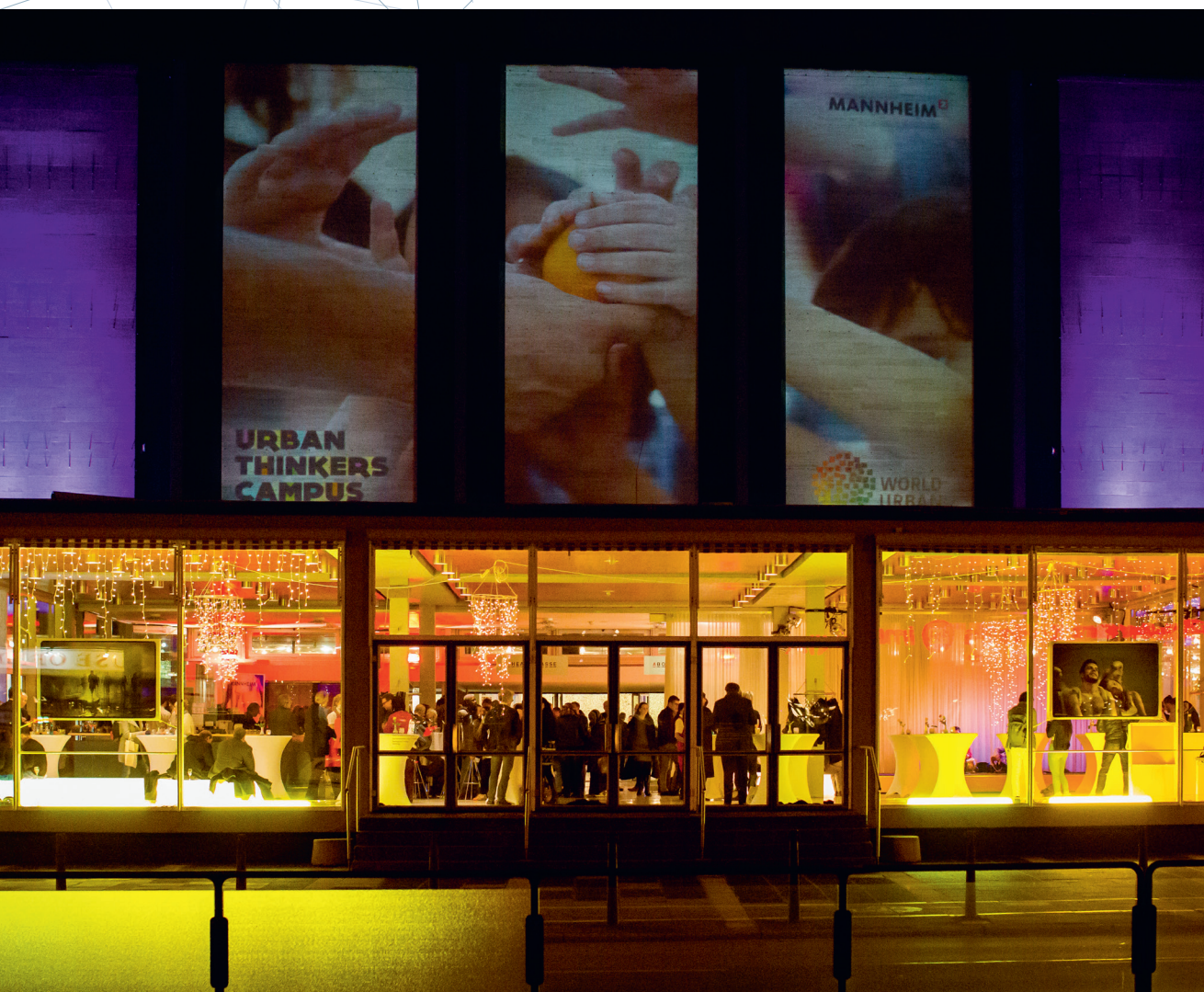




# // MANNHEIM INTERNATIONAL //

REPORT OF THE OFFICE FOR EUROPEAN AND  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS 2015/16



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*Front cover: Mannheim National Theatre hosts the international series of conferences "Urban Thinkers Campus"*

*Back cover: Urban Thinkers Campus presentation on the subject of "Urban Citizenship in a Nomadic World" in Mannheim*

## GREETING FROM THE MAYOR

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
People of Mannheim,

The City of Mannheim has for many years been cultivating a number of international relationships with what are currently 11 twin cities and 2 friendship cities around the world, is involved as an active member in a range of international and European networks and uses EU funding for innovative projects run by the city. In this time of advancing globalisation, for an international city such as Mannheim in which people from around 170 nations live together, it is important to position ourselves internationally and to promote dialogue and exchange beyond national borders. Cities are relevant actors in what is happening around the world and this is why the City of Mannheim, with its expertise, is actively involved on an international level.

Internationality and intercultural exchange enrich our city in an enormous range of ways and are important defining features – from living together day-to-day to encounters on the level of schools and associations, right through to promoting business contacts with other countries; our relationships with our twin cities are diverse and are energised by the individuals involved as well as by the numerous institutions and the city administration. The City of Mannheim Office for European and International Affairs coordinates and supports all of these activities both across Europe and on a wider international stage. This report offers an overview of the numerous international activities of the City of Mannheim. I hope you enjoy reading it.

**Dr. Peter Kurz**

Mayor of the City of Mannheim



## FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

The City of Mannheim understands internationality as a significant contribution to the development of our city. For this reason, we not only cultivate but are continuously developing the international relationships which Mannheim enjoys and adapting them to current social issues and challenges. As part of a comprehensive local council report, the city administration has described the priorities of the City of Mannheim's international relationships and defined four fundamental objectives which we plan to achieve in terms of international cooperation. These are, firstly, the promotion of intercultural understanding, secondly the strengthening of Mannheim as an international business location, thirdly the promotion of intercommunal learning, and fourthly the implementation of global objectives at a local level.

This report sets out to give you a clear overview of how the implementation of these objectives looks in concrete terms. The Office for European and International Affairs of the City of Mannheim has a coordinating and driving role here. At the same time, most of the projects and plans described in this report are also outstanding examples of “co-creation”, having been designed collaboratively by a range of different stakeholders. I hope that you find it interesting and offer my thanks to all of those people, associations, organisations and departments who work together to continuously develop the internationality of the City of Mannheim.

**David Linse**

Head of Department Diversity, International Affairs and Protocol  
and of the Office for European and International Affairs





## // GLOBAL NETWORK //



The City of Mannheim cultivates contact with numerous cities in a range of different countries. Our contractually agreed relationships between cities include 11 city partnerships and 2 city friendships. Content of these cooperations focus on the shared interests of the respective partners and cover a broad spectrum – from cultural exchange and economic collaboration to practical projects, for example in the fields of climate protection or infrastructure.

The task of the Office for European and International Affairs is firstly to promote encounters between people. Secondly, it supports the objectives and projects which fill these city partnerships with life. In 2015 and 2016 the focus was primarily on advancing relationships with China. For example, in August 2016 we signed the official partnership agreement with Qingdao making it Mannheim's second Chinese twin city after Zhenjiang. Another priority was collaboration and exchange with the Israeli city of Haifa and the Palestinian city of Hebron with which we have initiated and implemented a significant infrastructural project.

Our other city partnerships were similarly characterised by lively exchange and fruitful collaboration. One example is the 25-year anniversary of our partnership with the Polish city of Bydgoszcz which was celebrated with a number of joint events.





*The two mayors, Dr Peter Kurz and Zhang Xinqi, sign the partnership agreement between Qingdao and Mannheim*

## // BEST CONTACTS WITH CHINA /

**China has long been a world economic power. With two twin cities now, a local office and a “China desk”, the City of Mannheim enjoys excellent contacts and lively exchange with the “Middle Kingdom”.**

At the end of August 2016, the time had finally come; the Chinese city of Qingdao and the City of Mannheim have been cultivating friendly relationships since 1995, and Qingdao’s mayor Zhang Xinqi and his German counterpart Dr Peter Kurz were now able to sign the certificate establishing a partnership between the two cities.

“The Mannheim-Qingdao partnership has solid foundations and we have been working on it for a decade. Today, however, is not a conclusion but a new beginning,” emphasised Kurz on the occasion of the signing of the contract. At the same time the mayor stressed the significance of the partnership for Mannheim, “The city partnership shows that we are making increasing strategic use of our international relationships.” Mannheim is the only city in Baden-Württemberg with an office in China and a China desk in Mannheim as a point of contact for all business and economic matters.

Alongside the newly founded partnership with Qingdao, Mannheim has also been partnered with the Chinese city of Zhenjiang since 2004. “Mannheim has now become definitively the China centre of Baden-Württemberg,” summarised Kurz. “No other city in our state has such diverse connections with the ‘Middle Kingdom’.”

