

Regional and Urban Development in Europe and Germany

Keynote of Prof. Magel to the HSS-GOPP-Workshop
“Supporting Public Participation in Regional Development”
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Everywhere we have to face the same challenges

Before I start, let me just thank Mr. Mayer for realising his old dream of this workshop as seminar with GOPP! We can benefit from our experiences in and with other countries. During the last three years I have been working e.g. with Cambodia very often. As you probably know, Cambodia was a very beaten country, the terrible Pol Pot Regime killed millions of people, destroyed all cadastre, registers and evidence of property, and destroyed all libraries – nothing left. And now the challenge for the German Development Corporation was to help Cambodia to build up a cadastre and a register on land titles and also to build up a spatial planning system. And after hard work with many, many workshops we succeeded – the spatial planning policy declaration has been finished now. And nearly two million titles have been conveyed to the people. Besides of these two milestones there were many discussions about the role of urban planning, about regional planning, about rural development. And now, we have also started to discuss about village development. So, what I like to say at the beginning is: Everywhere we have to face the same challenges and to find adequate solutions!

The background of our workshop was a meeting with your boss (file 1) in January 2010 in the general office of your headquarters. Thereafter, Dr. Madlhouby decided: Let us start a workshop, let us start a cooperation. And, I would guess that this is the first, but not the last workshop. Dr. Madlhouby and Mr. Mayer have requested Dr. Muhammad Salheen and me to draft this workshop. It is an attempt – we do not know, if we have succeeded to find the right programme and the more I listen to your hopes and expectations, the more I am sure that we should organise the next

workshop immediately, because during this first seminar we cannot talk about the whole issue of spatial planning, about village level development and even not discuss about informal settlement and land reform. That is such a broad range – so we must do it step by step. I am also Professor of Land Management. Therefore, it would not be a problem to immediately discuss about land reform and land management issues. So, let us see what happens. Let us work in a flexible way the next days.

I was asked to give an input about our planning system in Germany and in Europe. And, if you should miss some concrete details, do not despair. I can answer during the next days, especially during the working groups. But you should know that even the last small village must follow a hierarchy of planning in Germany. Mega city – if we would have such a mega city like Cairo – must follow a national directive. Therefore, you should get an impression that we have a very clear system of planning. I have prepared many slides. If I cannot show all slides to you, it would be no problem – you will get a hardcopy, you will get all printed and then hopefully translated. Let us start now! First, a reminder for you, there is still the so-called Cairo Declaration (file 2). The Arab world has committed to sustainable cities, has committed to security of tenure and committed to good governance. So, if you read this Cairo Declaration, you will find all nice wording about urban planning. And, since January 2010, I know that your President has requested you, especially GOPP people, to practice participatory planning (file 3). It is easier to demand than to practice it. Even in Germany the example of “Stuttgart 21” shows, that after such a long time of experience we still have problems.

But now, let me start with this picture on Development Policy (file 4). Why are we practicing or supporting the development of a country, why practicing the development of cities or villages? There is a global idea behind it: That is the idea of human dignity and human rights. Everybody, whether born into a rich family or into a poor family has the same human dignity and human rights. And, if you think about what human rights means, what human dignity means, then you come immediately to the term of equity or fairness. And there are always three main types of fairness. The first is the most important: “fairness of equal opportunities”. That is the reason why a country offers schools and education systems for everybody. What the individual makes of its opportunities and chances it is up to himself. If you want to be fair to

