



# // **MANNHEIM** INTERNATIONAL /

REPORT OF THE OFFICE FOR EU AFFAIRS AND  
GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY 2017/18



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## GREETING FROM THE MAYOR

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
People of Mannheim,

City twinning has formed an important foundation for the international cooperation of the city of Mannheim for over 60 years. For many years, the city of Mannheim has therefore maintained numerous international relationships with its current global total of eleven twin cities and two cities of friendship. Furthermore, Mannheim increasingly participates as an active member in a range of international and European networks, taking global responsibility. Here, the international activities of the city of Mannheim are especially focused on the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The cities play an increasingly important role in the implementation of this agenda, which is why the city of Mannheim has also adopted the “Mannheim 2030” mission statement. The mission statement describes how these goals are to be implemented in future at city level.

Mannheim wants to be a role model for international cooperation between cities. The city of Mannheim therefore specifically encourages discussion between the cities and their people at civic, administrative and also economic level, it is involved with development policy projects worldwide and it participates at European and international level in political decision-making processes that affect local and urban society. In addition, the following report offers an overview of the many international activities of the city of Mannheim at both local and global level. I hope you enjoy reading.

**Dr Peter Kurz**

Mayor of the city of Mannheim



## FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

For many years, the city of Mannheim has been one of the cities that especially promote European integration and international cooperation. The present report provides an impression of the many initiatives and projects that have been completed in the last two years. There have been remarkable achievements in this period. In a broad process, Mannheim's citizens, institutions and administration have determined how to implement the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations locally. In the “Mannheim 2030” mission statement, both international cooperation and the action area of local development policy have been enshrined for the first time as strategic goals of the city of Mannheim. In the same period, the “Office for EU Affairs and Global Sustainability” has been established by the city of Mannheim as a central coordination point for all EU-related issues, international cooperation and local development policy. The city of Mannheim is thus emphasising its desire to make an active contribution to global sustainable development together with civil society, businesses and associations.

At the end of this report, you will find the contact details of our staff. Please feel free to contact my team or me if you would like to become part of the international Mannheim!

**David Linse**

Head of Department International and European Affairs and Protocol  
and of the Office for EU Affairs and Global Sustainability



## // PARTNERS WORLDWIDE //



The city of Mannheim has always had optimal international connections. In addition to its eleven twin cities and two friendship cities, four cities have been added in recent years as cooperation partners with which Mannheim is implementing various projects. The substance of the interaction with all these cities represents a broad spectrum, from cultural meetings through economic cooperation to specific projects, such as in the areas of climate protection and infrastructure.

The role of the Office for EU Affairs and Global Sustainability is to promote civic encounters and also to support the aims and projects into which the city partnerships breathe life. In 2017 and 2018 there were various jubilees and anniversaries, which the city of Mannheim as well as the respective twin cities used as opportunities for a broad range of encounters. First and foremost here was the partnership between Mannheim and Swansea, which celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2017, making it Mannheim's longest standing twin city.

An especially prestigious project was implemented with the Chinese city of Chongqing: since October 2018, the Mannheim-Chongqing Shuttle has provided a direct rail freight connection between Mannheim and the Chinese city. At the same time, the project is a major milestone of the European Union International Urban Cooperation (IUC) programme.



## // GOOD FRIENDS FOR 60 YEARS /

**In 2017, the city twinning of Mannheim and Swansea celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For the occasion, a delegation from Mannheim's city administration travelled to Swansea to meet with colleagues there. In view of Brexit, Mayor of Mannheim Dr Peter Kurz highlighted the historic significance of the good relations between Mannheim and Swansea.**

"We must not take for granted the very positive trend of recent decades and forget the original idea of our city partnership," Kurz emphasised in his address. "The twinning between Mannheim and Swansea – one of the first between Germany and the United Kingdom – was a symbol and a direct contributor to the peaceful development and integration of Europe." The friendship between both cities is even more important, especially if the political conditions are going to change in the future, the Mayor continued.

Lord Mayor of Swansea David Hopkins also emphasised that the city of Swansea wants to strengthen and expand its international relations, particularly in the light of the British EU referendum. Hopkins summarised the city twinning between Mannheim and Swansea in the catchy phrase "stronger together".

The Mannheim delegation, which comprised controllers from all departments of the city of Mannheim, had a stay that featured an intensive work programme. The focus here was on technical discussion about urban management and strategic control. The twin city of Swansea is an interesting cooperation partner for Mannheim here, as the administration there has many years of experience in the area of goal and impact-oriented control. The issue of strategic budget consolidation, which is current in Mannheim, is also very relevant in Swansea: in the next three years, the Welsh city needs to save a total of 90 m pounds (around 105 m euros).

// [mannheim.de/swansea](http://mannheim.de/swansea)



*David Hopkins, Lord Mayor of Swansea, and Mayor Dr Kurz meet on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city twinning*

WITH A POPULATION OF 246,500, SWANSEA IS THE SECOND LARGEST CITY IN WALES, AFTER CARDIFF. THE CITY TWINNING WITH MANNHEIM HAS BEEN IN PLACE SINCE 1957. THE WELSH METROPOLIS IS THEREFORE MANNHEIM'S OLDEST TWIN CITY.



*View of Swansea Bay*

## // BEST CONNECTIONS /

**A regular freight train has been running between Mannheim and the central Chinese city of Chongqing since October 2018. The direct connection makes an important contribution to the future sustainability of the transport location of Mannheim and responds to the needs of local businesses.**

One of Europe's largest inland ports, an efficient marshalling yard and the central location on the principal European railway line running from Rotterdam to Genoa: Mannheim is one of the most important transport hubs in Europe. With this in mind, it was only logical for the city also to play a central role in inland transport beyond the European continent.

The freight connection between Mannheim and the Chinese city of Chongqing was inaugurated with a celebratory ceremony on 25th October 2018. Wu Cunrong, First Deputy Mayor of the city, which has a population of around 30 million, and Wang Shunqing, Chinese General Consul in Germany, travelled to Mannheim to attend the opening of the rail connection. The project was inspired by Mayor of Mannheim Dr Peter Kurz, who raised the idea of the connection on a delegation trip to Beijing in 2016. The project was completed as part of the European IUC (International Urban Cooperation) programme.

The Mannheim-Chongqing Shuttle connects the European Rhine-Neckar metropolitan region to the large region of Chongqing in southwestern China. With a transit time of 17 to 18 days for the 11,200 km stretch, the rail connection is a major addition to sea transport and air freight. The route runs to Chongqing via Małaszewicze (Poland), Brest (Belarus), Dostyk (Kazakhstan) and Alashankou (PR China). It is planned that the train will run regularly in the future.

"The direct rail freight connection between Mannheim and Chongqing opens up an attractive additional transport route for businesses and strengthens the location of Mannheim," Mayor Kurz explained Mannheim's commitment to China. "Ultimately, China is an important sales market for the businesses in Mannheim and the Rhine-Neckar metropolitan region." At the same time, this project is a testament to the strong presence and the importance of Mannheim's European commitment, Kurz continues.

The rail connection is operated by Chinese company Yuxinou, which is based in Chongqing. Contargo is responsible for putting

together the freight containers at Mannheim Harbour. The project was largely facilitated with support from the European Commission. "The IUC programme of the EU gave us access to the decision-makers on the Chinese side," emphasised Christian Specht, First Deputy Mayor of the city of Mannheim, who is responsible for the project. "In several rounds of negotiations, with participation from representatives of Chongqing and the European Union as well as representatives from Mannheim businesses and infrastructure institutions, we were able to underline the unique selling points of Mannheim. My particular thanks here go to Mannheim Harbour, the representatives of Deutsche Bahn involved with the negotiations, the people responsible for the IUC programme and especially to Yuxinou and Contargo."