After the contract signing, the 15-strong Mannheim delegation consisting of representatives from politics, business, administration and the media, had the opportunity to get to know the city of Qingdao, population 9 million, even better and to pursue contacts and relationships. The programme then included a three-day stay in Beijing during which the Mannheim delegation attended over 20 presentations and visits to companies and state authorities.

“Mannheim is the city with the highest level of value generation from production in Germany. This is a fact met with extraordinary interest in China,” Mayor Kurz concluded on a positive note. “With our ‘Smart Production’ network, Mannheim is an ideal location for German-Chinese cooperation projects, in particular in the field of innovative production technologies.”

**// [mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/qingdao-china](http://mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/qingdao-china)**

**QINGDAO (POPULATION 9 MILLION) IS A COAST-AL CITY IN THE PROVINCE OF SHANDONG IN WHICH A NUMBER OF GLOBAL COMPANIES AND MAJOR FACTORIES ARE LOCATED. THE CITY IS THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTRE FOR NORTHEAST ASIA.**



*The Mannheim delegation is received by Shui Zhenjiang, Deputy Mayor of Beijing*



*Mayor Dr Kurz at the German-Chinese youth football tournament in Qingdao*

# // COOPERATION: “EVERY DROP COUNTS” /

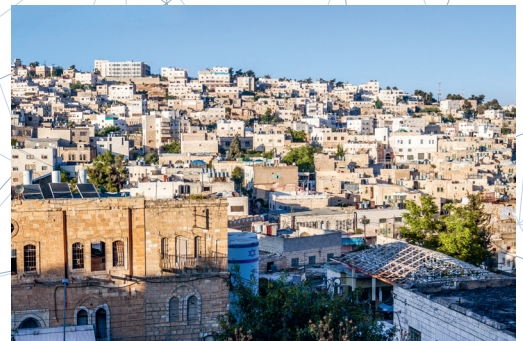
**Alongside war and conflict, the main reasons why people feel driven from their homelands include a lack of prospects and the shattering of basic infrastructure. A water engineering cooperation project between Mannheim and the Palestinian city of Hebron is supporting the establishment of an effective infrastructure on the West Bank.**

It was a milestone for Hebron and for the cooperation activities of the City of Mannheim: after the City of Mannheim agreed a water engineering cooperation project with the Palestinian city of Hebron in November 2015, Mannheim's mayor Dr Peter Kurz and his Palestinian counterpart Prof. Dr Daoud Zatari were able to kick off construction works on the sewage management project by April 2016.

“The excellent collaboration with the City of Mannheim, which is focused on supporting a number of projects, will certainly provide important stimulus and promote prosperity,” stated Zatari at the ceremony. Mannheim's mayor also underlined the significance of the project, “In a time of increasing tensions in the Middle East and of an extensive lack of prospects in the Palestinian areas, this project is a cause for confidence.” All local authorities around the world were confronted by the same task, he said, they must solve their local problems and improve the living conditions of their citizens. “When cities come together internationally, they can work together to make an effective contribution to this goal – even in a difficult political climate,” Kurz stressed.

## **Environmental, social and economic advantages**

The project, entitled “Every drop counts – Integrated Wastewater Management in Hebron Enhanced by Municipal Transfer of Know-How”, has been financially supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to the tune of €50,000 making it the only German-Palestinian local authority cooperation project currently funded by the BMZ. In concrete terms it was about establishing a sewage management system which would function well and move the city and district of Hebron forward environmentally as well as socially and economically. The project included two training programmes, one of which took place in Mannheim in January 2016 and the second in Hebron in April 2016. The training programmes dealt with the operation of Hebron's wastewater treatment plants. The training sessions were prepared and delivered by the municipal enterprise handling the treatment of the City of Mannheim's wastewater.



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## HAIFA AND HEBRON – MANNHEIM IS ONE OF ONLY THREE GERMAN CITIES CULTIVATING ACTIVE RELA- TIONSHPIS WITH BOTH AN ISRAELI AND A PALESTINIAN CITY.

In addition, as part of the project, drainage pipes were laid connecting the Al Sindas district of Hebron to the sewage network. The approx. 2500 inhabitants of Al Sindas had until then been collecting their sewage in sewage tanks which had to be emptied manually. The project not only provides hygiene improvements but also cost savings of 500 to 1000 dollars per household, per year.

### Visit to Haifa – high-tech and living together

In April 2016 a delegation of high-ranking individuals including, alongside Mayor Dr Kurz, First Deputy Mayor Christian Specht, the two Mannheim Bundestag representatives Stefan Rebmann and Prof. Dr Egon Jüttner, as well as various representatives of the elements of Mannheim's local councils, also visited our Israeli twin city, Haifa. The focus of the visit to the port city, which is also the country's high-tech centre, were the issues of innovative medical technology, modern city administration and living together in diversity.

Whilst in Haifa the delegation visited, amongst other places, the IBM Haifa research laboratory and the Jewish-Arab Takwin Labs which support Internet and mobile technology start-ups. The programme also included IN-VENT, a start-up established by the city's youth centre, the Golda Meir Centre which is committed to supporting women and getting them into work, and the Beit-Hagefen Arab Jewish Center which brings together Arabs and Jews through cultural offerings and shared activities.

"Israel is a land driven by innovation, and this can particularly be seen in Haifa. Very successful and consistent structures in the fields of economic development, innovative technologies and start-ups have been established here," said Mayor Dr Peter Kurz. "From this we not only take away a great deal of inspiration, but also very concrete points of contact with possible project partners in the field of medical technology."

// [mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/haifa-israel](http://mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/haifa-israel)

- 1 Hebron lies in the middle of the West Bank hills
- 2 Mayor Dr Peter Kurz and Prof. Dr Daoud Zatari, mayor of the city of Hebron, kick off the cooperation project "Every drop counts" in Hebron
- 3 A delegation from Hebron completing their training programme in Mannheim
- 4 Ceremony celebrating the local authority cooperation project in Hebron
- 5 The cable car in Haifa is an important means of transport but also a famous sight for tourists to the city
- 6 Beit-Hagefen Arab Jewish Center, cultural centre in Haifa



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## // 25 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP WITH BYDGOSZCZ /

Two cities – one anniversary: the city partnership between Mannheim and Bydgoszcz in Poland has been in place for exactly 25 years. From July to November 2016 this anniversary was celebrated with a number of events. The programme included sporting and cultural evenings.

The exhibition “Polish Society” by the German Polish Institute in Darmstadt started it all off at the Mannheimer Abendakademie adult education centre. There were also several presentations about Bydgoszcz on the agenda. Other highlights included the European championships in horseshoe throwing in which teams from Poland took part, an appearance by comedian Steffen Möller and the Polish German Austrian band PO!NTA on the lake stage in the Luisenpark.

In his speech to open the programme, Mayor Dr Peter Kurz pointed out that the treaty of good neighbourship between Poland and Germany was also signed in 1991. “City partnerships make an important contribution here,” emphasised Kurz. A partnership lives not least from personal encounters. With this in mind, in September an official delegation headed by Mayor Dr Kurz travelled, together with the Mannheim-Ludwigshafen German Polish Society to the twin city in order to take part in a celebration of the 25-year anniversary. This was followed by a return visit by the Polish German Society Bydgoszcz to Mannheim.

[// mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/bydgoszcz-polen](http://mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/bydgoszcz-polen)



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## // PARTNERS FOR 100 YEARS /

The cities of Mannheim and Klaipėda are looking back over a full century of friendship. 2015 marked the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the partnership between Mannheim and Klaipėda, then still known as Memel. In order to mark this anniversary fittingly, the Simonaitytes library in the Lithuanian port city and the city archive of Mannheim produced a joint exhibition informing visitors about the partnership between the two cities. Together with Mayor Vytautas Grubliauskas and the German ambassador to Lithuania Jutta Schmitz, Mayor Felicitas Kubala opened the exhibition which is being shown first in Klaipėda and then in Mannheim. “There are not many city partnerships with a hundred-year connection,” Kubala emphasised in her opening speech.

Contact was first established during the First World War with the intention of supporting the people in Memel, at that time still a part of the German Empire. In November 1915, the Baden War Assistance Association for the District of Memel (Kriegshilfsverein Baden für den Kreis Memel) was founded with its headquarters in Mannheim. “Out of an initial sponsorship relationship a friendship developed which eventually led to the establishment of the city partnership in 2002,” Kubala explained. “I am very pleased that there now exists an exchange between equals and that both sides are looking forward together.”

[// mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/klaipeda-litauen](http://mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/klaipeda-litauen)



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- 1 Bydgoszcz: the Band PO!NTA perform at the town hall
- 2 Bydgoszcz: Mayor Dr Kurz and Mayor Rafal Bruski at the anniversary event in the Polish twin city
- 3 Klaipėda: ambassador Jutta Schmitz, General Consul Dr Arunas Baublys, Mayor Grubliauskas, Environmental Mayor Felicitas Kubala, Uwe Jurgsties and library director Juozas Siksnelis (from left) at the opening of the anniversary exhibition
- 4 Klaipėda: Felicitas Kubala with library director Juozas Siksnelis
- 5 Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf: Mannheim delegation visiting the Pangea-Haus
- 6 Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf: the visitors from Berlin – return visit to Mannheim
- 7 German-Israeli conference: General Consul of the state of Israel, Dan Shaham, Mayor of Haifa, Yona Yahav and Mayor Dr Peter Kurz
- 8 Conference: Panel discussion on the issue of “Cohesion in diversity”

## // SUCESSFUL EXCHANGE /

Berlin and Mannheim are both cities strongly influenced by migration and integration. So it seemed obvious for Mannheim and its partner district in Berlin, Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, to initiate an exchange on these issues. As a first step, a delegation from Mannheim's migration advisory committee visited the capital in September 2015 at the invitation of District Mayor Reinhard Naumann. The focus was on an exchange of experience around the political opportunities for designing committees in the field of migration and integration. Meetings took place in the “Pangea-Haus”, an intercultural centre in which around 20 non-profit associations, private and institutional education providers from four continents, work with the objective of promoting intercultural dialogue.

During the return visit by the Berlin delegation in September 2016, headed by Mayor Naumann, alongside exchange on the subjects of migration and integration, the focus was on experience with the current situation of refugees in Mannheim and Berlin. As part of the supporting programme, the visitors from Berlin also experienced a musical evening on the Benjamin Franklin Areal and, during visits to the Yavuz-Sultan-Selim Mosque and the Oriental Music Academy in the Jungbusch district, gained an exciting insight into the youth and integration work going on there. Both sides agreed to continue this exchange and to initiate further cooperation.

// [mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/berlin-charlottenburg-wilmersdorf](http://mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/berlin-charlottenburg-wilmersdorf)

## // GERMAN ISRAELI CONFERENCE /

“Cohesion in diversity – challenge for the city” – this was the slogan for a public conference in the Jewish Community in Mannheim in October 2015. At the centre of the event was the question of how in an increasingly diverse urban society we can succeed in uniting living together and a mutual understanding based on a shared consensus of values. At the conference, Mayor Dr Peter Kurz together with Schoschana Maitek-Drzevitzky, chair of the Mannheim Jewish Community, welcomed the patron of the event, Dr Dan Shaham, General Consul of the state of Israel, and the Mayor of Haifa, Yona Yahav.

“The word inclusion shows us the way: it's not about accepting a minority into a majority society, but about the opportunity for equal participation of all groups in a society,” said Kurz in his welcome speech. Kurz also made it clear that the conference marked a new quality in the cooperation between the cities of Mannheim and Haifa. The cities are working together on concrete issues, exchanging ideas and information concerning problems and seeking shared solutions.

The conference was one of a number of events taking place in Mannheim on the occasion of the 50-year anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between Germany and Israel. At the same time the meeting continued the dialogue between the twin cities of Haifa and Mannheim which began in Israel in March 2015.

// [mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/haifa-israel](http://mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/haifa-israel)



## // PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS – WE SUPPORT THEM /

**City partnerships live from encounters between individuals. This is why the City of Mannheim is supporting schools, associations and other institutions with travel grants for international encounters with twin and friendship towns. Here is an overview of the encounters supported in 2015/2016:**

### // EXCHANGE WITH A HISTORY /

The connection between the Friedrich-List school and the Kiryat Haim school in Haifa has been in existence for 33 years now, an extraordinary schools partnership which has endured over many years and has gained even further in significance and relevance since the signing of the city partnership agreement in 2009. In 2016 another group from the Friedrich-List school, together with pupils from the Ursulinen-Gymnasium and the Bach-Gymnasium travelled to the Israeli twin city. “During our stay in Haifa, our pupils were able to experience in an intensive and very personal way the life of Israeli families, the hospitality and social customs,” said Ms Anouk Bourrat-Moll, teacher at the Friedrich-List school. Part of the programme was also a visit to the Golan Heights and the city of Jerusalem as well as a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum. This meant that during their journey the pupils were able to gain an impression of the beauty of the country but also an understanding for Israel’s current problems.

### // CULINARY FRANCE /

France is known for its culinary specialities. For the aspiring bakers, confectioners and cooks of the Justus-von-Liebig school, the student visit to the hotel and catering college in Toulon, the Lycée des métiers de l’hôtellerie et du tourisme, in March 2015 was therefore a very special highlight. For one whole week, the German students had the opportunity to work together with French cooks and bakers, to try out many new recipes and in so doing to get to know a little better not only culinary France but also French culture. “Despite the language barrier, the pupils were able to communicate with their French hosts in a wide variety of ways,” said teacher Barbara Türk. “If their English or French was not sufficient, then hands, feet, gesture and mime all helped.” The German-French schools partnership regularly organises visits both in the twin city of Toulon as well as in Mannheim.

### // EXCHANGE WITH CHISINAU /

“Learning together – living together” – this is the motto that the Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium has made its own and also actively promotes through its international student exchange. Since 2008 the school has been cultivating relationships with its partner school Liceul Kogălniceanu in the city of Chişinău, over 2000 km away in the Republic of Moldova. Quite a distance, which nevertheless does not stop the pupils from getting together every year, alternately in Mannheim and Chişinău. For example, in April 2016, a group of students from Mannheim travelled once again to the Moldovan capital. A particular feature of the partner school is that it offers German as a foreign language which makes it possible for the students to understand each other during the exchange, mostly in German. “It is astounding how well the Moldovan students master the German language,” says Holger Steffan who accompanied the group on their journey. As part of the last exchange meeting, the pupils worked on a joint project on the subject of “friendship and youth”. In mixed workgroups, the students were able to discuss differences and similarities and concluded again and again that their views frequently differed very little. An important discovery which the students were able to take home with them.

### // FRIENDS VISIT TOULON /

The partnership between the two church communities of St. Lioba in Mannheim and St. Thérèse in Toulon has existed for over 50 years. The aim of the annual get-together is for participants to get to know each other’s neighbouring country, to form and build on friendships and to come together as part of shared worship. In May 2015 a group of 32 people set off on the journey to the French twin city of Toulon. The focus this time was once again on meeting with people which is why particular value is always placed on accommodation in French host families. “Each family offered one day for their guests in a very personal way, be it with a trip to the seaside, a wine tasting in a Provencal village or a visit to the Toulon Opera – the important thing was always a shared experience and having time for each other, in order to get to know each other better,” summarises Silke Beck, chairperson of the St. Lioba Waldhof-St. Thérèse Toulon partnership. A high point of this year’s trip was the shared Ascension Day service in the St. Thérèse partner parish.





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- 1 Visit to the Ram Bam Hospital in Haifa as part of the school visit by the Friedrich-List school from Mannheim to the Israeli Kiryat Haim
- 2 Student exchange on the issue of "friendship and youth" in Chişinău with students from the Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium, Mannheim
- 3 The St. Lioba church community from Mannheim visiting the partner parish of St. Thérèse on the occasion of the Ascension Day service in Toulon



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## ENCOUNTERS SUPPORTED IN THE PARTNER AND FRIENDSHIP CITIES

// School visit to Toulon by the Werner-von-Siemens-Schule to the Lycée Professionnel Georges Cisson (March 2015 / March 2016)

// School visits to Toulon by the Justus-von-Liebig-Schule to the Lycée des métiers de l'hôtellerie et du tourisme (March 2015 / April 2016)

// School visit to Toulon by the Feudenheim Gymnasium to the Collège Maurice Ravel (April 2015)

// Delegation from the Tulla-Realschule Mannheim in order to establish a schools partnership in Klaipėda (April 2015)

// School visits to Toulon by the Lessing-Gymnasium to the Lycée Dumont d'Urville (April 2015 / March 2016)

// School visit to Haifa by the Lessing-Gymnasium to the Leo-Beack Education Center Haifa (April 2015 / May 2016)

// School visit to Haifa by the Friedrich-List-Schule to the Kiryat Haim School (April 2015 / November 2016)

// School visit to Chişinău by the Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium to the Liceul Teoretic Mihail Kogalniceanu (May 2015 / April 2016)

// School visit to Toulon by the Johann-Sebastian-Bach-Gymnasium to the Lycée Bonaparte and the Lycée Rouvière (September 2015)

// Meeting between the parish of St. Thérèse in Toulon and the parish of St. Lioba (May 2015 / October 2015)

// Meeting of the associations PLUS e.V. (Psychologische Lesben und Schwulenberatung Rhein-Neckar e. V. – Psychological lesbian and gay counselling association) and PEACH in Haifa (June 2015)

// School visit to Haifa by the Karl-Friedrich-Gymnasium to the Hugim High School Haifa (March 2016)

// Exchange between the Europäische Jungakademiker Gesellschaft e. V. (EJAG) and an Israeli student group in Haifa (May 2016)

// School visit to Toulon by the Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium to the Collège Bon Accueil (June 2016)

// Visit to Bydgoszcz by the Mannheim-Ludwigshafen German-Polish Society and the Polish-German Society of Bydgoszcz on the 25-year anniversary of the foundation of the Mannheim-Bydgoszcz city partnership (September 2016)



