wahren Verhältnisse aufklären.

Klar, dass die Leute sich das nicht gefallen lassen. Von Dortmund bis Oberhausen haben sich zahlreiche Mieterinitiativen gebildet. In Gelsenkirchen-Hassel bilden 30 Mieter den Kern einer starken Bürgerinitiative, die immer wieder Hunderte von Bewohnern mobilisiert. Das zeigt Wirkung. Unterstützt von Land und Stadt versucht die Initiative eine neue Mietergenossenschaft zu gründen, die ihre Häuser übernimmt. Aber auch nach vielen Gesprächen ist die Viterra AG immer noch nicht bereit, mit dem Preis herunterzugehen.

Als im Herbst 1998 die Medien groß über die Betrugsvorwürfe gegen Veba berichtete, war für die Initiativen im Ruhrgebiet der Zeitpunkt gekommen, sich zum „Aktionsbündnis der Veba-Mieter“ zusammenzuschließen. Zunächst ging es vor allem darum, den vielen Abrechnungsstricks der Veba bei den Betriebs- und Heizkostenabrechnungen auf die Spur zu kommen. Dann aber

The Termination of German Housing Miracle

■ by Knut Unger, Witten/Wuppertal

To many foreigners German housing qualities, legal rights and financing systems seem very nice. At Urban 21 governments, scientists and businessmen again will present German housing-conditions as solid, social and sustainable. Of course they will not talk about the present processes of undermining the basis structures of the German housing miracle and they will say nothing about the struggles of tenants defending their homes.

The solution of housing problems in Western Germany over decades was based on three main institutions: (1) "Housing companies in benefit for the public" – a landscape of non-profit-housing-companies including those in the ownership of municipalities, state, industries, unions, co-operatives. (1) "Social housing" for people with

middle and low incomes – a subvention-system with temporarily controlled rents. (3) The system of legal rights for tenants. In Eastern Germany the market was totally controlled by state up to 1990.

Today "benefit for the public" belongs to history. Industry stopped engagement in social housing since the first employment-crisis and since some years even state and municipality started to sell their housing companies. The "social housing" subventions were reduced to a very low level. Only the system of legal rights seems to keep solid.

The fundamental agreement concerning the German housing system is deeply changing its face – based on a very dominant home-ownership-ideology, that is supported by billions of public subventions.

Nevertheless local cores of protest against privatisation and forced ownership are able to mobilise public opinion. When municipality in Essen (Ruhr-district) tried to sell shares of its housing company a group of tenants was able to collect over 50.000 supporters for a plebiscite against it within a short time. The privatisation of 5000 tenants homes a year by the big energy-trust Viterra/Veba mobilised the inhabitants of at least 20 housing schemes, that associated at a regional level.

Even social-democrats are part of the dominant tendencies of shareholder-value and private-ownership-ideology. This is one reason for their bad results at the last elections. Conservatives took over in many Ruhr-Cities. It seems a long way to reconstruct a new social hegemony about housing.

Workshop 1:

A City for All – without Exclusion and Discrimination

At the turn of the millennium "the cities reinvent themselves", as the preliminary report of URBAN 21 says. Behind the scenery of wealth, which the cities put on display, appears an increasing amount of poverty, jobless-ness, underpaid work and a growing number of homeless and excluded people.

The cities which had been animated symbolically and politically by the UN conferences of the last decade should be fit for competition, according to the will of those who decide over and for them. The public space serves more and more as a stage for shows and festivals of any kind, protected by guards through exclusion of the unwanted. Neighbourhoods of the poor and immigrants are threatened in their singularity either through the pressure of a powerful life-style elite or through their social decline into cultural detriment and deprivation.

Projects in such neighbourhoods, which try to fight for the rights and the strengthening of the

job- or homeless, migrants and street children are in many cases fully occupied with coming to terms with their personnel problems. The possibility of mutual networking and, consequently, the chance to have political impact at the level of the quarter or the city or beyond, is limited.

