



# Progress Report 2020

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## Contents

I.	Introduction: Ruhr Metropolis – An evolving region of opportunity	3
II.	Ruhr Conference: Sectors; impetus and stimuli	5
III.	Ruhr Conference: The process	7
	a) The three phases: Listening – Decision-making - Implementing	7
	b) The three pillars: Ministry projects – Partner projects - State programmes of special benefit to the Ruhr area	8
IV.	Ruhr Conference: Overview of projects and examples	11
	• Networked mobility – short distances:	
	– InnaMoRuhr: Integrated and sustainable mobility between universities	26
	• Thriving economy – good forms of work:	
	– Model digital destination: Creating a profile for tourism in the Ruhr area	30
	• Lived diversity – strong cohesion:	
	– New Arts in the Ruhr: A metropolis for artists	32
	• Secure energy – healthy environment:	
	– Green infrastructure and resilience in the face of climate change	36
	• Excellence in education and research	
	– Research departments of UA Ruhr	39
V.	Outlook: Metropolitan regions as a model for the future	41

## I. Introduction: Ruhr Metropolis – An evolving region of opportunity

If satellites had been orbiting the globe 200 years ago, a time-lapse camera positioned over the Ruhr, Emscher and Lippe region would have shown one thing above all else – a process of continuous transformation.

Hard coal mining spread northwards, ironworks became steel companies, and towns became cities.

In the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it became clear that industrial development could go hand-in-hand with a healthy environment. The skies of the Ruhr became blue again, the Ruhr valley greened up and the Emscher is being re-established as a river worthy of the name.

With the advent of universities and institutes of applied sciences the Ruhr area became a region of industry and knowledge. With the building of museums and concert halls and the establishment of a world heritage site it became a centre of culture. With the arrival of migrants it became a hub of diversity and cohesion.

Old has given way to new, as evinced by Duisburg's port facilities, the *Zollverein* in Essen, Bochum's *Jahrhunderhalle* and the *Phoenixsee* in Dortmund, to name but four developments.

If there is one thing that the area has never experienced over the last 200 years, it is stagnation. And this is set to continue over the decades to come.

A number of major transformations are discernible already. These include the switch to renewable energies, hydrogen-powered steel production and climate-neutral industry.

Another process is the ongoing conurbanisation of the Ruhr metropolis without the area's 53 cities, towns and villages losing their identities. The region's strength lies in its diversity and sense of community.

The future of the Ruhr area depends largely on the direction being mapped out today. We must fully embrace these challenges and responsibilities.

It was against this backdrop that Minister President Armin Laschet, in his statement to mark the assumption of duties of the current state government, announced the establishment of the Ruhr Conference – a forward-looking conference to mark a departure from the crisis-management conferences of previous years.

So it was that the state government set the ball for the Ruhr Conference rolling at the North Rhine-Westphalia Day held in Essen in August 2018 – a process nourished by collaboration and networking.

For many years hard coal was the fuel supplying the energy behind growth and progress the length and breadth of Germany. In both senses of the word, it fired the steel and energy sectors, industry and research, sport, culture, and urban development.

Therefore now that coal is a thing of the past, we need a new and sustainable fuel – also in the figurative sense – that will be powering our region in the foreseeable future.

The solution will also call for inventiveness, manufacturing skillsets and a strong market – all of which make the Ruhr what it is today and are only found in combination in metropolitan regions such as the Ruhr.

The first of these elements relates to the ability of the universities and research institutes to come up with viable, lasting solutions, the second to the ability of corporations and SMEs to apply these solutions to the manufacturing process and the third to the five million people who form the market for the resulting products.

In short, the Ruhr area has the resources with which to invent solutions, develop products, manufacture them and use them.

This applies not only to hardware and buildings but also to services (health, etc.) and cultural, leisure and sporting amenities. Where millions of people have common demands, the conditions are right for offering and marketing state-of-the-art goods and services.

Regional transformation does not happen of its own accord; it entails upheaval and uncertainty, requires courage and ideas. Yet it is first and foremost an opportunity, a challenge to see ways in which to conceive and create.

This is what the Ruhr Conference has been doing for two years now. It has helped launch 73 projects spread over five different sectors of activity. And the process is ongoing.

The Ruhr area is our region of opportunity – a pool of potential for over five million inhabitants and the entire country. Economically robust, offering high quality of life, innovative and sustainable, a place with a proud history and a promising future.

## II. Ruhr Conference: Sectors; impetus and stimuli

The impetus and stimuli provided by the Ruhr Conference address all areas of life. The Conference aims at nourishing self-confidence and respect, thereby attracting investment and encouraging entrepreneurs to opt for the region and the brightest brains not to move away. This is why the Ruhr Conference seeks to nurture the organism as a whole.

To this end the state government has formulated five sectors of activity into which the individual projects can be grouped.

The first of these sectors bears the title “**Networked mobility – short distances**”. If upwards of five million people are to be able to use their workplaces, the parks and clinics and the cultural and sporting facilities all over the metropolitan region, they have to be able to get from A to B with minimal effort.

The “**Thriving economy – good forms of work**” sector of operations relates to the fact that companies large and small require not only space and a functioning infrastructure but also skilled staff in secure employment who are able to adapt to shifting conditions and take part in further-training courses.

“**Lived diversity – strong cohesion**” is a sector founded on the very DNA of the Ruhr area. Migration, both from other parts of Germany and from other countries and cultures, has always been a factor in the success of the region. Below ground in particular it was not the cultural differences between people that was important but the knowledge that they could rely on one another.

Diversity applies here not only to society but also to sport, culture, media, business and industry – and the towns and communities, each with its specific identity and history. This sector covers all factors relating to quality of life, including housing, health and safety.

“**Secure energy – healthy environment**” comprises two closely-linked components. CO<sub>2</sub>-free housing and the switch to climate-neutral industrial processes help to retard climate change. Green infrastructure projects and initiatives designed to make society more resilient in the face of climate change are urgently needed and improve quality of life.

The success of a metropolitan region is largely dependent on the extent to which it offers equal opportunities in education and is a high flyer in matters of science. Everything that is linked to these two factors comes under the aegis of the fifth sector: “**Excellence in education and research**”.

These five sectors form the frameworks into which all the projects can be ordered. The projects referred to are not only those initiated by the state government; they also involve assorted regional players, namely local authorities and associations, chambers of commerce and industry, chambers of handicrafts and other partners.

Success in one sector can have ripple effects in other sectors. Good training opportunities are a condition of a good supply of skilled labour, mobility leads to the formation of networks, and a thriving economy is a prerequisite of prosperity.

Holistic thinking in sectors requires holistic thinking in terms of geography. There are many valuable projects that are designed to achieve a given objective in a particular location or district of a city. And these kinds of projects will be necessary also in future.

Yet it is also important to do things that have knock-on effects for the region as a whole. Ideally, a project will change things both in the immediate neighbourhood and at regional level: a climate-neutral housing development creates sustainable, high-quality residential units in a particular area and scores points for the climate protection contribution of the metropolitan region. A new, green space raises the quality of life of the local inhabitants and boosts the Ruhr's climatic resilience.

The key to success here lies in the ability of local authorities, colleges, associations, foundations, companies, trade unions and cultural institutions to work together – and to do so in a politically non-partisan way.

Diversity at local level can bolster living quality and need not be an impediment to the achieving of common goals. Collaboration is possible without compromising on local diversity and identity.

On the contrary: the Ruhr metropolis has an advantage over unicentric metropolises in that it did not grow outwards from an extremely dense core.

The population density is five times as high as the German average, with people spread over 53 towns, cities and villages. Spread alongside them is a panoply of parks, recreational spaces, sports clubs, colleges and cultural amenities.

If a metropolitan region of this calibre deploys all its talents and facilities to the full, it can offer the highest possible quality of life of its inhabitants.

