

Ruhr Conference - sectors and projects





The Ruhr - a region of opportunity

The Ruhr area is a region of opportunity, a crucible of ideas and innovations, a drawing board for the future. It is one of the most extensive providers of tertiary education in Germany, boasts a range of cultural activities unmatched in Europe and is becoming a magnet for start-ups.

The Ruhr area is a fully-fledged metropolitan region with its own identity and a proud history of highs and lows. More than anything, it is home to over five million people, all of whom are glad to call it the centre of their lives. Diversity and cohesion are writ large in the Ruhr. People can rely on each other – today as in the past.

These are the strengths that the Ruhr Conference latches onto. It brings together not only people but also business and trade unions, science and culture, churches and endowments, societies and associations and in particular its 53 cities and towns – guided by the principle that a metropolitan region can only become a cradle of opportunity if its component parts form a closely-linked network. Only if all actors are pulling in the same direction can ideas be brought to fruition. Which is why our watchword is: *Menschen machen Metropole* – the metropolis is made by people.

The Ruhr Conference relies on innovation, inspiration and brain power. The Ruhr area is already making an impression with its science and business, its research work and practical implementation, and these achievements have to be built on. Ideas are the key raw material for building this land of opportunity.

Girded with this conviction, the Ruhr can also be a pioneer when it comes to devising solutions for the global challenges posed by climate change, digitalisation, mobility, sustainable industries and the need to secure good forms of gainful employment, lifelong learning and a high quality of life.

This dynamism also bolsters the Rhine-Ruhr region's planned application to host the 2032 Olympic Games. A networked metropolitan region that breathes innovation and initiative – within its own boundaries and beyond.

The Ruhr Conference is all about connecting people, breaking new ground, acting boldly and above all being in it for the long haul when it comes to putting projects into practice. Which means the Ruhr Conference focuses on five sectors as it goes about generating ideas, impetus and initiatives for this region of opportunity:

- Ruhr region of opportunity: Networked mobility – short distances
- Ruhr region of opportunity: Thriving economy – good forms of work
- Ruhr region of opportunity: Lived diversity – strong cohesion
- Ruhr region of opportunity: Secure energy – healthy environment
- Ruhr region of opportunity: Excellence in education and research



We have a plan and a goal: to work together to make the Ruhr area an innovative, connected, prosperous region of opportunity and ensure that it remains a cherished home for over 5m people – with stimuli for the whole of North Rhine-Westphalia and beyond.

Ruhr region of opportunity: Networked mobility – short distances

We want to work together to develop the mobility of the future in one of the largest conurbations of Europe. Functioning transport infrastructure is the life blood of a region of opportunity, connecting 5 million people in a web 4,400 square kilometres in area.

The short distances involved are a major advantage for the Ruhr area, with maximum opportunity depending on people being able to get from A to B fast and reliably. This is why we need to set up efficient infrastructure to and from the doorstep.

Mobility is not only an engine of prosperity and economic development. If the diversity of the Ruhr area is to be fully harnessed – ranging from its cutting-edge education and health service to its music concerts and football derbies -, well-oiled communications are essential.

A forward-thinking transportation model for our region of opportunity is therefore all about mobility, sustainability, economic ripple effects and road and rail infrastructure linking communities large and small.

The Ruhr Conference has assembled a raft of measures aimed at enhancing this web of mobility. They include the modernisation, overhaul and selective expansion of existing structures such as the train network, giving more people an incentive to use public transport when travelling to work or to friends and family.

The reactivation of decommissioned routes and introduction of express buses can improve communications between cities and outlying areas. Where scheduled services are not viable, on-demand transportation may be a solution.

The combining of different modes of transportation is facilitated by park-and-ride, bike-and-ride and vehicle-charger stations. A unitary e-fare system and a journey-calculating app encompassing all modes of transportation are making travelling a user-friendly experience and improving quality of life across the region.

We want our region of opportunity to set the standard for innovative, interconnected mobility within a pulsating metropolis.



Public-Transport Initiative (Ministry of Transport, State of North Rhine-Westphalia, 13-01)

Project description	Modern rail system, concentrated services, reactivation of routes, development of an express bus system: The public-transport initiative will improve transportation services in the Ruhr area.
Measures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction of express buses and reactivation of rail routes 2. Move to increase number of services and stations 3. Creation of on-demand transport services 4. Raft of measures for a “robust network” 5. Renewal measures for local rail networks

Mobility Region (Ministry of Transport, State of North Rhine-Westphalia, 13-02)

Project description	Ruhr region inhabitants are to be provided with flexible mobility beyond the boundaries of their respective towns. To achieve this, central infrastructure must be reinforced and local jurisdictions be reorganised
Measures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation of a <i>Mobilität.Ruhr</i> brand 2. Formulation of a basic local-transport network and introduction of a regional local-transport plan for this basic network 3. Regional mobility management 4. Regional parking management 5. Expansion of Single Synchronised Timetable to incorporate local transport 6. Model for the mobility region



Mobility HQ (Ministry of Transport, State of North Rhine-Westphalia, 13-03)

Project description	In its capacity as a service control centre for data and information relating to mobility, the “Mobility HQ” increases transparency and improves regional networking. Its activities cover all services, routes and modes of transport.
Measures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assumption of tasks originally performed by state utilities 2. Provision of services for local communities 3. Set-up and operation of networked and cooperative systems 4. Research and development

Networked Mobility (Ministry of Transport, State of North Rhine-Westphalia, 13-04)

Project description	The “Networked Mobility” project bundles measures from the perspective of user benefit. The prime question to be answered is always: “How do I get from A to B?”
Measures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey of demand for vehicle-charger stations and funding for densification of relevant infrastructure 2. Enhancement and expansion of park-and-ride and bike-and-ride facilities 3. Creation of an app featuring local-transport pay options and offering compatibility with other mobility services 4. Roll-out of e-tariffs / multimodal tariffs



Mobility for Industry (Ministry of Transport, State of North Rhine-Westphalia, 13-05)

Project description	To ensure efficiency of business and industry, steps will be taken to expand infrastructure and push forward with digitalisation, thereby clearing bottlenecks and increasing transportation capacity in the Ruhr area.
Measures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expansion of infrastructure 2. Fostering of client-oriented construction projects 3. Creation of a model Ruhr region focusing on digitalisation and rail infrastructure and incorporating modern control and safety systems 4. Creation of a pilot region for autonomous inland shipping 5. Acceleration of planning and authorisation processes 6. Improvement of combined freight transportation

Mobile in Town (Ministry of Transport, State of North Rhine-Westphalia, 13-06)

Project description	Improved local transport, increased vehicle-sharing options and smart city logistics models make Ruhr towns and cities more mobile, more climate-friendly and more attractive. The “Mobile in Town” project is enhancing quality of life in the cities.
Measures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design of a model project to develop new, sustainable municipal areas that are optimally served by public transport 2. Roll-out and expansion of suitable vehicle-sharing options (car, bike, new forms of mobility) 3. Development of a model project devoted to city logistics 4. Reduction of barriers in the local-transport sector 5. Comprehensive implementation of local mobility management systems

Ruhr region of opportunity: Thriving economy – good forms of work

The Ruhr area already boasts strong industries, thriving SMEs and a hard-working labour force, all of them hubs of creativity, entrepreneurial spirit – and courage.

Courage to tackle challenges. In recent years the metropolitan region has been an example of how to address and overcome the challenge of structural transformation. But for all its achievements, much remains to be done. So the Ruhr Conference has set itself the task of sounding out solutions, identifying potential and setting courses to ensure that the area lives up to its claim to be a region of opportunity.

This also means that successful business must go hand-in-hand with wholesome forms of work. Only if we create a framework for sustainable future economic growth will we be able to fashion the jobs of the future. And only then will the Ruhr area become a driving force in a thriving German economy.

The Ruhr Conference has developed a wide variety of ideas. Its aim is for the Ruhr area to be a beacon not only of opportunity but also of innovation – in the region, across North Rhine-Westphalia and much further afield. To this end it has hosted events and conferences and launched initiatives such as the “Innovation Ruhr 2030” project.

But existing companies and fresh start-ups – not just ideas – need room in which to grow. This involves rethinking regional economic policy. What use might industrial wasteland be put to, for example, to allow new enterprise to take root and flourish?

The transfer of knowledge from universities and research institutes to firms offering practical applications is another pillar of economic progress. One example is the Start4Chem incubator that serves as a hotspot of innovation for the chemicals industry.

Digitalisation is also hugely important, with new applications and creative solutions such as digital tourism projects being developed. This is particularly true for the evolution of working conditions – which is why the Virtual Competency Centre is advising firms and employees and bundling know-how to foster the digital transformation of workplaces.

We want the Ruhr area to be associated with economic success, technological innovation and jobs that are in tune with modern needs and aspirations. And to be known as a location where intelligence and hard work put daring ideas into practice.