"The IUC programme of the EU is the world's largest cooperation programme between European and non-European cities for the development of solutions to issues such as transport, air quality, energy and migration," Charles White, Senior Adviser to the Directorate General for Regional Policy of the EU Commission, announced at the opening. "Almost 140 cities are participating in the IUC programme, including large metropolises such as New York, Yokohama and Sao Paulo. Mannheim and Chongqing are the first cities to have achieved such a significant and long-term result as this rail connection."

Mayor Kurz sees the rail connection as proof of the increasing importance of international relations for the city of Mannheim. The city of Mannheim specifically focuses on participation in European networks and projects but also on direct economic cooperation with partners in countries such as China and Israel. "This not only gives us access to funding but also strengthens important political contacts, which is directly beneficial to us," Kurz emphasised. We want to continue to expand "this form of sustainable 'city-to-city cooperation'."

**// [mannheim.de/chongqing](http://mannheim.de/chongqing)**



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**THE MANNHEIM-CHONGQING SHUTTLE**  
TRAVELS AROUND 11,200 KILOMETRES  
PER TRIP. IT TAKES 17 TO 18 DAYS AND HAS  
INTERMEDIATE STATIONS IN POLAND,  
BELARUS, KAZAKHSTAN AND PR CHINA.



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- 1 Official opening of the direct train from Mannheim to Chongqing
- 2 The new transport route to Chongqing also impresses the distinguished guests from China
- 3 Skyline of the Chinese city of Chongqing
- 4 Mayor Dr Kurz at the celebratory opening ceremony for the direct connection
- 5 Freight can now be transported by rail from Mannheim directly to southwestern China



## SPRING FESTIVAL IN MANNHEIM

Shaolin monks, Chinese lion dance and plenty of space to chat and discuss – the Baden-Württemberg Chinese spring festival that took place in Mannheim in 2018 was a successful event all round.

The city in northern Baden was the festival venue for the first time, highlighting its major role as a centre for German-Chinese activities in southwestern Germany.

“This event emphasises the major role played by Mannheim in the development of relations with China,” Wang Shunqing, General Consul of PR China, underlined.

Mayor of Mannheim Dr Peter Kurz thanked the General Consul for his visit on the occasion of the festival. He confirmed Shunqing’s view and at the same time highlighted the importance of China to an export-oriented city such as Mannheim.



## // HAIFA – REVIEW AND OUTLOOK //

At the invitation of his Israeli counterpart, Yona Yahav, Mayor Dr Peter Kurz travelled to Haifa in June 2018 to take part in a moving ceremony to mark the creation of the state of Israel 70 years ago and to honour the city partnerships. City officials from Haifa's other twin cities in Germany – Bremen, Düsseldorf, Erfurt and Mainz – and the German Ambassador in Israel were also invited to the ceremony.

In his address, Kurz highlighted the special role of civil society in the Mannheim-Haifa city twinning: "It was the citizens of these two cities who initiated the city twinning and it is also they who breathe life into it." This is especially true for the school exchange, which has brought together hundreds of school pupils from Mannheim and Haifa during the over 30 years of its existence. "In the light of our history and the Shoah crimes against humanity, it is no small wonder how positively Germany is now regarded by the people of Israel and by what close and trusting cooperation we are bound," Mannheim's Mayor concluded.

The representatives of the six cities also looked to the future and signed a "treaty of friendship and cooperation". In future projects, the twin cities want to focus on the subjects of hi-tech and bio-sciences and to promote innovation through cooperation projects.

// [mannheim.de/haifa](http://mannheim.de/haifa)



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## // DOUBLE JUBILEE //

2017 was a special year both for Canada and for the Canadian city of Windsor. Whilst the country marked the 150th anniversary of its founding, the city on the Detroit River celebrated its 125th birthday. Together with four other twin cities, Mannheim was invited to take part in the festivities in Windsor. The city was represented here by city councillor Ralf Eisenhauer. In addition to a rigorous exploratory programme, which included participation in the Canada Day parade, the agenda also included a conversation with business and government representatives on the issues of diversity, participation and urban development, in which potential cooperation areas were also discussed.

Windsor has a population of 217,000 and is located directly adjacent to the US American city of Detroit, with which it also has close economic ties. With residents from 170 countries, the city is one of the most multicultural in Canada. Seven percent of the population is of German origin. So that the challenges of integrating immigrants can be met adequately, the city of Windsor has established a "local immigrant partnership" in cooperation with Essex County, which should make it easier for newcomers to get their bearings in the city and their new community. The experts from Windsor were therefore very interested in the "Mannheim Declaration on Living Together in Diversity".

// [mannheim.de/windsor](http://mannheim.de/windsor)



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## // MEMORIES OF A TRAGEDY //

It was one of Mannheim's darkest hours: the helicopter accident on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1982, when a total of 46 people lost their lives. On the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy, city councillor Steffen Ratzel travelled to the French twin city of Toulon, home to half of the victims, to attend the memorial service.

The accident happened at the "International Airship Conference", which was taking place at the airfield in Neuostheim for the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city of Mannheim. The victims were almost all skydivers from Mannheim as well as the twin cities of Toulon and Swansea, who hoped to set a formation jump record. "This joyous occasion became one of the most terrible days for the city of Mannheim," Ratzel said in his welcoming address.

Over 100 relatives as well as representatives of local clubs and the armed forces from Toulon gathered at the memorial in Toulon. "The accident has been etched deeply in our memory," said Toulon city councillor Jacqueline Martin-Lombard. The attendance from Mannheim at the memorial service is an important sign to the families of the victims and demonstrates the great sympathy for the accident, which the citizens of Toulon and Mannheim will never forget. To express the solidarity of the two twin cities, Ratzel and Martin-Lombard laid a wreath together at the memorial.

// [mannheim.de/toulon](http://mannheim.de/toulon)

## // WIDELY TRAVELLED //

There are over 9,000 kilometres between Mannheim and El Viejo. The Nicaraguan city is therefore Mannheim's farthest city of friendship. For mayor Guevara Rodas, however, this was no obstacle: following the joint participation in the nationwide local partnership conference with Latin America and the Caribbean, which took place in Nuremberg in October 2018, she paid a visit to Mannheim. Since 1989, El Viejo and Mannheim have been linked by a city friendship. This was the mayor's first visit to Mannheim.

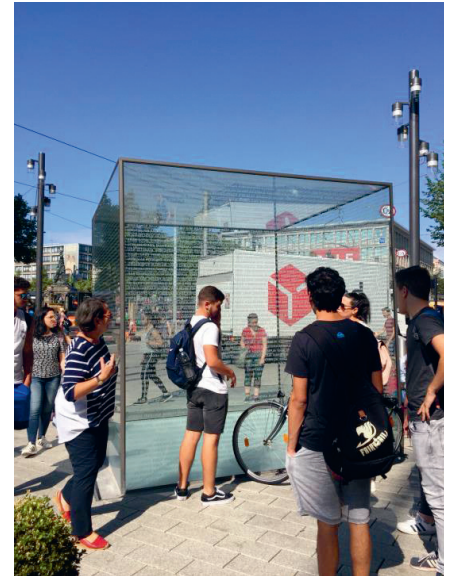
The mayor's visit was used for intensive discussions about the current situation in El Viejo and Nicaragua as well as to strengthen the collaboration. Rodas was especially interested here in the issues of sewage and waste, which are particular priorities in El Viejo, owing to inadequate infrastructure. As the mayor wants to improve living conditions in El Viejo in these areas, she is hoping for expertise and support from the city of Mannheim to improve the infrastructure. A visit to utility operations of the city of Mannheim offered the opportunity for an initial exchange of experience. Both sides agreed that the cooperation on the issue of municipal drainage should be expanded in the future. In the course of the visit, the mayor was also officially welcomed at the city hall by Deputy Mayor Felicitas Kubala to sign the Golden Book of the city of Mannheim.