### III. Ruhr Conference: The process

#### a) The three phases of the Ruhr Conference: Listening – Decision-making - Implementing

Collaboration and networking are driving the development of a Ruhr metropolis that is prosperous, sustainable and a pleasant place to live – and the collaboration and networking are not simply a feature of institutions; they involve ordinary people, too. With a view to pressing on with this process and designing projects for the greater good of the Ruhr metropolis, the state government launched the Ruhr Conference at Zeche Zollverein on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

##### 1) Listening:

In the months that followed the launch all the ministries liaised with partners from the region and set up a total of 20 forums covering all aspects of life and politics.

Private individuals were able to access the aims and details of the respective forums online, outline their own priorities and submit proposals for projects, which were then communicated to the themed forums.

In the first half of 2019 the themed forums featured at over 50 events ranging from small workshops to large-scale symposia. 4,000 attendees developed project proposals that were put to the state government in mid-2019.

This first phase revolved around participation in the form of discussion and practical involvement. An alternative approach would have been to have a small group of experts drawing up projects around a negotiating table, but that would have dispensed with three important factors.

Firstly, there would have been a dearth of creative ideas that would not have been generated at expert negotiating tables. Secondly, the change of mindsets and the seizing of opportunities would not have been furthered. Thirdly, there would be less networking among individual players and a holistic view of the metropolitan region would be lacking.

Moreover, shifts in people's ways of thinking is not something which should be restricted to the Ruhr area. An outsider's view of this region must encompass the opportunities available. Because a strong Ruhr area is a boost for the entire state.

##### 2) Decision-making

The project proposals submitted as a result of talks within the themed forums and the resulting sectors of activity were the subject of intense discussions at two conferences involving local authorities held in September and October 2019. In addition, an online

consultation was held with associations, and two townhall events offered an opportunity to the public to discuss the proposals with the Minister President. The feedback from these sessions was used to fine-tune the proposals, which were then presented to the state government for shortlisting.

On 5th November 2019 the cabinet gave the green light to 74 projects spread over five sectors of activity, projects that were presented on a variety of platforms including the Ruhr Conference website: <https://www.ruhr-konferenz.nrw/umsetzen/handlungsfelder> One of the initiatives, the midwifery bureau as a digital hub matching needs with capacities, has already been offered as a nationwide project, dispensing with the need for a branch serving the Ruhr area. The other 73 projects are being pursued.

### 3) Implementing

The cabinet also resolved to add 60.8 million euros to the 2020 budget to enable the projects to go ahead.

Responsibility for the 73 projects lies with the respective ministries.

#### b) The three pillars of the Ruhr Conference: Ministry projects – Partner projects – State projects of special benefit to the Ruhr area

The Ruhr Conference is made up of three pillars:

- 1) **Ministry projects:** Responsibility for the projects designed by the themed forums and approved by the state government in November 2019 lies with the relevant ministries. These projects form the first pillar of the Ruhr Conference.
- 2) **Partner projects:** The second pillar is made up of projects put forward by local authorities, chambers of commerce and industry, chambers of handicrafts, companies, foundations and other institutions.

To be considered for implementation under the auspices of the Ruhr Conference they must meet the following four conditions:

- They contribute to at least one of the five sectors of activity.
- They improve a given situation through collaboration.



- Their positive effect extends beyond the local vicinity, benefiting the wider region.
- Sources of funding exist. These may include programmes run by the European Union, central or regional government and other bodies in the Ruhr area.

This second pillar again involves the three phases of **listening, decision-making and implementing**. There have been a number of cities and local authorities as well as chambers that have proposed partner projects, and in a series of talks held in the first half of 2020 these submissions were analysed and arranged according to priority.

After this listening phase the state government will decide on the projects that are to be developed to the point where they are ready to be implemented.

And that is not the end of the process. The same procedure can be followed in years to come, with other partners bringing forward their projects as part of the second pillar of the Conference.

**3) State programmes of special benefit to the Ruhr area:** Supplementary to the sector-related ministry projects and partner projects being developed and implemented as part of the Ruhr Conference there are a number of other programmes and projects, that are of particular benefit to the region as a whole.

This applies to state-government initiatives such as

- funding for cultural projects and the creative economy
- subsidisation of art projects as part of #heimatruhr
- solidarity pact supporting local radio stations
- support for the “Rhein Ruhr City 2032” initiative, which is applying to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- moves to increase the number of teachers
- modernisation of the region to promote energy- and climate-friendly urban development
- implementation of floor-space management systems
- implementation of digital strategy
- implementation of tourism strategy
- mobility alliance
- investment in rail network
- RRX rail project
- electromobility initiative
- International Garden Exhibition 2027

- Improved cooperation between central and regional government over integration policy

Massive investment in the Ruhr area is also occurring as a result of the federal government's Structural Enhancement Act, which stipulates, inter alia, implementation of the 5 Locations Programme for which the North Rhine-Westphalian Ministry for Trade and Industry bears responsibility and for which Business Metropole Ruhr GmbH has developed the sectors of activity and organised the strategy-implementation process. 662 million euros of funding from central government has been made available for projects in view of the phasing-out, by 2038, of hard coal powered electricity generation in Duisburg, Gelsenkirchen, Hamm, Herne and Unna.

These projects, too, should be viewed as being within the compass of the Ruhr Conference, since they are equally instrumental in the ongoing development of a Ruhr metropolitan region that is successful, sustainable and offering a high quality of living. Maximisation of synergies in the sectors of activity and with the ministry and partner projects is an essential part of the process.

## IV Ruhr Conference: Overview of projects

### Sector 1: Networked mobility – short distances

ID	Project name, objective	Current status	Next milestones
13-01	<b>Local Transport Initiative:</b> Improvement of local and regional transport in Ruhr area	<p>In planning: a study aimed at designing a concept for express buses and rail-passenger transport</p> <p>Application submitted for funding to conduct potential analysis regarding on-demand ridepooling</p> <p>First trial area identified: Moers/Kamp-Lintfort/Neukirchen-Vluyn</p> <p>Local rail networks being established</p> <p>Planning agreement signed for <i>Robustes Netz</i></p>	<p><b>Express buses &amp; reactivation of rail passenger routes:</b> Conduct study to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ascertain needs</li> <li>- prioritise and determine preliminary projects</li> </ul> <p><b>On-demand ridepooling:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- conduct interurban analysis relating to on-demand ridepooling</li> <li>- identify other trial areas for ridepooling solutions serving local transport needs</li> </ul> <p><b>Rail-passenger transport offensive: services and stations:</b> Synchronised Timetables (ITF) working group to list measures to be taken up to 2034</p> <p><b>Robustes Netz:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- preliminary draft planning</li> <li>- draft planning</li> <li>- agreement on construction finance</li> </ul>
13-02	<b>Mobility Region:</b> Flexible mobility beyond city boundaries	Project for digitalisation of park-and-ride facilities in preparation	<p>Conduct project for digitalisation of park-and-ride facilities</p> <p>Planning of needs assessment to define basic local-transport network</p>
13-03	<b>Mobility Bureau:</b> Transparency and networking of all rolling stock and services	<p>Staff unit being set up in Ministry of Transport</p> <p>Assignments for design of concept have been made</p>	<p><b>Mobility bureau:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- tighten organisational and staffing prerequisites</li> <li>- publish concept at end of 2021</li> </ul> <p><b>Coordination of building sites:</b> Keep motivating local authorities to get involved</p> <p><b>Lorry navigation:</b> Involvement of other stakeholders</p>