Centre for *Chemie 4.0*: Home of “Start4Chem” Incubator (Ministry for Business, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy, 05-02)

Project description	The centre for Chemie 4.0 will move into a new building to be constructed on the Mark 51°7 site in Bochum. The plan is to foster transfer and start-up activity stemming from universities with a view to making the Ruhr area a hotspot for innovation for the chemicals industry.
Measures	<p>The centre for Chemie 4.0 will be organised to reflect its three areas of use: practice-oriented teaching, start-up incubation and corporate leasing. Start4Chem will breathe life into the project by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishing a training course for entrepreneurs (ESC) and providing contact with role models • creating specialised infrastructure (laboratories and facilities incl. staff, workshops and co-working spaces) • advising – on patents, marketing, product portfolios & design • mentoring and matchmaking: a start-up contacts bureau (green light from VCI) for creation of B2B network • internationalisation: attraction of international start-ups with help of student challenges and pitches • financing: forums for contacting investors, ‘business angels’ and venture capitalists • intrapreneurship: innovation workshops for corporates • initiating projects funded by third parties; start-ups’ networking events with researchers and corporates • linking to neighbouring institutions (e.g. MPI for IT security & CASA excellence cluster) in order to secure innovation in networked chemicals industry • international networking with other chemicals incubators

Funding programme for regional technology transfer (Ministry for Business, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy, 05-01)

Project description	NRW Special Transfer Area (<i>STB</i>) – Initiation of new funding programme for regional knowledge/technology transfer
Measures	<p>The <i>NRW-STB</i> aims to create a complementary portfolio of implementation project formats (early roll-out, SME fast track, impact boost) and structural measures (blended collaboration, innovation scouting) that help in the implementation of potential solutions using new technology, thereby facilitating transfer from research and universities to market. Early roll-out involves moving technical solutions from drawing board to larger-scale, real-life application and feeding the results of these tests into ongoing development. This allows prototypes to progress quicker from research stage to market.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SME fast track addresses the challenge of applying an innovation on an industrial scale and in a way suited to production methods. • Legal and business-management challenges have to be overcome to succeed in the market. • Blended collaboration combines interactive platform with face-to-face encounters. • Innovation scouts initiate and organise multidirectional collaboration between companies and developers.

Revitalisation of brownfield sites (Ministry for Local and Home Affairs, Equal Opportunity and Construction, 11-04)

Project description	With a view to offering sufficient space for new residential and industrial estates, brownfield sites are being assessed and prioritised based on future criteria for use. A timeline is being developed and funds generated.
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of brownfield sites based on criteria for future use; list of priorities relating to reconditioning of sites • A clear time schedule for conditioning/marketing of large potential brownfield sites • Dialogues regarding obstacles to regional development for industry and the trades (incl. federal law, restrictions on funding, issues involving ecological compensation areas) • Generation of funds for revitalisation of brownfield sites

Innovation Ruhr 2030 (Ministry for Local and Home Affairs, Equal Opportunity and Construction, 11-06)

Project description	The aim of the ten-year “Innovation Ruhr 2030” project is to push the development and international profile of projects in selected innovation environments. Examples: “Neue Gründerzeit Ruhr”, “Wissen(schaft)sregion Ruhr”, “Silicon Economy Ruhr”, “Smarte Quartiere”, “Smarte Mobilität”, “StadtGesundheit” and “Grüne/Blaue Infrastruktur”.
Measures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 2020: Creation of “Innovation Ruhr 2030 GmbH” and an international inaugural event with signing of an “Innovation Ruhr” memorandum or a “Ruhr Charter” (successor of “Leipzig Charter”) on occasion of German assumption of the presidency of the Council of the EU; opening act with presentation of “Innovation through Change – Change through Innovation” initiative listing achievements so far (an allusion to motto of the Ruhr as culture capital): Sensitisation and motivation of people of the region: “We live in a region of innovation and contribute to its development”; presentation of first innovation spaces and themes. b) Annually until 2030: an “Innovation Ruhr” event in the “City of Cities” (a platform for communicating achievements internally and externally) c) 2025: International interim presentation (poss. associated with a Ruhr science and start-up exhibition) d) 2030: Closing act with presentation of Innovation and Smart Cities Region Ruhr project as part of an Innovation Expo Ruhr initiative in association with the World Urban Forum

International conference: Metropolitan Innovation (Minister for Federal, European and International Affairs, 17-01)

Project description	The conference is to launch a dialogue centring on strategic partnerships between players from the business, administrative and scientific sectors. It will help the Ruhr to network and present itself internationally and to foster its ongoing development by drawing on the experience of other regions.
Measures	<p>A three-day conference with international participants to kick-start an ongoing process of dialogue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework programme: excursions to sites of innovation across the region • Scientific symposium and workshops addressing targeted topics • Participation of state government

Digital Model Destination Ruhr (Ministry for Business, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy, 06-01)

Project description	Visibility of tourism opportunities in Ruhr to be improved in line with state strategy using digital technologies. Appropriate instruments are being developed or enhanced.
Measures	<p>Exemplary development and optimisation of regional destination-management instruments with focus on digitalisation and in compliance with the new state tourism strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased visibility of Ruhr tourism opportunities on digital map of area reflecting usage by selected target groups • Creation of authentic content that acts as an incentive to travel and uses positive images to foster image transfer and assist in marketing the Ruhr metropolis • Improvements to user orientation based on data evaluation • Transferability of findings to other tourism regions within NRW <p>The project will seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create a nationwide data standard • establish an interface to the state data hub • draw up a regional data strategy (regional data hub) • define the regional data architecture to be set up, incl. (new) systems architecture • establish and expand regional data architecture on basis of specifications (incl. target technology infrastructure), e.g. “digital Ruhr Metropolis travel guide”

RUHR.FUSSBALL as tourist attraction (Ministry for Business, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy, 06-02)

Project description	The Ruhr region is leading the way in exploiting the touristic potential of football. Here, too, innovative digital marketing strategies are a key factor. The Ruhr expects to be the No.1 German travel destination for football fans by the start of the football European Championships in 2024.
Measures	The project encompasses the conceptual stage and bundling of touristic opportunities relating to football across the Ruhr (e.g. op-ed stories or testimonials of players/trainers, stadium tours, League Cup draws in the German Football Museum, multi-club tours). These tourist options dovetail with measures being enacted as part of the “Ruhr Metropolis - Digital Model Destination NRW” project and are being prepared for specific target groups. This new, regional strategy for content distinguishes between event/club fans and “ground hoppers” and seeks to define specific target groups. The networking project is particularly open to football clubs in the top four leagues and to local marketing companies that have not yet taken part.

Digitaler service for tourists (Ministry for Business, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy, 06-03)

Project description	A digital service interacts with guests at the respective location and enhances enjoyment of the sights along the Route of Industry and Culture, using applications such as time travel, gamification and audio-visual tours.
Measures	<p>The project has liaised with representatives of the Ruhr regional association (Route of Industry and Culture, Hoheward visitors’ centre), selected locations along the Route and representatives from the business community to draw up project goals and action to be taken. Firstly, the locations along the Route of Industry and Culture will be fitted out to cover a number of sub-themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • freely accessible wi-fi • digital experiences (VR/AR, e.g. applications covering past, present and future of location) • digital services (visitor guiding systems, information on location, digital tours, etc.) • freely accessible wi-fi is essential if these services – which may involve large volumes of data – are to be made possible. Independent of capacity, the streaming of videos or AR/VR applications requires high data-transfer speeds. <p>The next step will be to assess each individual location and draw up measures to be pursued at each specific location (infrastructure, experiences, services).</p>

Virtual Digital-Transformation Competence Centre (Ministry for Employment, Health and Social Welfare, 07-03)

Project description	The virtual competence centre bundles scientific expertise focusing on the digitalisation of work and advises companies, staff and business partners on the development, design and implementation of operational digital strategies of SMEs.
Measures	<p>The project identifies three sectors of major significance to the region (e.g. healthcare). The institutes involved in the competence centre work on individual projects in one of these sectors, collaborating closely with companies on site.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparation and operational action concepts. At company level institutes work with company management and staff to identify concrete work-related and HR issues/challenges associated with digitalisation and to develop solutions. This also fosters the digital competence of all groups concerned. 2. Discussion forums and social dialogue. Beyond the boundaries of company and sector a dialogue is being instigated, allowing companies to learn from each other's experience. 3. Sector-specific action concepts. The strategies resulting from the individual projects are collated by the coordination bureau and presented in implementable form at sectoral and executive level, so that benefit accrues not only to those firms involved in the projects. This allows other interested firms to harness this experience in developing their own digital strategies and planning their operations and personnel.

Know-how Locator (Ministry of Finance, 02-01)

Project description	The "Know-how Locator" is an existing, free and publicly accessible online tool provided by the NRW Bank that facilitates finding experts in specific areas of expertise. The project aims at further improving this tool.
Measures	Organizing a workshop with companies and multipliers to determine priorities and to discuss the implementability of features desired by forum participants.

Enhancing the visibility of transfer and funding programmes (Ministry of Finance, 02-02)

Project description	This project aims at further improving the innovative potential of the Ruhr metropolis. In particular, successful projects supported by transfer and funding programmes will be presented in short videos to encourage the future participation of currently inactive companies in these programmes.
Measures	<p>Production of four short films (max. 2 mins duration) that show companies, funding bodies and universities setting out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what they have achieved/financed with the help of funding; • what they have experienced in the funding and transfer process; • what kind of assistance they received; • the projects that they have successfully completed; • the ideas and innovations they gained access to by cooperating with universities; • which products, services or business models have been developed from scratch or enhanced.

Building innovation networks (Ministry of Finance, 02-03)

Project description	Organising events that help companies to make use of easily accessible assistance via publicly financed schemes (funding, programmes, networks, advice on innovation); bringing together companies with staff from universities and research institutions who aim at providing research results to private businesses.
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary workshop to further develop planned measures. • Events bringing together consultants from multipliers with staff from universities and research institutions interested in cooperating with private businesses. <p>Organisation of “innovation round tables” (e.g. on IT security, logistics, digitalisation, packaging, energy) that bring together universities and companies, facilitated by multipliers.</p>

Ruhr region of opportunity: Lived diversity – strong cohesion

The Ruhr region of opportunity is very much about cohesion and pulling together, be it at work, in clubs and societies or in people's residential communities. One of the things about the Ruhr area is that its inhabitants have always taken the diversity of their environment for granted, living in close community, not simply alongside one another.