// [mannheim.de/el-viejo](http://mannheim.de/el-viejo)

- 1 Signing of a treaty between the city of Haifa and its five German twin cities
- 2 Mayor Dr Peter Kurz with Yona Yahav, Mayor of Haifa, at the celebrations marking the creation of the state of Israel 70 years ago
- 3 International guests celebrate together with the city of Windsor
- 4 The Peace Fountain in Windsor
- 5 Opera Square in Toulon
- 6 City councillor Steffen Ratzel and Toulon city councillor Jacqueline Martin-Lombard commemorate the victims of the helicopter crash
- 7 Mayor Guevara Rodas signs the Golden Book
- 8 Visit to the sewage treatment plant with the municipal drainage experts

## // “THE HOSPITALITY IS INSPIRATIONAL!” /

Since 2009, Mannheim and Haifa have been linked as twin cities and maintained a variety of relationships and collaborations. The foundation for this was laid by a school exchange, through which school pupils from Mannheim and the Israeli city of Haifa have been visiting one another since 1984. Anouk Bourrat-Moll, teacher and coordinator responsible at Friedrich List School, discusses the longstanding partnership, trips to the Judean desert and the value of an intercultural exchange.



**>> Ms Bourrat-Moll. 35 years of school exchanges between Mannheim and Haifa: can you tell us the story of this extraordinary relationship?**

*<< In its time, the exchange was initiated by teachers from Tulla Gymnasium and the “Comprehensive High School” in Kiryat Haim (Haifa), our partner school. In 2008, after the Elisabeth Gymnasium, Friedrich List School then became a cooperation partner. Since 2012, we have taken over the main responsibility for the organisation and leadership. Much more importantly though: through this exchange, we were the pioneers for the twinning agreement signed by Mannheim and Haifa in 2009.*

**>> How many pupils take part in the exchange each year?**

*<< From our side, there are generally 18 pupils each year. We are also happy to include in the programme young people from other Mannheim schools, such as Elisabeth Gymnasium school, IGMH and Helene Lange School. Ultimately, the exchange is not only about intercultural communication; we also want to encourage communication within the city.*

**>> And from the Israeli side?**

*<< From the Israeli side, the demand is even greater, as Germany has an outstanding reputation with Israeli young people – firstly, of course, because of Berlin as a metropolis and also because of the great economic power. This means we are continually dependent on the generosity of individual German host families, who sometimes accommodate more than one pupil.*

**>> What is the typical programme like during the stay in Israel?**

*<< The stay always extends over the autumn holiday, which allows us to spend 14 days in Israel, during which we have an intensive exploration of the city of Haifa. As well as an official reception at the city hall, we visit special places and institutions, such as Arab-Jewish cultural centre Beit Ha’Gefen and the Isha L’Isha – Haifa Feminist Center. Another highlight is the three-day journey on our own to visit the Dead Sea, the Bedouins in the Judean desert and Jerusalem. The city of Tel Aviv is not on the programme. However, the Israeli host parents organised a bus last year, so that the young people could travel to Tel Aviv on a day off. The dedication and hospitality of the Israeli families is certainly inspirational.*

**>> Are commemoration of the German-Jewish history and the holocaust also on the programme?**

*<< Of course; we visit either Yad Vaschem, the large holocaust museum, or the “Ghetto Fighters’ House” in the Beit Lochemi HaGeta’ot kibbutz. In addition, we generally have the opportunity to talk to contemporary witnesses. The contemporary witnesses here are often concerned to convey to the young people that the concentration camp prisoners often managed to preserve a form of humanity amid the inconceivable brutality. These meetings are always the most poignant moments for the young people.*

**>> So the young people take away more than just nice travel memories?**

*<< Absolutely! Time and again we hear of Israelis who have taken part in the exchange, who come back to study or work in Germany after school and military service. And the exchange has naturally created many German-Jewish friendships, some of which are maintained over many years.*

### NEW FUNDING GUIDELINES

The application process to obtain grants for civic meetings with the twin cities and cities of friendship of the city of Mannheim has been overhauled. In particular, the application deadlines have changed. The new application forms, new guidelines and detailed information about the new application process can be found on our website:

// [mannheim.de/de/stadt-gestalten/europa-und-internationales/zuschuesse-fuer-buergerschaftliche-begegnungen](http://mannheim.de/de/stadt-gestalten/europa-und-internationales/zuschuesse-fuer-buergerschaftliche-begegnungen)

## // TEN YEARS OF SCHOOL EXCHANGES //

The partnership between Geschwister Scholl Gymnasium and Liceul Mihail Kogalniceanu in the Moldovan city of Chisinau had its tenth anniversary in 2018. Over 300 German and Moldovan school pupils have taken part in the exchange during this period. At the start of May 2018, the time had come again: a total of 21 school pupils as well as two teachers from Geschwister Scholl Gymnasium visited the partner school in the Moldovan city.

As part of the exchange, the German pupils had the opportunity to attend lessons with their exchange partners at Liceul. In joint workshops, the young people identified the many similarities as well as the numerous differences between the lives of German and Moldovan young people. An official celebration took place on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the partnership, when a representative from the German embassy in Chisinau also officially welcomed the school pupils. Another highlight of the stay was the German-Moldovan volleyball tournament.

Liceul Mihail Kogalniceanu offers German as a first foreign language and it provides the opportunity to gain the German language diploma. This means that the school pupils from Chisinau all speak very good German and are very interested in German culture and history. Only a few months later, the pupils welcomed their Moldovan exchange partners to Mannheim, which enabled them to deepen their friendships.



*One particular highlight of the school exchange: the volleyball tournament of the two schools*

### SUPPORTED MEETINGS IN THE TWIN CITIES AND FRIENDSHIP CITIES

#### Bydgoszcz

Poland

// Exchange of Mannheim-Ludwigshafen German-Polish society with the Bydgoszcz German-Polish society (June 2017)

// Cultural exchange of the Mannheim's National Theatre with Bydgoszcz's Opera Nova (May 2018)

#### Chisinau

Republic of Moldova

// School exchange in Chisinau between Geschwister Scholl Gymnasium and Liceul Mihail Kogalniceanu (May 2017 and February 2018)

#### Haifa

Israel

// School exchange between Lessing Gymnasium and Leo Baeck Education Center in Haifa (February/March 2017 as well as February 2018)

// School exchange between Friedrich List School in Mannheim and Ursulinen Gymnasium in Mannheim with Kiryat Haim High School in Haifa (October/November 2017 as well as October/November 2018)

#### Toulon

France

// School exchange between Ludwig Frank Gymnasium and Collège Maurice Ravel in Toulon (March /April 2017 as well as December 2018)

// School exchange between Lessing Gymnasium and Lycée Dumont d'Urville in Toulon (March/April 2017 as well as September 2018)

// School exchange between Geschwister Scholl Gymnasium and Collège Bon Accueil in Toulon (June 2018 as well as April 2018)