ID	Project name, objective	Current status	Next milestones
13-04	<p><b>Networked Mobility:</b> The route from A to B from the users' perspective</p>	<p>Approved: the design of a concept for blanket coverage with battery charging stations</p> <p>Talks aiming at enhancement of park-and-ride and bike-and-ride facilities are underway</p> <p>Launch of mobil.nrw app in 2019</p>	<p><b>Charging stations:</b> Presentation of concept for blanket coverage with charging stations</p> <p><b>Park-and-ride / Bike-and-ride:</b> Application for funding for enhancement of park-and-ride and bike-and-ride facilities to be submitted</p> <p><b>E-tariff / multi-modal tariff:</b> Selection of possible model experiments</p> <p><b>App solution for better networking:</b> Start of MaaS.NRW baseline study</p>
13-05	<p><b>Mobility for Industry:</b> Relieve bottlenecks and create more capacity</p>	<p>Planned: declaration of intent with Deutsche Bahn regarding digitalisation of rail network</p> <p>Model region for autonomous inland-waterways traffic being implemented</p>	<p><b>Digitalisation of rail network:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- study aimed at designing a concept</li> <li>- physical implementation (Deutsche Bahn)</li> </ul> <p><b>Infrastructure proposal for industrial location:</b> Continuation of needs plan relating to auditing of Federal Transport Infrastructure Plan 2030</p>
13-06	<p><b>Mobile in Town:</b> Improvements in the mix of mobility modes makes cities more mobile, climate-friendlier and more attractive</p>	<p>In preparation: selection of a model development for creation of mobility infrastructure for neighbourhood</p> <p>Model project for providing city logistics in Herne has been approved</p>	<p><b>Model project for provision of mobility infrastructure for neighbourhood:</b> Selection of a possible model project in consultation with partners</p> <p><b>Ride-sharing structures:</b> as set out in model project for creation of mobility infrastructure for neighbourhood</p> <p><b>Model project for providing city logistics:</b> Where relevant, identification of other model projects (e.g. as part of model project for creation of mobility infrastructure for neighbourhood)</p> <p><b>Mobility management by local authorities:</b> <i>Mobilität NRW</i>, a network geared to future needs, is being supported by chambers of commerce and industry</p>

## Sector 2: Thriving economy – good forms of work

ID	Project name, objective	Current status	Next milestones
02-01	<b>Know-how Locator:</b> Online tool for identifying experts	Ongoing workshops	Finalisation of expansion of expert-facilitation service. Concept, tendering and implementation of expansion  Production of explanatory videos
02-02	<b>Publicity for Funding and Transfer Services:</b> Approach and motivate companies	Target groups being analysed	Drawing up of film concept  Production of two films  Approaches to be made to multipliers and partners
02-03	<b>Networking of Key Innovation Actors:</b> Consultation events for companies	Preparation for, and holding of, a launch event Basic concept being drawn up	Work out details of a concept for exchange of know-how between research institutes with local-authority funding  Launch event  Work out details of a concept for innovation get-togethers  Launch event  Hold further events for both initiatives
05-01	<b>Funding Programme for Technology Transfer:</b> Getting innovative solutions to market quickly	Work underway with partners to define project	Finalised definition of project; sort out financing
05-02	<b>Centre for Chemie 4.0:</b> Home of Start4Chem incubator	Drawing up of applications for “Start4Chem Labs” and “Start-Up Chemistry.NRW VCI contact bureau”	Approval of applications by Jülich, project sponsor  Q4/2020 – Approved scientists move into labs and offices  Q4/2020 – Set up VCI contact bureau

ID	Project name, objective	Current status	Next milestones
06-01	<b>Digital Model Destination Ruhr:</b> Making touristic options more visible	Ongoing	Funding runs from August 2019 to November 2022  Expert supervision via Ministry for Business, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy
06-02	<b>RUHR.FOOTBALL:</b> Football matches as tourist attraction	RTG funding application submitted and being considered	Approval of application by Düsseldorf district government  Expert supervision via Ministry for Business, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy
06-03	<b>RUHR.DIGITAL:</b> Creation of digital services and digital experiences	RTG funding application being put together	Qualification for project idea  Estimated: Submission of application to Düsseldorf district government in 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2020  Expert supervision via Ministry for Business, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy
07-03	<b>Ch@ngeRuhr:</b> Bundling of expertise on digitalisation of world of work	Concept being drawn up in light of changes brought about by Corona pandemic	Qualification for project; commissioning
11-04	<b>Revitalisation of Brownfield Sites:</b> Space for residential and industrial estates	Ascertaining feasibility with access to funding and with option to implement	Ascertainment of feasibility of access to funding and implementation options
11-06	<b>Innovation Ruhr 2030:</b> A showcase of the transformation process	Consulting on strategy concept and implementation programme	Consulting on strategy concept and implementation programme
17-01	<b>International Conference Metropolitan Innovation Summit:</b> Networking of Ruhr area and regions undergoing change	Drawing up of event concept	October 2020 Workshop on focal points of conference involving Ruhr actors

## Sector 3: Lived diversity – strong cohesion

ID	Project name, objective	Current status	Next milestones
03-01	<b>Central Security Cooperation to Combat Clan Crime:</b> Liaison between police, local authorities, customs authorities and other partners	<p>“Ruhr Security” Unit now operating</p> <p>Cooperation agreement with various partners has been signed</p>	<p>Unit continues to operate</p> <p>Event with mayors and district chief executives of Ruhr area to improve networking with local authorities. Currently scheduled for 20.11.2020 in Gelsenkirchen</p>
03-02	<b>Preventive Strategy to Combat Clan Crime:</b> Prevent attraction of new recruits; enable people to abandon life of crime	<p>Scientific advisory group has been conceived and set up</p> <p>Locations ready to launch</p> <p>“Clan-crime prevention coordinator” is a member of “Ruhr Security” Unit</p> <p>At locations relevant for the “Ruhr Security” Unit the “<i>Kurve kriegen</i>” initiative is fully equipped and resourced to incorporate the “Clan Crime Prevention” angle into its operations</p> <p>An evaluation (of the processes, at least) has been contracted out</p> <p>19 at-risk children are taking part in the initiative with their parents</p>	<p>Identify / test / validate preventive measures/options</p> <p>Local procedures have been established at the five pilot locations to watch out for and recruit at-risk children and teens from criminal clans or clans who are known to police.</p> <p>The evaluation procedure is being fine-tuned</p>

ID	Project name, objective	Current status	Next milestones
08-01	<b>Midwifery Agency:</b> Digital networking of demand and supply	Nationwide digital agency for facilitation of midwives has begun operation	The objective pursued by the state government is being achieved by the nationwide initiative so that no Ruhr branch is required
08-02	<b>Virtual Hospital:</b> Making doctors' expertise digitally available	Preliminary phase of Virtual Hospital has been launched	Designation of expert centres and users for pilot phase  Tendering of technical infrastructure and telemedical services  Launch of pilot operations with 5 start indications  01.09.2020: Creation of funding body and staggered launch of pilot operations with selected start indications
11-01	<b>Ruhr Academy Smart Transformation:</b> Network of actors for integrated urban and residential/industrial estate development	Work underway on cooperation agreement and project organisation	Hosting of workshops on the four innovation premises
11-03	<b>Housing / Redensification:</b> Residential developments beyond town/city boundaries	Registers of vacant sites and potential are in development	
12-01	<b>Locating of Conception/ Coordination Office for Dialogue Anchored in Respect for Rule of Law:</b> Promotion of constitution-based systems of government	Start of project work	Start of professional development of organisation  Drawing up of a basic concept for the orientation, task allocation and outfitting of conception/ coordination office
12-02	<b>Deployment of 'rule-of-law' Guides as "Bridge Builders":</b> Make information on states governed by rule of law available to all	In planning: tendering of preliminary "Job Description for Pilots" study	Results of preliminary study
12-03	<b>From Lay Justice to Legal Mediator:</b>	Dependent on funding from 2021	Sort out financing for research work



ID	Project name, objective	Current status	Next milestones
	Traditional arbitration and principles of rule of law		
12-04	<b>Linguistic and Cultural Facilitators:</b> Experts facilitate mutual understanding	Tendering and submission of applications for foundation	Decision on funding and selection of project sponsor  Project sponsor starts work (needs assessment; drawing up of coaching/raining concept for a minimum of two occupational groups)
12-05	<b>Training Concept for a Judiciary Geared to Diversity Issues:</b> Expanding cultural competence	Tendering and submission of applications for foundation	Decision on funding and selection of project sponsor  Project sponsor starts work (agreed project plan, conducts needs analysis)
12-06	<b>Teaching of Civics at Elementary School, Primary School and Lower Secondary Level:</b> Conveying values and principles of countries governed by the rule of law	Launch session has been held	Creation of legal basis for Civics groups at primary schools  Drawing up of didactic concept for design of material
12-07	<b>Judiciary and the Media:</b> Dialogue between judiciary and the media	Consultative phase	Preparations for event to be held in 2021
12-08	<b>Increased Protection from Violence:</b> Put forward measures and monitor progress	Start of conceptualisation process	First event to be held in 2021
16-01	<b>New Arts Ruhr:</b> The Ruhr area as a hotspot for digital arts, urban art, contemporary circus and the EDM club scene	Start of consultations as part of creation of "New Arts Ruhr" promotion sector	Start of preparations for a digital art festival at Zeche Zollverein  Sort out finance for a concept to develop a supportive structure for "New Arts Ruhr" (e.g. development agency and/or project offices)