**ENCOUNTERS SUPPORTED IN MANNHEIM**

// Visit by the Feudenheimer Gymnasium to the Collège Maurice Ravel (February 2015)

// Visits between the Lessing-Gymnasium and the Lycée Dumont d'Urville from Toulon (February 2015 / February 2016)

// Visit by the Johann-Sebastian-Bach-Gymnasium to the Lycée Bonaparte and Lycée Rouvière of Toulon (March 2015)

// Visits between the Werner-von-Siemens-Schule and the Lycée Professionnel Georges Cisson of Toulon (April 2015 / April 2016)

// Visit by the Karl-Friedrich-Gymnasium to the Hugim High School of Haifa (May 2015)

// Visit by the Karl-Friedrich-Gymnasium to Zhenjiang High School (July 2015)

// Visits between the Friedrich-List-Schule and the Kiryat Haim School of Haifa (July 2015/July 2016)

// Visit by the "Live" dance studio from Riesa to the Mannheim-Gartenstadt Association (August 2015)

// School visits between the Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium and the Liceul Teoretic Mihail Kogalniceanu School of Chişinău (October 2015 / September 2016)

// School visit by the Lessing Gymnasium to the Leo-Baeck- Education Center of Haifa (December 2015)

// Visit by a youth ice hockey team from Klaipėda to the ELZ Jungadler Mannheim e. V. (February 2016)

// School visit by the Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium to the Collège Bon Accueil of Toulon (April 2016)

// Visit by members of the St. Thérèse parish from Toulon to the St. Lioba parish in Mannheim (May 2016)

// Visit between the Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium and the Deutsche Schule Beyoğlu (June 2016)

// Visit between the associations PLUS e.V. (Psychologische Lesben und Schwulenberatung Rhein-Neckar – Psychological lesbian and gay counselling association) and Peach Haifa (August 2016)

// Visit between the Polish-German Society of Bydgoszcz and the German-Polish Society of Mannheim-Ludwigshafen on the occasion of the 25-year anniversary of the foundation of the Mannheim-Bydgoszcz city partnership (September 2016)

// Visit by the Ursulinen-Gymnasium to the Collegium Catholicum Bydgosciense of Bydgoszcz (September 2016)

**Total funding 2015:** € 20,007  
**Total funding 2016:** € 21,188



*International Shrovetide tournament for U12 ice hockey youth teams in Mannheim*

## // SPORT ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS /

In February 2016, the youth ice hockey team Jungadler Mannheim e.V. welcomes the hockey team HC Klaipėda from Mannheim's Lithuanian twin city for the first time. The team accepted the invitation from the Mannheimers to take part together in the international Shrove tournament for U12 ice hockey youth teams whose patron is Mayor Dr Kurz. As well as preparing intensively for the tournament, the teams also had the opportunity to meet and get to know each other outside of the sports setting. The programme also included a tour of the city and trips around Mannheim for all team members to enjoy together. It quickly became clear that their shared enthusiasm for the sport of ice hockey united the young sports people despite the language barrier.

In the end, the two teams faced each other in the final game of the tournament in which the guests from Klaipėda were defeated 1-4 by the Jungadler team. They took sixth place in the tournament. At the end of the tournament the Mannheimers came out on top by just two points. "Despite the long bus journey, the HC Klaipėda team played a great tournament. We have made some great new friends and were able to help them get to know a little better their twin city, Mannheim," summarised youth team manager Sandra Bender. The Jungadler hope to be able to welcome the Lithuanian team to the tournament again next year.

**You will find detailed final reports and further information on applying for grants online at:**  
**// [mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/europa-und-internationales](http://mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/europa-und-internationales)**

## // “SOMETHING’S GOING ON” /

The association PLUS (Psychologische Lesben- und Schwulenberatung Rhein-Neckar e.V. – Psychological lesbian and gay counselling association) not only advises and supports gay men, lesbians and people with a non-heterosexual orientation in Mannheim and the surrounding area, but also places value on an intercultural perspective. In 2015, therefore it initiated an exchange with youth group PEACH from the Israeli twin city of Haifa. PLUS director Margret Göth tells us about her experiences and impressions.



PLUS e.V. and PEACH Haifa with their joint float on Christopher Street Day (CSD) in Mannheim

**>> Ms Göth, how did the contact with Haifa come about?**

*<< In the preceding years we had already had a very interesting and exciting exchange with gay and lesbian youth groups from our Polish twin city of Bydgoszcz. And so we hit upon the idea – also inspired by our meeting with two Jewish artists – that we could initiate a similar project with Israel. It seemed obvious that we should start looking in Haifa, Mannheim’s Israeli twin city. And so we came across the PEACH initiative which offers a similar range of services to gay, lesbian and queer young people in Haifa as we do here in Mannheim.*

**>> What were the next steps?**

*<< We applied for funding through the EU programme “Youth for Europe” and fortunately were approved so that in June 2015 eleven young people and accompanying adults were able to travel to Israel for ten days. Whilst there, we not only spent time with our hosts from PEACH in Haifa, we also had the opportunity to take part in Gay Pride in Tel Aviv. In August 2016, eleven guests from Haifa then came to us and we took part together in Christopher Street Day with our own float. The City of Mannheim also supported us in all of this, primarily in the form of an official reception and with free gifts such as a historic city tour and a visit to the Luisenpark including a trip up the TV tower, which our guests enjoyed very much.*

**>> According to what you have seen, what is the situation for gays and lesbians in Israel?**

*<< In our experience, on the one hand there are many opportunities and a lot of support for the gay community in Israel. The city of Tel Aviv in particular is very open and tolerant. For example, Gay Pride in Tel Aviv is organised by the city administration! In Haifa on the other hand our impression was that although there are opportunities, there are also hurdles. Our impression was, for example, that it has not yet been possible to have much dialogue with the city administration. In addition, particularly for young people from Arab families as well as from Jewish families who have emigrated from Eastern Europe to Israel, it is often difficult to openly acknowledge their sexual orientation. With regard to this group in particular, PEACH is doing outstanding work.*

**>> What have you taken with you from the exchange?**

*<< We were impressed by the openness in Haifa with regard to the multitude of cultures which come together there. This is true for life in general, but also very particularly for the work of PEACH. Conversely, our partners in Haifa have told us that things are beginning to move a little within the city administration and they are more open to the concerns of PEACH. This can certainly be attributed to our visit because at that time we had the opportunity together with our Israeli friends to have a dialogue with the individuals responsible from the administration.*

**// [plus-mannheim.de](http://plus-mannheim.de)**

**HAIFA HAS BEEN A TWIN CITY TO MANNHEIM SINCE 2009. THE INDUSTRIAL AND PORT CITY HAS A POPULATION OF 278,000 MAKING IT ISRAEL’S THIRD LARGEST CITY AND IS KNOWN WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND BEYOND AS BEING COSMOPOLITAN AND MULTICULTURAL.**