// School exchange between Justus von Liebig School and Lycée des Métiers de l'Hôtellerie et du Tourisme in Toulon (April 2017 as well as April 2018)

// School exchange between Johann Sebastian Bach Gymnasium and Lycée Bonaparte and Lycée Rouvière in Toulon (September 2017)

// School exchange between Werner von Siemens School and Lycée P. Georges Cisson in Toulon (May 2017 as well as May 2018)

// Exchange of the Catholic parish of St Lioba and the congregation of Ste Thérèse in Toulon (May 2017)

// School exchange of Mannheim-Herzogenried integrated comprehensive school and Collège Pierre Puget in Toulon (October 2018)

#### Zhenjiang

China

// Exchange and concert tour of Deng Xiaomei International Ensemble with Chinese artists in Zhenjiang (May 2018)





**SUPPORTED MEETINGS IN MANNHEIM****Bydgoszcz**

Poland

// Exchange of Mannheim-Ludwigshafen German-Polish society with Bydgoszcz German-Polish society as well as artists from Bydgoszcz (July 2017 and June 2018)

**Chisinau**

Republic of Moldova

// School exchange between Geschwister Scholl Gymnasium and Liceul Mihail Kogalniceanu in Mannheim (September/October 2017 as well as October 2018)

// Exchange of Mannheim youth academy and Centropa Chisinau in Mannheim (September 2017)

**Haifa**

Israel

// School exchange between Lessing Gymnasium and Leo Baeck Education Center in Mannheim (December 2017 as well as November/December 2018)

// School exchange in Mannheim between Friedrich List School Mannheim and Ursulinen Gymnasium with Kiryat Haim High School (July 2017 as well as July 2018)

**Klaipeda**

Lithuania

// Exchange of the Memel Territory consortium with the girls' choir of Eduard Balsys Kunstgymnasium in Mannheim (December 2017)

**Toulon**

France

// School exchange between Ludwig Frank Gymnasium and Collège Maurice Ravel (February 2017)

// School exchange between Lessing Gymnasium and Lycée Dumont d'Urville (March 2017 as well as May 2018)

// School exchange between Geschwister Scholl Gymnasium and Collège Bon Accueil (March 2017, December 2017 as well as December 2018)

// School exchange between Johann Sebastian Bach Gymnasium and Lycée Bonaparte and Lycée Rouvière in Mannheim (April/May 2017)

// School exchange between Werner von Siemens School and Lycée P. Georges Cisson (May 2017 as well as March 2018)

// Exchange of the Catholic parish of St Lioba and the congregation of Ste Thérèse (May 2018)

// Exchange of Seckenheim singing group with "À Coeur Joie" choir Toulon (October 2018)

// School exchange between Mannheim-Herzogenried integrated comprehensive school and Collège Pierre Puget (September 2018)

**Zhenjiang**

China

// School exchange between Karl Friedrich Gymnasium Mannheim and No. 1. High School of Zhenjiang (June/July 2018)

**Total funding in 2017:**

**€ 18,975**

**Total funding in 2018:**

**€ 21,950**

**// MUSIC UNITES /**

"At international sports events, you play against one another; at choir meetings, you sing with one another!"

– Under this motto, the meeting of Seckenheim singing group and French partner choir "À Coeur Joie – Clair Matin" took place in Mannheim in October 2018. Here, the singing group welcomed a total of 34 singers from Toulon, with which Seckenheim singing group has maintained contacts since 1964. As part of the meeting, both choirs organised a concert and sang together at the festive Sunday service at St Aegidius' church in Seckenheim. At the joint rehearsals, the two choirs were able to get to know each other better and connect with one another. Above all, the choir members were all united in the joy of music and singing, which helped in overcoming language barriers. Moreover, on joint excursions, participants had the opportunity to discover more of the city of Mannheim and the Rhine-Neckar region.

**// CELEBRATION OF FRIENDSHIP /**

Beaming faces on and off stage: the family celebration in Mannheim's Herzogenriedpark for the 100th anniversary of the re-creation of the Polish state was a resounding success for everyone involved, both from Mannheim and from the Polish twin city of Bydgoszcz. For the occasion of the anniversary, Mannheim-Ludwigshafen German-Polish society had issued an invitation in June 2018 to celebrate together with friends from Bydgoszcz and deepen the exchange between the two twin cities. Dance group "Ziemia Bydgoska" arrived for this and carried the audience along with its performance and the stunning interaction of movement, music and costumes. Małgorzata Żurańska-Wilkowska had also come from Bydgoszcz with her "GO!band", which delighted the audience with a broad repertoire of Polish songs. The celebration was a good opportunity to strengthen the German-Polish friendship and to cement the exchange with the twin city of Bydgoszcz. The meeting in Mannheim was rounded off with a wide-ranging additional programme for the guests from Bydgoszcz.

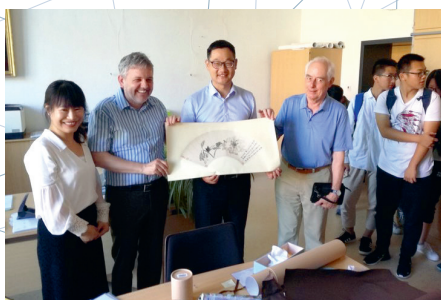
*Detailed final reports and further information about applying for grants can be found online at:*

*// [mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/europa-und-internationales](http://mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/europa-und-internationales)*





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- 1 Guests among friends: welcome for the choir from Toulon by Seckenheim singing group
- 2 Welcome for the Chinese partner school from Zhenjiang at Karl Friedrich Gymnasium
- 3 Joint excursion of the French and German pupils to Speyer
- 4 Dance group "Ziemia Bydgoska" from Mannheim's Polish twin city Bydgoszcz



4

## // EXCHANGE WITH CHINA /

"German bread is as hard as stone" – so the 14 guest pupils from Mannheim's Chinese twin city of Zhenjiang were warned by their teacher before they set out half-way around the world to meet their exchange partners from Karl Friedrich Gymnasium. The young people from China spent two weeks with their host families, experiencing everyday life in Germany, which differs in many ways from life in China. As well as attending lessons together, the programme included a city tour, a visit to Luisenpark and the Chinese teahouse as well as a tour of Mannheim Castle. One special highlight was the official reception in the council hall, where city councillor Marianne Bade welcomed the Chinese guests on behalf of the city of Mannheim. Furthermore, the Chinese young people discovered German history and culture through numerous excursions on the programme. The exchange has been taking place for over 15 years on a cycle of every year and a half. "A school exchange with a Chinese partner school is an exceptional opportunity for intercultural friendships," reports Dr Astrid Mader, teacher and coordinator of the China exchange at Karl Friedrich Gymnasium. "Some of the contacts continue far beyond the exchange."

## // GERMAN LESSON /

A total of 32 French school pupils from Lycée Dumont d'Urville in Toulon made a guest visit to Mannheim in March 2017. The reason was the school exchange with Mannheim's Lessing Gymnasium. On the programme were a visit to Luisenpark, including climbing the telecommunications tower, and a city rally organised by the German pupils. "We met lots of lovely people and were finally able to try out our German skills," one pupil from Toulon summarised her experience. The pupils from Lycée Dumont d'Urville have been learning German for five years and the timetable includes not only literature but also regional studies and geography in German. This meeting in Mannheim is just the beginning of a great adventure, said one pupil from Mannheim, associating it with the hope of longstanding friendships. The exchange enables them to get to know one another better and learn to understand one another. The exchange between the two schools has been in place since 1971. It is therefore a symbol of friendship between the countries. Most of the teachers involved have also been active in the exchange for a long time and now maintain good friendships with one another.