ID	Project name, objective	Current status	Next milestones
18-01	<b>Ruhr Reporter:</b> Fostering interest in journalism among young people	<p>Project structure has been established</p> <p>Cooperation partners have been found</p> <p>Funding application submitted and being considered</p> <p>Preparations for launch and tendering for first course are in progress</p>	<p>Approval of funding</p> <p>Setting up of communications channels</p> <p>Conducting of first courses</p>
18-02	<b>Ruhr Youth Editorial Office:</b> Recruit young people on a local basis for social engagement through the medium of journalism	<p>Funding application approved</p> <p>Project structure in place</p> <p>“Walk-in premises” set up</p> <p>Start of project with <i>Salon5</i> app</p> <p>First courses (digital) in progress</p> <p>Publicity is in hand</p>	<p>Close liaison with JournalismLab Ruhr</p> <p>Holding of further courses</p> <p>Other communication aspects</p>
18-03	<b>NdM-Mentoring Programme @Ruhrgebiet:</b> Increase diversity in local editorial offices	<p>Funding application approved</p> <p>Programme’s application phase launched</p> <p>Preparations underway for initial tranche</p>	<p>First tranche to start in autumn</p>
18-04	<b>Development of Community-Relations Software:</b> Achieve professional standards of community management in the media	<p>EU funding application being drawn up</p>	<p>Successful application for EU funding</p> <p>Development agency set up and development work begun</p>
18-05	<b>MediaLab Ruhr:</b> Establish innovative approaches in journalism and media competence	<p>Concept being drawn up</p> <p>Funding application being drawn up</p> <p>Talks with cooperation partners</p>	<p>Project structure has been established and is working</p> <p>Results of parallel research are in</p> <p>Tangible local projects initiated</p> <p>MediaLab Ruhr dovetailing with JournalismLab of NRW Media Authority</p>

ID	Project name, objective	Current status	Next milestones
19-01	<b>Ruhr Games:</b> Generate enthusiasm for Olympic Games	To take place in Bochum over Corpus Christi weekend 2021 (Ruhr Games held every two years)	Planning and preparations for 2021 going ahead in cooperation with Ruhr Regional Association
19-02	<b>Sport Valley:</b> Create activity areas for cross-cultural and cross-generational use	Project planning completed Funding application submitted  Approval received to bring forward start date  Support for a sports and active-life park in Essen	Implementation of construction plan and completion of building work  Preparations for accompanying publicity work; inauguration in spring 2021
19-03	<b>NRWir für Dich Mentoring Programme:</b> Support for young sport talents	Talks in progress with prospective partners	Draw up concept  Initial mentor-protégé matchings  Accompanying publicity work
19-04	<b>Oral History:</b> Sportsmen and women look back over their careers	Funding application approved	Project overseen, supported and conducted by German Sport University Cologne
19-05	<b>Volunteers for Life:</b> Volunteer helpers for large-scale sports events	Funding application being put together by partner  Concept being developed	Communication of product/service to initial participants and companies in Ruhr area  Accompanying publicity work
19-06	<b>Ideas Cluster - Sport:</b> Virtual/augmented reality in health industry and sport	Funding application being put together by partner  Concept being developed	Planning fully underway for event in Dortmund in early November  Accompanying publicity work
19-07	<b>Anchoring the Olympic Idea in the Ruhr Area:</b> Increasing the 'experience factor' of major events	In preparation	Conduct planning discussions with hosts of upcoming sports events

ID	Project name, objective	Current status	Next milestones
20-01	<b>RUHR Network for Corporate Engagement:</b> Collaboration between companies and non-profit organisations	Start postponed due to Corona pandemic	
20-02	<b>New Impulses for On-Site Collaboration of Companies and Clubs/Associations:</b> Cooperations in cities and neighbourhoods	Start postponed due to Corona pandemic	
20-03	<b>Ruhr City DREAMERS:</b> Seminars to support implementation of own projects	Summer youth camp held as planned at Biggesee Academy, albeit for smaller groups (max. 20 persons) due to Corona pandemic	Implementation of projects  Evaluation and presentation

## Sector 4: Secure energy – healthy environment

ID	Project name, objective	Current status	Next milestones
04-01	<b>Project Appeal – Smart Estate Developments:</b> Facilitate and support implementation of solutions	Preparations underway for conceptualisation and financing	Project at planning stage  No statement currently possible on funding situation
04-02	<b>Advice Bureau – Smart Estate Developments:</b> Mobilise actors and pave way for projects	Sources of finance being studied  Project qualification in progress	Project at planning stage  No statement currently possible on funding situation
04-03	<b>Renewable Energies Marketing Campaign:</b> Spark enthusiasm for solutions applicable to everyday life	Project marketing in progress	Project at planning stage  No statement currently possible on funding situation
04-04	<b>Renewable-Electricity Expansion Initiative:</b> Increase production and take-up	Project qualification in progress	Project at planning stage  No statement currently possible on funding situation
04-05	<b>Renewable-Heat Expansion Initiative:</b> Networking between actors and projects	Conceptualisation in progress  Sources of finance being studied	Project at planning stage  No statement currently possible on funding situation
04-06	<b>Open District Hub Bochum:</b> Finding an energy system for the neighbourhood	Work in progress	Funding runs from October 2019 to September 2022
04-07	<b>Crafts/Trades Initiative for Energy/Heat:</b> Educational and information services	Continuation of existing measures	An additional initiative is on hold
04-08	<b>Excellence Cluster for Industrial Innovations:</b> Climate-neutral industry	Work in progress  Preparations underway to set up a head office	Approval of all First Mover projects
11-05	<b>Innovation City Roll-Out:</b> Expand holistic and climate-friendly development of residential/industrial estates	Project team commencing work  Project qualification in progress	Feasibility study and funding from Reconstruction Loan Corporation <i>KfW</i>

ID	Project name, objective	Current status	Next milestones
14-01	<p><b>Green Infrastructure 2030 Project:</b> Creation of a network of green public spaces for biodiversity, climate resilience and optimum quality of life</p>	<p>Two funding applications approved and presented</p> <p>Work underway to commission feasibility study</p>	<p>First steps in “Plugging the Greenery Gaps” initiative</p> <p>Completion of all conceptualisations and feasibility studies</p> <p>Preliminary results of Green Infrastructure strategy and Biodiversity strategy</p> <p>Event for experts at end of year</p> <p>Organisation of feasibility study as part of “Nice Street” initiative</p>
14-02	<p><b>Climate-Resilient Region with International Aura:</b> Percolation and evaporation to combat flooding and heatwaves</p>	<p>Ground-breaking ceremony for roof- and façade-greening project at <i>GMVA</i> waste-incineration plant in Oberhausen</p>	<p>Publishing of new guidelines for waste-water measures</p> <p>Funding of waste-water measures taken in accordance with new guidelines</p>