This embracing of diversity also involves, on the one hand, valuing one's fellow citizens - including the differences that make up a community – and, on the other hand, appreciating the commonalities, especially the urge to work together to help the area prosper. But it also means drawing red lines when it comes to issues such as clan criminality and groups that reject the rule of law.

The rule of law is a precious and vital foundation of our living together. By building bridges and providing effective access to our system ruled by law this ideal evolves its integrative and embracing impact on forming an open society.

Diversity and cohesion are as inherent to quality of life in the Ruhr as good living conditions, high standards of healthcare, a panoply of sports facilities, media outlets and cultural amenities and, not least, a bustling community of volunteers and charities. The ideas and impulses generated by the Ruhr Conference latch onto this existing set-up.

That is why the Ruhr Conference relies on collaboration. Housing is one example of this: the plan is to push on with joint supra-urban projects involving construction on vacant inner-city sites.

Collaboration and networking are also key elements in our Virtual Hospital and Midwifery Centre projects, which highlight the usefulness and effectiveness of working together – especially in situations where supply and demand exist independently of residential location.

Commitment and enthusiasm are key pillars in the cohesion of a region. This is as true of companies and clubs as it is of sports projects. And as participation requires information and networking, media initiatives focusing on local and regional news coverage also have an important part to play.

The Ruhr Conference also spotlights extraordinary projects showing extraordinary potential. Examples here are new art forms such as Digital Art, Contemporary Circus, Urban Art, and electronic dance music.

We foster strengths where we have identified them – and in the Ruhr area this means its inhabitants' unique tendency to pull together as one. This is the only way that our region of opportunity will retain its status as a pleasant place to live for over five million people.

Ruhr Academy Smart Transformation (Ministry for Local and Home Affairs, Equal Opportunity and Construction, 11-01)

Project description	RASMT is a network that draws up, tests and implements strategies, concepts and instruments conducive to integrated urban and enterprise-cluster development in selected innovation zones and primes them for application across the region and in metropolitan regions worldwide.
Measures	<p>Phase I Set-up phase until 9/20: Conceptualisation of RASMT as public-private-academic partnership (PPAP); bundling of activities to produce smart urban and cluster development; development of a ten-year programme with milestones; development of projects with inter- and transdisciplinary outlook in Dortmund, Essen, Duisburg & Bochum innovation zones (start 11/19); development of a competition process to identify other innovation zones; drawing up of a Ruhr Charter (successor of Leipzig Charter) on future of polycentral metropolitan areas</p> <p>Phase II Ruhr Academy on Smart Metropolitan Transformation from 10/20: Implementation of PPAP projects in innovation zones; regional, national, international dialogue / knowledge transfer in a MetroLab; fund raising for research projects (EU, Ministry of Education and Research, etc); utilisation/marketing of innovations by application partners; link-up with teaching, research, science transfer; creation of international strategic partnerships; expert support for Innovation Ruhr 2030; application to host World Urban Forum 2030</p> <p>Phase III after 2030: continuation of RASMT as a hub of international metropolitan research; preparations for Habitat 2036</p>

Housing/redensification (Ministry for Local and Home Affairs, Equal Opportunity and Construction, 11-03)

Project description	There is a need for integrated, supra-urban residential development to prevent the cost of housing from spiralling and transport networks from being overloaded due to long commuting journeys.
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey of potential for redensification in existing built-up areas • Development of a registry for infill potential in the Ruhr area • Strengthening of cooperation between local authorities over housing sites, to prevent spiralling costs and disparities between cities and villages

Centrally coordinated action to combat clan crime (Interior Ministry, 03-01)

Project description	A jointly run bureau, the “Single Point of Contact” (SPoC), ensures that police at local and national level, customs and excise, tax investigators, local authorities and other partners work closely together in the interest of eliminating clan crime.
Measures	The “Single Point of Contact” (SPoC) collects and collates information and after a preliminary evaluation passes on the data to the relevant authorities on a need-to-know basis, thereby assisting with ongoing investigations and generating grounds for further evaluation. To streamline information and communications channels, in practice as well as symbolically, a SPoC will be established for the Ruhr area to coordinate the work of the various partners on a number of levels. This institution is the first of its kind in Germany/Europe.

Prevention in the campaign against clan crime (Interior Ministry, 03-02)

Project description	A supra-institutional preventive strategy aims to reduce and prevent both clan crime and its many negative repercussions for ordinary citizens. To this end seven prevention-oriented goals have been drawn up (integration, education, work, locally organised crime prevention, crime prevention by police, science and evaluation) and amount to a holistic approach to tackling the problem. This is designed to make affected areas in NRW, particularly the Ruhr area, safer and help the population to feel more secure. Victims of crime are expected to decrease in number and long-term social costs of clan crime (victim support, unemployment benefit, decreased tax revenue, etc) to be reduced.
Measures	To ensure a holistic approach to the problem of crime, attempts are being made to pool the efforts of a number of police agencies (State Criminal Police Office NRW, University of Applied Sciences for Police and Public Administration NRW, Central Police Support Services Bureau NRW and selected local police forces), ministerial departments and locally based institutions of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

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New Arts Ruhr (Ministry for Culture and Science, 16-01)

Project description	The Ruhr area has an opportunity to establish itself as a metropolis for modern art forms such as Digital Arts, Contemporary Circus, Urban Art and as a centre for the club scene for electronic music. A development agency is set to provide projects with funding for the next ten years.
Measures	<p>The development agency's aim is to provide funding for these new art forms for the decade up until 2030. Its remit is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop formats and spaces for artists to exhibit, perform and market their work and to provide artists with access to production spaces and interdisciplinary experimental premises • To advise the state government on suitable funding structures • To conduct studies to determine stakeholder structures, networking possibilities and training courses required, e.g. in the area of Digital Arts • To develop training courses for curators and art critics in partnership with colleges offering training in all areas of New Arts • To achieve consensus with colleges with a view to establishing courses in Urban Art and Contemporary Circus and making Digital Arts part of the curriculum at colleges of art and music • To increase the export potential of New Arts • To strengthen the "night-time economy" of the Ruhr metropolis



Midwifery agencies for the Ruhr area (Ministry for Employment, Health and Social Welfare, 08-01)

Project description	To improve obstetrical care in the Ruhr area, the midwifery agencies are to act as service and client/care coordination centres for women and to coordinate midwife availability where it is needed. A key feature will be a digital platform incl. app for connecting midwives with mothers-to-be.
Measures	<p>The creation of additional midwifery agencies involves selecting appropriate associations grouped under the <i>ASB</i> confederation, fitting out premises, hiring and training staff and forging links to local midwives, health centres and other institutions. An <i>ASB</i> pilot project is underway in Bochum. An important part of the process is the creation and roll-out of a digital platform (plus app) for connecting midwives with mothers-to-be and matching enquiries (estimated delivery date, place of residence, services required) with midwife availability. The digital platform can receive and respond to enquiries by email and provides a 24/7 Q&A service for women. The digital aspect simplifies communications considerably.</p> <p>The digital platform is being rolled out across NRW and contributing to a rise in the quantity and quality of midwifery services across the state.</p>



Ruhr Games (State Chancellery, 19-01)

Project description

Moves are underway to expand the youth-oriented Ruhr Games alongside the Olympic and Paralympic Games and other major sporting events. This will kindle interest among young target groups in the great Olympic project.

Measures

The establishment of the Ruhr Games as a regular biennial fixture in the sporting calendar and their steady expansion alongside the Olympic and Paralympic Games and other major sports events in North Rhine-Westphalia make the Ruhr Games an important showcase of young European sporting talent. The growing number of nations taking part and ever-improving performances in the individual disciplines can be attributed in part to NRW's hosting of other key competitions. The Ruhr Games are also the ideal springboard for new and dynamic sports hoping to be adopted as Olympic disciplines. The Games are a showcase for an attractive, urban, cosmopolitan Ruhr, whose positive effect on the region's image and identity continues to expand. This is due, among other factors, to

- the establishment of other European and world championships
- the inclusion of Paralympic sport
- the European Volunteer Program
- the international youth movement representing over 40 nations

The Ruhr Games are a popular testimony to forward thinking and present a creative combination of sports disciplines against a backdrop of monuments to an industrial age such as the Landscape Park Duisburg-Nord.

Sport Valley (State Chancellery, 19-02)

Project description	Slag heaps and disused industrial sites are being turned into barrier-free, sports-friendly activity areas that appeal to people of all cultures and are aimed at all generations. Plans include the creation of indoor and outdoor movement parks providing leisure sports facilities for the general public.
Measures	Sports-related analogue and digital activities such as programming, indoor arenas, and referee/coach training courses can be combined indoors. This attracts not only sports enthusiasts but also start-ups seeking to locate their operations in a creative and active environment. To this end slag heaps are to be transformed and sports centres will cater to needs specific to small individual areas. This will go hand-in-hand with a competition to win contracts to build urban “infrastructure that encourages physical activity”. The competition is intended to emphasise the ways in which mobility can be fostered and enjoyed. There are also plans to reactivate the historic <i>Revier</i> parks (Gysenbergpark Herne, Nienhausen Gelsenkirchen / Essen, Vonderort Oberhausen / Bottrop, Wischlingen Dortmund, Mattlerbusch, Dortmund).