# // GLOBALLY CONNECTED //

Mannheim has a total of eleven twin cities, two friendship cities and four cooperation partners on three continents.

The longest-standing partnership is with Swansea, in Wales. This has been in place since 1957. The treaty with Toulon followed only two years later. Since the 1980s, the focus has increasingly been on Eastern Europe, the Middle East and China.

## / TWIN CITIES

**BERLIN –  
CHARLOTTENBURG-  
WILMERSDORF**  
**Germany**  
Population: 338,800  
Twin city since 1962

**BYDGOSZCZ**  
**Poland**  
Population: 353,000  
Twin city since 1991

**CHISINAU**  
**Republic of Moldova**  
Population: 662,000  
Twin city since 1989

**HAIFA**  
**Israel**  
Population: 281,000  
Twin city since 2009

**KLAIPEDA**  
**Lithuania**  
Population: 149,000  
Twin city since 2002

**QINGDAO**  
**China**  
Population: 9,204,000  
Twin city since 2016

**RIESA**  
**Germany**  
Population: 31,000  
Twin city since 1988

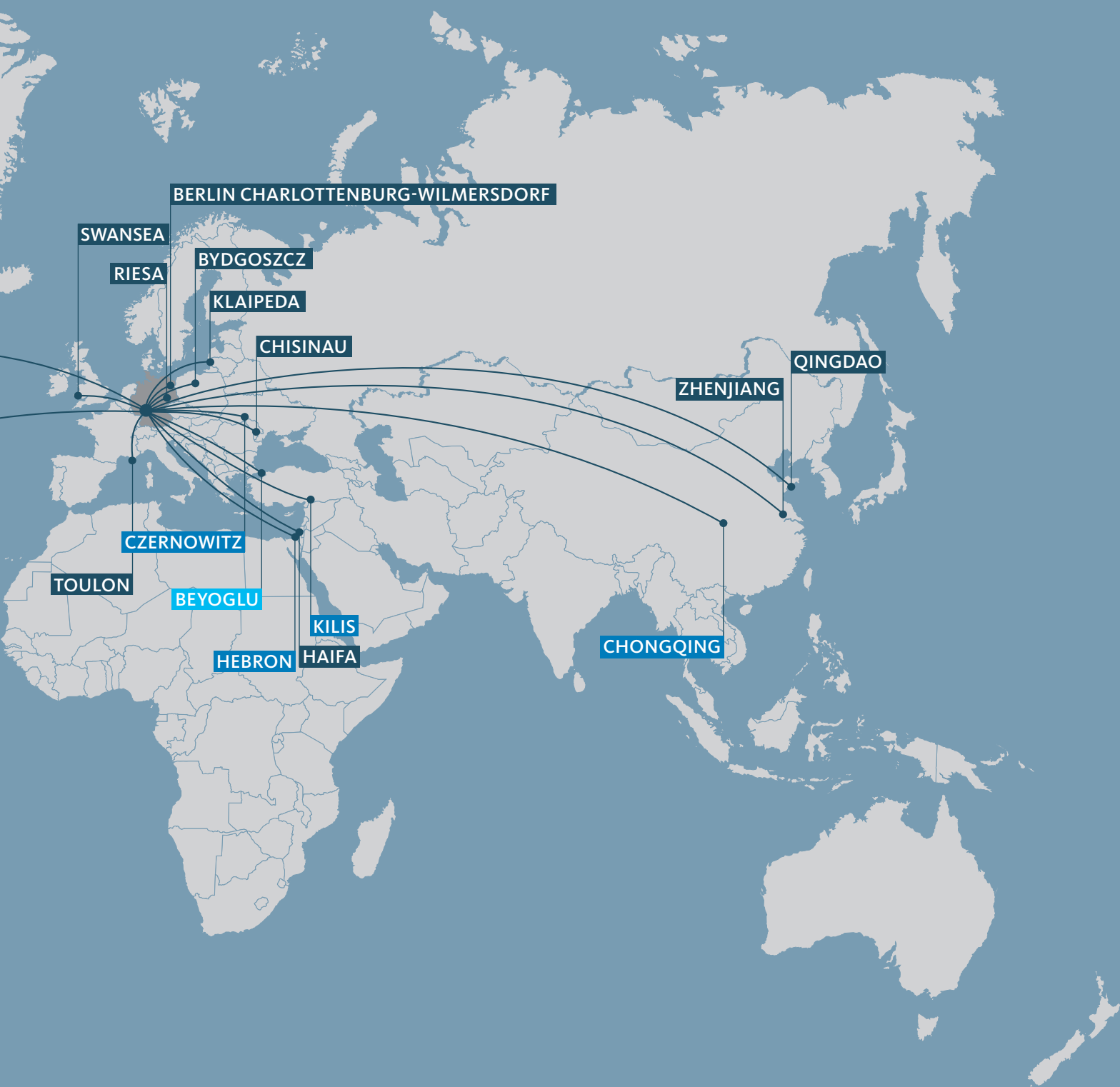
**SWANSEA**  
**Great Britain**  
Population: 246,500  
Twin city since 1957

**TOULON**  
**France**  
Population: 167,000  
Twin city since 1959

**WINDSOR**  
**Canada**  
Population: 217,000  
Twin city since 1980

**ZHENJIANG**  
**China**  
Population: 3,113,000  
Twin city since 2004





/ FRIENDSHIP CITIES

**BEYOGLU**  
Turkey  
Population: 246,000  
Friendship city since 2011

**EL VIEJO**  
Nicaragua  
Population: 84,000  
Friendship city since 1989

/ COOPERATION PARTNERS

**CHONGQING**  
China  
Population: 30,165,500  
Cooperation partner since 2017

**CHERNIVTSI**  
Ukraine  
Population: 266,000  
Cooperation partner since 2016

**HEBRON**  
Palestinian Territories  
Population: 215,000  
Cooperation partner since 2013

**KILIS**  
Turkey  
Population: 116,000  
Cooperation partner since 2017

# // LOCAL ACTION, GLOBAL IMPACT //



The pressing issues of the future, such as digitalisation, climate change and migration, are increasingly affecting local everyday life. Here, at the grass-roots political level, cities are often directly exposed to these challenges and increasingly called on to tackle these issues specifically.

With the 2030 Agenda, countries worldwide have made a commitment to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations by 2030 and to stand up for a sustainable future. When it comes to implementing these goals, cities and communities take on a central role, as they have many options for action as well as specific expertise to develop and implement solutions for these issues of the future.

With the “Mannheim 2030” mission statement, the city of Mannheim is actively contributing to this process. Mannheim also wants to be a role model here for the international cooperation of cities: as a city, we take responsibility globally, promote exchange between communities worldwide and think about sustainability in all areas. Consequently, local development policy is a key element in the international work of the city of Mannheim. In particular through project partnerships with municipalities in the Global South, Mannheim is making a major contribution to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.



## // ON THE ROAD TO THE FUTURE //

**“What should Mannheim look like in 2030?” In a wide-ranging participation process, Mannheim’s urban society was asked to provide suggestions on this issue. The over 1,500 responses from its citizens are the basis for the development of the “Mannheim 2030” mission statement.**



*Intensive exchange of expertise by experts from Mannheim and the twin cities in the context of working groups*

The results of the participation project promoted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and Engagement Global with its Service Agency Communities in One World form the basis for the “Mannheim 2030” mission statement. The mission statement should be regarded as a compass for Mannheim’s urban society, for politics, economics and institutions – a vision for the Mannheim of the future. The focus here is on the question of how to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals goals of the United Nations at local level and how Mannheim can therefore make a significant contribution to a more sustainable and fairer world.