## Sector 5: Excellence in education and research

ID	Project name, objective	Current status	Next milestones
07-01	<b>Campus for the Future – Education Centres for Tomorrow:</b> Dovetail places of learning	Preparation of implementation study completed  Initiation of tendering process	Commissioning of implementation study  Contracting and outfitting of project office to assist with initiation of competition and implementation
07-02	<b>Ruhr Initiative – Part-Time Training:</b> Recruitment of skilled staff	Project qualification and feasibility study in progress	Feasibility study completed
09-01	<b>Attracting Teachers:</b> Attract entry-level staff and motivate to stay	Vacancy listings offering boni have been published	Aim to increase recruitment
09-02	<b>talents4teachers+ teachers4talents:</b> Teachers discover talents	Consultative phase	Initial meeting with project participants
10-01	<b>Social Index for Schools:</b> Elaboration of criteria for construction of index	Preparations underway to define participants and fix dates for discussions	Finalise dates for discussions; hold the discussion sessions End of project scheduled for end of 2020
10-02	<b>Family Centres in Primary Schools:</b> Involvement of parents	Work underway to draw up funding guideline	Publish and implement funding guidelines  Establish family centres in selected open, all-day primary schools in Ruhr area
10-03	<b>“Cultural Education” Conference - “Cultural Education” Project Fund</b> Use and add to the existing methods / materials / initiatives	Work underway to draw up funding guideline	Develop digital formats (e.g. culture kits), cultural trips for schools and digital products featuring interactive components  Incorporation of culture partners in Ruhr area  Hold a digital “Cultural Education in the Ruhr area” Day Publish funding guideline
10-04	<b>NRW Talents:</b> Enshrine funding in mid-to-long term	Tendering for talent centres has begun	Selection and announcement of up to four additional locations

ID	Project name, objective	Current status	Next milestones
10-05	<b>Talent Colleges:</b> Help in transition from school to college or career	Concept has been submitted for identification and financing of additional talent-college locations	Selection of up to three additional talent colleges in catchment area of Ruhr Regional Association (RVR)
10-06	<b>UWE – Environment, Wellbeing and Development of Children and Teenagers in the Ruhr Area:</b> Findings for development of schools and neighbourhoods	Application submitted for funding to develop a concept aimed at making schooling more effective	<i>Ruhr-Universität Bochum</i> and the <i>Bertelsmann Stiftung</i> pilot measures aimed at making schooling more effective
15-01	<b>Excellence Departments:</b> Collaboration of universities on subjects of relevance to the future	First appraisable sketch of UA Ruhr, the alliance of Ruhr universities has been submitted  Assessment being prepared by Science and Humanities Council	Assessment of initial concept  Drawing up of final concept
15-02	<b>Urban Health Research Centre:</b> Set out links between health determiners such as environment, education and income	Draft concept of <i>Hochschule für Gesundheit</i> has been submitted  Assessment of draft concept has begun	Findings of assessment of fully-fledged concept  If appropriate: acquisition of premises
15-03	<b>Ruhrvalley:</b> Expand research network	Preliminary concept for structure of cluster and research fields has been submitted  Approval received for grant to design a feasibility study	Drawing up of a fully-fledged concept  Design cluster structure and set out research field  Invite applications for first professorship
15-04	<b>Expansion of Talent Scouting:</b> Support for aspiring undergraduates from non-academic households	A detailed concept for this expanded programme has been developed in close consultation with the North Rhine-Westphalian Centre for Talent Promotion	Invite applications for first positions as talent scouts and positions at Centre for Talent Promotion (coordination and training of talent scouts)



ID	Project name, objective	Current status	Next milestones
01-01	<b>Talent Ateliers for Young People in the Ruhr Area:</b> Discover skills/abilities; nurture perspectives	Funding application considered and grant approved	Development of curriculum for non-school-based education opportunities for young people aged 14 to 18  Hold an introductory talent atelier with involvement of premise managers

## Examples of projects

### “Networked mobility – short distances”:

#### **InnaMo Ruhr: Concept for integrated, sustainable mobility for UA Ruhr (Alliance of Ruhr Universities) (see also 13-01 and 13-04)**

When students and staff of the three largest universities in the Ruhr area need to travel to or from or between the various sites, the chosen mode of transport is often the car – currently the quickest means of getting from A to B. As an example: many existing local transport services have radial routes that carry passengers through their respective main rail station. Direct links between individual towns, which requires cooperation between different transport services, are very limited – if they exist at all.

This is where the “InnaMo Ruhr” project comes in, a multi-disciplinary consortium covering social, business and engineering sciences in which researchers from the three Ruhr universities explore ways in which transportation within the region can be made more sustainable. The project aims to design and test a concept for an integrated, sustainable system of transport for the UA Ruhr.

The aim is to create a more efficient transport network connecting the four UA Ruhr locations, Duisburg, Essen, Bochum und Dortmund, to plug gaps in service coverage and thereby change, in the long term, the mobility behaviour of the local students and labour force and at the same time make collaboration between the various actors within the university alliance easier.

Plans include a survey of mobility needs and the formulation of scenarios that are to be tested in a simulator and then trialled on the ground. The project will feature technologies that are emissions-free for the local area, e.g. not only electric shuttles but also on-demand services and other new ways of getting around.

The consortium comprises the following partners:

#### TU Dortmund

- Prof. Dr. Johannes Weyer (Technology Studies)

#### Ruhr-Universität Bochum

- Prof. Dr. Michael Roos (Chair in Macroeconomics)
- Prof. Dr. Constantinos Sourkounis (Institute of Power Systems Technology and Power Mechatronics)

## Universität Duisburg-Essen

- Prof. Dr. Heike Proff (Chair of General Business Administration & International Automotive Management)
- Prof. Dr. Petra Stein / Prof. Dr. Frank Kleemann (Institute of Sociology)
- Prof. Dr. Pedro José Marrón (Chair of Networked Embedded Systems)

The “InnaMo Ruhr” project has been running since May 2020 and will end in April 2023. The State of North Rhine-Westphalia is supporting the project with a grant of almost 1.9 million euros, with the approval notification formally presented by Minister Hendrik Wüst in Dortmund on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

The “InnaMo Ruhr” works to the benefit of the Networked Mobility project (13-04) and, to a lesser extent, of the Local Transport Initiative (13-01) and their respective individual measures:

With Networked Mobility the project revolves around the users and their perspectives: what is the best way to get from A to B? Efforts being made in this regard are being bundled. The aim of the Local Transport Initiative is to bolster local and regional transportation services throughout the Ruhr area by creating modern rail and track systems, densifying existing services, developing an express bus system and reactivating disused routes.

As an example: the billion-euro “Local Rail” programme for the renewal of street and underground train systems has so far earmarked almost 450 million euros of funding for a system upgrade that aims to improve mobility within the Ruhr area.

The “InnaMo Ruhr” project overall is fully compatible with the overarching aims of the Ruhr Conference, which are to break down boundaries, improve collaboration, strengthen the region as a centre of education, etc.

## **Work packages**

- 1) Assessment of present situation:** To ascertain the current mobility patterns of the population, a detailed survey is being made of the actual situation and in particular the providers of mobility services and their involvement with networks (ecosystems), existing services and the extent to which they are used to identify gaps in service (unknown, inadequate or insufficiently used services) and fossilised attitudes and behaviours on the part of users.
- 2) Survey of mobility needs:** The procedures described in 1) are also being used to study mobility needs and user preferences. On the one hand, the aim is to ascertain individual mobility desires (such as a direct transport service between home and university), in order to identify possible transportation gaps and

bundling opportunities that might trigger the development of innovative mobility solutions (see WP 3). On the other hand, a study is being made of users' individual approaches and preferences, which are required if behaviours are to be simulated (see WP 4) and different user types are to be visualised.