NRWir für Dich mentoring programme (State Chancellery, 19-03)

Project description	Youngsters with sporting talent are to be identified and matched with unpaid, adult mentors, who accompany their respective up-and-coming youngsters to training sessions, competitions and championships.
Measures	<p>Creation of a mentoring programme, ideally with full-time staff. The programme’s remit is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to identify, with the help of clubs, schools and sports teachers, gifted young sportsmen and women or potential young volunteers • to identify citizens who might be prepared to mentor a youngster • to match talented youngsters to mentors • to have mentors accompanying young talent to training, tournaments and football matches • to incorporate existing voluntary structures to help in identification of young talent



Oral History (State Chancellery, 19-04)

Project description	Approx. 50 individuals tell their stories of a life in sport, adding to the positive atmosphere surrounding the hosting of a major sporting event such as the Olympic Games.
Measures	<p>As a way of nourishing cultural memories and keeping people's knowledge of sport alive in the Ruhr area and across the region, the following is planned:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Research into the sporting lives of individuals based in the Ruhr area and North Rhine-Westphalia and contact to be made to the relevant persons. They may help researchers to unearth previously unknown sporting facts. Interviewees to reflect a broad range of sporting functions and hierarchical levels. 2) Approx. 50 biographical video interviews with men and women formerly employed in the sports sector in the Ruhr area and across North Rhine-Westphalia. The interviews, conceived as semi-open and narrative conversations, will be in two parts: an initial part, in which the interviewee speaks freely on his/her life dedicated to the sports sector, and a second part based on the interviewee's responses to a set of prepared questions. 3) Post-production and digital archiving. Storage in digitised form allows the data to be preserved in the long term and at low cost, to be kept accessible for everyone and to be viewed and listened to with minimum wear and tear on the medium.



Volunteers for Life (State Chancellery, 19-05)

Project description	Participation in major sporting events across the region is not only open to sportsmen and women. Volunteers, too, can play a role and add to their social and practical skills. Volunteer training courses are available for this.
Measures	A “miniature curriculum” setting out the skills and challenges associated with voluntary work in sport will be drawn up reflecting the knowledge and abilities required of youth leaders and fitness instructors. Skills/know-how include an understanding of one’s role, knowledge of the work involved in organising a major sports event (infrastructure, security concepts) and a familiarity with special needs (physical/mental, barrier-free travel, options for disabled individuals and companions). The volunteer courses cover legal issues, first-aid, linguistic components and coaching in values. Coaching is given by sports clubs. Course material and instructors are appointed, trained and certified by the NRW partners. The training helps dispel nervousness regarding interaction with people with peculiarities and disabled persons. Volunteers wear uniform jackets and carry “NRW volunteer” ID. The programme could be extended to include a volunteer grant enabling travel to major international events and allowing helpers from North Rhine-Westphalia to serve as sports ambassadors from NRW.



Ideas cluster - Sport (State Chancellery, 19-06)

Project description	A sports and health section (rehab, telemedicine) is to be added to the Gaming competence centre in case virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR) proves viable in these areas too. The Ruhr area could come to play a pioneer role here.
Measures	<p>Technological advances may be relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the development of new training methods with a view to achieving the desired results in competitive sports quicker • in the health sector (sport rehab., telemedicine) and for healthcare in the workplace through diagnoses and the provision of precision therapy across distances, without supplanting therapists • for connecting leisure and club sports with sport-related start-ups. <p>Unlike in electronic sports, which in NRW is centred on Cologne, the Ruhr area, with institutions such as TU Dortmund, the Fraunhofer Institutes, Ruhr-Uni Bochum, Uni Duisburg-Essen and its clubs with their commensurate market strength, is the perfect location for a competence centre merging virtual reality, sport and the relevant areas of society (see above), thereby bundling technological exchanges in one place. This kind of competence centre is also capable of estimating the repercussions accruing from technology. Aspects of electronic sports were already being demonstrated at the Asian Games in Jakarta in 2019.</p>

Anchoring the Olympic idea in the Ruhr area – Enhancing the ‘experience element’ of major sporting events (State Chancellery, 19-07)

Project description	The above-mentioned projects and applications to host major sports event are key to the atmospheric build-up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. In another initiative, “Dreams 2032”, the youth of the world (Generation Z) are invited to try to bridge the gap to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032.
Measures	<p>“Dreams 2032” aims to span the gap to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032, with citizens invited to get involved in volunteering and mentoring programmes. The Olympic Day initiatives can be extended to the 14 local authorities that have already indicated a willingness to assist with the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (see relevant project info). Fringe aspects of the sports events also have to be identified in order to raise levels of acceptance for large sports meetings. Partnerships with stadiums and museums provide spectators with an audio-visual virtual-reality experience. There is also a place for a remembrance culture recalling successful events and triumphant sportsmen and women, e.g. a Ruhr Hall of Fame or an oral-history project that is digitally recording, and making accessible, biographical reminiscences of individuals (see relevant info). Moves to ramp up kinetic activities in daycare centres and infrastructure dedicated to physical activity are intended to underscore the fact that aspirations to host the 2032 Games are supported by the action being taken to promote physical mobility and healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Additional measures being considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of local groups that issue young people with a taster ID allowing them to try out a range of sports options in the area where they live • Accompanying publicity measures by the Sportland.NRW brand • Involvement particularly of young people in ideas competitions, e.g. those hosted by NRW sports schools or the NRW youth sports organisation



**Bureau for the conceptualisation and coordination of dialogue strengthening the rule of law
(Ministry of Justice, 12-01)**

Project description	The huge cultural diversity of the Ruhr area can also result in conflict, especially where different value systems rub up against each other. The aim of the project is to use new and established methods to promote the rule of law and to build a fundamental understanding of its precepts and institutions. The new bureau is responsible for drawing up and coordinating the measures set out below.
Measures	<p>Key tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To impart lasting knowledge relating to government by the rule of law. This involves • the bundling of existing educational courses and modules, • the development of new participatory and multi-method units in collaboration with cooperation partners, • holistic promotion of government by the rule of law (“rule-of-law campaign”), • organisation of dialogue forums and associated educational material and • networking with individuals and groups following similar goals. <p>The reader is referred to the individual submissions relating to individual measures that have proven significant during previous stages of the Ruhr Conference.</p>

Deployment of rule-of-law guides as “bridge builders” (Ministry of Justice, 12-02)

Project description	Professional bridge builders and ease of access are essential if the benefits and importance of a state run according to the rule of law are to be communicated to the uninitiated. This project provides support to people who remain ignorant of the precepts and structures of, and interaction with, our constitutional state.
Measures	After a partnership group (local authority, welfare organisation, social-work unit) has been decided on, the project leaders will first liaise with the group to develop an activity and deployment profile for rule-of-law guides. The remit of guides and the scope and limit of their activities must be clearly set out. The project is then to be run as a pilot scheme in two cities in the Ruhr area. These two pilot projects are centrally run and monitored by the conceptualisation and coordination bureau. Following final evaluation, the project could then be extended across the entire Ruhr area.



“From arbitrator to legal mediator” (Ministry of Justice, 12-03)

Project description	This research project helps to eliminate the potential for conflict and violence in the course of traditional mediation while adhering to constitutional principles. It looks at constitutionally acceptable alternatives in out-of-court conflict resolution, alternatives that both preserve the cultural capital of the parties and are accepted by the focus group.
Measures	To enable them to reconcile the required in-depth empirical appraisal with an analysis of legally acceptable and legally prescribed strategies for a drawing up of recommendations, a cultural anthropologist and a jurist are to work together on the project. Six-monthly practical workshops (project years 1-3) featuring representatives of affected legal organs (police, regulators, inspectorates, public prosecutor, case law) and social services ensure the interest of researchers. Transfer events in the third year of the project communicate findings to the interested general public, to civil-society players and to the scientific community. Confidential six-monthly background talks with media representatives (project years 2 & 3) foster the development of a field of operation and safe spaces for legal mediators (in the cultural sphere).

Linguistic and cultural mediators (Ministry of Justice, 12-04)

Project description	Where necessary, linguistic and cultural mediators (LCMs) are to be called in from the moment of first contact with the justice system (witness statements, questioning of the defendant, submission in court, consultation on lawyers' premises, witness support, etc). LCMs are to be trained, certified and deployed in a pilot project.
Measures	Before LCMs with the training to act in court can be successfully sourced, a clear profile specifying the role to be played (distinct from that of interpreters, legal advisors and rule-of-law guides) has to be set down. In the first phase deployment scenarios are also defined along with the required qualifications in the judicial context and the path to acquiring these. After the sourcing of suitable project funding bodies and cooperation partners and following the training and certification of LCMs, the pilot project will be launched. Ideally, the steering of the project and the organisational back-up for LCMs should be the job of a central bureau handling conceptualisation and coordination.

Training concept for a diversity-minded judiciary (Ministry of Justice, 12-05)

Project description	The various actors in court cases pertaining to family and criminal law are to be coached in respect of their cultural competence with a view to improving all participants' understanding of diversity issues.
Measures	The aim is to draw up and roll out a concept for training and further training that is modular and practice-oriented and reflects modern further-training methodologies.