rural areas, you must offer them opportunities for self-development, for example. You must offer “fairness by satisfying daily needs” like fresh water, clean air and a lot of infrastructure. And the third is “fairness of procedures”, good governance for example. So, when you start a participatory planning process, it belongs to this third type of fairness. I give an example: If you give the answer to yourself, that you say people are too stupid, they cannot participate, therefore, I do not open a participatory planning process. Then it is not fair what you are doing. You must be patient with people, you must enable them, empower them that they can really participate. My conclusion is: What is it what we are doing, what we are planning? It is always about the basic functions of human existence based on human rights and human dignity – either in Cambodia, in Egypt or in Germany (file 5). Everywhere it is the same. Each planner student must learn it. The basic needs is housing, what UN is calling shelter, it is jobs, employment, supplying, education, traffic, communication and also recreation. These are the seven basic functions and it is totally independent where you are working, in the village or in the mega city Cairo. And since, at least 20 years, nearly the whole world has committed to the idea of sustainability (file 6). Sustainability is a very complex challenge. It is not only about environmental protection but in many it is, especially, about ecology. So, Egypt has also a long way ahead in sustainable way. And, if you start with urban planning, if you start with regional planning, you must follow the principles of sustainability.

The last input, the last introductory idea is: What are the (seven) key success factors of each country? (file 7) And if you compare these with your own country – for me as a German, I compare it with my country – then we can start a wonderful workshop. Success factor is naturally the natural resources – look to the Gulf States, they have natural resources. Look at Russia. Why is Russia so important again ... The next one is human resources. Why is China so important? Why becomes India the next power state? It is because of so many people – totally independent of some other skills. The next one is the technical process. Is a country still living in the so-called Stone Age or is it working in a modern time like the most developed countries? Currently, Germany is so successful because of its technical process. The fourth is the capital issue. You know that half America “belongs” to China in the meantime – capital can be positive and can also be negative. The fifth is what all countries are believing in: Madame Nebel has just reported me, that Oman is starting into the knowledge sector, into

capacity building and so on. Also in my country the universities and the schools are the only one sector whose budgets were not cut by the finance minister – that is decisive for the future of a country. And I am always impressed by the academic standards of our partners here in Egypt – but you have still problems on the other side, therefore you cannot rest and rely on a small elite only. The sixth key factor is very important: This was discovered and acknowledged since the Nobel Prize winner Douglass North has published his research, that the institutional framework is very important; it is about authorities, about planning systems and structural programmes which follow rules for example. If you have only corrupt authorities nothing will help in a country – that is a problem in many countries all over the world. The World Bank lost billions of Dollars because in the countries whereto they gave the money, no functioning institutional framework existed. And the last factor that belongs together with the sixth it is about values, it is about ethics – it is about commitment to serve the country. Still today, each new employee of mine will be sworn by me on the State of Bavaria – he/she must swear to serve the State of Bavaria. So, these are the seven key factors!

Egypt is facing huge urban problems

Now, let us throw a short glance at Egypt. I must not tell you about your country, but only to demonstrate it again what we already have heard: Egypt is facing a huge urban challenge (file 8). But what is not mentioned in this World Bank report is that as a result of this ongoing urbanisation you will get more and more emptying rural areas. The gap between urban and rural areas will increase and no young rural villager will remain in his village. That is of high importance for politicians but it is also a part of territorial planning and development. Because Dr. Salheen sometimes mentioned the book “Cities of the World. World Regional Urban Development” by Stanley Brunn and Jack Williams: I have looked through this book from 1983 (file 9) in terms of what was written about developing world in such times. It was written about rapid population growth, about the need of decentralisation, about conflicting development priorities, high unemployment and underemployment because of rural-urban migration. As a result, you get and you have got problems in the cities and in rural areas. And in the book’s new copy (2008) (file 10), new key problems in Middle Eastern cities are listed. They do not call it developing world anymore, now they call it regionally; and

Cairo belongs to the Middle Eastern cities. So, what are the problems listed? Fresh water – I heard this first time when I was in Cairo in 2004, that the 6th of October Settlement West of Cairo has a lot of water problems. And then, cultural homogenisation, that more and more different cultures come together. And the heritage issue, that modernisation threatens heritage resources. More and more we get mega cities which are totally similar – they have all the same skyscrapers, all the same shopping malls, it is a terrible idea. If you are in Beijing, you will get the impression as if you were in Paris or in Cape Town or in New York. Behind this we have many problems: File 11 shows what UN Habitat has written about African cities in 2008: What are the challenges? Regional disparities? Please check it. Can you confirm it? Is this the fact in Egypt? Regional disparity or urban inequalities, metropolitan expansion or the growth of more and more “city regions”. I think we can totally agree with this analysis. That short overview was only to demonstrate that naturally we as Europeans try to understand Egypt and the situation in your country.