One major milestone in the formulation of the “Mannheim 2030” mission statement was a three-day international expert conference. The aim of the expert meeting was to examine the draft mission statement professionally, before its presentation to the local council for final adoption. This was to insure that the results compiled correspond to the level of the specialist discussion for the 2030 Agenda and are compatible with national and international processes. The expert conference was organised in close cooperation with the Mannheim Twinning Association.

Those invited to the conference included experts from Mannheim’s twin cities and cooperation partner cities. A total of 70 experts from Berlin, Bydgoszcz (Poland), Chernivtsi (Ukraine), Haifa (Israel), Hebron (Palestinian Territories), Kilis (Turkey), Klaipeda (Lithuania), Qingdao and Zhenjiang (China) and Windsor (Canada) discussed the issues of equal opportunities, democracy, climate protection, sustainability, economy and culture. They contributed their local experience with the 2030 Agenda and discussed the results of the “Mannheim 2030” mission statement. Furthermore, in an exhibition about practical examples from the twin cities, attendees were able to find out about global sustainability goals. These included an energy-efficiency project for public buildings in Bydgoszcz, the “Food House Takia” project in Hebron, which donates food to people in need, and a green space project from Windsor, which should improve the urban climate.

The variety of the international contributions was a testament to the fact that the 2030 Agenda is a central issue for more and more communities worldwide. It also became clear at the conference that the city of Mannheim, its twin cities and its cities of friendship are actively promoting a sustainable future. In the light of the results of the conference, the “Mannheim 2030” mission statement underwent final revision and was ultimately adopted by Mannheim’s local council in March 2019.

WITH THE 2030 AGENDA, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF STATES EXPRESSES ITS CONVICTION THAT THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES CAN BE RESOLVED ONLY TOGETHER. IT CREATES THE BASIS FOR SHAPING GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN HARMONY WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE AND WITHIN THE EARTH’S ECOLOGICAL LIMITS.



*Attendees at the international expert conference on the mission statement process at Mannheim’s council hall*

## // FOR A BETTER LIFE //

**Almost 130,000 Syrians have taken refuge in Kilis from the civil war in their homeland. As part of a collaboration, Mannheim is supporting the Turkish border city. The aim is to improve the educational and career opportunities for Syrian women thereby opening up prospects for them.**

The Turkish city of Kilis is located directly adjacent to the border with Syria, only around an hour's drive from Aleppo. Before the outbreak of the civil war in Syria, Kilis had around 95,000 citizens. As a result of the intake of almost 130,000 refugees, the population has now more than doubled. However, that is not stopping the city from wanting to establish a long-term prospect for remaining. To support Kilis with overcoming these huge challenges, the city of Mannheim and the Working Group of Islamic communities Mannheim (AKIG) are campaigning on the ground for improvement of the educational and career prospects of Syrian refugee women. The incentive for the collaboration came from a member of AKIG, who has personal contacts with the city administration in Kilis and who comes originally from the city of Kilis.

The focus of the initial project phases – from July 2017 to May 2018 – was on the exchange of experience between local experts as well as the qualification of the teaching staff at vocational training centres. As a first step, an analysis of the local labour market and the educational situation of the refugee women was conducted in cooperation with the University of Kilis. In two workshops, the specialists from the cities of Mannheim and Kilis then developed a strategy for social and economic integration of the women.

In two training programmes at Justus von Liebig School, 16 female Turkish trainers extended their professional and teaching qualifications in the training areas of hairdressing/cosmetics, textile processing, nutrition and education management. At the same time, teaching materials were procured for the training centres. In order to implement these measures, the city of Mannheim is receiving full financing amounting to 50,000 euros from German federal government funds.

"If you want make a credible stand for aid on the ground and international understanding, you have to do something practical," Mayor Dr Peter Kurz emphasised. "Of course, this needs the federal government and the EU to finance such projects. However, direct cooperation from the experience of cities is far more effective and more sustainable than other projects." The collaboration of the two cities is to be continued, as Kilis still lacks premises for education and training of the Syrian refugees. The agreed goal is therefore the construction of a modern, vocational training centre in Kilis for Syrian and Turkish women in Kilis. Once again, the construction project will be financed with funds from the German federal government.



### **CITY ON THE BORDER**

Kilis is located in the region of Southeast Anatolia and is the provincial capital of the eponymous province of Kilis. The city lies on the Syrian border, at the foot of Kefiz, approx. 650 metres above sea level. Alongside agriculture, the textile industry is one of the principal economic sectors in the region.



- 1 Childcare at a training centre in Kilis for refugee Syrian and Turkish women
- 2 Inspection of the site on which the training centre for Syrian and Turkish women is to be constructed

## // OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT /

**A great success! The city of Mannheim was one of the winners of the German national “Municipality Moves the World” competition and took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the “prize for outstanding municipal examples for migration and development”. Mannheim received the 15,000 euro award in the category of “cities with a population over 100,000”.**

In the “Municipality Moves the World” competition, the focus is on the cooperation of municipalities with migrant organisations and other one-world stakeholders on the issue of migration and development. With it, on behalf of and under the patronage of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Service Agency Communities in One World of Engagement Global hopes to bring the commitment of the municipalities to the attention of the public and to provide a platform for good ideas.

“In Mannheim, equal participation of migrants has always been an important political objective. This is naturally also true for the municipal development work,” Mayor of Mannheim Dr Peter Kurz emphasised. “The prize, with which we are all delighted, represents acknowledgement of the many initiatives that exist in Mannheim on the issue of migration and development.” Kurz continued that many projects have been a testament to the great commitment of Mannheim’s citizens from migrant backgrounds. Among others these include Mannheim’s cooperation with the Turkish city of Kilis, the recently opened Mannheim Intercultural House and the Centre for Global Learning as well as the international development projects and the structured cooperation between the administration and civil society, such as happens in the migration forum.

The prize – the city leader went on to say – underlines the fact that Mannheim is also on the right track with respect to the “2030 mission statement”. “Implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda will succeed only if all stakeholders work together in partnership and see the diversity of our cities as an opportunity,” the Mayor emphasised. “Through municipal development policy both locally and in international projects, cities can make an effective contribution to achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.”

A delegation comprising representatives from the Working Group of Islamic communities’ Mannheim, Duha e.V., the Mannheim Intercultural House, the migration forum, the One World Forum and the city of Mannheim accepted the prize in Berlin.