Workshop 1 is articulated into three panels. The outcome should be a critical review of the developments since the 1996 Habitat II conference in Istanbul, as a base to develop demands and reflections to be presented at the World Assembly of Urban Inhabitants in Mexico City in October 2000.

Workshop languages: English and Spanish, informal translation into German.

10:00 – 10:30 Introduction to the workshop, Presentation of participants and action groups

10:30 – 11:30 "Empowerment: inclusion, autonomy or self-organisation?"

Introduction: Dr. Dolly Conto Obregón (Internation

tional documentation centre for street children), David Satterthwaite (London)

Statements by: Dr. Constanze Kube (Hängematten, Berlin), Andrea Knaut (Jungdemokraten, Berlin), Christoph Seeger (Elele, Berlin), Hans Zosch (Wagendorf Lohmühle, Berlin), Discussion

11:45 – 13:00 "Strategies for poor and migrants" - neighbourhoods exposed to exclusion and gentrification"

Introduction: Dr. Michi Knecht (HU Berlin), Charna Furman (HIC, Montevideo)

Statements by: Stefan Emmerich (Baustop.randstadt Berlin), Dr. Stefan Schneider (mob – homeless people mobilise, Berlin), Dino Laufer (TU Berlin)

14:00 – 16:00 "Small projects and local networks: which impact have national and international alliances?", Introduction: Silvia de los Rios (HIC, Lima), NN (Raisons d'agir)

Discussion in view of the forthcoming World Assembly of Urban Inhabitants in Mexico

Workshop 3:

Local Power and Development – strategies for community empowerment

Civil society and subsidiarity can breathe only with responsibility over local resources, funds and services. This hurts with established rights, routines and profiting. The current global learning process towards local responsibility points to innovations such as participatory budgeting and local community administration.

1. Success and failure of urban grassroots movements seen bottom-up Urban grassroots groups and grassroots movements are not identical with local communities. They may start as single purpose initiatives centred around a specific local problem thereby awakening the hitherto dormant community. Or they may be considered as spearhead of an already self-aware local community. There are opportunities to establish a kind of symbiosis which in turn may trigger off synergistic forces. On the other hand there is always the danger of disintegration. We shall look at the careers of various groups in different situations and cultures in order to identify promising strategy elements.

Speakers: Kirtee Shah, ASAG, Ahmedabad, (K.J. Jayaratne, Sevanatha, Colombo,) Paula dos Santos (Filhos da Terra, São Paulo), Cearah, Michael Birkenbeul, SSM, Köln

2. Good Governance, Local Agenda 21 and urban social movements Until recently, urban movements were rather discouraged by the local authorities. This has changed in principle with the concept of the Local Agenda 21, which invites the authorities to seek consultative links with the population resp. ist grassroot representatives and encourage their work. The same idea is behind the notion of "Good Governance". However, both concepts apart from offering a fashionable rhetoric, may be misused for the pursuance of individual and specific group interests.

We shall discuss the underlying idea as well as the experiences gained with respect to the trias grassroot / LA 21 moves / Good governance.

Speakers: Yves Cabannes, Quito, Hernán Herrera Aparcana, Cajamarca, Ina Ranson, Paris, Ulrich Nitschke, (Agenda-Transfer, Bonn)

3. Participatory budgeting and democratic control of local governance Even if the trias works smoothly and a kind of synergy is evolving at local community level, the perspective can only be promising, if local communities get a substantial share in the local decision-making and implementation power. The crucial element is the command over funds and some key personnel.

We shall look at the practice which has been established in this field, and the endogene and ekogene limitations of the concept.