Belief in Sustainable European City

And now, let us start with Europe. In Europe we have still a common, an official belief or even hope in a Sustainable European City. I call this the traditional Italian-European mixture or diversity of living, working, communicating and of recreation functions. And the idea of a European sustainable city is it should be “urban” – now we can start to analyse what is urban – it should be “compact”, that means all functions should prevail together, and it should be “green” (file 12). Green means clean air, no waste or other environmental pollution and, and, and. And, nowadays even “clean cars”, clean traffic which demands for e-mobility. And also a central pillar of European cities: they have never given up the connection or relationship with their surroundings, with the countryside. That is a philosophical heritage from the cradle of European cities, from Italy. Files 13 and 14 show one of the most famous pictures of European history on urban and rural government and relationship! You can find the frescoes in the townhall of Siena, Tuscany. What was the early message of Ambrogio Lorenzetti in the 14th century? Think about Good Government, nowadays Governance, then the city will flourish – that is the message of file 13. And in the same townhall, you can find the next picture, good government effects in the country. You see, elegant citizens exit on horse to the countryside and the farmers bring their

products into the city. Mutual good relationship, mutual benefit, mutual welfare. So, you see, the idea of a good partnership, of urban/rural partnership is an old idea. Back to the hot urban challenges in Europe in the year 2010. What does the book "Cities of the World", 2008 tell us? (file 15) What are the challenges in the cities like Paris, or Munich or Berlin? It is listed like shortage of decent affordable housing, concentrated poverty and social problems in inner city neighbourhoods – Berlin for example, very much, but also in Munich in some quarters, unfortunately always combined with citizens with migration background. – Then the need, what I just mentioned, of movement towards sustainable urban transportation systems. You probably know that the Chinese car makers were faster than the German car makers in the field of e-cars. And now Mercedes, BMW and AUDI are quickly constructing e-cars for the future. And also my university has pushed this issue and we have a joint chair between China and our TU in constructing such engines and technologies. And, as a continuous challenge for European cities to enter sustainable development everywhere at every time, I have listed the need of participative local Agenda 21 procedures. The time is over that we can say, the state is responsible for all life. The German Government says that we cannot be responsible anymore, the citizen must take over much more self-responsibility and self-help. This is surely a big difference between our continent and your country. But I think, your President has noted this. Therefore, he said that Egypt must start with participative planning. Also the Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao has said: "Listen to rural voices." His request was the starting point for a huge successful rural development process in China. Last evening, I saw BBC Television in the hotel in Cairo, and there was a report about the recent UN poverty report: China was the most successful country in the world which has dramatically reduced the poverty rate in its country.

About regions, regional planning and regional development

These were general remarks about Egypt and Europe and now we start with our mutual technical understanding. What is a region? An interesting question, an interesting discussion. I have brought the definition of the European Commission with me (file 16). Region is very often understood as an administrative body. But it can also happen, that region is regarded as a physical part of a country without fixed administrative boundaries. So, we in Bavaria have an own minister for Europe, the

