



A HOUSE FOR EVERYONE – NEIGHBOURHOOD GATHERINGS, CHILD CARE AND FAMILY COUNSELLING IN WEITLINGKIEZ

FAMILIES IN PARTICULAR like to frequent the Weitlingkiez district in the borough of Lichtenberg. With 39 per cent, the proportion of single-parent households in this neighbourhood is double the national average in Germany. A family-friendly infrastructure with child care services close to home is therefore of major importance to parents wanting to master the balancing act between work and family. The Berliner Stadtmission (Berlin City Mission) aims to meet the high demand for support with the construction of a new family and community centre, which includes a child care facility. The small parish hall on Archenholdstrasse, which had been the centre of the independent Association of the Protestant Diocese for 90 years, has been replaced by a five-storey building that offers space to welcome all generations.

THE PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF). It is possible to construct the new community centre in Lichtenberg thanks to funding from the ERDF-assisted Zukunftsinitiative Stadtteil II – Bildung im Quartier (Future Initiative for Urban Districts II – Education in the Neighbourhood).

AN ACCESS POINT FOR ALL who find themselves in difficult circumstances, the Berlin City Mission's history spans more than 140 years. In addition to helping the homeless, the City Mission offers support to refugees, disabled people, and families. In the area of education, the main focus is on prevention, so that young families in particular are strengthened by personal counselling and therefore do not get into difficulty.

“BRIDGES BETWEEN THE VARIOUS GENERATIONS THAT LIVE IN WEITLINGKIEZ SHOULD BE BUILT HERE. WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE FAMILIES AND NEIGHBOURS TO MEET OTHER PEOPLE IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ARE ABLE TO BUILD ON EXISTING COMMUNITY NETWORKS IN THE COURSE OF THIS.”

Andreas Schlamm,
Senior Education Manager, Berlin City Mission



The family and community centre in Weitlingkiez

COMMUNITY LIFE ON FIVE STOREYS

From the basement to the attic, the **holistic concept** of the family centre offers something for all generations in the neighbourhood. For example, a youth room in the basement will be used to promote learning and to work with both elementary school pupils and teenagers. An **open café** on the ground floor offers plenty of opportunities for meetings, exchanges and networking. There will also be **consultation rooms** for family and life counselling. The **child care facility**, which is based on the first and second floors of the new building, has room for up to 72 children aged between 11 months and the school-starting age. The child care facility has a movement space on the third floor. This is an **indoor play area**, covering 55m², which is also supervised by educational staff on Saturdays. Small **apartments** for young people who are spending their voluntary social year working for the Berlin City Mission will also be created.

A large room on the fourth floor can be used by the community for **events**. In addition to the family centre management office, there is a **community kitchen** on the top floor. It offers cookery classes and is also where a lunch club for seniors is held. There will also be seminar rooms and classrooms as well as rooms for PEKiP® groups. The Prager Eltern Kind-Programm (Prague Parent Child Programme – PEKiP®) is a chance for young parents with infants to strengthen their interpersonal skills. The garden of the centre covers 440 m² and offers more space for children to play in. The community, as well as the future managers and users of the centre, were involved in the construction process in order to develop suitable activities and programmes which meet the needs of each individual group.

THE ERDF IN ACTION IN BERLIN

Thanks to the construction of the family and community centre in Lichtenberg, the family-friendly and educational infrastructure of the neighbourhood is being expanded. Families and single parents can receive support from the outset – from child care, to counselling, to educational opportunities. In addition, the new building welcomes all generations and allows them to come into contact on the various floors. This strengthens community networks and directly promotes relations within the neighbourhood. In Berlin's Weitlingkiez district, the ERDF is therefore making a major contribution to social integration in the context of sustainable urban development.

Specifically, the ERDF ensures that:

- open meeting places develop in the neighbourhood and intergenerational dialogue is promoted.
- the number of childcare places in and around the neighbourhood is increased.
- single parents and families are supported from the outset
- intergenerational dialogue and integration are encouraged in the neighbourhood.
- parents in difficult living situations receive specific help at an early stage.
- learning and leisure activities are improved for all generations in the neighbourhood.



Children can let off steam in the playground



There are sinks at the right height for children



Children's kitchen with a table

FUNDING GUIDELINES: CONTACT:

PRIORITY 4
Sustainable urban development

FUNDING INSTRUMENT

Zukunftsinitiative Stadtteil II –
Bildung im Quartier (Future Initiative
for Urban Districts II – Education in the
Neighbourhood)

FUNDING AMOUNT

€ 5,110,325, 50% from ERDF

PROJECT TERM

11.12.2017 – 30.05.2019

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ECONOMICS, ENERGY AND PUBLIC
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