



Ulm (DE)

City context and definition of the initial problem

The City of Ulm is situated on half way in between the metropolitan areas of Stuttgart and Munich. New tracks for high-speed trains between Stuttgart and Ulm via Stuttgart airport will be launched in 2020. These tracks are part of the EU-project “Trans-European Networks TEN 17” and supplement the high-speed train connection between Paris and Bratislava. The railway station of Ulm is located at the western edge of the historic city center. It’s an important hub for the entire region and gives access to national and international trains as well as to the city. Currently about 40.000 passengers use Ulm station per day; this number is expected to grow up to 55.000 passengers to 2025. The station hub has got fundamental deficits in terms of size, capacity, function and urban quality. In 2007 the city of Ulm has established the “CityStation Ulm”-project. The objectives of the project are to improve the station area as an intermodal traffic node for a growing number of passengers, to rebuild and to reorganize the station building and to redevelop/reconnect the urban environment.



Focus and objectives of ULSG and LAP

From the very beginning the “CityStation Ulm” project was supported by an intensively directed participation process. The city council established a platform called “Citizens’DialogUlm”. This public dialogue is based on the modular structure of the “CityStation Ulm” masterplan and implies a standardised system of round tables, fora, public meetings, new media etc. for each module of the masterplan. Thus, the citizens and stakeholder groups are invited to get involved step by step in the entire “CityStation Ulm” project.

The “City Station Ulm” area

The department of urban planning within the city administration leads the participation process; an external moderation supports the process. All results go to the City Council, who evaluates the results of each participation unit and takes the decisions. This model of participation has been admitted as a pilot project of national urban development policy and was supported by the State Ministry of Traffic and Urban Development. In accordance with the statutes of URBACT the ENTER.HUB Local Support Group (ULSG) has been integrated and cross-linked with the existing system of local participation, concerned with the “CityStationUlm” project. ULSG members are again, as they already were before, in the fora and the other formats of local participation. Governance and participation is its primary focus. Corresponding with that, the focus of the Local Action Plan (LAP) is the revision of the existing “CityBahnhof” masterplan and its modules.

Actions / schedule

The prospective actions within the “CityStation Ulm”-project are divided in short-, mid- and long-term modules:

- Phase I (short-term): redevelopment of the Station Square, concerning the urban quality of the Station Square, the reorganisation of private and public transport and the construction of a new passage/ garage under the square. A planning competition has been held in the first half of the year 2014. The participation process concerning the results has started in October 2014.
- Phase II (mid-term): further modules of the core project such as the construction of a new station entrance hall, the development of a new service center for trade and commerce and the extension of the underground passage under the tracks toward the quarters behind. Phase II is scheduled from 2019 to 2023.
- Phase III (long-term): gradual redevelopment and revitalization of the urban areas surrounding the traffic node. The process is mainly depending on the availability of grounds from the German Railway Company (estimated after 2021).

Funding scheme

The construction of the railway infrastructure (tracks, platforms, technical equipment etc.) is financed by the German railway company. The new station building and the integrated service center for trade and business is going to be developed by a joint venture consisting of the German railway company, the city of Ulm and a private investor; the funding will be the subject of a contracted agreement between the partners. The renewal of the public open space, the reorganization of the public transport and the construction of a parking garage under the square is under control of the City and has to be financed by the City. The civic participation process is funded by the City of Ulm; presently 530.000,- € have been spent (incl. the information pavillion in front of the station).

Description of the process and risk analysis

- The “CityBahnhof Ulm”-project is proceeded on various levels and cross-linked with each other:
- civic participation as already described before, including the ULSG (“Citizens’Dialogue Ulm”);
 - periodical management board of political representatives and members of the city administration;
 - steering group with members of the German rail company, the City of Ulm and other partners;
 - final consultations and decisions by the city parliament.

The “CityStation Ulm”-project is a most complex system of social, political, functional, technical and financial interdependences. Obstructions on one sector have an effect on the whole system. The realization of the project is expected to last 10 years and more. Within that long period the political majorities, the strategies and personnel of partners in the project as well as the economic and financial basis may change. The citizens need to be constantly motivated to contribute to the next steps over a long period.

Conclusions

ENTER.HUB is a subproject within the superordinated “CityStation Ulm”-project, which the city had already started before the beginning of ENTER.HUB. The ULSG worked within this framework. The focus of the Local Action Plan (LAP) is the revision of the existing “CityBahnhof” masterplan and its modules. The emphasis is placed on governance and participation. Ulm shared its knowledge with other middle sized European cities and received ideas and knowledge from them. This led to an objectifying of ideas, methods, results and also of problems. The project was one step towards being a European city.