

GERMANY



Citizens initiate Sustainability

Context

National SDS was set by the Federal Government in 2002, but shows efficacy constraints regarding the “Länder” and communal level. I. e., there are no possibilities to incite Local Agenda 21 activities. Therefore, the Council for Sustainable Development (RNE) suggested a funding contest which would spread seed money for innovative projects and, at the same time, increase their nationwide visibility.

Description

The Federal Government took up that suggestion by starting “BIN – Bürger initiieren Nachhaltigkeit” along the lines of Federal SD research (highlighting topics as resource productivity, land use, biodiversity, demographic change). A Jury composed by representatives from science and politics chooses up to 20 local projects which are then awarded at the Annual Conference of the RNE in Berlin.

Example and vertical integration

Of particular interest are *new alliances*, i.e. within the project “Lüneburg – City of the Future”, which aims to develop a comprehensive SD strategy for the city of Lüneburg, or within the project “Tracing Sustainability” in Bremen, where new ways of generational dialogue and identity quest are discovered. These civil partnerships meet the Strategy’s claim that SD is a broader societal task.

Outlook

The two first periods of the contest will be evaluated in a federal workshop in autumn 2006. Conclusions for eventual follow-ups will be drawn and communicated with the federal and regional authorities,