



Integrated Urban Health Monitoring: Supporting implementation of Health in All Policies in Bremen for healthy and sustainable urban developmen

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Abstract: The overarching theme of the research cluster is rooted in the international healthy city approach. The framework concept of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is an international vision that aims to reduce health inequalities, support good governance and integrate health and health promotion in all sectors. Since the maintenance and promotion of health depends on decisions from non-health sectors such as the environment, transport, economy, social affairs, etc., it requires an integrated Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach. Central to this is the establishment of cross-departmental cooperation for health promoting urban development. Equally important is the creation of an efficient health care system in which various health professions collaborate and apply diversity sensitive approaches. The new research cluster builds upon these approaches and comprises six interdependent projects. One of them will be described in the following abstract.

Urban environments are posing different challenges and opportunities for health of various population groups. Better understanding of complex urban environments is fundamental for reducing environmental inequalities. It requires integration of spatial, environmental and social factors. Various concepts and indicator systems for urban health and health-promoting urban development are being discussed internationally. In Germany there are different approaches to integrated monitoring that convey health, social and the built environment with the field of environmental justice. In this project, a development of a concept for integrated urban health monitoring in Bremen will be used as a vehicle for cross sectoral cooperation and implementation of the HiAP approach. The project aims at the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary development of a concept for integrated small-scale monitoring to support decision-making in cross-sectoral cooperation for sustainable, climate-resilient and health- promoting urban development. The perspectives of the actors from different sectors and the resident population are integrated in a participatory process that should enable empowerment and equal development opportunities for different population groups. The feasibility of the concept with cross-sectoral data integration will be tested in selected neighbourhoods in Bremen.

Julita Skodra is an urban planner and a postdoctoral researcher in the Research Cluster “Healthy City Bremen”. Her research, at the intersection of urban planning and health and well-being focuses on understanding the conditions necessary for urban transformation towards sustainable, just and healthy neighbourhoods and cities.