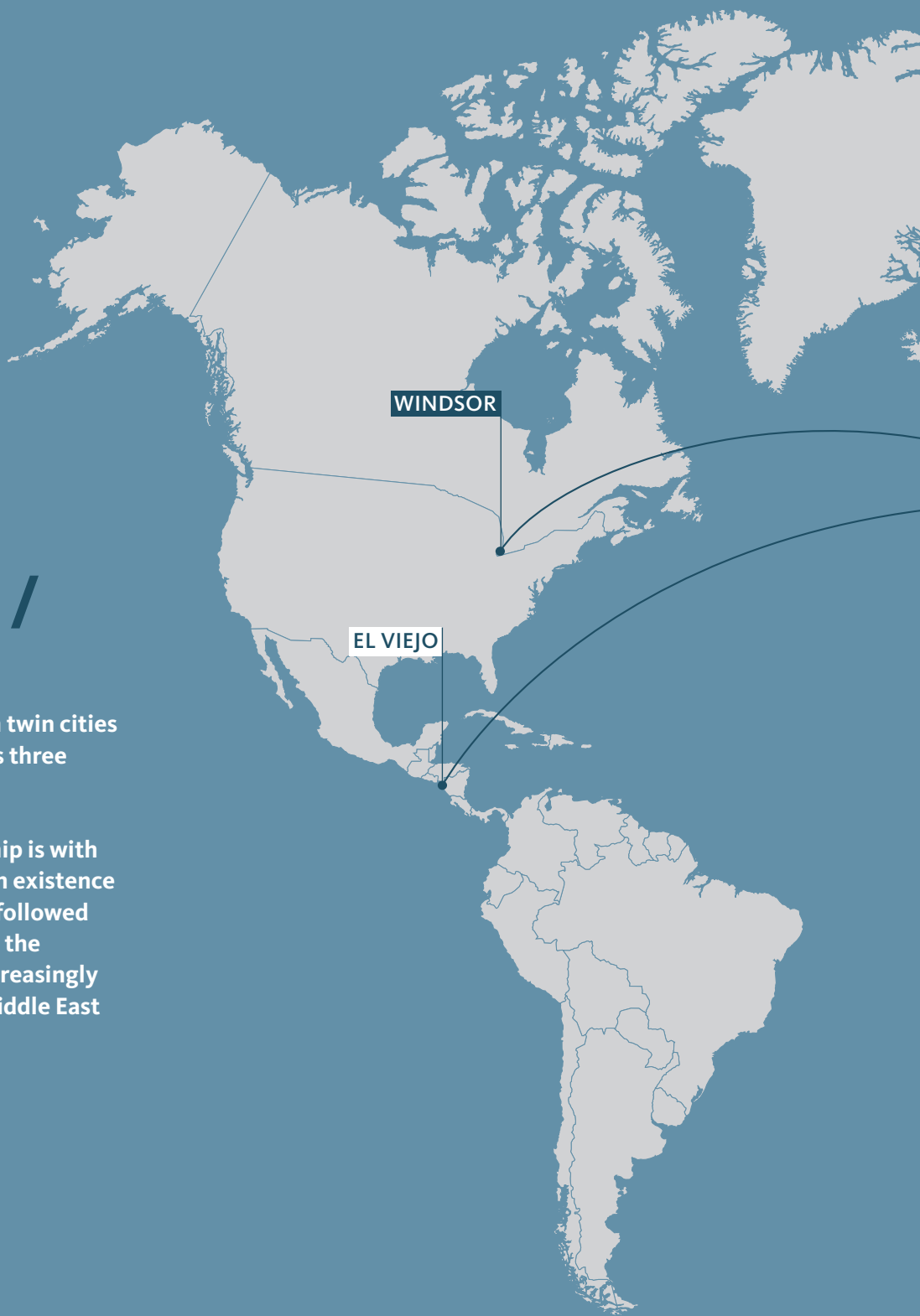




## // GLOBAL NETWORK /

Mannheim has a total of eleven twin cities and two friendship cities across three continents.

The longest standing partnership is with Swansea in Wales. It has been in existence since 1957. Just two years later followed the contract with Toulon. Since the 1980s we have been looking increasingly towards Eastern Europe, the Middle East and China.



### / TWIN CITIES

**BERLIN –  
CHARLOTTENBURG-  
WILMERSDORF  
GERMANY**  
Population 326,000  
Twin city since 1962

**BYDGOSZCZ  
POLAND**  
Population 356,000  
Twin city since 1991

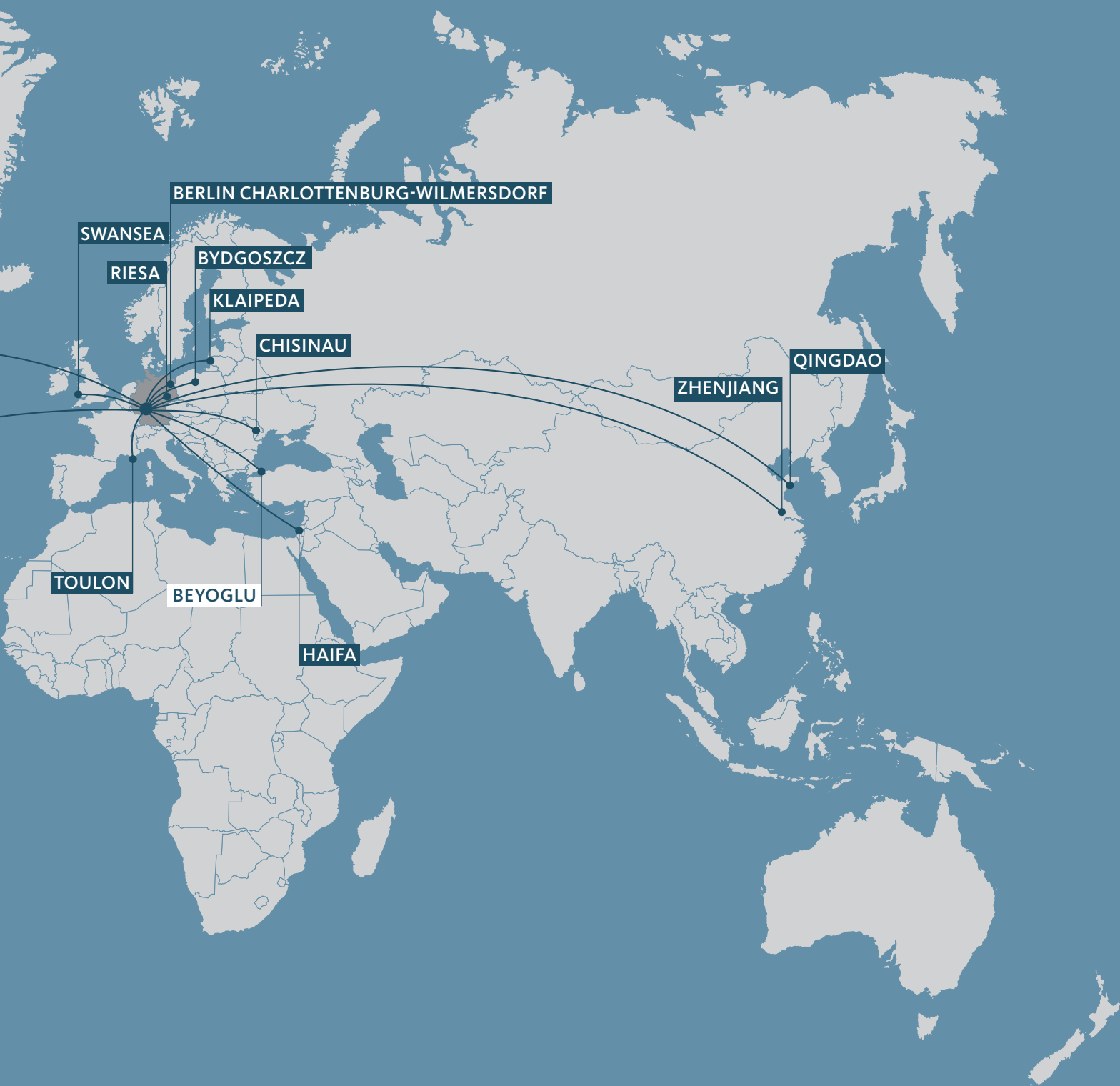
**HAIFA  
ISRAEL**  
Population 278,000  
Twin city since 2009

**QINGDAO  
CHINA**  
Population 9,046,200  
Twin city since 2016

**CHISINAU  
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**  
Population 723,500  
Twin city since 1989

**KLAIPEDA  
LITHUANIA**  
Population 157,000  
Twin city since 2002

**RIESA  
GERMANY**  
Population 31,000  
Twin city since 1988



/ FRIENDSHIP CITIES

**SWANSEA**  
**GREAT BRITAIN**  
 Population 242,000  
 Twin city since 1957

**WINDSOR**  
**CANADA**  
 Population 211,000  
 Twin city since 1980

**BEYOGLU**  
**TURKEY**  
 Population 246,000  
 Friendship city since 2011

**TOULON**  
**FRANCE**  
 Population 164,000  
 Twin city since 1959

**ZHENJIANG**  
**CHINA**  
 Population 3,113,000  
 Twin city since 2004

**EL VIEJO**  
**NICARAGUA**  
 Population 84,000  
 Friendship city since 1989

## // EQUAL EXCHANGE //

Since 2016 the Chinese city of Qingdao has been an official twin city of Mannheim. As part of a two-week long work exchange, Dr Hanno Ehrbeck, head of the construction planning, urban design and noise protection department within the town planning division, was able to find out about town planning over there. In our interview, he tells us about his impressions from China.

