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MORGENSTADT INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP

Through innovation partnerships, cities strengthen their national and international competitiveness. Experienced experts from Morgenstadt are constantly assisting network members in the definition of projects, the acquisition of financing as well as with the development and management of a local innovation ecosystem in partner cities.

Morgenstadt's innovation partnerships generate visibility through lighthouse projects, sustainable growth and its inclusive approach.

Innovation partnerships have been developed with a range of cities, such as Dublin (IR), Leipzig (DE), Prague (CZ), Chemnitz (DE), Eindhoven (NL), Ludwigsburg (DE), Berlin (DE) and Buenos Aires (ARG).

Why Innovation Partnerships?

Local authorities around the world face enormous challenges. Trends such as digitalization, demographic change, shifts in the work/life environment, as well as crises related to climate change, financial markets and global security and migration all have a direct impact on the local level. Cities and communities are faced with the task to find local answers to global challenges. Local action is increasingly characterized by uncertainty for a range of reasons:

- conventional planning approaches are no longer aligned with the rapid technological and social development experienced today;
- traditional communal structures, strategies and decision-making processes have reached their limits in the context of cross-sectoral projects and networked approaches to governance,

Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Engineering IAO

Nobelstrasse 12
70569 Stuttgart
Germany

Contact

Alanus von Radecki
Phone +49 711 970-2169
alanus.radecki@iao.fraunhofer.de

www.iao.fraunhofer.de

- growing competition for the best minds and companies internationally presents business development opportunities and new areas of activity, but also new challenges for cities and municipalities to attract economic activity to their locations.

Preconditions for the development of smart neighborhoods, sustainable urban development or methods of digital citizenship include flexible management systems, high levels of expertise and competence in a range of areas, as well as an ability to foster long-term perspectives on planning. The innovative capacity of a city's economy depends greatly on the management of technological progress and, for example, the willingness to provide experimental areas or living labs to foster innovation. Cities that do not respond to these challenges increasingly fall behind, with dissatisfied citizens, a weakening economy and delayed development a consequence. However, proactive response to these challenges can transform them into strengths offering the city an edge in terms of quality of life, sustainability and economic growth.

Morgenstadt Innovation partnership – how does it work?

- An innovation partnership is created between a city and a Fraunhofer Institute on behalf of the innovation network »Morgenstadt: City Insights«. In doing so, bilateral targets are agreed which correspond to the current needs of the city (e.g. building a local innovation hub, developing a research partnership with the local university, or supporting the implementation of a smart city strategy).
- Within the framework of a one-week »deep-dive«, a Fraunhofer team, together with representatives from the city, elaborates a target catalog for the innovation partnership. Fraunhofer experts conduct interviews with local stakeholders from the city administration, companies, research and urban enterprises.
- The target catalog includes future high-priority measures which aim to enable sustainable, innovation-driven development of the city.

- In the following months, the Fraunhofer Institute supports the city in transferring the measures into locally adapted innovation projects. Technological expertise, access to key partners, funding models and support for the accessing of funding are provided.
- Regular workshops and an active exchange with partners from the municipalities, research and industry within the framework of the Morgenstadt network meetings ensure that the projects are anchored in an EU-wide context.

What type of results can I expect?

The result of the Morgenstadt Innovation Partnerships are successful local projects, integrated into the local landscape, based on innovative technologies and the involvement of local stakeholders. They strengthen the image of the city as a pioneer of the sustainable and smart city. In the long term, Morgenstadt Innovation Partnerships enable a city to transform its processes and structures towards future-oriented urban development.

Setup of Morgenstadt Innovation Partnership