Teaching of Civics at elementary school, primary school and lower secondary level (Ministry of Justice, 12-06)

Project description	Sensitisation to the rudiments and values of a constitutional state based on the rule of law is to begin in kindergarten and continue uninterrupted throughout a person's school career.
Measures	Existing materials used by teachers at elementary level are to be augmented to cover the subject of Civics. Legal professionals are to be supported in their teaching capacities and receive further training – particularly in didactic methodology - that makes use of digital media (blended learning).

The judiciary and the publicity (Ministry of Justice, 12-07)

Project description	The project will initiate a regular exchange of views and information, structured and moderated, between the judiciary and media representatives. Events begin with information on a particular theme and move to open discussion. Dialogue is likely not only to fill in gaps in people's knowledge but also to enhance mutual understanding. The creation of an information portal in digital media is also envisaged.
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open discussion with a structured format • A central information portal for media representatives • An cross-disciplinary, interdisciplinary work group addressing press standards

Increased protection against domestic violence (Ministry of Justice, 12-08)

Project description	The task of providing added protection against <u>domestic</u> violence involves multiple institutions and departments. A central office within the conceptualisation and coordination bureau could serve as a link between the various sections and institutions and initiate/monitor a raft of measures to increase protection against <u>domestic</u> violence.
Measures	Alongside the freeing-up and bolstering of target-group competence (information provision, preventive work), the office will be tasked to draw up action guidelines for the establishment of binding procedural steps (best-practice examples), collect and present information on scientific findings and current developments relating to violence in patriarchal families, conduct an analysis of deficiencies and vulnerabilities and provide further training and networking assistance to the various parties involved.

Ruhr Reporter (State Chancellery, 18-01)

Project description	The aim of the project is to raise levels of interest among young people for the journalistic profession and support them as they prepare to embark on a regular course in journalism (work experience, academic course in journalism). The project focuses on cross-media courses supported by the collaborating media organisations from the region.
Measures	<p>The main pillars of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 3-month introduction to the profession, similar to an internship, within a cross-media editorial office geared to teaching • Workshops led by trainers versed in journalism and blended learning • Practical periods spent with cooperation partners working in print, radio, TV, online and social media • Creation of a central venue for holding of workshops etc. • Participants (approx. 12 per course) develop content to publishing stage. Collaborating media organisations provide support at point of publishing • Participants receive a recognised certificate from the cooperation partners • Alongside the schools of journalism, potential cooperation partners include all of the region's private media organisations (print, radio, TV, online, CORRECTIV/Reporterfabrik) • Scientific monitoring and evaluation

Ruhr Youth Editorial Office (State Chancellery, 18-02)

Project description	Local editors and social workers identify/locate teenagers from their own neighbourhoods with a view to holding conversations and workshops, gradually introducing them to the journalistic profession and allowing them to see their way to becoming actively engaged in society through the medium of journalism.
Measures	<p>A period spent in the youth editorial office (approx. 13 participants) is split into 3 phases and features workshops that also serve to produce content.</p> <p>Phase 1: The teenagers receive coaching in the art of verbal expression and must 'find their voice'. Liaison with editors and social workers to discover what issues and forms of media interest them.</p> <p>Phase 2: Teens showing particular commitment receive training in the rudiments of journalistic methods. They produce their first journalistic works, which are of sub-professional standard but enable the youngsters to debate for the first time, e.g. with neighbourhood decisionmakers.</p> <p>Phase 3: The workshops are increasingly geared to teaching the quality and standards expected from local reporters. The teenagers themselves assume responsibility for the youth editorial office. At its core the project stipulates that editors and social workers reach out to the teenagers to create the basis for collaboration. However, a fixed location, e.g. former shop premises, is also required.</p>

Mentoring programme for more diversity in local journalism (State Chancellery / CdS, 18-03)

Project description	The proven mentoring programme of the Neue Deutsche Medienmacher society (NDM) is also to be run in the Ruhr area with the aim of increasing diversity in local editorial offices. Mentor/mentee tandems will be created and media organs across the Ruhr put in contact with one another.
Measures	<p>The programme is split into 3 phases.</p> <p>Phase 1: Identification of prospective participating editorial offices and experienced reporters working there who want to mentor on an unpaid basis. Identification of up to 50 mentees via public calls for applications.</p> <p>Phase 2: Mentees are coached for a year, are offered further training courses and forge contacts by visiting editorial desks in big-name media organisations. 3 months' preparation are required prior to the start of the year and 3 months' post-processing afterwards.</p> <p>Phase 3: As many mentees as possible will be found voluntary positions and/or paid jobs.</p>



Development of community-relations software (State Chancellery, 18-04)

Project description

The research network CORRECTIV is working with German and international partners to create software for journalistic initiatives and start-ups that will help to enhance the professionalism of community management, an increasingly important sector.

Measures

- A small company will be founded for the purpose of developing the software.
- The software is open-source; its basic version can be used free of charge. There will be a charge for customised bolt-on modules and features, with proceeds going towards making the software self-supporting.
- The software's modular design enables users to configure and operate it according to their requirements.
- As the company is cooperating with a group of initiatives and firms, the tool is being tested on an ongoing basis.
- An application for EU funding is being put together to secure finance for the project as a whole.



MediaLab Ruhr (State Chancellery, 18-05)

Project description

The remit of the MediaLab Ruhr project is to test and develop innovative ideas relating to journalism and the fostering of media competence, with a view to increasing plurality of opinion and media. This “laboratory for the journalists of the future” brings together media organisations, journalism schools/instructors, local bureaux, colleges of higher and further education, adult education centres and libraries.

Measures

Key tasks of the project:

- to ask participants about their areas of interest and motivate them to play an active role,
- to use competitions and other means to spur school children, students, prospective reporters and media professionals to get involved journalistically,
- to create fixed locations (e.g. in libraries) where the barriers to journalistic experimentation are low,
- to support entrepreneurs,
- to involve media companies, journalistic initiatives and providers of journalism training courses and further training.
- **Step 1:** Set up an office to flesh out and launch the project with the help of a concept slanted towards practical work (design an organigram, estimate the budget, identify sources of funding, approach potential actors, organise a competition in which local authorities bid to host the laboratory, consider ways of involving the public)
- **Step 2:** Create a project-management structure. Tasks: hold competitions / facilitate citizen participation, set up ‘maker spaces’, initiate projects and partnerships, offer advice
- **Step 3:** Coordinate and network projects, evaluate and publish results



RUHR network for corporate engagement (State Chancellery, 20-01)

Project description	The establishment of an analogue network and digital platform to facilitate corporate involvement in the Ruhr area is creating the infrastructure for collaboration between companies and non-profit organisations. This fosters social innovation and helps to overcome pressing social challenges.
Measures	<p>The project starts by gathering companies and non-profit organisations as members and co-designers of the network, resulting in a wide range of ideas regarding its form. A committee of experts and key stakeholders shadows the set-up process. The creation of the online platform with its profiles, enquiries/appeals, services offered and communications tool enables all network partners to communicate independent of time and location. The platform also provides advice on precise formats of involvement for companies and non-profit organisations and monitors the development of long-term infrastructure in companies and organisations for the purpose of future collaborations.</p> <p>The passing-on of know-how and best practice by means of professional training courses and publications aimed at both target groups helps to smoothe the passage of the project in its early stages and raises the quality of collaborations.</p> <p>Important for confidence-building are eye-to-eye formats enabling participants to get to know each other, exchange ideas and plan activities on site. Multiple options are presented ranging from involvement breakfasts and themed workshops to sector-specific BarCamps.</p>



New impulses for on-site collaboration of companies and clubs/associations (State Chancellery, 20-02)

Project description	With a view to galvanising unremunerated collaboration between business/industry and civil society, the project is initiating multiple new partnerships between companies and non-profit organisations based on pre-tested formats.
Measures	<p>Local individuals with experience in the promotion of non-profit activity are familiarised with three practical, pre-tested, effective concepts (“formats”) and given training in applying one of the formats:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marketplace for “Good Business(es)” 2. Local Day of Action for companies and non-profit organisations 3. Night Shift – gifting of skills/competencies for a good cause <p>All three formats provide companies and non-profit organisations alike with a simple introduction to the process. They stimulate participant activity on site, initiate numerous new and practical joint projects from the outset and give all participants experience of working together. In the Marketplace for “Good Business(es)” companies and civil-society organisations come together as in a real-life marketplace and agree on mutually beneficial transactions – in this case concrete collaborative projects to be pursued jointly. The Local Day of Action refers to a certain date in the year when many companies send staff into social organisations to do specific tasks. The Night Shift sees local creative businesses imparting skills/competencies on a pro bono basis and tackling specific issues in the areas of communications, design and marketing for clubs and associations.</p>

Ruhr City DREAMERS project (State Chancellery, 20-03)

Project description	The RuhrstadtTRÄUMER project (Ruhr City DREAMERS) provides teenagers and young adults from the Ruhr area with camps and seminars, in which they learn to pursue their own projects to completion. The programme is now to be extended to other cities.
Measures	<p>A three-stage grant-assisted structure for young people aged 16 to 20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-day seminar devoted to ideas generation and biographies, • Two 2-day project-management weekends, • Training camp for mentors from business/industry and for other multipliers • Independent work on youngsters' own project initiatives in teams shadowed by mentors, • 5-day evaluation seminar conducted by trained seminar leaders, • Public presentation of youngsters project initiatives, • Regular training and networking of multipliers by means of winter camps and other short further-training workshops, • Active alumni and community work in the form of 1-day events, joint initiatives, etc., • More networking with individuals working on solutions to challenges affecting the local community.