**>> Why did you decide on Qingdao as the city for your professional exchange amongst all of Mannheim's twin cities?**

*<< The whole world of town planning is currently looking at China with excitement. A lot is changing there, things can look very different in just five years. Also, it appealed to me to get to know town planning in a completely different cultural context. An exchange in a twin city like Swansea or Toulon would not have offered this.*

**>> How did the exchange unfold?**

*<< I first spent a week in Qingdao and spoke with colleagues in the city administration and at the Sino-German Ecopark. In Qingdao, I was able to look at actual plans and new-build areas. Then I spent a week in Beijing and spoke with the state urbanisation authority there. This helped me to put my impressions from Qingdao into a larger context. Meetings I had at German planning bureaus, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation were also interesting. You sometimes find out more about the political background from Europeans in China than from official offices. Town planning is a sensitive issue in China.*

**>> Why sensitive?**

*<< The political context is different from here where town planning takes place publicly; the council debates and decides, the plans are published, there is consultation and intensive civic discussion. China's political system continues to be defined by the leadership of the CP. In addition, the leadership there is under time pressure and the issue of urbanisation is closely linked with politically tricky questions such as landownership and freedom of movement. According to estimates, in the next 20 years a further 250 million people will flow from the countryside into the urban centres. These masses require living space, jobs, transportation and social infrastructure. China stands at a crossroads – it must deal successfully with this upheaval without it leading to the creation of fault lines in society.*

**>> What are the concrete challenges here?**

*<< The Chinese are currently occupied with many issues at once which have arisen for us at intervals over time. There is industrialisation and massive city growth as there was during the 19th century entrepreneurial boom in Germany, the vision of the car-friendly city is reminiscent*



1

*of Germany in the 1950s and many large-scale housing developments are springing up as they did with us in the 1960s and 70s.*

**>> So are German and Chinese town planning approaches similar?**

*<< The fundamental questions are the same. It's about how to enable living, working, transportation and quality of life whilst the available space is finite, particularly in areas of high population density. However, the answers are significantly different because the economic, political and cultural context is fundamentally different. We would not plan blocks of flats on a grid layout.*

**>> How did you find these differences?**

*<< It was exciting to walk through neighbourhoods with Chinese town planners. What we see as lively neighbourhoods with lots of little shops, our colleagues over there perceived primarily as a backward area. Much of these areas is then ruthlessly sanitised and renovated. At the same time, the Chinese are becoming more and more conscious of the fact that in doing so they are losing a piece of their history. In Qingdao for example they decided early on to retain buildings and neighbourhoods from the colonial period.*

**>> How did you communicate over there?**

*<< There are Chinese colleagues who speak English or German because they have studied or worked in Europe. But there were language barriers, too, particularly when we had an interpreter. Town planners have their own way of thinking and a great number of technical terms. Sometimes we planners first had to explain to the interpreter what we meant or wanted to ask. With our colleagues, it was an exciting exchange between equals.*

**>> What do you take away with you from your professional exchange?**

*<< As a town planner in China you are confronted with radically different answers to questions of urban development. This is unsettling at first in a positive way – you have to once again fundamentally investigate and interrogate your own convictions. At the same time, you ask yourself how you would act in the same context. And in the end, it's about totally similar issues, if on a completely different scale: how, for example, can we create new living space and what density is possible in doing so without negatively influencing people's quality of life?*





## PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENTS

The City of Mannheim offers its employees the opportunity to complete a placement in one of our twin cities.

The aim of the placement is for participants to considerably expand their intercultural and foreign language skills, to gain insights into another type of administration and to participate in ongoing projects and events within the twin cities.



## // IN THE MIDDLE OF CANADA /

Christoph Nolte studied "Public Economics" at the Duale Hochschule Mannheim and with the City of Mannheim. As part of his degree he spent seven weeks on a professional exchange with the city administration of our Canadian twin city of Windsor in summer 2016 (July/August). In the Environmental Service department, he had the opportunity to implement a project on the issue of recycling. In addition, he took part as a volunteer helper in the first "Open Street" event in Windsor. "I found Windsor to be an open and welcoming city, heavily influenced by Detroit but nevertheless typically Canadian," Nolte describes his impressions. The city, with a population of 211,000, lies directly on the Detroit River opposite the US city of Detroit. The multicultural city is shaped by immigrants – Italians and Lebanese in particular form large immigrant groups. "People seem to me to live together in harmony," reports Nolte. "I always felt safe in Windsor." As well as his professional exchange, Nolte also had the opportunity to take advantage of the many sports and cultural activities on offer in the region and to explore the impressive landscape of Ontario and nearby cities such as Toronto and Chicago.

## // ON THE BOSPHORUS /

From October to December 2015, Philipp Spiegel completed a foreign work experience placement in Beyoğlu as part of his vocational degree studies. This district of Istanbul has almost 250,000 inhabitants and since 2011 has been cultivating an intensive exchange with Mannheim. During his internship, Philipp Spiegel worked in the International Relations department. He supported his Turkish colleagues in the organisation of delegations and foreign trips, translated correspondence with other twin cities and established a database with all of Beyoğlu's contacts abroad. In addition, he had the opportunity to accompany a Berlin delegation during their two-week professional development visit. "That was a great opportunity for me to gain a comprehensive insight into the work of Istanbul's city administration," reports Spiegel. Alongside "classic" departments such as "Security and Order", "Citizens' Office" or "Job Centre" the Mannheimer also was introduced to special projects such as a "social market" in which people in need are able to shop using coupons. "My time in Istanbul was exciting, interesting and above all educational," Spiegel sums up.

## // WELCOME TO WALES /

It was "Joio Abertawe!" – Welsh for "Long live Swansea!" – for Laura Banacki in August/September 2015. The former events management student who completed a vocational degree with the City of Mannheim, spent five weeks on a work experience placement hosted by Mannheim's twin city in Wales. Banacki supported Swansea city council's special events team in their preparations for and organisation of company conferences, weddings, press conferences and special events. These include the annual "Drink & Food Market", the "Beer Festival" and the classical open-air concert series the "BBC Proms" which also takes place simultaneously in London, Glasgow and Belfast and is broadcast live by the BBC. Another important event is the "Admiral Swansea 10k", a 10-km run along Swansea's promenade with over 1,300 participants. "Through my foreign work placement in Swansea I was able not only to gain new experiences in event and culture management but also to get to know and value Welsh culture," summarises Laura Banacki.

- 1 On the building site – Dr Hanno Ehrbeck with a Chinese site foreman at the Sino-German Ecopark in Qingdao
- 2 Thumbs up – Christoph Nolte in front of Windsor town hall
- 3 Lunchbreak in Beyoğlu – Philipp Spiegel (left) with colleagues
- 4 Welsh moments: Swansea harbour

## // EUROPE IN OUR SIGHTS //



The City of Mannheim values European perspectives. Alongside regular exchange with our European twin cities, the city pursues a comprehensive strategy to implement municipal projects which improve the quality of life in Mannheim and the way that people live together, with the aid of EU funding. Examples here are the projects “ZuwaMa – integration project for migrants from south-eastern Europe in Mannheim” and “ANIMA – Arrival in Mannheim” which have as their objective the integration of migrants from south-eastern Europe.

But our EU activities are not limited solely to the acquisition of funding. The City of Mannheim is also actively involved in EUROCITIES, the network of European cities. This network not only ensures intense exchange between the cities on current issues such as traffic, climate protection, economic promotion or education. EUROCITIES also ensures that the interests of the local authorities are understood at the EU level and brings local authority positions actively into the legislative process.

Mannheim has a total of seven departments active in the EUROCITIES network, whereby the Office for European and International Affairs is the first point of contact for our EUROCITIES participation. This is where the threads come together, the office provides information and creates contacts with experts in other member cities.



## // EXEMPLARY STRATEGY //

Mannheim has successfully handled structural transformation, primarily through innovation, start-ups and internationalisation – and at the same time benefited from EU funding which has been acquired in a targeted way as part of an overall municipal strategy since 2000. This approach is seen as an example across Europe. Hence Mannheim's First Deputy Mayor Christian Specht's participation in an EU conference on regional policy and urban development in the Romanian capital Bucharest at the start of October 2016. Specht was at the same time also representing the EUROCITIES network of European cities, which sees itself as a representative of the cities at the European Union level.

In his presentation, which enjoyed an audience of around 250 mayors from across Europe, Specht explained the benefits of the Mannheim strategy. "European regional policy has a considerable leverage effect because it triggers investments which go far beyond public funding. It functions as a catalyst and accelerator by promoting the introduction of new ideas and strategies." At the same time, Specht continued, it renders European policy visible which makes it an important source of acceptance for the European idea – particularly at the moment when the United Kingdom is leaving the Union and there is increasing division within Europe."

## // VALUABLE NETWORK //

EUROCITIES is a network of European cities to which the City of Mannheim has belonged since 2009. In 2016 the city took part in two important EUROCITIES conferences. At the EUROCITIES Mobility Forum, which took place in the Finnish city of Tampere in October, Christian Specht, First Deputy Mayor of the City of Mannheim, was elected deputy chairman of the expert panel. "By bringing in other stakeholders and technologies, Mannheim could further strengthen its position as a central hub in the trans-European transport network," emphasised Specht.

At the annual conference, for which the EUROCITIES network invited members to Milan in November, Specht similarly represented Mannheim. Under the heading "Sharing Cities", models for a sharing economy for the areas of transportation, living, working and food provision were presented. Enormous growth is expected in this area thanks to the rapid pace of digitalisation which nevertheless also presents risks, as Specht pointed out. "Digitalisation is a challenge for European cities which must be overcome together." Public spaces and important data must not be left to corporations, he said. Rather, public authorities should at an early stage create the conditions and strategies to enable fair competition.

Overall the Deputy Mayor was able to summarise the EUROCITIES commitment positively. "EUROCITIES is increasingly included in EU legislative processes. By participating actively and regularly in conferences and expert forums, Mannheim will be able to be heard at the European level."