Speakers: Davinder Lamba, Mazangira Institute, Nairobi, Marilia Fidell, Porto Alegre, (Noli Pacquiao, Quezon-Manila,) Martine Toulotte, Grenoble, Andreas Bentler, Dortmund

Additional Speakers: Peter Herrle, Habitat Unit, Berlin; Jutta Schultes, Wuppertal, Brigitte Karhoff, Bochum; Jörg Mayer-Ries, IFOK, Berlin; Elenka Jarolimek (Fundacja Karkonoska), Warschau; Hernán Herrera Aparcana, Omar Rojas Bécerra (ASODEL), Cajamarca; Philipp Klaus (INURA) Zürich; Toni Gibson, London

"To Form a Mighty Power"

Interview with Pierre Bourdieu, Professor for Sociology at the Collège de France in Paris

In May 2000, the French group "raisons d'agir" (reasons to take action) published a manifest calling for convocation of the of socialist movements in Europe. Pierre Bourdieu, the most famous member of this group, came to Berlin last June to promote this project. He is the successor of Michel Foucault at the Collège de France and internationally renowned for his publications concerning social inequality ("The small Differences", "The misery of the world").

Mr. Bourdieu, why does an internationally renowned sociologist and a famous member of the French Academy of Sciences set aside his academic projects to bring to life a European resistance movement of social movements?

I have always been in touch with these social movements, only that it became much more obvious and also much more important during the last time, because they are threatened harder today. During the last years, state and society have changed in a way leaving behind weaker parts of the society without protection. And than, this is called progress and praised as revolutionary, showing a bourgeois arrogance imposing that everyone is the architect of his own future.

For me, it is nothing out of the ordinary to talk to the people in the streets and to interfere, I don't consider this a break in my scientific work.

It seems to me that particularly in Germany there exists this image of the academic honour of a professor, which implies a restraint not allowing to do such things. I don't like this, I consider it hypocrisy. We don't get scientific findings just by studying statistics but by studying everyday life and existential experiences, therefore it is necessary to talk to people and to take part in life.

Is science able to warn in case of undesirable development of the society? Or will the scientists have to leave the universities to ask critical questions and to be heard?

This depends on who is controlling the expenditure for research. Today, scientific criticism is more and more in the hand of economic and politic power. I have never been able to place any of my students in an important position during the last years - this has been prevented. Most probably we will be forced to leave the universities to take up action.

But the social movements themselves could present this criticism themselves in a much more emphatic way. They could take on social functions like the journalists did. To do so, they would need small experts circles to bring together research and grassroots-experiences. An enormous

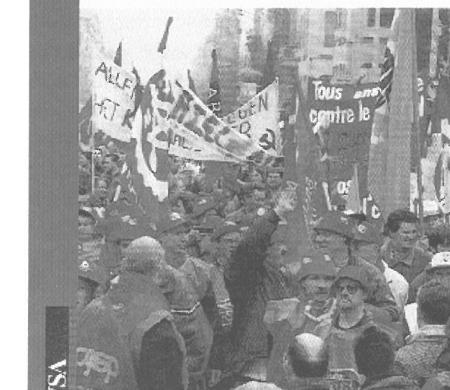
amount of knowledge is gathered within the movements, like that of the banks: A head of the co-operative bank Crédit Agricole knows more about society than a simple sociologist, he has access to all data concerning activities, desires and projects of his clients and can easily process them electronically, analyse them and set up theories.

You plan to create a world-wide network consisting of groups of the homeless, unemployed, union members, women, homosexuals and ecological organisations to focus the power of these different movements. But will they have sufficient common interests and do they have something to tell each other?

Pierre Bourdieu/Claude Debons/
Detlef Hensche/Burkart Lutz u.a.

Perspektiven des Protests

Initiativen für einen
europäischen Wohlfahrtsstaat



We assume that there are plenty of movements having more or less the same interests and points of focus, even if they sometimes have conflicts. Most of these groups are active only on a national level and have difficulties to operate internationally. We therefore call for a European convocation of these movements.

Things changed because of a higher level of education, there are now intellectuals and scientists on all levels of these groups. Movements and scientists penetrate each other and both groups benefit. Of course, every group has its own prime themes which, despite of posing difficulties of understanding, are presenting the huge cultural capital of the movement that could be used.