Virtual Hospital (Ministry for Employment, Health and Social Welfare, 08-02)

Project description

The Virtual Hospital platform will bundle the expertise of medical consultants nationwide and make it publicly accessible. It will do the same for highly specialised skills applied firstly to in-patients and potentially to out-patients. This is the first time that the electronically supported networking of, and collaboration between, service providers is to be given a formal structure with a view to ultimately contributing to the treatment and care of the entire population.

Measures

The Virtual Hospital is to become an integrated component of standard treatment and essentially provide the following services:

- comprehensive telemedical treatment/solutions
- searches for, and sourcing of, experts
- electronic exchanging of patients' relevant data for the purpose of treatment

Example: The creation of lastingly viable, digital supply structures such as the electronic exchanging of patients' relevant data or videoed consultations that provide patients with appropriate, local and high-quality treatment (incl. electronically conducted doctors' maternity rounds, video councils for intensive care, telemonitoring for diabetology)

Ruhr region of opportunity: Secure energy – healthy environment

The switch to renewable energies poses considerable challenges to North Rhine-Westphalia in general and the Ruhr area in particular. This is because the equation has to reconcile the imperative of renewability with those of secure supply and affordability.

Major challenges are also being posed by climate change, which has dealt rural and urban areas alike the double blow of hot, dry summers and torrential rainfall. Equally problematic is the creeping reduction in biodiversity, which is evident from the dwindling numbers of insects and the dying out of rare fauna and flora.

Alongside its focus on the security of energy provision, its adhesion to climate-protection goals and its moves to adapt to a changing climate, the Ruhr Conference is therefore also concentrating on fostering a healthy environment. A robust environment made up of intact ecosystems is the foundation enabling human beings to live good, fulfilling lives. It is a prerequisite for a thriving region of opportunity.

The challenges relating to energy, climate and the environment are also creating great opportunities for the metropolitan region, however. Any solutions devised are not only of benefit to the Ruhr area but can also be applied worldwide, making our region a model for others. This is the case for both urban energy solutions and green infrastructure.

For instance, the Urban Energy Solutions project cluster is working to extend production of electricity and heat from renewable sources. The aim is for smart residential developments to show that much can be achieved in existing buildings as well as in new builds. An initiative targeting craftsmen, for example, provides training and information to subcontractors, planners and architects involved in construction projects.

A cluster of cutting-edge firms developing innovative solutions for industry has been tasked with using practice-oriented research to pave the way for climate-neutral industry in the Ruhr area.

The “Green Infrastructure 2030” project is another initiative addressing the issue of strategic collaboration and implementation – beyond municipal boundary lines. It aims to create a network of natural green areas and undisturbed spaces across the region, promoting biological diversity, improving quality of life and reducing the effects of climate change.

The “Resilient Region” project looks at solutions to acute climatic changes such as heatwaves, storms and intensive periods of rainfall. Practical possibilities include rooftop greening, evaporative cooling and the de-sealing of paved areas.

We want to create the conditions for a metropolitan region that is low on emissions and an agreeable place to live, an area where safe and secure energy forms and a healthy environment are just as self-evident as economic prosperity. This is the only way to establish a sustainable region of opportunity that is fully equipped for the challenges of the future.



Call for projects - Smart Energy Solutions (Ministry for Business, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy, 04-01)

Project description	The appeal is intended to support the relevant parties financially and practically as they go about implementing smart, climate-neutral solutions in new-build developments and existing buildings and to create positive ripple effects across the metropolitan region.
Measures	<p>Two standards are determined with respect to the refurbishment and development of new buildings and settlements. The experience and preliminary work of other projects such as “100 climate protection estates in NRW” can be drawn on here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of appeal and resolution of issues such as tendering processes or ongoing funding, time limits, etc. • Drawing up of legal bases for funding • Publication of the call • Evaluation and assessment of parts played by project funders and, where applicable, selection committee/jury • Applicants’ planning phase • Construction of housing estates; monitoring of building phase



Consulting office - Smart Energy Solutions (Ministry for Business, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy, 04-02)

Project description	The advice bureau is designed to mobilise the relevant parties, pave the way for projects and enable the consortiums to be involved in the “NRW Smart Estate Developments” appeal and bring their projects to fruition.
Measures	<p>Ascertainment of whether the “NRW Smart Estate Developments” advice bureau can be integrated into existing state agencies (e.g. ETN, Energie Agentur NRW) to avoid duplication of structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of services provided; where applicable, awarding of service contract • Sourcing of staff: the advice bureau requires a team of approx. five persons covering a range of different skills • Conception and identification of services to be provided to the various groups targeted by the advice bureau: persons and parties interested in the project appeal are to receive help in achieving eligibility for their projects, putting together applications, networking with other interested parties, etc. • Organisation of various forms of events with a view to publicising the appeal, imparting knowledge and marketing successful Ruhr-based projects nationwide and internationally • Supplementary PR and communications work that can be harnessed for the Renewable Energies marketing campaign, among others. <p>PR work for the “NRW Smart Estate Developments” advice bureau itself (where applicable, embedded in websites of project sponsors)</p>

Renewable Energies Marketing Campaign (Ministry for Business, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy, 04-03)

Project description

The aim of the marketing campaign is to employ clear messages and innovative means of communication in order to demonstrate enthusiasm for applications and technologies relevant to everyday life and the options available to people – with a view to mobilising target groups to emulate and implement them.

Measures

If communications are to target specific groups, a concept is required that sets out the details of measures to be taken. This marketing campaign targets the following groups: companies, ordinary citizens and owners of real estate. It aims not only to emphasise technical benefits and environmentally friendly spin-offs but also to address emotional aspects (acting in the interests of future generations, convenience/advantages of modern buildings and electric cars, architectural options when incorporating PV (photovoltaic) panels, etc.). A professional communications/marketing agency is to be engaged to assist with the campaign. Conceivable measures might include the production of radio ads, short films and video ads using a range of predominantly digital distribution channels: Twitter, YouTube, radio, internet portals (climate-protection portal, EnergieAgentur NRW, consumer-protection agencies) etc. Measures taken must be tweaked, modified and adapted throughout the duration of the campaign with a view to extending the measures that have been successful, incorporating technical advances and making the best use of evolving communications channels.



Renewable-electricity expansion initiative (Ministry for Business, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy, 04-04)

Project description

The project will significantly increase production and utilisation of electric current derived from renewable sources across the Ruhr metropolis and NRW by means of an extensive programme promoting and explaining technologies.

Measures

An increase in production and utilisation of electric current derived from renewable sources requires multi-pronged action which may include:

- continuing to use a raft of different formats and online methods to communicate with citizens, companies, associations, etc.,
- prioritising areas of economic potential (esp. those involving private and public owners of property),
- targeted communications relating to the use of PV on open land and commercial plots and buildings,
- encouraging the development and proliferation of electricity storage plant in combination with PV, e.g. by increasing funding for the “progress.nrw Markteinführung” programme,
- assessing the effectiveness of financial incentives to use PV in combination with heat pumps and, where applicable, charging stations,
- pursuing projects aimed at developing innovative technology for the production and storage of electricity (e.g. solar-cell improvements, new materials),
- adapting measures to reflect technological advances.

Renewable-heat expansion initiative (Ministry for Business, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy, 04-05)

Project description	Implementation concepts and pilot projects aiming at carbon-neutral heating systems. Actor/project networking are part of moves to double usage of renewable heat.
Measures	<p>The “Renewable Heat expansion initiative” is conceived as a platform for implementing all solutions using renewable energy for the purpose of heating. Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up concrete concepts based on existing potential of renewable-heat solutions • Inform relevant groups (citizens, companies, local authorities) on potential of renewable-heat solutions, e.g. by using LANUV’s heat cadastral map • Promote networking between relevant actors and project partners • Initiate pilot projects • Support actors particularly in applying for funding for projects relating to solar and geothermal heat, biomass, pit-gas and wastewater heat and industrial waste heat • Poss: Use / increase funding for established programmes (“progress.nrw Markteinführung”) • Evaluate experience acquired and identify good-practice projects • Design roll-out of other projects • Communicate project results across/beyond region; use digital media to showcase projects

Open District Hub Bochum (Ministry for Business, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy, 04-06)

Project description	The aim of the Open District Hub is to show, using Bochum-Weitmar as a model urban district, how an open, secure, scalable and economically viable system of energy supply and utilisation can be adopted covering the entire chain of value creation.
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a user-oriented ecological ICT system for the comprehensive, automatised, fully integrated coupling of the sectors relating to district electricity, heating and mobility. • Demonstrate a secure, economical and ecologically viable holistic solution for the district of Bochum-Weitmar. • Make selected software components available on an open-source bases, thereby creating a scalable and open set of standards for the integration of existing stand-alone solutions.

Crafts/trades initiative for energy/heat (Ministry for Business, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy, 04-07)

Project description	Contractors involved in specific construction projects (craftsmen, planners, architects, etc.) are offered education courses and information events. Involvement in energy and heat solutions is tantamount to honing their skills for the future.
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop existing courses on the theme of renewable energies. One focus should be on the interplay of technologies in the interests of sectoral coupling and urban energy solutions. • Develop and supply communications components to improve the planning process for craftspeople and planners. • Develop concepts and guidelines for the advising of end customers on efficient technology and plant for the production of renewables. • Develop and supply components for the marketing of technologies. • Monitor implementation and provide practical support for developers availing themselves of subsidies. • Encourage active dialogue between respective actors during and after training, planning and implementation. • Point up areas in the crafts which are especially relevant for the future, with a view to supporting campaigns to inform and motivate potential trainees. • Do cross-disciplinary work to further expand courses etc. in order to ensure bespoke quality and acceptance among target groups.