// [mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/europaeische-netzwerke](http://mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/europaeische-netzwerke)



*Around 250 mayors from across Europe as well as urban development experts took part in the EU conference in Bucharest*



*First Deputy Mayor Christian Specht presents Mannheim's Europe strategy at the EU conference*



*Participants in the annual EUROCITIES conference in Milan, including First Deputy Mayor Christian Specht*

## // SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATION /



Preslava Sayvanska (left) with her ANIMA colleagues

**As part of “ANIMA – Arrival in Mannheim” the City of Mannheim provides advice and support to immigrants from south-eastern Europe. An interview with project worker Preslava Sayvanska.**

**>> Ms Sayvanska, what are the typical issues which migrants from Bulgaria and Romania bring to you?**

*<< For new arrivals it is firstly about finding their way around here: what authorities are there, what support can I get and where, what are the prospects for work, accommodation and – with families – for schools and nurseries? Most people who come to us for the first time can in the beginning unfortunately barely speak any German. We offer them orientation and also accompany them to the appropriate institutions and authorities. We also refer those seeking work to German courses via the Job Centre.*

**>> So are there enough jobs for the immigrants from south-eastern Europe who come to you?**

*<< The majority of people coming to us from Bulgaria are part of the Turkish-speaking minority in the south-east of the country. They are therefore usually employed by the numerous Turkish companies which exist in Mannheim – the men primarily in the building trade, the women in cleaning work. Most of them have only a little formal education because they come from rural regions of the country with very weak economic development.*

**>> From your experience, what are the reasons why people are leaving their homes and coming to Germany?**

*<< The main reason has to be the poverty in these regions, which is difficult for us to imagine – connected with a profound lack of prospects. There is simply no work and even basic agriculture is difficult there. This is why the people would rather live in Germany, even if their situation here is precarious. From families in particular we also hear that the parents are willing to accept the risk and uncertainty associated with immigrating to a foreign land so that they can offer their children better prospects. The hope is that they will have a better life than their parents, someday.*

**>> How is your offer of assistance accepted overall?**

*<< We at the ANIMA advice centre at the Neckarstadt-West neighbourhood management office have now provided help in approximately 300 cases and are currently advising around 50 families – with the trend continuing upward. In addition, the ANIMA project has a further four advice centres in the neighbourhoods of Westliche Unterstadt, Jungbusch, Rheinau and Schönau – and there, too, there is enormous demand for our services. So there is still a lot to do!*

**// [mannheim.de/buerger-sein/anima-ankommen-mannheim](http://mannheim.de/buerger-sein/anima-ankommen-mannheim)**

### EU FUNDED PROJECTS IN MANNHEIM

In 2015 the City of Mannheim made two successful applications for EU funded programmes in order to promote the integration of new arrivals from south-eastern Europe into society and the job market.

#### ZUWAMA project

**Title** “ZuwaMa – Integrationsprojekt für Zuwanderer aus Südosteuropa in Mannheim” (integration project for immigrants from south-eastern Europe in Mannheim)

**Objectives** To improve the job opportunities for immigrants in the Jungbusch/Verbindungskanal district and neighbouring areas

**Activities** Individual advice on employment integration, language training, referral to trial placements

**Partners** City of Mannheim, Mannheim Job Centre, BIOTOPIA employment support services

**Funders** European Social Fund (ESS), Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)

**Project period** 01.08.2015 to 31.12.2018

**Funding** ESF: approx. €910,000

BMUB: approx. €730,000

Project partner contribution: approx. €160,000

#### ANIMA project

**Title** “ANIMA- Ankommen in Mannheim” (Arrival in Mannheim)

**Objectives** Advice and support to immigrants in difficult social circumstances with the aim of achieving integration and preventing organised exploitation

**Activities** Advice centres established in five districts

**Partners** City of Mannheim, Caritasverband Mannheim e. V., Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche Mannheim, Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband

**Funding** Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD), Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS)

**Project period** 01.01.2016 to 31.12.2018

**Funding** FEAD: approx. €133,000

BMAS: approx. €8000

Project partner contribution: approx. €49,000

## // OUR PARTNERS IN MANNHEIM //

**Mannheim is a cosmopolitan city. Proof of this is not least the numerous associations and institutions which, with their frequently voluntary commitment, support and expand the city's international networking.**



*Major celebration on Toulonplatz to celebrate France's national day*

Mannheim's associations and institutions play a central role when it comes to the city's international relationships. They make an important contribution to internationalisation and intercultural understanding with their activities and encounters and they promote friendly relationships between people from Mannheim and those from international partner cities. We would like to present a few of our Mannheim partner organisations as examples here. We thank them and all our other partners which we are unable to name here for their enormous commitment!

### **Förderverein Städtepartnerschaften Mannheim e.V.**

The Förderverein Städtepartnerschaften Mannheim e.V. (Mannheim Twinning Association), founded in 2002, supports the international relationships of the City of Mannheim with its twin and friendship cities with ideas as well as organisational and financial contributions. The association organises its own events and supports the activities of other associations which serve to expand and cultivate contact with our partner cities.

The Twinning Association helps in the hosting of groups from twin and friendship cities invited by the City of Mannheim. In addition, it supports associations, organisations and institutions in coming together in a spirit of partnership. In collaboration with counterpart friendship associations in other cities, the Förderverein offers citizens trips to our twin and friendship cities.

[// partnerstadt-mannheim.de/](http://partnerstadt-mannheim.de/)



### **Institut Français**

The "Institut Français Mannheim – Deutsch-Französisches Kulturzentrum in der Europäischen Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar e.V." (German-French cultural centre) sees as its task the strengthening of the international profile of the City of Mannheim and the advancement of German-French relationships. As a contribution to the economic and cultural internationalisation of the city, the Institute promotes intercultural understanding and supports collaboration at the interface between culture and economy. The organisation's activities focus on the three pillars of the language learning centre, intercultural skills and German-French cultural work.

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



### **Deutsch-Polnische Gesellschaft Mannheim-Ludwigshafen e.V.**

The German-Polish Society (DPG) Mannheim-Ludwigshafen was founded in 1980 with the objective of working for understanding between Germans and Poles. The DPG can take the credit for neighbours becoming partners and friends. The association has been particularly committed to the promotion of the city partnership between Mannheim and Bydgoszcz. The desire for good relationships between neighbours also brings in people who come from Poland and now live in Mannheim and the Rhine-Neckar region. The intention of the DPG is to contribute to the visibility of the Polish minority with their culture and their economic and social activities.

[// dpg-mannheim.de/](http://dpg-mannheim.de/)



DEUTSCH-POLNISCHE GESELLSCHAFT  
MANNHEIM-LUDWIGSHAFEN e.V.  
Towarzystwo Niemiecko-Polskie s.r.  
Mannheim-Ludwigshafen T.z.



## // GLOBAL COMMITMENT //



The City of Mannheim has an excellent global network. As well as partnership relationships with cities in Canada, Nicaragua, Israel/Palestine and China, the city is also engaged in a range of international networks.

Since December 2014, as a “UNESCO City of Music”, Mannheim has been active in the UNESCO “Creative Cities Network” and has continuously expanded this commitment ever since. For example, in February 2016 the city organised an important UN event with the “Urban Thinkers Campus”. In October 2016, Mayor Dr Peter Kurz travelled to the Habitat III conference in the Ecuadorian capital Quito and gave a well-received speech at the “World Assembly of Mayors”.

Another important network is the “Global Parliament of Mayors” which was founded in The Hague in September 2016 and to which Mannheim, as one of over 60 founder members worldwide, belongs. This network has as one of its objectives to lobby for cities on a global level. Another objective is to rapidly develop approaches and concepts for local authority issues through mutual exchange.

These international perspectives are also reflected in many projects and activities here in Mannheim. The 2015 New Year reception under the heading “The International City” is one example here, or the short film festival “Bermuda Shorts” at which filmmakers from Mannheim’s twin cities presented their work.

## // GLOBALLY CONNECTED /

**Over half the world's population today lives in cities – and the trend is upwards. This development brings with it enormous challenges for urban societies. The City of Mannheim is therefore actively involved in the international urbanisation debate at the United Nations (UN).**

In 2016 there were two important dates on the agenda in matters of global networking: in February Mannheim – as the first and so far only German city to do so – organised an Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC). In October, Mayor Dr Peter Kurz travelled to the third UN-conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) in the Ecuadorian capital of Quito.

Cities will in future play a larger role around the world and also have the financial opportunities. The United Nations three-day Urban Thinkers Campus, entitled “Urban Citizenship in a Nomadic World”, in Mannheim came to a close with this prediction. In a “Mannheim manifesto” the large majority of the around 480 participants committed themselves to significantly increasing the participation of citizens in cities in the future. “We require a transformation in the policy from the top towards more participation from the bottom,” said urban researcher Charles Landry, who spoke throughout the Campus.

The Urban Thinkers Campus is a series of conferences by the United Nations in which local and international experts are able to exchange on issues of urbanisation. Participants from Mannheim's twin cities of Beyoğlu, Bydgoszcz, Windsor and Zhenjiang also took active part in the workshops. Mayor Dr Peter Kurz travelled with the concrete findings from the Mannheim manifesto to the Habitat III conference in Quito as an official member of the German delegation in October 2016. There, as one of only 40 mayors at the World Assembly of Mayors opened by UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon, he had the opportunity to make a plea for the significance of cities. “Cities are the development actors in a better position than any other level to involve people and to cooperate with other social powers,” emphasised the mayor in his statement.