*The Mannheim delegation accepts the prize at the “Municipality Moves the World” competition in Berlin*

### MUNICIPALITY MOVES THE WORLD – THE PROJECTS

**The prize money of 15,000 euros is being used to support the following initiatives and projects:**

1. The newly established Mannheim Intercultural House
2. The establishment of a non-profit association to support the commitment of migrants in Mannheim based on their country of origin
3. Organisation of an “intercultural and fair fast-breaking” (Iftar) in cooperation with the Working Group of Islamic communities Mannheim (AKIG)
4. A joint campaign of the mosques and the ecumenical training centre on the issue of fair trade and sustainability at the “Mile of Religions”



## // START-UP IN HEBRON //



**In 2013, the city of Mannheim adopted a memorandum of understanding with the Palestinian city of Hebron. With the “Hebron-Mannheim Co-Working Lab”, the cities initiated a cooperation project in 2018, which should contribute to strengthening the economic situation in Hebron by supporting new businesses and start-ups. An interview with Burak Bas, who is responsible for the project on the side of Startup Mannheim.**

**>> Mr Bas, which specific aims are the two cities pursuing with the “Hebron-Mannheim Co-Working Lab”?**

*<< The Co-Working Lab is a collaborative workplace, which should enable young Palestinians to work together in an atmosphere that is both productive and creative. The people involved on both sides hope that this will encourage the culture of new businesses and start-ups in Hebron. Ultimately, a flourishing start-up scene in Hebron can help to make the region economically stronger overall and therefore also more stable politically.*

**>> Is there a need for a project of this nature in Hebron, which is repeatedly a centre of conflicts and unrest?**

*<< Hebron is actually characterised by a relatively young, population with above-average education, thanks to a well-developed higher education landscape. However, the unemployment rate is very high, particularly among young academics, owing to the overall difficult economic environment in the Palestinian Territories.*

**>> What exactly will the “Hebron-Mannheim Co-Working Lab” look like?**

*<< After completion, the Co-Working Lab will have a total of 20 fully equipped IT workstations. Moreover, there will be conference and meeting rooms to allow collective working. In addition to the equipment, the project also includes the exchange of ideas.*

**>> What does this exchange look like?**

*<< We summarise it under the term “capacity building”, i.e. the communication and development of competence. With our partners in Hebron, we have agreed an extensive curriculum, through which we also want to convey our extensive experience and our know-how on the subject of new businesses. Specifically, international workshops and coaching have already taken place both in Hebron and in Mannheim. Furthermore, we also encourage exchange between German and Palestinian new business founders.*



*Exchange of expertise with local universities in Hebron on the subject of business start-ups*



# // CITIZENS SHAPE THE FUTURE /



*First citizens' workshop in the twin city of Chisinau*

**“Rethinking public space. Citizens shape their future” – this is both the title and the objective of the project partnership that has been running since 2017 between Mannheim, the Moldovan twin city of Chisinau and the Ukrainian city of Chernivtsi.**

As part of the cooperation, local experts from the three cities are discussing the issue of sustainable urban development. In addition, they are working together on a pilot project in which a public space in Chisinau and a public space in Chernivtsi are to be reconfigured with active participation from the citizens. The aim of the reconfiguration is to reshape the public spaces into sustainable, safe, attractive and barrier free places.

For many years, the city of Mannheim has specifically supported civic participation. Especially in the area of urban planning, the city has successfully implemented many projects with participation from its citizens. The city of Mannheim is contributing this experience and specialist expertise in the context of the international project partnership by supporting the current participation processes in Chernivtsi and Chisinau – from the planning of the citizens' workshops to specific implementation of the construction work.

A specialist delegation comprising experts from the urban planning department of the city of Mannheim travelled to the Ukrainian city of Chernivtsi and the Moldovan capital Chisinau for the first time in 2018 to participate in the initial citizens' workshops on the ground. Interested citizens from the respective cities were invited to these, to participate in the reconfiguration process and to share their ideas and visions.

Such participative approaches have never been tried before in Chernivtsi and Chisinau. As such, the citizens were offered completely new opportunities for participation and codetermination. The pilot project therefore also made a major contribution to the promotion of democratic culture at local level and offered the communities an ideal framework in which to learn from one another, exchange experiences and work together even across national borders. The reconstruction will finish and the public spaces in Chisinau and Chernivtsi will be officially opened in 2019.

The project is promoted by Engagement Global with its Service Agency Communities in One World, with financial support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

**// [mannheim.de/chisinau](http://mannheim.de/chisinau)**

## ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL

The development policy projects of the city of Mannheim in Kilis, Hebron and Chisinau/Chernivtsi and the “Mannheim 2030” mission statement process have been promoted through the Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) of Engagement Global with funds from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

SKEW is the centre of excellence for local development policy in Germany and it implements development policy funding programmes, which also help the municipality financially with the implementation of their development policy actions.

ENGAGEMENT  
GLOBAL  
Service für Entwicklungsinitiativen



with

SERVICE AGENCY  
COMMUNITIES IN ONE WORLD

With funding from the



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



*Exchange of expertise between experts from Chisinau, Chernivtsi and Mannheim on the subject of integrated urban development*

## // GLOBALLY CONNECTED //



The city of Mannheim is involved in the relevant European and international municipal networks. The aim of the work in these networks and fora is to help with shaping the political decision-making processes that affect local life and urban society. This also includes influencing EU legislation and giving a stronger voice to the concerns of the cities and their citizens. At EU and international level, there are now many networks, which are organised sometimes specifically for a specialist field and sometimes across the board.

Because of Mannheim's strong international profile, the city is well positioned in many networks and has taken on important roles. As such, the Mayor of Mannheim is not only a member of the Committee of the Regions (CoR), a consultative body of the European Union, but also Chairman of the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) established in 2016. The city of Mannheim is also involved with EUROCITIES, the network of European cities that represents the interests of the cities at EU level.

The city's international involvement in these networks is coordinated by the Office for EU Affairs and Global Sustainability. At the same time, the office is the city of Mannheim's central point of contact for international agencies.

## // SUCCESSFUL APPEARANCE //

**It is the principal international gathering of urban development experts worldwide: the World Urban Forum. Mayors, government representatives and organisations from 185 countries met together at World Urban Forum 9 in Kuala Lumpur. The city of Mannheim was present with three events of its own and actively participated in eleven further events of other organisations.**

Mayor of Mannheim Dr Peter Kurz, who travelled to the Malaysian capital as an official member of the German delegation, drew a positive conclusion from World Urban Forum 9, which was hosted by UN-HABITAT, the United Nations programme for human settlements. “The focus was on the question of how the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the related ‘New Urban Agenda’ can be implemented in the cities,” Kurz emphasised. “We were able to gain important insights for our ‘Mannheim 2030’ mission statement process, which is largely being financed by the German federal government.” Furthermore, the Mannheim delegation had opportunities to establish contacts with many political players on European and international level and to open doors for collaborations and funding opportunities. No other city in Germany was as active and visible as Mannheim, the Mayor summarised.

At the “Mannheim events”, three topics took centre stage: the Mannheim Declaration on Living Together in Diversity, international city collaborations, controlled strategic urban planning indicators and the Mannheim model for the pursuit of the sustainability goals. On the latter issue in particular, Mannheim is one of the few international stakeholders with expertise. Consequently, many conference attendees were very interested in the Mannheim mission statement process and the Mannheim “Urban Thinkers Campus”.

Mayor Kurz was especially pleased with the appreciation from the European Commission for the activities of the city of Mannheim: “EU Commissioner Crețu, who is responsible for regional policy, presented the measures for implementation of the 2030 Agenda to the EU at a press conference. Here, we were the only city to have the opportunity to present our activities in the International Urban Cooperation programme of the EU.” In this context, Kurz particularly advertised the project of a rail freight connection between Mannheim and Chongqing and arranged a visit to Mannheim with Crețu. Mannheim’s participation at World Urban Forum 9 can be recorded as a great success and will both help the city to prepare for challenges in a globalised world and keep it sustainable for the future.

