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## MP4 WP 1.3 Transnational Assessment of Practice

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Case study report  
“Space for teens” -  
Steilshoop

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January 2010

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## “Space for teens” – Steilshoop

The project space for teens is part of the ExWosT program IfaS (innovation for families and age-based districts). The improvement of the city as a living and working place for families is an important aim for the urban development politics in Germany. The focus in this project is the usability of urban areas for teenager. The results of the field research IfaS show that teenager in particular find fewer facilities suitable for them. The represented of teenager living in Steilshoop, a district of Hamburg, is above average. However their interests are underrepresented. Youth facilities are limited. Also a lot of the teens grow up under difficult families and economic condition. Most of the teens spend their free time outside where there are only a few facilities for them.



The partner of the project is the Johann Daniel Lawaetz-Foundation in cooperation with Hamburger Forum Spielräume für urbane Bewegungskultur e.V. and Haus der Jugend Steilshoop. Practise methods used in this project are “teens\_open\_space”, video documentation, interviews and model making.

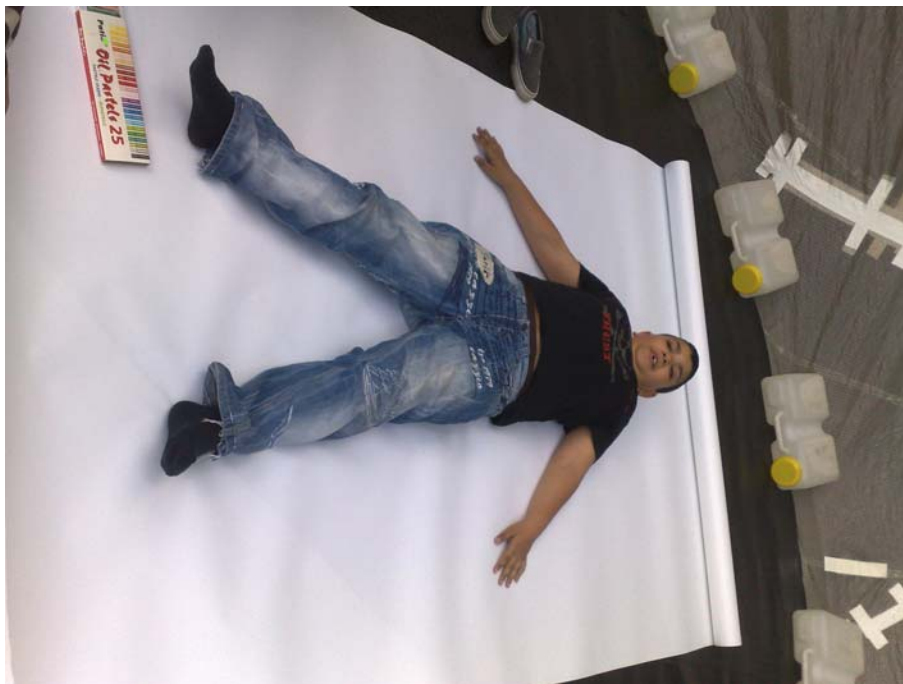
The project space for teens comprised an area- and tangle-webs concept. The first step was to discover where teenagers detain. Possible improvements of the meeting places were then discussed with the teenagers. The results of the two steps then develop into a concrete plan. This involved new structures but also events and facilities experiments.

Within the project three events took place. The first event, an evaluation of the situation took place in a very central area of Steilshoop. The workshop was designed with different stations (called planet).



Each planet had a different tasks, questions and was supervise by an adult. The different planets were:

1. **Planet body styling:** What does Steilshoop embody? The teenager's task was to draw themselves showing what they need from the area of Steilshoop.



- Planet of horror:** the question was: "Teenagers are leaving Steilshoop – why?" The teenagers depicted variety of scenarios with white paint on black pasteboard.
- Picture planet:** A city map with icons. On this planet the teenager had to offer to visualise what the area has to offer at that moment.



- Power planet:** What potential does Steilshoop has now, 2010 and will have 2029?



5. **Digital planet:** On this planet laptops and screens were arranged. On the laptops and screens the teenagers showed their favourite pages (Youtube, music groups etc.). Part of this planet was the question: “What should a Steilshoop internet page offer the teenagers?”



30 teenagers were involved in the workshop. Afterwards three groups<sup>1</sup> were formed for the process.

The second event took place in the community office on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December. The aim was research and interviews with teens in Steilshoop. The focus of this meeting was the idea of a new and modern basketball court in Steilshoop.

At the third meeting (11<sup>th</sup> of December) further discussions about the public spaces in Steilshoop took place with two groups (Basketball players and Girl group).

The conclusions of the three meetings were: at the moment the basketball court project shows the most progress. Together, the “Basketball players” and the leader of the project, has named suitable places for the basketball court and planning processes has started.

The Basketball players have offered to take on the responsibility for the maintenance of the new court. This offer illustrates their particular interest in this project. The MP4-Team supports this idea and will give advice further on to this project.

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<sup>1</sup> 1. Basketball players (15 members between 16 and 22 of age); 2. Girl group (Verein für Jugendpflege 5 members between 12 and 14 of age); 3. Tuesday Group (15 members between 12 and 14 of age).

The ideas for the public space from the other groups will be further develop in the following meetings and events in 2010.