- 3) Development of scenarios:** The data collected in WP 1 and WP 2 are distilled into scenarios that reflect the actual situation but also portray a fictional constellation that bundles and integrates the timetables desired by the interviewees. These scenarios are transferred to simulation models in WP 4. The hope is that a comparison of actual and desired situations will help to identify gaps and deficits in transportation and point up the challenges – and opportunities – associated with the advent of ride sharing, express cycle routes and flexible on-demand services and with them the lasting transformation of the transport system.
- 4) Simulation experiments:** The [Simulator SimCo](#), developed at TU Dortmund, is being used to design a transport model presenting travel between and in the vicinity of the four UA Ruhr campuses in abstract form. New, hitherto untried software components are also in the pipeline, chief among them the “Mobility Station” module and “on-demand service” technology. The supplier/consumer data collected in WP 1 and WP 2 are used to calibrate the existing agent types. Finally, the scenarios formulated in WP 3 are applied technically and tested in simulations under experimental conditions.
- 5) Practical trialling of selected technologies:** This work package aims initially to ascertain how, given mobility ecosystems in which the actors at once cooperate and compete, shared value might be created and apportioned among the partners and to identify what the technological solutions might look like. To this end, and in a joint process involving electrical engineers and transport service providers who have signalled their support for the project, experiments are planned using new technologies that are emissions-free for the local area (electric vehicles and charging facilities) and which are deployed especially in sustainable formats (car, ride and bike sharing and buses) as a way of assessing their compatibility with other modes of transport (e.g. bicycles and other local and regional transport) and plugging gaps (WP 1) and meeting mobility needs (WP 2).
- 6) Tools for integrated mobility management:** Leading on from, and parallel to, the findings of the foregoing work packages, this stage is devoted to the development of the technical processes and instruments that are necessary for integrated and sustainable mobility management, all the while using existing structures where possible. The technologies must, however, be geared to travel between the Ruhr universities. Another requirement, where possible, is that, in consultation with existing data and mobility-service providers, interfaces be set up allowing a link-up of the technologies referred to in WP 5 and enabling the scenarios developed in WP 3 and WP 4 to be rolled out in practice, i.e. field trials to be conducted on the basis of selected scenarios as provided for in WP 7.

- 7) Real-world laboratory:** Five hundred people at each of the four UA Ruhr campuses are being given the means with which to track their own mobility requirements over a period of six months and, on that basis, to make use of new mobility services provided by the integrated mobility management system, e.g. via an app (cf. WP 6). This takes place in partnership with and supplementary to existing local transport structures, i.e. in novel corporate networks (ecosystems), and the mobility solutions trialled in WP 5 and tested for profitability in the simulation phase (WP 4).
- 8) Pilot project:** Building on the results of WP 7, a trial area will be selected for a pilot project scheduled to run for a number of years. In the project the integrated mobility management system is fully incorporated into existing structures and can be used by other sections of the population rather than being restricted to selected test persons. The project prepares the trial area and is involved in the run-up to launch.
- 9) Publication, sharing and utilisation of results:** The interim results of the research will be presented at intervals at national and international conferences and in the second half of the research period published in specialised national and international journals. The findings will also be collated and edited into a form suitable for passing on to interested companies, associations, administrative authorities, etc.

## “Thriving economy – good forms of work”:

### Ruhr metropolis: Digital Model Destination NRW (06-01)

The Ruhr metropolis functions as the “Digital Model Destination NRW”, implementing North Rhine-Westphalia’s tourism strategy as part of Ruhr metropolis’s regional destination strategy.

The objective is to increase the visibility of Ruhr tourism on the digital map.

This involves enhancing search results and the flow of information through search engines such as Google, voice-interaction assistants like Alexa and on the websites of the partners.

To this end, Ruhr Tourismus GmbH RTG is currently developing a digitalisation and data strategy for tourist data in the Ruhr area. A key pillar of the strategy is to structure the data in conformity with the schema.org standard and to gather the data into a jointly managed, regional architecture (DatenHub Ruhr).

Via interfaces and working on the open-data principle, the data can be read via web browsers, applications, touch points, information screens and search engines and fed to the NRW data hub and the nationwide knowledge graphs.

The Ruhr data hub does not just simplify the process of travellers accessing the required information and getting ideas for things to do; it also makes it easier for RTG partners to keep the tourist data updated. It will also be easier in the future to add in dynamic data streams relating to the weather, traffic, projected journey times and whether a given venue is sold out - and easier for travellers to call up this information digitally.

As part of a digital travel guide the structured data from the DatenHub Ruhr are to be used and bundled in their own application. This will enable travellers to have a holistic tourist experience in the Ruhr metropolis using a one-stop application that offers them inspiration for ways to experience culture, urban environment and nature, helps them plan their trip by bus, rail or car and provides visualisations of accommodation and events.

The milestones:

- Road map
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2020: first talks with partners on joint venture
  - End of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2020: launch of DatenHub Ruhr
  - Start of 2021: link-up with NRW data hub and project partners

- Development of brand strategy for RTG (internal workshops, not yet completed)
  - Address core strategic themes relating to branding
  - Define core target groups for Ruhr metropolis
  - In keeping with the data strategy of RTG and the project goals regarding overhauling content strategy and developing a digital travel guide
  
- Development of data strategy for the data hub of the Ruhr metropolis
  - Set up and structure relevant data types
  - Create content database
  - Create image database (intern)
  - Provide further training for partners and staff in CC licences for texts and images
  
- Consultancy services from Fraunhofer Institute, Dortmund, for technical support and advice
- Future of Tourism bureau offering support and advice
- Invitation for applications for position as technical service provider
- Creation of “knowledge platform” to document the course of the project for other regions

## “Lived diversity – strong cohesion”:

### New Arts Ruhr: the metropolis of artists (16-01)

Since the end of coal and steel, which defined the area for 150 years, the Ruhr has been in need of a new and compelling narrative, one that is bound to reflect the various social and political imperatives informing the region. One as-yet-unwritten narrative that carries special weight is that of the Ruhr artist metropolis.

It is incontrovertible that metropolises such as New York and Paris define themselves largely in terms of their status as a hotspot of culture, art and creativity and much of their drawing power stems from this image. The idea here is that from now on people should associate the Ruhr name with an “arts metropolis”.

Under the umbrella of the Ruhr Conference and operating within the auspices of a development agency, the “New Arts Ruhr” project aims to create, by 2030, an ecosystem of new arts modelled on the best international examples. Through its promotion of new arts, the Ruhr metropolis is expected to establish for itself a unique selling point with an international profile. The new arts will focus on recently created, low-threshold, socially-minded art forms with potential for expansion.

The art forms include:

- **digital arts**, which tap into novel emotional experiences and aesthetic forms. These might include walk-in, interactive 360° installations, sculptures made by 3D printers and augmented-reality environments in public spaces.
- **contemporary circus**, which combines elements of artistry with contemporary dance, contemporary and classical music, drama and media art. We no longer expect a performance to be in the form of a string of isolated numbers but rather to draw on dramatic forms. In this genre there is a dramaturgy involving highly qualified directors and artistic narratives. In the Ruhr area contemporary circus is still in its infancy, but the old industrial hangars and warehouses of the region offer ideal production venues.
- **urban art**, which presents a fusion of hip-hop youth culture, street art, breakdancing, calligraphy, poetry slams, beatboxing and DJing with elements of modern dance, fine art and music. With its motto “From Street to Stage”, urban art is intent on making the leap to the theatre stage and on doing so without losing touch with its roots or severing its links to the scene.

Two events were held in Essen (14.03.2019) and Mülheim an der Ruhr (16.05.2019) under the heading of “How is the metropolitan region to become an international hotspot of creativity and the arts?” Representatives from the world of arts, culture, politics, business and science discussed how “New Arts” in particular might be given more funding in the Ruhr area. In the initial phase of both events New Arts were the subject of papers that discussed what the category involved, after which detailed issues were addressed in small groups.



Acting in partnership with the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Ruhr Regional Association (*RVR*), the aim by the summer of 2021 is to set up a development agency underwriting the prompt implementation of a raft of measures.

