

RAUM FÜR VECHTA

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Local governments, citizens, universities and SMEs have joined forces to co-create smarter, more efficient and more innovative services through 9 transnational pilot projects covering 3 core themes:



CITIZENS VALUE AREAS IN THE CITY

On the website, www.raum-für-vechta.de, people can value different areas in the city of Vechta (for now six areas). With the launch of this website, the University of Vechta and the City of Vechta are testing a new method of city planning. Purpose of the tool is to identify the desired use of certain areas by citizens of the city and beyond. On the long run, municipal employees will analyze the results as decision support for the city council.

The background of the concept is that city planners and council members decide on the use of areas in Vechta. Even though citizen participation constitutes an official part of zoning plan procedures, people rarely take part. It can be assumed that most people are probably not even aware of the existence of such procedures. As a result, conflicting interests on the use of certain areas often emerge late in the zoning plan procedure. Contrary to the official participation process, our online tool visualizes and explains the need for participation and shows concrete areas to value. The areas can be assessed in an easy way, by answering a questionnaire. Our objective is to support council members in considering the different opinions, desires and needs on the use of land in Vechta at an early stage in the planning procedures – by timely revealing them.

Citizen Engagement



Résumé

The idea behind the online participation tool is great – it can lead to better services in the planning of land use. However, the challenge lies in convincing many people for participation. This comes because city planning is probably not of that much interest to the majority of people. However, we see great chances in the online tool. In principle, we can reprogram the website to any kind of questionnaire with regard to areas in Vechta.

Local partners

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