Excellence Cluster for Industrial Innovations (Ministry for Business, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy, 04-08)

Project description	The aim of the “Excellence Cluster for Industrial Innovations” is to use innovations and practice-related research to help transform energy systems of the future and develop climate-neutral industry in the Ruhr area. The intention is to bolster the industrial core of the Ruhr by means of a climate-neutral system and forward-thinking industrial companies, thereby keeping jobs and value creation in the Ruhr area.
Measures	The project envisages implementation of ‘first-mover’ projects from 2020 onwards, the creation of a management office and innovation development with implementation scheduled from 2021. The members of the excellence cluster (industrial concerns to date: Siemens, Steag, thyssenkrupp, RWE, Mitsubishi Hitaki) have already set out areas of focus: hydrogen, power-to-X, heat storage plant, redox flow, digital business models. Various consortiums have already set out seven detailed research projects in the form of first-mover projects. The Power-2-X Plattform project aims, for example, to set up an open test platform in Herne devoted to the development of Power-2-X technologies, under the aegis of MHPS GmbH and STEAG GmbH. The management office will be charged with steering the definition and details of research topics, initiating and marketing projects, organising knowledge transfer and encouraging dialogue between relevant actors and industrial institutions, start-ups and SMEs. Excellence-cluster actors will draw up and implement additional projects related to innovation.

Green Infrastructure 2030 project (Ministry for Environment, Agriculture, Conservation and Consumer Protection, 14-01)

Project description	In an effort to preserve biological diversity, mitigate the effects of climate change and improve quality of life a green infrastructure network of open and green spaces will be created. Stakeholders will liaise to draw up an action framework and gaps in the network will be strategically closed.
Measures	<p>1. Programme of measures Investments are going to be made in specific areas of green infrastructure, which will be accompanied by educational and communication actions. Measures will be derived from an overarching regional green infrastructure strategy, which is broken down into themes (e.g. biodiversity) and will be developed by the help of ongoing participation processes and a new data/analysis tool, which will provide and link data and data sources .</p> <p>2. Green Infrastructure Network (Ruhr) The network serves as a governance platform for the voluntary exchange of ideas/experience between planners, politicians, civil servants, scientists, associations, etc. It enables an agreed, integrated and strategic approach to the planning, implementation and long-term preservation of green infrastructure.</p> <p>3. Green Infrastructure Centre The remit of the Centre will be to advise, offer expertise, enable transfer and manage of knowledge, bundle public-relations work in the region and function as a management office in coordinating the Green Infrastructure Network.</p>

A region recognised internationally as resilient in the face of climate change (Ministry for Environment, Agriculture, Conservation and Consumer Protection, 14-02)

Project description	Climate change is causing drought, storms and torrential rain. To help minimise the repercussions, measures are to be taken to improve local seepage, thereby reducing rainwater run-off by 25% and raising evaporation by 10%. In the process quality of life will be improved, the urban environment become more attractive and damage be avoided.
Measures	<p>Local water-management measures for hydrosensitive urban development to be organised and executed through a service centre include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • roof greening, • cooling by evaporation, e.g. in public squares, • rainwater seepage or utilisation, • de-sealing of paved areas, • porous hard standing • creation of emergency water channels / flood overflow systems • multifunctional open-air sites that can be flooded during torrential rainfall.

Innovation City roll-out (Ministry for Local and Home Affairs, Equal Opportunity and Construction, 11-05)

Project description	The overarching programme of climate-prompted district development drawn up as part of the Innovation City roll-out is being extended to 15 Ruhr districts to be decided in a competition. At the same time help is available for climate protection, improvement of living quality, strengthening of business and enhancement of the location.
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy-saving refurbishment / advice on energy-saving practices • Initiate measures affecting residential environment • Push forward with measures to increase people's mobility • Secure and strengthen economic state of the location • Activate individuals / relevant parties and give them the tools with which to execute measures • etc. <p>Block 1: District block, KfW 432: design & execution Block 2: Overhead - management, network & transfer Block 3: investment measures</p>

Ruhr region of opportunity: Excellence in education and research

Education and research are already an important area of focus in the Ruhr area – for a simple reason: a region of opportunity relies on its inhabitants having access to excellent education and training and its universities and institutes enjoying the very best conditions in which to conduct research.

This is precisely where the Ruhr Conference comes in. Great education is the key to a life of self-determination. Only if children are given equal access to schooling, regardless of background and postcode, is upward social mobility through education possible.

This is why the Ruhr Conference is occupied with schools, teaching staff and their interaction with parents. It aims to identify areas where improvements need to be made and where more resources are required.

A number of initiatives running parallel to this seek to recognise and foster talent during pupils' school years, when they are looking for careers advice and prior to choosing a course of study.

In an age of lifelong learning the Ruhr Conference also promotes further education and training, supporting part-time education programs and preparing people for jobs in the digital labour market.

A glance at the universities reveals that the Ruhr area has achieved an enormous amount since the creation of its first universities in the 1960s. Today it is one of the most densely served regions in Europe in terms of academic institutions.

The next step is to take research, too, to the next level of excellence. To this end the three universities of Bochum, Dortmund and Duisburg-Essen plan to work closer together in future and are bundling their research facilities devoted to modern interdisciplinary subjects such as life sciences, materials science and computer/data science.

The idea behind the Urban Health research centre is to explore the effect of factors such as income, education and the environment on public health in large cities and to come up with solutions.

“Ruhrvalley” is an initiative that creates research professorships and infrastructure as a way of expanding the existing research network dedicated to mobility and energy solutions and providing new stimuli for the metropolitan region.

We want to make the Ruhr metropolitan area into a region of opportunity whose trademark is upward social mobility through excellence in education and research.

Excellence Departments (Ministry for Culture and Science, 15-01)

Project description	The Ruhr metropolis performs well in international rankings when compared with other centres of scientific research. In their approach to the big themes of the future the three universities work together in excellence departments, which bundle research skill sets and function as an interface to institutes, colleges and business and industry.
Measures	The three universities collaborate on interdisciplinary subjects of special relevance to future lifestyles. These subjects include life science, materials science and computer/data science. Excellence departments bundle research skill sets and bring pioneering brains together. Each excellence department is located on its own dedicated premises, which serve as the link to research institutes, colleges of higher and further education, business, industry and other entities. Department sites are becoming locations in which innovation is nurtured. Each excellence department works at achieving critical mass, a tipping point for international recognition, making it easier to attract scientists and students, find resources for projects, create a regional ripple effect and bolster the economy. In the run-up to the project it will be necessary to identify possible themes for the excellence departments, submit them and their respective locations to a SWOT analysis and develop an overarching system of governance of excellence departments by the universities.

Urban Health Research Centre (Ministry for Culture and Science, 15-02)

Project description	Urban Health addresses health determiners such as air quality, noise, climate, education and income. This internationally important centre links researchers and healthcare across the Ruhr, improves quality of life in the region and provides solutions for other large cities and conurbations.
Measures	The centre conducts research into health determiners that are especially relevant to cities and metropolitan regions (e.g. air quality, noise pollution, climatic repercussions, educational opportunity and income, etc.). Cultural, linguistic, financial and other barriers make it harder for certain groups of people to access healthcare. Research results and their practical implementation not only improve quality of life in the Ruhr area; they can also be applied to other metropolitan regions. The Urban Health research centre can be thought of as a clamp joining research and healthcare in the Ruhr area. Urban health is a subject of major international importance and a relevance that the public have no problem understanding. The Urban Health research centre could well be set up as one of the university excellence departments. Their interface function would come into its own here and create links to multiple partners.



Ruhrvalley (Ministry for Culture and Science, 15-03)

Project description	This research network generating mobility and energy concepts, which has input from colleges and industry, is to be extended to include professorial chairs and additional infrastructure with a view to raising its international profile and attracting external funding.
Measures	To date, 3 universities with 7 institutes, 20 project partners from industry, 16 industrial associates and 15 partner organisations have some kind of involvement with Ruhrvalley. The parties do joint research into the application of internationally relevant solutions for generating post-fossil, networked mobility and energy concepts for metropolitan regions. Action needed: the scientific community and the business/industrial community have to work together intensively to develop lasting technologies and business models and build new and robust economic sectors and market players that operate worldwide, boosting on an ongoing basis the economic foundation and potential of North Rhine-Westphalia. Solution: in order to expand this area of research to encompass other disciplines – an area that has relevance not only for the Ruhr region and for other regions too – and with a view to raising its international profile, there has to be an expansion in staff numbers (e.g. by the establishment of professorships) and infrastructure (e.g. at Ruhrvalley’s current premises in Herne) and this augmentation has to reach a critical mass. The aim has to be to raise additional third-party funds to supplement the current university impetus project and also to attract scientists, in particular foreign scientists, to join the research into these relevant issues.

Social Index for schools (Ministry for Schools and Education, 10-01)

Project description	The Social Index has already been set in motion, with the aim of being able in the future to allocate human and other resources to schools with particular needs. The Index is to be evaluated and optimised in a series of workshops.
Measures	As soon as the Social Index has been arrived at in its rudimentary form, consisting of a spatial component and a school component, the intention is to conduct one or more workshops with the relevant actors. The Social Index could be presented and assessed as part of the workshop(s) with a view to modifying the structure of the index if required.