In line with a tendering process, the Rosy DX agency was commissioned early in the year to support and advise the Ministry of Science and Culture in the envisaged development of New Arts Ruhr. Since May 2020 talks have been conducted with many regional players. Five bundles of measures have emerged reflecting the variety of options and the sheer potential of this project. The future development agency could operate in the following domains:

- 1) **New funding programmes** for urban arts, electronic music, digital arts and contemporary circus would attract creative types, artists and start-ups. Two promotional formats in particular would be pursued: a **fellowship programme** in the form of an artist-in-residence grant in conjunction with existing cultural institutions, and a visualisation of **co-living spaces**.
- 2) **Conditions affecting the production and sale of art work** are to benefit from targeted funding **and access to, and expansion of, markets** will be promoted. Ideally measures would include the opening of company and college-run production spaces, workshops and laboratories to digital artists and the creation of New Arts Ruhr studios in case where the measures mentioned do not give rise to sufficient technology. Links will be forged to the creative economy, industry and the art market. To this end, steps will be taken to communicate and collaborate with international partners.
- 3) **New coaching and further-training measures** will not only enhance the professionalism of artists but also raise levels of acceptance enjoyed by practitioners of new arts in fields that are already well established. In the light of successful experiences from across the European region and with the involvement of existing institutions and established or nascent project structures, the proposition is to encourage and assist in the creation of non-university venues for publicly accessible seminars and lectures and help establish new-art professorships at colleges. The aim is also to provide novel training opportunities for curators, art critics, dancers and producers of electronic music and liaise with New Arts Ruhr players to develop online tutorials for artists seeking tips on how to progress in their chosen field.
- 4) **New models dedicated to the proceeds, exploitation and diffusion of work** are springing up, particularly in the field of digital arts. The advent of online platforms as channels for the display, sale and distribution of art are forcing people to ponder on how structures might be put in place to ensure that artists receive fair and appropriate remuneration for their work. Ideally these reflections would also consider traditional selling models, such as galleries, and ideas would be forthcoming on how to identify and access new markets. These measures would improve the exportability of new arts on a permanent basis. “Company Residency”, an innovation programme enabling artists to team up with companies

to develop new kinds of creative laboratories, is also being proposed. Likewise, the development of new payment systems for the purchasing of downloadable artworks and a collaboration with a twin city of similar economic and social stature to the Ruhr area (in the field of electronic music this is already the case with Dortmund and Detroit). Clubs that have achieved a level of kudos should be declared centres of culture to enable them to benefit from the reduced rate of VAT.

**5) A new visibility, at national and international level:** Key to this strategy is the creation of a New Arts Ruhr brand. Recurring umbrella events would also help in the establishment of such a brand. The branding process kicks in at the fault line between the alternative art scene and the established art landscape. Brand creation involves identifying the defining strengths of both branches of the arts and highlighting the unifying aspects, the combination of which might appeal to a new and diverse public. All activities would be promoted and encouraged with the help of a digital mix of marketing and communications elements comprised of app/website, social media activities and influencers. An internationally publicised “New Arts Week” (in autumn 2021, for instance) would be a good way of bundling all the exhibitions, performances and concerts of the participating institutions in local galleries, ‘off’ spaces and assorted project premises. In the spring of any given year an “Open Studios Ruhr” event could be held involving all studios affiliated to New Arts Ruhr. The event would be used as a showcase for the programme’s grant recipients to present their projects.

Since the start of 2020 planning has been underway for some New Arts Ruhr projects and some have already received funding.

This includes a number of projects in the urban-art and contemporary-circus segments:

- **Open Space Academy Bochum:** The Open Space Academy will be a new training centre for artistry in combination with urban movement-related arts. Currently at the planning stage, it will be connected to the existing “Open Space” in Bochum and is being developed by the latter’s operators in a joint agreement with the city.
- **Urban Arts Center Ruhr in Herne:** With the intention of founding its own centre for urban culture, the city of Herne is interested in teaming up with Pottporus e.V., an urban youth culture club/workshop which, since 2007, has been helping to fuse street art and hip-hop with established cultural institutions, runs its own school of dance, hosts an annual street art festival and stages dance-based and hip-hop drama. Plans are to take over an old department store in the Wanne district of the city, which is currently going through a period of urban transformation. The aim is for the centre to assume a number of different tasks, functioning as production workshop, laboratory and academy.

In the electronic-music and digital-arts segments projects include:

- **Academy for Subcultural Understanding:** The Academy for Subcultural Understanding is conceived as a decentralised series of lectures on the theme of club and clubbing culture. By passing on knowledge of club culture and helping local and

international players to network, the programme hopes to reduce the tendency of young lateral thinkers to move away from the Ruhr area once they have successfully completed a course of training. The Academy would hope to generate in its young people the confidence to stay in the area and make their way as producers of new arts. Clubs in particular are interdisciplinary crucibles of culture and novel forms of expression and, as such, indispensable meeting points for young creatives.

- **The New Now**, Essen: The New Now, currently at the planning stage, is conceived as a festival devoted to the production of digital arts. The first festival of its kind, the idea is that it will create a temporary production centre for digital arts on the Zeche Zollverein site. In so doing, it expects to research the conditions that trigger innovation, the creation of digital art and the invention of technology. The old mixing plant on the Essen's former steel-making site is set to be transformed into a living sculpture for digital creativity. A pop-up laboratory is planned for a number of weeks, providing a venue in which international artists can stay, work and conduct research.

Isabel Pfeiffer-Poensgen, Minister of Science and Culture of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia: "New Arts Ruhr is a great source of opportunity for young artists across the Ruhr metropolis. We are breaking new ground and providing support for new art forms, which represent the future. This region will soon be a hotspot of creativity with a strong international profile."

## “Secure energy – healthy environment”:

### **Climate-resilient region and green infrastructure (14-01 and 14-02)**

The Ruhr is a densely populated area with over five million inhabitants. Industrialisation and construction in general have resulted in a high degree of soil sealing, which has in turn reduced biodiversity and negatively affected the climate situation. Species are becoming extinct due to the fragmentation and loss of habitats. Torrential downpours, flooding and droughts are side effects of climate change. We are faced with the challenge of developing systematic ways to preserve intact ecosystems, which provide us with essential services and thus play an important role in determining our quality of life.

Underpinning the “Green Infrastructure” themed forum, therefore, is the goal of developing a strategic network of natural and semi-natural areas throughout the disparate communities of the Ruhr area. The discussions and ideas floated in the themed forum resulted in the two lead projects, “Green Infrastructure 2030” and “Climate-Resilient Region with International Appeal”, increasing their activities aimed at strengthening “green-blue infrastructure” in the Ruhr area.

In so doing, the state government is pursuing its aim of safeguarding and expanding potential, as a way of protecting and cultivating the diversity of fauna, flora and ecosystems, minimising the consequences of climate change and raising the quality of life in the metropolitan region. For this to be achieved, a concerted, planned, supra-urban approach is required. And precisely urban regions like the Ruhr area that stand to gain most from organisations working together on the issue of green-blue architecture.

### **Project: “Climate-Resilient Region with International Appeal”**

The “Climate-Resilient Region with International Appeal” project focuses on measures that reduce rainwater run-off into drains and increase the rate of water evaporation. This minimises the risk of flooding following periods of heavy rain and helps to cool the area concerned, thereby enhancing climate resilience i.e. the ability of the environment to withstand the effects of climate change. By 2040 the objective is to reduce by at least 25 percent the amount of sealed-soil areas emptying into drainage systems and to increase the evaporation rate by ten percent.

*Emschergenossenschaft*, a partner association, opened a service organisation in Essen in January 2020, paving the way for implementation of measures in cooperation with participating local authorities and water associations. To date (status on 31.07.2020) over 80 project ideas have been submitted by 17 cities, relating in particular to roof and façade greening, rainwater percolation, preparatory concepts and studies and environmental education. Over 40 applications have been submitted for funding totalling 2.7m euros. Others are expected to follow over the coming weeks.

On 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020 Minister for the Environment Ursula Heinen-Esser, Chairman of *Emschergenossenschaft* Prof. Dr. Uli Paetzel and the mayor of Oberhausen, Daniel Schranz, formally launched the first measure relating to the “Climate-Resilient Region with International Appeal” project: a major greening initiative on the site of the *GMVA* waste incineration plant in Oberhausen. The company plans to establish vegetation on the flat roofs of a number of existing buildings and on two sides of a cooling tower. Its plant is one of the largest in Germany and is located in a climatically stressed and heavily concreted-over industrial estate in the Lirich area of Oberhausen.

This year the relevant district governments are fulfilling the role of approval authorities, although in the long term NRW.BANK will take over the task of issuing or withholding approvals. NRW.BANK had put itself forward as another project partner and in February 2020 introduced a new funding model in the form of an NRW.BANK loan featuring a state subsidy (as redemption grant). The legal formalities linked to the loan are currently being discussed by the environment ministry and NRW.BANK. At the same time NRW.BANK began the product-development process on its premises, working to lay the organisational and technical ground for the initiative. The new funding model is expected to come online in the fourth quarter of 2020.

