

Bremerhaven (D)

Setting/Problem

The city of Bremerhaven is addressing problems related to ecosystem services, namely recreation in the district of *Geestemünde*. The district is surrounded by water, but it is not easy to access or experience it as there are many barriers – both physically and in the people’s minds. The area is characterised by abandoned port facilities and high vacancy rates due to outward migration. Hence, the city of Bremerhaven intends to use the potential of the river and harbour basins in order



to make the district more attractive, to contribute to quality of life, and to encourage small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and shop owners to stay in and/or move to Geestemünde.

Objective

The objective is to initiate and support testing strategies to improve the integration of water in spatial development processes – i.e. to make water-places visible and accessible in order to enhance the living conditions and the quality of housing and working in the district. This will allow the city to attain the following core objectives to the district: i) stabilisation of population figures, ii) stabilisation of the social structure, iii) increase in property values in the neighbourhood, iv) preservation of purchasing power in the district, and v) promotion of non-motorised transport.

The proposed solutions to this problem are defined in the Master Plan for the waterside in Geestemünde, and include:

- The development of urban green/blue space (establishment of natural riparian zones in the urban context).
- The development of an area for housing, shopping and leisure functions (creation of footpaths and public spaces).
- The construction of road and infrastructure connections (improvement of infrastructure connections from the district centre to the waterfront; creation of paths along the water; crossing facilities; relocation of car parking spaces).

Expected outputs

The DST is expected to provide spatially explicit information on the (added) value of green/blue space preservation/rehabilitation scenarios, in terms of household welfare, property values and flood control, as well as a cost-benefit analysis of different scenarios. Moreover, the objective is to develop a tool whose use can be replicated in other areas of the city: within Aqua-Add participatory approaches and strategies to improve the integration of water in the spatial development processes will be tested. Another expected output refers to the investigation of stakeholders’ engagement in this process.