The idea is to find a common language and to build a critical counter-power all could profit from. In Paris, such a meeting of French groups already took place.

Most of the groups are occupied by daily problems and a fight for survival, how should they find the motivation and power to additionally build up a world-wide network?

There are millions of people in the different movements who are suffering from this society and feel not at ease. Altogether, they are forming a mighty power. Local groups with their large social capital only lack means and places to express themselves. The internet is not enough, we have to rethink and use traditional means to express this joint unease, like it happened in Seattle a short time ago.

What will be your part and that of your group "raisons d'agir"? Will you and would you like to take a leading function in this process?

My function in France has been to make possible a convocation of all these groups as a catalyst and crystallisation point. I act like a messenger between movements. Very often I only tell groups with similar problems of each other. This is not a question of leading and I don't want to be a leader of this movement, I only want to facilitate networking of all these independent small worlds.

Comparing Berlin and Paris, which are the developments in both cities? What is different in Berlin from what you experienced in Paris?

I have already given a detailed description of the restructuring of Paris, creating an artificial ring of workers' and immigrants' suburbs. *(Pierre Bourdieu, Les structures sociales de l'économie, Ed. Seulls, Paris). These suburbs did not emerge by chance, they are the expression of a policy driving people to form property in the centre and become owner of their home to convert them into conservative voters. The distribution of wealth and property within Paris is since then strictly organised: proprietors in the centre with social welfare housing tenants surrounding them.

Seeing the Brandenburg Gate framed by two bank buildings last month, this seemed like a symbol to me. I have heard that a part of the social welfare housing in Berlin shall be sold. If this process continues, the outstanding fact that there is - unlike in Paris - still social-welfare- and low-priced housing available in central areas of Berlin could be no longer true. This is a conservative action being sold as a revolutionary act: "first we have to give back to the market what it is asking for, then we will build better housing", etc. This process destroys social relationships and social movements and is ironically titled as progress.

Pierre Bourdieu has been interviewed by Meriem Chabou and Klaus Teschner. You can find the manifest "Charta 2000" at www.raisons.org

Local Heroes 21

Organisation

Jürgen Oestereich (TRIALOG); Klaus Teschner (Habitat Forum Berlin); Stefan Thimmel, Knut Unger (Forum Umwelt & Entwicklung Bonn); in cooperation with Bildungswerk Berlin der Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

Accommodation, logistics/Unterkünfte, Logistik: Manuela Hoffmann

Translation/Übersetzung:

Ana Aravena, Peter Carrier, Meriem Chabou

Website: Thomas Kuder

Information: teschner@habitat-forum-berlin.de
and thimmel@ask-agentur.de

Address: Habitat Forum Berlin, Baerwaldstraße 51, D-10961 Berlin, Fax (030) 6 93 31 09
website: www.habitat-forum-berlin.de

Contact during the event

Kontakt während des Treffens:
ufa-Fabrik, Viktoriastraße 10 - 18, Berlin-Tempelhof, Infozentrum, phone:
*49 (0)30 - 7 55 03 - 0 (9:00 - 18:00)

Supporters

The call for "Local Heroes 21" is supported by: Der Aufruf zu „Local Heros“ wird unterstützt von:

Habitat International Coalition (HIC) - General Secretariat, Cape Town, South Africa; HIC Europe Focal Point, Padova, Italia; Vereinigung für Stadt-, Regional- und Landesplanung (SRL); Bund Deutscher Architekten Berlin (BDA); Grupo de Arquitectos Latinoamericanos - GALA, Berlin; Obdachlose machen mobil - mob e.V., Berlin; Confederación de Asociaciones de Vecinos de España - CAVE, Madrid; ALTEC, Paris; CEDIDELP, Paris; Unione Inquilini, Italia (federation of tenant associations); Aktionsbündnis der VEBA-Mieter, Gelsenkirchen; Mietervereine Berlin, Bochum, Dortmund, Echeloh, Frankfurt, Witten; Berliner Entwicklungspolitischer Ratschlag, Grüne Liga Berlin