“The conference is a sign of the value placed on local authorities by the UN, UN Habitat and our host, Ecuador. It offers the opportunity to form networks and gives inspiration for continuing work within the UN member states,” is how Kurz summarised the results. “At the same time, we were able to increase the visibility of Mannheim at the international and – as a member of the German delegation – national level.”

// [mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/urban-thinkers-campus](http://mannheim.de/stadt-gestalten/urban-thinkers-campus)



Mayor Dr Kurz opens the Urban Thinkers Campus in Mannheim

UN HABITAT IS THE HOUSING AND SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH HEADQUARTERS IN NAIROBI, KENYA, AND REGIONAL BUREAUS IN JAPAN, BRAZIL AND EGYPT. ALONGSIDE THE THREE WORLD SETTLEMENT SUMMITS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE SO FAR, THE PROGRAMME ALSO ORGANISES THE WORLD URBAN FORUM EVERY TWO YEARS, IN A DIFFERENT CITY EACH TIME.



Anna-Lisa Boni, EURO CITIES general secretary, at the Urban Thinkers Campus

# // INTERNATIONAL MANNHEIM – OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES //

In November 2016, the administration introduced a comprehensive information document on the “Objectives and Priorities of the International Relationships of the City of Mannheim” (V558/2016). The background to this was the commission from the council to present a concept with which the objectives and priorities of the existing city partnerships could be “filled with life” within the available budget. Using the document presented, the administration established the basic principles for an internationalisation strategy.

The document defines a total of four objectives for international local authority collaboration which the City of Mannheim would like to achieve in the cultivation of international relationships:

## **1. PROMOTING INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING**

Intercultural competence is a necessary set of skills for successful and appropriate interaction with people from different cultural backgrounds, both at work as well as in everyday life. The process of acquiring intercultural skills requires emotional competence and intercultural sensitivity.

Direct meetings with people from different countries and cultural circles expand intercultural understanding and break down prejudices. Of particular relevance, here is the target group of young people. The “Guidelines for the Funding of Citizen Encounters with Mannheim’s Twin and Friendship Cities” in 2015 for example promoted 20 citizen encounters with twin cities. Around 600 people, primarily young people, were able to take part in funded international exchange projects. The content of the exchange programme must be examined in order to receive funding by the City of Mannheim. Pure tourism programmes are not supported.

## **LOGICAL FRAMEWORK APPROACH**

The City of Mannheim has declared that it intends to implement primarily strategic, international projects with defined goals which comply with the international standards for decentralised cooperation – in particular the Logical Framework Approach (LFA).

USAID commissioned the development of the LFA in the 1960s in order to improve the planning and evaluation of international projects. USAID is the US American authority for international development responsible to the State Department. At the centre of the approach is the determination of overarching objectives, specific project objectives, activities and verifiable indicators. This ensures that only those projects which have a clearly verifiable benefit are implemented.



*More and more local authorities are committing to sustainable global development. Agenda 2030, approved by the United Nations in September 2015, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also increases yet further the significance of the commitment by local authorities to development and sustainability policy.*



## 2. BOOSTING MANNHEIM AS A BUSINESS LOCATION

The cultivation and expansion of international relationships directly and indirectly serve to boost Mannheim's position as an international business location.

Indirectly, international contacts and cooperations symbolise the openness and internationality of the local authority and are perceived as a positive factor. Significant representatives of German business have repeatedly expressed how significant an open, tolerant and Europe-friendly attitude is for Germany as a business location.

In addition, international contacts with cities in highly developed industrialised nations or in emerging markets in particular make a direct contribution to increasing the exports of local companies and to creating new jobs in Mannheim.

As part of the EU funded Medical Technology Business Development Centre, the City of Mannheim has for example established a Business Development Office for International Product Development and Marketing. The objective is to drive forward the internationalisation of companies in order to secure access to technological, financial, research and development partners in selected innovation and growth regions for both start-ups and existing companies (SMEs) in the medical technology cluster. With our connections to Haifa (Israel), Qingdao and Zhenjiang (China) the City of Mannheim already has formalised city partnerships which could be used to implement this strategy.

## 3. PROMOTING INTER-COMMUNAL LEARNING

On the one hand, cities are facing similar challenges resulting from global trends (climate change, digitalisation, transport, increasing significance of religion etc.). On the other hand, they are in competition with one another, competing for talent and companies, and are therefore obliged to continually improve their service provision.

Mutual inter-communal learning is therefore a further goal in the context of the City of Mannheim's international municipal collaboration. The focus here is on the concrete exchange of information between employees of the City of Mannheim and others.

Professional placements of Mannheim city administration employees in twin cities have proven to be a particularly useful tool here. These are taking place at the level of students and trainees as well as at the level of employees and managers. The placements, often over several weeks, make it possible to gain a comprehensive view of different administrative structures. The knowledge collected is reflected back to Mannheim's city administration and documented, with a focus on the professional.

## 4. IMPLEMENTING GLOBAL OBJECTIVES AT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY LEVEL

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly approved "Agenda 2030". At the heart of the Agenda are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

All levels of government bear responsibility for our "One World". According to the preamble to Agenda 2030, their success depends largely on a wide variety of stakeholders participating in the implementation of the sustainable development goals and on a new spirit of international collaboration being established.

In this context, local authority development policy has an important role to play. The development policy commitment of the local authorities has an impact not only in the respective targeted countries. In particular, by actively including groups of people with a migration background in local authority development cooperation projects, there is stronger recognition of the civic society commitment of citizens with a migration background. This in turn promotes integration and living together on the basis of shared values.

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

## // GLOBAL PLATFORM /

Many challenges arising from globalisation fall particularly on cities and must also be solved there. Faster and better answers through joint action and exchange of experience and more weight given to the experiences and ideas of mayors in global questions are the objectives of the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) which was founded in September 2016 in the Dutch city of The Hague. Over 60 mayors from more than 30 countries were present at the two-day meeting in order to exchange ideas and experiences as well as examples of best practice on issues such as migration and climate change. For the Rhine-Neckar metropolitan region, the mayors of Heidelberg and Mannheim, Dr Eckart Würzner and Dr Peter Kurz, were represented. "The Global Parliament of Mayors is more than just another network of cities," emphasised Kurz. "Its aim is to lobby for the cities and to develop 'local global' approaches by means of exchange on virtual platforms – i.e. without big conferences."



*Founding meeting of the Global Parliament of Mayors in The Hague*

## // INTERNATIONAL NEW YEAR /

"The International City" was the theme of the City of Mannheim's 2015 New Year reception. Around 10,000 citizens accepted the invitation to the Rosengarten from Mayor Dr Peter Kurz. In his address Kurz said that with regard to crises and conflicts it is important to form community. "A failure to work together would not just be a failure to take a positive step, it would be a threat." At the same time, he referred to the values of the open city and to Mannheim's tradition of encountering other people with open hearts and minds. In addition, Kurz underlined the significance of respect which must nevertheless be mutual. "I cannot expect respect if I am not prepared to show respect," the mayor said, and encouraged everyone "to continue to fight for the future of the city – with respect, ideas, commitment, passion and a justified pride in our city." The guests were also able to experience "international Mannheim" in several "talk cafes" with a range of high-quality speakers and listeners. The focus here was on meeting people, their personal experiences, bringing different cultures and ethnicities together and not least experiencing internationality with the senses, for example in the form of international gastronomic specialities. Artists and representatives from the twin cities of Haifa, Zhenjiang and Toulon were also there.



*2015 New Year reception: honouring Mannheim citizens for their volunteer commitment*



*Address by Mayor Dr Kurz at the 2015 New Year reception*

## // SHORT FILMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD /

The guests who had come the furthest to take part in the short film festival "BermudaSHORTS" which took place at the end of September 2015, the delegation from Chinese twin city Qingdao, had travelled a full 9,000 kilometres. A total of 27 short films by filmmakers from Mannheim's twin cities and the Rhine-Neckar metropolitan region competed for the €1000 main prize. The bandwidth of the films ranged from animations ("n gschichtrn" from the Rhine-Neckar metropolitan region) and school dramas ("Nefs" from Beyoğlu) through to art films such as "Borders of the Soul" from Klaipėda. David Linse, head of the International Department and co-organiser of the festival, appeared satisfied. "Our twin and friendship cities were pleased to accept the invitation to Mannheim and travel here with their filmmakers – a good opportunity to further extend Mannheim's cultural network."



*Group photo with roses: the participants and organisers of the "BermudaSHORTS" short film festival*



Do you have any questions on these or other projects?  
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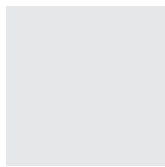
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