

Un-locking adaptation to urban heat waves with future visioning processes: The mobilization of private actors in the German city of Munich



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Outline

1. Introduction to the project „Green City of the Future“
2. Research question and method
3. Evaluation criteria: Five theories of democracy
4. Evaluation findings
5. Recommendations

1.1 Green City of the Future - Climate-Resilient Neighbourhoods in a Growing City



Landeshauptstadt
München



Funding period: 2018-2021

Funding agency: German Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF)

Partners: Munich city and Munich's two public universities (TUM and LMU)

Challenge: adapting growing cities to climate change, esp. heat waves/ heavy rain

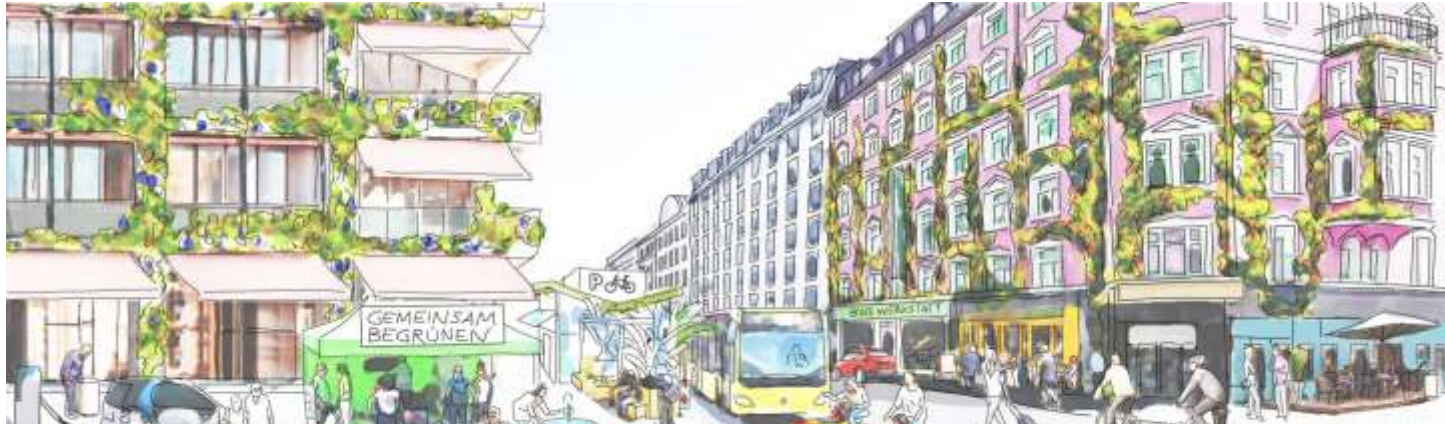
- Work package 3: involving private actors in climate adaptation

1.2 Lock-in in urban planning

- Planning practice is built around the car-friendly city
- Streets are planned first, urban green and pedestrian routes are added as an afterthought



1.3 Un-locking planning with the future visioning method



Schwanthaler Straße: bottom-up vs. top-down

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2.1 Research question

How successful were our future visioning processes when evaluated with criteria from five strands of democratic theory?

-> was un-locking successful?

2.2 Method

- Action research (Kurt Lewin): Intervention in a social field
- Implementation and observation
- Written survey at the end of each workshop
- Written documentation of each workshop
- Self-reflection in our team

3. Five strands of democratic theory as evaluative criteria

Theory	Scholars	Aim of democracy
Expertocratic	Max Weber, Joseph Schumpeter	Politicians take „best“ decisions based on expert advice
Liberal	John Locke, John Stuart Mill	Negotiations between interest groups, representation of all interests
Deliberative	Jürgen Habermas	Deliberation that seeks understanding and consensus, transforming personal into collective interests
Performative	Michel Foucault, Judith Butler, Jessica Kulynych	Empowerment, challenging hegemonic discourses
Agonistic	Chantal Mouffe	Pluralism of collective identities, act out dissent along shared rules