We gratefully acknowledge the support generously extended to "Local Heroes 21" by
Für die finanzielle Unterstützung danken wir besonders:

Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer pour le Progrès de l'Homme (FPH), Paris; Forum Umwelt & Entwicklung, Bonn; Bildungswerk Berlin der Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung; Stiftung Mitarbeit, Bonn; Kunsthochschule Berlin-Weißensee; Mieterverein Berlin; Vereinigung für Stadt-, Regional- und Landesplanung (SRL); Bund Deutscher Architekten Berlin (BDA); Grüne Liga Berlin e.V.

"Cities for All - Local Heroes 21" takes place in the ufa-Fabrik Berlin with the support of ID 22

Local Heroes 21 findet mit Unterstützung des ID 22 Festivals in der ufa-Fabrik Berlin statt.

Berlin Local Heroes

„Bremer Höhe“

Eine neue Wohnungsbaugenossenschaft setzt sich durch!



■ von Stefan Thimmel, Berlin

Der Schlusspunkt war dramatisch: Buchstäblich in letzter Minute, also kurz vor zwölf kam in der Nacht vom 30. April auf den 1. Mai 2000 die Finanzierungszusage der Investitionsbank Berlin und der Kaufvertrag zwischen der Wohnungsbaugenossenschaft „Bremer Höhe“ im Bezirk Prenzlauer Berg und der Wohnungsbaugesellschaft in Prenzlauer Berg (WIP) konnte rechtsgültig werden. Der erst im Januar gegründeten Genossenschaft gelang dabei außergewöhnliches. Die im November 1999 von der WIP verkündete Verkaufsabsicht an einen Großinvestor konnte in nur fünf Monaten abgewendet werden und die 104 Genossinnen in dem denkmalgeschützten Wohnkomplex Schönhauser Allee, Buchholzer Straße, Pappelallee und Gneiststraße im nordwestlichen Teil des Bezirks haben dabei Maßstäbe gesetzt.

Die Vorgeschichte

Anfang November 1999 kam für die 514 betroffenen Haushalte die schlechte Nachricht von der WIP. Die Wohnungen sollten noch im laufenden Jahr verkauft werden. Dabei machte die WIP aber die Rechnung ohne die MieterInnen: Empört darüber, dass die Gesellschaft den ganzen Komplex an einen Großinvestor verkaufen wollte, ohne, wie es im Gesetz vorgesehen ist, die Wohnungen zuvor den BewohnerInnen anzubieten, regte sich Widerstand bei den Betroffenen gegen die drohende Verdrängung. Durch enormes ehrenamtliches Engagement einzelner GenossInnen und die Bereitschaft vieler Bewohner-

Innen einerseits und die politische Unterstützung im Bezirk und auch im Senat andererseits, wurde die Genossenschaft am 1. Mai 2000 Eigentümerin.

Signalwirkung für den Bezirk?

Der Erfolg der Genossenschaft „Bremer Höhe“ könnte wegweisend für weitere Neugründungen sein. Aber die Arbeit fängt jetzt erst richtig an: Ab sofort muss die konkrete Planung für die notwendige Sanierung beginnen. Darüber hinaus geht es allen Beteiligten aber nicht nur darum, den Wohnraum zu sichern, sondern auch darum, ein funktionierendes soziales Quartier zu schaffen und zu sichern. Um dies zu realisieren und um einen Beitrag dazu zu leisten, die soziale Lage im Kiez zu verbessern, sind u.a. Kooperationen mit lokalen Beschäftigungsmodellen und Projekten angedacht.



Impressum

Redaction:

Stefan Thimmel (resp.), Knut Unger, Silke Woltermann

Layout:

LayoutManufaktur Berlin

This Local Heroes 21 edition is financed with the generous of MISEREOR Aachen
Die Local Heroes Kongresszeitung wird unterstützt durch MISEREOR, Aachen