Attracting teachers (supplement salaries) (Ministry for Schools and Education, 09-01)

Project description	Schools which, particularly in the Ruhr area, find it especially difficult to find staff, are to be given the ability to supplement salaries on a temporary basis, thereby becoming a more attractive option for prospective teachers. Entry-level teachers may thus be motivated to hire on at these schools instead of choosing other career paths.
Measures	Schools that last year failed to fill posts after exhausting all recruiting methods (listings process, call for applications, staff transfer) are to be empowered, following a call for applications, to hold out to applicants with teaching qualifications the prospect of a salary supplement (§ 69 LBesG or § 16 para. 5 TV-L). An example would be a gross monthly supplement of €350, to be paid for 2½ years. It is incumbent upon the school to demonstrate to the local authority that it has complied with the above-mentioned conditions.

talents4teachers + teachers4talents (Ministry for Schools and Education, 09-02)

Project description	<p>As an adjunct to the talent-scouting programme and in collaboration with the NRW Centre for the Fostering of Talent and the central study-advice offices at the three Ruhr universities the plan is to develop a programme devoted to teacher formation as part of the talent-scouting initiative and available at teacher-training centres. The idea is for student teachers, in their capacity as talent scouts, to become more professional in the way they diagnose and foster talent and giftedness in school children, using the experience of career teachers conducting further-training modules as a benchmark.</p> <p>Prospective teachers are also to receive additional support in the form of effective mentoring to help them in the pursuit of their studies. The mentoring is to be further improved by means of empirical data collection in partnership with RuhrFutur and standardised testing procedures.</p>
Measures	The core intention is to generate excitement among more (young) people at the idea of teaching as a profession and to support them during their years spent learning the craft. This would be achieved through the provision of career orientation and advice in the course of talent scouting, these services to remain essentially non-binding on the students.

Talent College (Ministry for Schools and Education, 10-05)

Project description	The teaching approach being followed at the Talentkolleg Ruhr, whereby young people are assisted in making the transition from school to studies/career, is to be applied across the Ruhr area with the addition of two or three venues.
Measures	The project provides young school leavers from the Ruhr with small-group support and assistance as they go about qualifying for a place at university and deciding whether, or how best, to prepare for a course of study or career entry. The aim is to help non-traditional target groups as they weigh training options, to help candidates to visualise certain study options and to reduce student drop-out rates.

Campus for the Future – education centres for tomorrow (Ministry for Employment, Health and Social Welfare, 07-01)

Project description	Campus for the Future is intended to dovetail vocational education venues with colleges and universities, in order to create centres promoting exchanges and knowledge transfer between academia and occupational training. The aim is to make the dual-training model more attractive and structured, establish career paths stemming from advanced vocational training and turn out workers with specialised skills.
Measures	A competition is to decide on where up to 6 campuses are to be initiated. Groups applying for campus status are asked to submit project outlines showing the thematic focus or speciality of the proposed campus and how it is to be developed and set up. Vocational colleges, sector-specific training sites, universities of applied science and companies will hone and develop their skill sets here. A project office is to be set up to initiate and conduct the competition. The aim is to see sustainable structures acting as independent and self-sufficient networks across the region. The competing outlines are to set out the prospective campus's knowledge fields, aims, collaborative structures and possible support programmes. The successful applications will be asked to flesh out their concepts with substantive detail and present their financing structure. Funding is available to cover allowable material costs incurred in the process of concept development. The best concepts will be selected, the locations designated and project implementation monitored by the project office.

Ruhr initiative – part-time training (Ministry for Employment, Health and Social Welfare, 07-02)

Project description	This project will establish the Ruhr area as a model region for new concepts aiming to help companies secure skilled workers. To achieve this, training centres must be attracted to take part in the scheme. The aim is to attract women with family responsibilities to attend part-time training courses. An annual intake of 400 women will supported before, during and after the course.
Measures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and activate existing structures (incl. regional networks consisting of regional agencies, chambers, job centres, unions, vocational colleges and education bodies) and funding packages offered by the State of NRW and the Federal Employment Office. Discuss new or combined funding projects. 2. Plan and implement preparatory measures to generate 400 new places annually for women to take up part-time training across the Ruhr area. 3. Subsidise child care and ensure that care covers transition times of day, to reduce attrition rates among trainees and help them to combine training, vocational college and family. 4. Draw up and pursue a procurement strategy to put companies together with applicants. 5. Expand the potential of companies to recruit trainees across the Ruhr area and increase their capacity beyond that which is necessary to cover the shrinking number of vocational school graduates. 6. Broaden the basis of skilled-worker development by providing assistance to women in order to make the region economically attractive and a secure location in which to raise a family.

Expansion of Talent Scouting (Ministry for Culture and Science, 15-04)

Project description	The project will expand on and internationalise the successful talent-scouting initiative helping young people during transition from school to college of HFE. It will not only assist talented youngsters from non-academic families but also help ensure a supply of skilled labour for the NRW as a centre of scientific enterprise.
Measures	It is often the case that family background determines the school career and later career choices of young people rather than their achievement in reference to their grades. Talent scouts coach and assist school leavers as they choose a course of study or a path of occupational training. Currently, over 60 talent scouts from 17 universities and universities of applied sciences operate in over 370 schools across North Rhine-Westphalia supporting talented pupils from non-academic families to opt for higher education and find the (study) path that suits them. In all of North Rhine-Westphalia the programme includes 20.000 participants, 14.000 of them in the Ruhr area. Pupils are currently involved in the programme, with scouts supporting at vocational colleges, comprehensive and grammar schools. The North Rhine-Westphalian Central Department of Talent Development is the central contact point for schools and participating universities. It coordinates the work of talent scouts and has developed a one-year training programme for people seeking to qualify as scouts. Talentscouting is to be expanded considerably as well as extended on an international basis.

NRW Talents (Ministry for Schools and Education, 10-04)

Project description	The existing Ruhr Talents programme, which provides grants to pupils in the 8th grade and above where needed, is to be adopted permanently and expanded to cover the whole of NRW, demonstrating NRW's beacon role in this respect.
Measures	Bright pupils in grade 8 and above who have yet to harness their talents fully are to receive assistance in achieving their individual potential as part of a grants programme operating out of the NRW Zentrum für Talentförderung. The Ruhr Talents programme, which has already proven very successful, is to become a permanent initiative and, using the structures of the talent scouting project, be extended across the state to cover gifted but disadvantaged pupils.



Family centres in primary schools / Involvement of parents (Ministry for Schools and Education, 10-02)

Project description	The project aims to develop stable partnerships between parents and up to 40 primary schools located in socially deprived areas of the Ruhr region. Parents take part in, support and share responsibility for the school careers of their children.
Measures	<p>This project enables primary schools to create easy-to-establish structures with which to welcome and advise parents. It provides funding and promotes the creation of other places of education and encounter for local people.</p> <p>Following the establishment of family centres in nurseries a number of local authorities, assisted by charitable foundations, have begun setting up family centres in primary schools. Such centres are well placed to funnel advice and support from youth support bodies and other agencies, e.g. in the field of healthcare. Project organisers can apply the experience gained by other socially active initiatives such as “Quadratkilometer Bildung” and “Familienbildungszentren an Grundschulen der Wübben Stiftung”.</p>

Conference: “Cultural Education – Project fund” (Ministry for Schools and Education, 10-03)

Project description	A conference will be convened to ascertain which activities already fall under Cultural Education in the Ruhr area. A fund is to be set up to help people avail themselves of these opportunities and create further cultural projects in the Ruhr area which is already well-known in this context..
Measures	<p>A) Hold a conference that includes examples of good examples of activities being pursued.</p> <p>B) Create a Cultural Education fund to help strengthen cooperation between schools and cultural institutions in the Ruhr area.</p>

UWE – Environment, wellbeing and development of children and teenagers in the Ruhr area (Ministry for Schools and Education, 10-06)

Project description	Grade 7 and 9 children and teenagers are asked to describe their physical, emotional, mental and social wellbeing with a view to helping planners to design schools and urban districts.
Measures	The findings from a survey of the feelings of children and teenagers based on their situation at home and at school are to be used in the development and implementation of concrete measures designed to promote the wellbeing of pupils and contribute to the development of schools and the educational landscape of the region. The aim is to identify resources, risk factors and protective requirements relating to school, neighbourhood and municipality and to use the knowledge to help set up an overarching system of support.

Talent development workshops for youths in the Metropolitan Ruhr Region (Ministry for Children, Family, Refugees and Integration, 01/01)

Project description	Young people between the ages of 14 to 18 years from different ethnocultural backgrounds who live in marginalized city neighbourhoods will have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular talent development workshops during the school holidays.
Measures	Implementation of talent development workshops which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide young people with an opportunity to recognize their talents and capabilities and to apply these to meet concrete learning challenges • Help them to develop ideas about their possible career pathways • Motivate young people to reflect upon their lives, increase their self-esteem and help them develop their personality in a constructive way, • Increase their ability to work in a team environment and to develop their cross-cultural skills

As a pilot, 6 talent workshops will be organized in different city neighbourhoods across the Metropolitan Ruhr Region between 2020 and 2021 during the school holidays. Each talent workshop round will consist of three thematically different training sessions, each



with an enrollment of 10 young people, for a total of 180 participants at the end of the pilot phase.

Evaluation of the pilot phase

As part of the project roll-out phase between 2022-2024, 34 talent development workshops will be offered, each consisting of three thematically different training sessions, with 10 young people from different school types. (Total number of participants: 1.020).