



**BÜRGERBÜRO
STADTENTWICKLUNG**
für Beteiligungskultur

Citizen participation and urban development in Hanover



Agenda



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- Introduction of bbs
- Input „What is citizen participation?“
- Basis for citizen participation
- History of citizen participation
- Citizen participation in Hanover

Introduction of bbs



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„Bürgerbüro Stadtentwicklung“ (bbs) is:

- Acting on local government level,
- publicly funded,
- an intermediary actor,
- independent and
- competent in the fields of urban development and citizens' participation.

- organised as a non-profit association

- supported by volunteers



Introduction of bbs

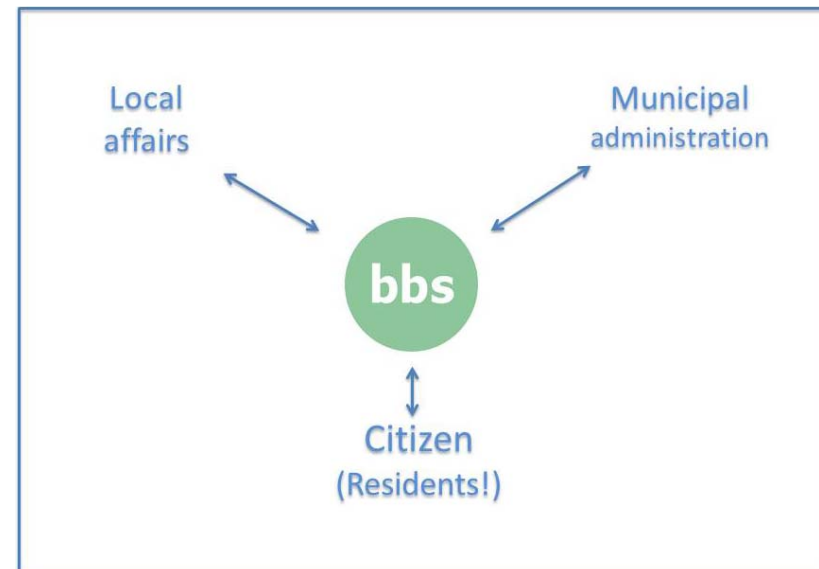


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Tasks and goals

- Development and distribution of innovations on participation and urban development
- Promotion of citizens' participation in Hanover by information, consultation, exchange of experiences, qualification and steering of planning process

„Our task is to keep citizens, politics, administration and the economy in dialogue with each other. In this way, we contribute to the good development of our city, create impulses, promote discourse, maintain networks and also look beyond one's own nose.“

Introduction of bbs



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Our Projects and activities

- www.hannovermachen.de (explained „*Let's do Hanover*“)
a local Crowdfunding platform for commonwelfare projects, collecting not only money but all kinds of support
- Organizing Panel discussions for example on the handling of public space
- Organizing workshops for example on citizen participation for local politician
- Networking with Hanovers colorful and dedicated NGOs

What is citizen participation?



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- Citizen participation is the **involvement of the public** in planning and decision-making processes
- The **initiative** for Projects and Participation can be based on:
 - Project proponent
 - Civil society: private and commercial owners
- Participation in citizenship can **qualify** projects, promote **acceptance** and **identification** with them and increase the **sustainability** of projects
- Citizen participation qualifies processes of opinion formation of representative democracy
- Citizen participation is not direct democracy!

What is citizen participation?



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Stages of informal citizens' participation:

1. INFORMATION

Objective, balanced and complete information to the citizenry

2. CONSULTATION

Consultation (& consideration) of positions, alternative proposals and objections

3. COOPERATION

Cooperation in essential aspects of the decision-making process

4. COPRODUKTION

Municipal policy as a 'community work' of different, equal actors

Basis for citizen participation



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- There is **legally prescribed** participation for example in the BauGB or VVG and **informal / voluntary** participation
 - But quality ist not fixed in laws
 - There is always good and bad participation
- There is citizen participation:
 - on federal / country level
 - in urban projects
 - for projects in the district

} **Municipal responsibility**
- Citizen participation in urban development is always about s.th.:
 - Town Square redesign,
 - School planning, traffic planning,
 - Conflict Resolution in the Social Space, ...
- Citizen participation is never self-purpose!

Bürgerbeteiligung und Stadtentwicklung in Hannover

Citizen participation in Hanover



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- *Postwar period:* Many meetings were held under Hillebrecht (town master mason) , before certain construction activities were begun. The "*famous*" collegial circle was set up. There, city planners and architects sat together and discussed new projects.
- *1970s:* Restoration commissions. Commissions in Linden-Süd and Nordstadt gained recognition.
- *Pre-EXPO time:* different groups with different goals and compositions. Great commitment to citizens' participation also by urban planners in the administration. Citizen survey on the EXPO!
It was only in 1996 that the Landtag recorded the citizens' survey to the former local government law.
bbs was founded to mediate between Anti-EXPO-Protests and government.

Citizen participation in Hanover



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- *1998:* Change of the Urban Development Law. The reorganization commission came back again.
- *00s:* Forums of traffic were very popular in the area of citizen participation
- *2015:* With `Mein Hannover 2030` a city development concept is developed in the city dialogue
- *Today:*
Politicians and administration are still struggling on how good participation would be
- Some Projects are good examples and some are poor, depending on the field of responsibility in the municipal administration and the public interests

Initiation of citizen Participation



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What needs to be kept in mind **before** implementing a citizen participation:

- Which goal are we going to achieve in this certain case?
- What about the goals of the political majorities?
- Which circumstances are already fixed and cannot be part of the discussion during the proceeding of participation?
- Which stakeholders are we going to involve in the proceeding?
- Which districts and quarters do we want to involve?
- Make a sensible decision: Which importance will the result of the proceeding have afterwards? Who will care for the integration of the results in the deciding process?
- Important fact: Citizen are in their own interests – common welfare interests are represented by politicians

Contact



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