4.1 Expertocratic theory of democracy



Quelle: piqsels.com

4.1 Findings based on the expertocratic approach

- a) Clear problem definition
- b) Relevant knowledge in the room
- c) Participants learn from each other
- d) Competent results



4.2 Liberal theory of democracy

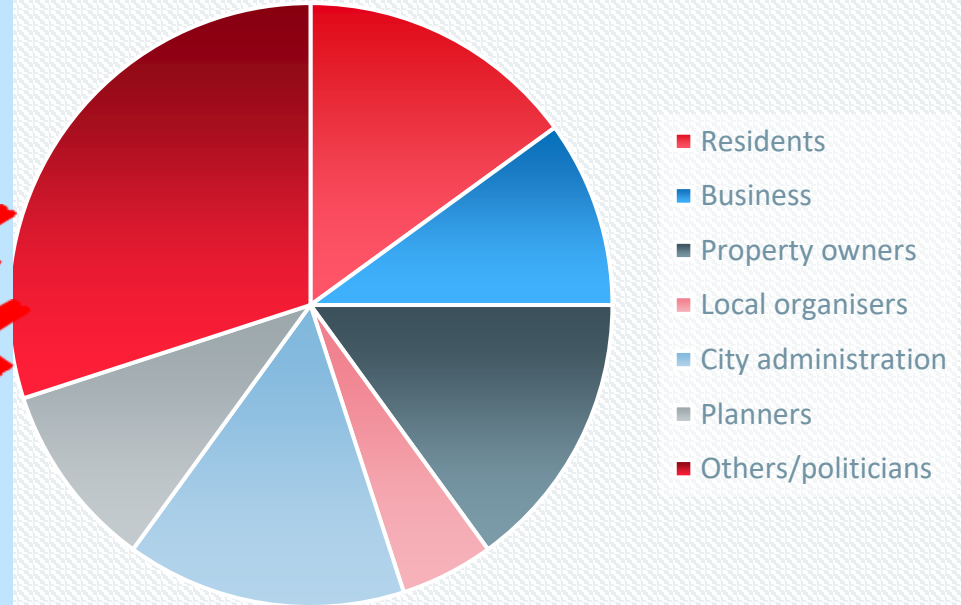


Quelle: piqsels.com

4.2 Findings based on the liberal approach

50 participants
Bahnhofsviertel

- a) A sufficiently broad spectrum of interests is represented ~~X~~
- b) The organisers are impartial and the agenda is open ~~X~~
- c) A compromise is negotiated ~~X~~








4.3 Deliberative democracy



Quelle: <https://pxhere.com/de/photo/1571519>

4.3 Findings based on the deliberative approach

- a) fair und inclusive 
- b) competent 
- c) learning processes 
- d) consensus sought 
- e) influence political decision-making 



Landwehrstraße – Online visualisation of the debate

4.4 Performative theory of democracy



Quelle: pixabay.com

4.4 Findings based on the performative approach

- a) Dissent expressed
- b) Alternative discourses articulated
- c) New subject positions and capacities to act
- d) Marginalised groups are listened to



Final image Landwehrstraße 2040

4.5 Agonistic theory of democracy



Quelle: pxhere.com

4.5 Findings based on the agonistic approach

- a) A stage for acting out antagonisms
- b) Conflicting positions left unresolved ✓
- c) Hegemonic structures challenged ✓
- d) Collective identities performed ✓



5.1 Was un-locking of cognitive frames achieved?

Strengths

- Expertise in the room
- Respectful deliberation
- Status quo was challenged
- Mobilisation of private actors
- Conflicting views expressed

Weaknesses

- Not connected to processes of political decision-making
- Agenda not open
- Not inclusive



5.2 Recommendations for unlocking climate adaptation

- Future visioning processes can be appropriate tools to un-lock cognitive framings
- Theories of radical democracy deliver useful evaluation criteria to assess the ability to deliver transformative change



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Final image for new housing development 2040