### **Project: Green Infrastructure Offensive 2030**

The Corona pandemic brought home the importance and value of local parks, green belts, networks of footpaths, tree-lined squares, streets and streams. These recreational areas and natural spaces improve the health and quality of life of the population and make the environment a more pleasant place to live and work. The “Green Infrastructure Offensive 2030” aims to transform the Ruhr metropolitan region into a model of green infrastructure at home and abroad, with the Ruhr area criss-crossed with green areas, open spaces and watercourses. Gaps in the green infrastructure are to be opened up to flora where possible. A raft of project components are also set to be implemented by the Ruhr Regional Association (*RVR*) and other regional players. The relevant funding applications were recently approved.

A key pillar of the project is the *Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy*, which sets out the informal, planning foundation for the expansion of green infrastructure across the Ruhr metropolis for the next ten years. The strategy should help existing activities and initiatives across the region to dovetail with each other and, by collaborating over common goals and entering into partnerships, benefit the region as a whole. The strategy is to be drawn up in a cooperative process presided over by the *RVR*, with existing and new networks being harnessed to this end. Due to the complexity of this kind of strategy, which is likely to take several years to draw up, the first step in 2020 will be to come up with a concept on which the strategy will be based. To flesh out the biodiversity part of the strategy, a concept will be devised for a regional biodiversity sub-strategy.

An additional component in the project is the *Plugging the Greenery Gaps* initiative. Liaising with a range of local authorities across the Ruhr area, the RVR has identified 27 measures that can be taken in the short term to plug gaps in the network of green infrastructure. To achieve this, investment measures, feasibility studies and land purchases are now being funded, prior to being actioned before the end of the year. On 16.07.2020, in the presence of Dr. Frank Dudda, Mayor of Herne, Minister Heinen-Esser formally handed the document approving 2.2m euros of funding to Ms Frense (Deputy Commissioner for Environment and Green Infrastructure, RVR). The activities in Herne will include the de-sealing and greening of a sports ground, which will improve biodiversity and climatic conditions and further the advance of vegetation in the area.

In order to raise the profile of green infrastructure among the public and the relevant experts and players, a communications drive is being launched, which will start by drawing up a communications concept. The participatory process that began with the region in the “Green Infrastructure” themed forum is to be resumed at the end of the year in the form of a two-day event made up of a conference and network meetings.

## “Excellence in education and research”:

### **Research departments in forward-looking, interdisciplinary fields.**

Over the last 50 years the Ruhr area has evolved from a region devoid of tertiary-education colleges to an established location geared to science and research. After a century of synonymity with heavy industry and mining, the 1960s marked the beginning of a courageous cultural shift heralded by the foundation of the first Ruhr universities.

Today the region boasts one of the most concentrated academic landscapes in Europe, one that includes five universities, one university for the arts, 15 colleges of applied science, four Max-Planck institutes, five Fraunhofer institutes and four Leibnitz institutes. Any comparison, however, between the Ruhr area and university locations with a more long-standing tradition reveals that regardless of the strides made by the region in recent decades, an added shot in the arm is needed if the Ruhr metropolis is to reach the next level of excellence and competitiveness.

In its “Excellence in education and research” sector of activity, the Ruhr Conference will go some way to achieving this at a higher level of collaboration, acting on the proposal of the UA Ruhr (Alliance of Ruhr Universities), made up of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, TU Dortmund and the Universität Duisburg-Essen.

A key objective of this initiative of the UA Ruhr is the evolution of the Ruhr area into one of the leading centres of innovation and scientific advances in Germany and as a major promoter of the education, careers and prospects of over five million inhabitants across one of the greatest metropolitan regions of Europe. To achieve this objective, a new research architecture is being created, overseen by the three universities, to enable research to be conducted free of the traditional, institutional strictures.

The Alliance is enhancing its competitiveness by establishing research departments in go-ahead, cross-disciplinary areas and by having the three universities bundle the research activities in which they were already leading the field prior to this latest initiative.

The fields of research are selected in such a way as to generate valuable ideas and stimuli when the great issues of tomorrow are being debated. The research departments are flanked by a college for Social Sciences and Humanities. Its role, parallel to establishing a reputation for top-quality research in the fields mentioned, is to counterbalance the natural-scientific advances stemming from the research departments with its own non-natural-scientific set of instruments.

The research departments will strengthen and expand the selected research fields with a view to improving competitiveness and raising their visibility. To do so, they will have to break new ground – also in respect of infrastructure, admin and staffing.

With academic excellence its one overriding principle, the UA Ruhr will apply strict criteria and standards when appointing its members. The mid-term goal is for it to hold its own against high-powered group research projects such as clusters of excellence, specialised research areas and top-rank clusters within the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The research centres will also serve to attract additional top-level non-university research institutions (e.g. further Max-Planck institutes) to the Ruhr area.

Only through the establishment of a large number of well-endowed professorial chairs will it be possible to attract leading international scientists in innovative fields of study. These are the key to achieving the goals set out above.

Success in attracting world-class scientists is dependent on a university's ability to offer good salaries, a research infrastructure tailored to their specialisations and excellent working practices and living conditions. Simple and unimpeded collaboration between the three universities (including the right to pursue doctoral studies in their faculties and access to the cream of the young generation of scientists and academics) is also necessary, as well as extensive freedom and opportunities to keep developing their own profile as a researcher and scientist.

If the world's leading scientists can be recruited to the new research departments, the Ruhr area will progress quickly along the path to international acknowledgement as a dynamic and highly visible research location. Stimuli of this kind will amplify the ongoing economic and social transformation of the region. The Ruhr area and its economy will profit from the presence of highly qualified scientists and graduates.

The research departments offer a potential for generating multiple start-ups and spin-offs and attracting other innovative companies and organisations.

This goal will not be at all easy to achieve. Funding of, and support for, scientific endeavour and innovation is the most effective and economical way to assert oneself successfully against one's international competitors and to secure and safeguard economic development. Investment in research is one of the most profitable ways to spend public funds.



## IV. Outlook: Metropolitan regions as a model for the future

Structural change is happening across many regions. With a population in excess of five million inhabitants, however, the Ruhr area is in another league, measuring itself against other metropolitan regions that can also combine many advantages:

- High quality of life
- Short distances
- Top-quality education
- Nature and recreation
- High culture
- Excellence in research
- Industrial innovation
- Attractive workplaces
- State-of-the-art healthcare
- Prosperity
- Sustainability

The future belongs to metropolitan regions like these. The Ruhr area will soon be one of them. It can already boast many of the requisite elements. The Ruhr Conference projects are instrumental in piecing the elements together.

It is a process that will continue over the coming years. The second pillar of the Conference provides for the continual addition of partner projects. As was the case in the first two years of the Ruhr Conference, it is essential to help good ideas progress to the first stages of realisation, which in turn leads to sources of finance being found, since the projects are an investment in the future of the region.

With its project packages driving sustainable energy, climate resilience and green infrastructure, the Ruhr area will have an important part to play in programmes run by the European Commission such as Next Generation EU, Green Deal and structural initiatives being pursued in the next funding period. This is also the case with equivalent programmes set up by the federal government.

Collaboration, networking and many years of experience of regional transformation will act as amplifiers and catalysts here – as they did during the International Building Exhibition, the Emscher River project and 2010, the year that Ruhr was named Capital of Culture.

Amidst all this activity the state government is also looking beyond the boundaries of North Rhine-Westphalia. The Ruhr area is by no means the only region in need of reinvention. And happily it is not alone in having the potential to offer millions of people a high quality of life in an economic system of maximum sustainability.

For this reason, the Ruhr metropolitan region will be interacting with other regions within the framework of the Ruhr Conference. To this end, formats are being drawn up for international events.

Although the conditions facing metropolitan regions in other countries are very different, it is a good idea not to hone objectives in isolation but to share information on the paths being pursued. Because the motto is as true abroad as it is in the Ruhr area: common challenges are best tackled jointly.

In the two years since its creation the Ruhr Conference has framed the Ruhr as a region of opportunity. Over the coming years it will be working to help the region grasp this opportunity.



#### Impressum

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