

Urban Diplomacy Exchange Partnership Conference Germany – United Kingdom

City partnerships for an inclusive and sustainable future

19-21 June 2023 | Leeds, UK

Duration:	2.5 days
Venue:	Leeds Civic Hall, Calverley Street, Leeds, Yorkshire, United Kingdom, LS1 1UR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 19 and 20 June: Access via the Courtyard On 21 June: Access via the Portland Crescent entrance Delegates with mobility issues are advised to use the Portland Crescent entrance on all days.
Accommodation	Hotel: Ibis Styles Leeds, Wade Lane, Leeds, Yorkshire, UK, LS2 8NJ
Main target group:	City representatives from British and German partner cities (Mayors, municipal staff from relevant city departments)
Responsible for the UDE project:	Livia Pichorner and Ayan Huseynova
Moderator:	Merle Becker

Day 1: Monday, 19 June 2023

13:00 Arrival, registration and welcome lunch

14:00 **Introduction remarks and setting the scene**
Miguel Berger, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Kingdom.

14:20 **Welcoming remarks**

- Host City Leeds
James Lewis, Leader of the Council and the Lord Mayor Al Garthwaite
- Association of German Cities
Lina Furch, Head of the Europe and International Affairs Department and Head of the Brussels Office
- Engagement Global with its Service Agency Communities in One World
Alexander Wagner, Deputy Head of the Department for Thematic Partnerships and International Expert Dialogue

14:40 Presentation of the conference program

14:50 Coffee break

15:15 An excursus into the Urban Diplomacy Exchange Project
Livia Pichorner, Head of Urban Diplomacy Exchange Project

15:30 Partnerships pitch (Part 1) – 6 min per partnership

- Bonn – Oxford
- Darmstadt – Chesterfield
- Dortmund – Leeds
- Essen – Sunderland
- Leipzig – Birmingham
- Ludwigsburg – Caerphilly

- 16:30 Intervention by *Tom Riordan Chief Executive, Leeds City Council* on the importance of city diplomacy and partnerships
- 16:35 Partnerships pitch (Part 2) – 6 min per partnership
- Mannheim – Bristol
 - Stuttgart – Cardiff / St. Helens
 - Tübingen (with County Wesel) – Durham
- 17:10 Closing of Day 1 in plenary and overview of Day 2
- 17:30 Free time
- 18:30 Reception by The German Ambassador, Miguel Berger, The Leader of Leeds City Council, James Lewis and The Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin**
- at the Tiled Hall Café (The Headrow, Leeds LS1 3AA)*
- Reception ends at 21:00***

Day 2: Tuesday, 20 June 2023

Simultaneous interpretation (EN<>DE) in plenary sessions (Civic Hall)

- 08:30 Arrival and registration
- 09:00 Mayors Roundtable (panel in plenary): Keeping societies together – The role of cities in challenging times.**
- 50 min. discussion on 2-3 thematic blocks + open discussion with the plenary audience*
- Birmingham: Councillor Elizabeth Clements
 - Bonn: Deputy Mayor Dr. Ursula Sautter
 - Bristol: Councillor Kye Dudd
 - Caerphilly: Councillor Elizabeth Aldworth
 - Cardiff: Councillor Caro Wild
 - Durham: Councillor Mark Wilkes
 - Leeds: Deputy Leader of the Council Debra Coupar
 - Ludwigsburg: Lord Mayor Dr. Mathias Knecht
 - Oxford: Deputy Leader of the Council Edward Turner

10:30

Coffee break

11:00 **Cities sharing knowledge** (multilateral)

Thematic exchange in group sessions

In these two slots, cities are invited to share current projects and learning experiences from their cities.

Group session 1 (in: The Carriageworks): Urban Diplomacy for social sustainability

Diversity, social inclusion and health, the challenges and opportunities of migration, managing multiculturalism etc.

- Managing multiculturalism – challenges and opportunities for the municipal health care sector
City of Leipzig, Constanze Anders, Head of Public Health Department
- From multiculturalism to interculturalism – social cohesion and challenges of far-right extremism
City of Leeds, Nadeem Siddique, Head of Service Community Relations & Cohesion
- Adult education for social inclusion and integration
City of Rochdale, Helen Chicot, Reform and Prevention Lead

Group session 2 (in: Civic Hall): Urban Diplomacy for ecological sustainability

Sustainable urban transformation, sustainable mobility, biodiversity and climate adaptation etc.

Climate adaptation:

- Greening the city: Horizon 2020 Food Trails Project
City of Birmingham, Heather Law, European Affairs Manager
- Ecological Sustainability in the Cities of Dortmund and Leeds
City of Dortmund, Heiko Just, Head of the Parks Department with City of Leeds, Polly Cook, Chief Officer Climate, Energy & Green Spaces

Sustainable mobility:

- Electric vehicle infrastructure
City of Oxford, Sarah Hassenpflug, Sustainable Innovation Manager
- Projects to promote environmental-friendly mobility
City of Tübingen, Bernd Schott, Environmental and Climate Protection Officer

12:30 -13:30

Lunch break

13:30 **Intervention: Role of civil society in city-to-city partnerships**

Oliver St. John, Strategic Partnerships Executive, British-German Association

13:45 **Exchange in Partnerships I (vision + actors) (bilateral)**

on the vision of the partnerships and stakeholder analysis

6 Partnerships in Civic Hall

3 Partnerships in The Carriageworks

15:00 Key take-aways of partnership exchange in plenary

15:15 Group photo

15:30 *Coffee break*

16:00 **Fireside chat on multilevel governance and the role of cities** (informal, 45 min.)

- Lina Furch, Head of the Europe and International Affairs Department and Head of the Brussels Office, Association of German Cities
- Will Mapplebeck, Strategic Communications Manager, Core Cities
- Lorenzo Kihlgren Grandi, Founding Director, City Diplomacy Lab

17:15 Free time

19:00 *Dinner at [Tharavadu Restaurant](#), 7-8, Mill Hill Leeds, LS 15DQ*

Day 3: Wednesday, 21 June 2023

08:30 Arrival and registration

09:00 **Panel discussion: Urban diplomacy for social and ecological justice**

- Tom Riordan, Chief Executive, Leeds City Council
- Deputy Mayor Dr. Ursula Sautter, City of Bonn
- Lord Mayor Dr. Mathias Knecht, City of Ludwigsburg

10:00 *Coffee break*

10:30 Introduction to the group sessions and room division

10:45 **Exchange in Partnerships II - next steps + communication (bilateral)**

next steps together and which communications is the most effective for us

6 Partnerships in Civic Hall

3 Partnerships in The Carriageworks

11:45 Key take-aways of partnership exchange in plenary

12:15 Reflection with key-takeaways

Closing remarks and impulses

12:45 *Lunch break*

14:00 -17:30 Site-visits in Leeds:

1. Zero Carbon Housing ([CITU](#))
2. A sustainable approach to major regeneration ([Aire Park](#))
3. Leeds Anchors – Inclusive growth ([Leeds Anchor Network](#))
4. Cohesion and communities ([LS14 Trust](#) and [CATCH](#)) - maximum 10 participants (first come first served basis)

[Click here for more information about site visits.](#)