

Bonn, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany



UNESCO Learning City

Bonn

Keyword(s):

Promotion of Adult Education

Policy Initiatives on Adult Education

Introduction

In September 2020, Bonn became a member of the UNESCO global network of Learning Cities. Thus, the city is a relatively new member of the network.

In Bonn, the development of the learning city is part of the municipality's sustainability strategy. This sets the framework for municipal action up to 2030 and the implementation of the 17 sustainable development goals in Bonn. The motto of the learning city of Bonn is: Design a sustainable Bonn: with books, bytes and citizen participation.

Impulses from the international network can help to develop the idea of the city as a "learning organism" in Bonn under the guiding principle of sustainability. The goal: Bonn is a city with democratically capable residents who think sustainably and act in a future-oriented manner. Education, and above all informal learning, is a key to unlocking the potential of people and institutions to find solutions for a sustainable city.

Main challenge

Bonn has a wide range of educational opportunities from very different providers. The city would like to make this (more) visible and support and accompany the



exchange among institutions and the transfer of knowledge between the education providers. The educational actors make an important contribution to Bonn as a sustainability location, which the city would like to honor and make known.

At the same time, Bonn would like to motivate people to deal more with how existing educational offers can become more inclusive and digital. The city hopes to be able to identify “blind spots” in the city’s educational sector through more intensive networking of local actors and to look for solutions together to close existing gaps.

Membership in the UNESCO network of Learning Cities is also a further step stone of the city's public image/branding ("Bonn as a UN city/Sustainability Hub"). It promotes networking with UN institutions (e.g. UNESCO-UNEVOC; German Commission for UNESCO; UNRISD and others) as well as municipalities and institutions worldwide.

Timing

In September 2020, Bonn became the third German city to be included in the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.

Objective

Experiences and suggestions from other learning cities shall contribute to making the local providers and sponsors of early childhood and extracurricular education, adult education and other non-formal education known to each other in order to support each other and to promote lifelong educational offers. This applies in particular to education for sustainable development.

In order to be able to make appropriate and attractive educational offers to as many people in Bonn as possible, these offers should become more digital and inclusive. New procedures and methods of knowledge transfer should contribute to this.

Target group

Target groups are, on the one hand, stakeholders from Bonn’s education sector, in particular providers of early childhood and extracurricular education, adult education and other non-formal education.

On the other hand, all citizens shall benefit from the work, activities and offers of the Learning City strategy.

Geographical range

The initiative covers the area of the German city of Bonn, which was the former capital of the Federal Republic of Germany. Bonn has around 330,000 inhabitants.

Stakeholders and partners

The city would like to integrate all local education providers into the Learning City activities and build a local network. Stakeholders shall help to develop ideas for new urban offers.

Membership in the network enables Bonn's educational actors to present their good examples and approaches internationally. In addition, there is contact and exchange with international actors who work on and with similar topics and questions and are willing to share ideas and experiences with Bonn actors and to develop them further.

The network of stakeholders, its structures as well as processes of the work as a Learning City are currently built in a collaborative and participative process.

Strategy / materials

In line with its sustainability strategy, the city is initially focusing on the three subject areas

- climate-friendly action
- economic sustainability
- cultural/social participation.

The city of Bonn is also planning its own activities, including

- an annual sustainability learning festival
- a citizen certificate of sustainability
- and a sustainability award.

Resources

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Compliance with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The project addresses all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Above all, the Learning Cities contribute to the implementation of the goals 4 ("Ensure inclusive, equitable and high-quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all") and 11 ("Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable").

Innovation(s)

The approach of the Learning City Bonn is innovative as it links educational goals with general development goals of the city of Bonn. In this context, it focuses on the most urgent and challenging sectors of climate-friendly actions, economic sustainability and participation of all citizens in the municipality.

Evaluation

Evaluation procedures are currently developed.

Success parameters

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Impact

The work of the Learning City shall back-up general development goals of the city of Bonn, especially with view to the SDGs. It shall, therefore, not only have positive effects on the education sector and with view to the development of knowledge and competences of Bonn's citizens, but also have impacts on a sustainable life in the city of Bonn.

Impediments

Main challenges are to put the strategy into practice.

Replicability

Bonn sets an example for linking general sustainability strategies with educational offers. This example can be replicated both in the framework of the UNESCO network of Learning Cities and beyond.

Concluding remarks

Bonn's strategy to become a Learning City is a modern and forward-looking approach.

Website/Social Media profile(s) of the initiative

<https://www.bonn.de/microsite/en/international-profile/sustainability-cluster/learning-city-bonn.php>

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