// [mannheim.de/nachrichten/mannheim-auf-wuf-9](http://mannheim.de/nachrichten/mannheim-auf-wuf-9)



*At the World Urban Forum, Mannheim presents itself as a model city for implementation of the global sustainable development goals*

**THE WORLD URBAN FORUM (WUF) IS THE WORLD’S PRINCIPAL CONFERENCE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT MATTERS. SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2001, INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS HAVE MET TO DISCUSS THE MOST URGENT GLOBAL ISSUES AND THEIR EFFECTS ON CITIES AND COMMUNITIES.**



*Mayor Dr Peter Kurz at the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur*



## // GLOBAL PARLIAMENT OF MAYORS /

**In September 2017, the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) met in the Norwegian city of Stavanger. More than 60 mayors from several continents discussed the focus of the content and established an action plan for the GPM. Mannheim's Mayor Dr Peter Kurz was elected as one of two chairmen of the executive committee.**



*General assembly of the Global Parliament of Mayors in Stavanger*

The conference in Stavanger was the first official meeting after the inaugural meeting of the initiative, which took place the previous year in the Dutch city of The Hague. "The Global Parliament of Mayors campaigns worldwide for cities to be given the necessary resources and skills so that they can actively support sustainable development," Kurz explained the role of the GPM and the way it sees itself. What is unique here, Kurz continues, is that it is not another subject-specific network but rather the focus is on joint action in various fields. At the same time, the GPM should strengthen the position of the communities with respect to supranational organisations and national governments.

In the future, the GPM will demonstrate its relevance with respect to international organisations, such as the United Nations and the European Union. "We want – shoulder-to-shoulder with organisations such as Amnesty International or Transparency International and the UN organisations such as UN-HABITAT – to support mayors who are threatened with imprisonment or otherwise endangered for exercising their office. Unfortunately, we are aware of such cases in many countries," Kurz says.

Furthermore, the Global Parliament of Mayors will actively support development projects. Financial resources for this should be obtained from international organisations. Here, Mannheim will contribute its expertise in local development cooperation. "In cooperation with prestigious research institutions, such as Georgetown University, we also want to verify whether the "New Urban Agenda" of the United Nations is being implemented successfully by the nation states and at local level," Mannheim's Mayor stated. Most of the population now lives in cities and it is primarily the cities that are affected by global

phenomena such as migration and climate change. "In the cities, solutions are also developed and implemented on a daily basis. We can therefore not afford for the New Urban Agenda to fail," Kurz summed up.

**// [mannheim.de/nachrichten/globales-buergermeisterparlament](http://mannheim.de/nachrichten/globales-buergermeisterparlament)**

### **GLOBAL PARLIAMENT OF MAYORS (GPM)**

**The Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) was founded in 2016 in The Hague. It regards itself as a consortium and communication platform for mayors worldwide. Its objective is to pool the experience and expertise of municipalities and to highlight the leading role of municipalities in resolving global challenges, such as climate protection, nutrition and mobility.**

## // MOBILITY AND FUTURE /

In September 2018, the Mobility Forum of European city network EUROCITIES, which includes over 140 cities, took place in Burgas, Bulgaria. Under the motto “Smart mobility: a clever move”, the delegates discussed the future of mobility. Mannheim’s First Deputy Mayor Christian Specht was elected as chairman of the forum and will represent EUROCITIES to the EU with respect to mobility issues over the next two years. “It is primarily the cities that are developing specific measures and bringing about a change in mobility,” Specht emphasised. “They must therefore be involved in the planning of European transport policy and receive political and financial support for their activities.” As another important issue, Specht mentioned the expansion of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T), in which the cities likewise need to be involved.

// [mannheim.de/eurocities](http://mannheim.de/eurocities)



First Deputy Mayor Specht will represent the Eurocities Mobility Forum in the future as its chairman

## // AN EYE ON EUROPE /

In May 2018, Mayor of Mannheim Dr Peter Kurz was appointed to the European Union Committee of the Regions (CoR). As the only German Mayor on the committee, he represents the 195 cities that belong to the Association of German Cities (Städtetag) as direct members. The CoR comprises 350 elected members who represent a local or regional area authority in the 28 EU states. At the same time, it is the only EU institution that allows the cities and regions a formal voice in legislation in Europe. “The influence of European legislation on the cities has grown significantly in recent years,” Mayor Dr Kurz explained. “At the same time, it is undeniable that many German delegates feel more of an obligation to support the rural area. My goal is therefore to give a voice in particular to the concerns of the cities.”

// [mannheim.de/adr](http://mannheim.de/adr)



Session of the Committee of the Regions in Brussels

## // VISIT TO THE UN /

The city of Mannheim is a pioneer city in the implementation of the global 2030 Agenda of the United Nations with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. As part of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the United Nations and member states are examining how far they have come with achieving the objectives. For the first time as part of this meeting, a municipal forum took place, to which Mayor of Mannheim Dr Peter Kurz was invited as Vice President of the “Global Parliament of Mayors”. “We must be clear that, in nearly all areas, the success or failure in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals is determined in the cities,” Kurz emphasised in his speech to the delegates from around the world. In New York, Kurz was also welcomed by German Ambassador to the UN Dr Christoph Heusgen. Heusgen seemed especially interested in Mannheim’s strategies and measures in the area of integration and migration. He suggested that the city of Mannheim should attend the forthcoming UN General Assembly with an event of its own on the subject of migration.

// [mannheim.de/un-hlpf](http://mannheim.de/un-hlpf)



Mayor Dr Kurz speaks at the United Nations



## // SUPPORT FOR NICARAGUA /

The "Association for the promotion of a city partnership between Mannheim and El Viejo" has been committed to the people in the Nicaraguan city of El Viejo since 1986. The civic initiative dates back to the solidarity movement of the citizens of Mannheim with the country of Nicaragua during the revolution at that time and was an important foundation stone for the relations between Mannheim and El Viejo. At regular events, the society provides information about the situation in the Nicaraguan city and initiates projects to help the people on the ground. As such, for example, the society supports the "Casa de la Mujer" women's centre in El Viejo with the aid of donations and it campaigns for financial protection and medical care for the sugar cane workers suffering with health problems as a result of pesticides.

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The 17th-century basilica in the Nicaraguan city of El Viejo

## // NEIGHBOURS AS FRIENDS /

The Franco-German youth foundation (DFJW) is an international organisation dedicated to French-German cooperation. Teenagers and young adults from the Rhine-Neckar metropolitan region are involved with the DFJW Rhine-Neckar team. The DFJW team wants to publicise the various support programmes as part of the Franco-German exchange on the ground and to organise its own events. Young people interested in Franco-German friendship are very welcome to support the team.

**// Kontakt – DFJW-Juniorbotschafter Michael Carl-Christian Laß, Email: [m.lass@ofaj-dfjw.org](mailto:m.lass@ofaj-dfjw.org)**



The Rhine-Neckar DFJW team promotes Franco-German friendship

## // FOR A FAIR WORLD /

For over 15 years, the Mannheim One World Forum (Eine-Welt Forum Mannheim e.V.) has campaigned for globally fair and sustainable development. Together with its over 20 member groups, the forum is convinced that stakeholders at local level can also make an important contribution to global fairness. Since its inception, the forum has promoted a sustainable lifestyle through educational work, information events, workshops and campaigns. The focuses of the work are on global learning, intercultural awareness and migrant participation, fair trade and sustainable living. The One World Forum is the body responsible for the Centre of Global Learning, an extracurricular educational facility that offers workshops, project days, training courses, advice services and media rental.

**// [eine-welt-forum.de](http://eine-welt-forum.de)**



The Mannheim One World Forum is regularly present at local fora and trade fairs





Do you have further questions about these and other projects?  
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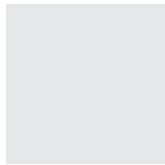


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Purely for reasons of better readability, the use of both masculine and feminine linguistic forms  
is omitted.

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