so-called Europe Minister. So, he should know what the region is. And we made a seminar with him and once we discussed with Minister Goppel, what the region is, please. So, finally he explained, explained and he explained and we became more and more confused. Then I said to him: Mr. Goppel, o.k., let us make our own summary. And then you can read the summary. Region is like a car. In one case a car can be a Fiat Uno or in the other case BMW 5 or Mercedes 600. So, what is clear, the size and the structure depend on the concrete case. Bavaria, my home country, is regarded a region within the European Union, but when we step down the area around Munich it is also called a region. And even in our hierarchical system of Bavarian spatial planning we have so-called 18 regions with respective 18 regional plans. So, what we have to learn when we start to discuss about regional development and regional planning: We must clarify our common understanding. The same happens with regional development (file 17). You see, I have brought the definition of the famous OECD in Paris. They use regional development (only) in the sense of reducing the economic disparities. OECD always thinks in economy. It is not wrong, but life does not only consist of money and of economy. It is much more. So, what is regional development? Look at file 18: You see some technical issues which are very familiar with you, it is holistic and it should be an inclusive approach. Inclusive is a wonderful term which is very often used by UN Habitat. UN Habitat have created the term of "inclusive cities" some years ago. Inclusive comes from include – include all people, all actors, all stakeholders and, and, and. What means inclusive approach in Egypt, what does this mean in your governorates? What does this mean on the village level? To include only some representatives or to try to include all people – even the children, what we are doing in Germany. During the holiday time in August in Munich there is even a children parliament working in Munich. So, regional development needs participation, needs a good planning and good governance. And, what we very often get from your discussions, it is about the need of multi-level governance framework. On which levels do we work? You have already asked the right questions. File 19 demonstrates that regional development is very often referred as territorial development. And now we can read again about multi-sectoral approach, sustainable management of rural space that includes sustainable land management, management of informal settlements and it also addresses decentralisation issues, e.g. from national to regional and finally to local governance. Let me demonstrate our German system to show you the different

meanings of regional (file 20). We have planning on national level, we call it spatial planning on federal level – that is the headquarters of GOPP in Egypt. And this federal level has an advisory board of experts. I am member of this advisory board. And then, we have 16 Länder (states) in Germany and these Länder have their own spatial planning – we call it Landesplanung. There is also an advisory board of experts, I am also member of this advisory board in Bavaria. Therefore, I am quite familiar with these two levels. “Länder” could be your regions in Egypt. And under this Länder level in Bavaria we have, once again, a separate spatial planning level that is called regional planning – that is a size of a governorate in Bavaria. And then we have the local level, the communities. I do not want to explain too much, because this is the challenge of Mr. Büchs tomorrow. But to give you already one important answer to better understand my keynote: There is a clear hierarchy – you see the arrows down and up. Down means, what is fixed, what is decided, what is normative that is a clear consequence for the next down level. And, to find the right contents of the spatial planning on upper level, the lower level can contribute – so we ask them. It is not only one top down direction, it is a countervailing process. But one thing is clear: If, for example a regional plan determines that a city can grow only by max. 2,000 inhabitants, and despite this order the city decides to establish a new residential area for 20,000, then it is not allowed. That is important to understand this! We have a clear binding character of spatial planning, it is called “normative planning”. On the national level there will be discussed about the principles, priorities and overall concepts and main structures. One example: In Germany we have decided to establish nine so-called metropolitan regions. Metropolitan region means, that these are the great hubs within Europe; so, Bavaria has two, Munich and Nuremberg. And this was not only a decision on this level by the Federal Government, the Länder were according to the countervailing principle also asked. Or if, for example, the Federal Government must decide about new trans-national railways. These Länder will also be asked and they have to make a new proposal on the track if they do not agree. You can call it a democratic participative system which after long discussions comes to final reliable decisions and consequences with clear hierarchy. Everybody must rely on this system and take the own consequences. If you change it every day you will get a chaos. And to guarantee that it works between upper and lower levels we have two tools. One tool is a permanent meeting, a so-called council of the Federal Minister with the Länder Ministers of Planning. They

meet several times annually and then they discuss these issues. The ministers very often do not go to the meeting but they send their director generals. So, that is the first guarantee, and the second is that, what I have already mentioned, there is the advisory board of professors and experts. They are also contributing and participating in discussions about European and federal issues of territorial development and planning. They can say, that is wrong, dear minister, or that is totally right. Try to keep this position. Now you can ask the question: Do you need an unanimous decision between federal and state ministers? That is naturally the hope. But, that is not life, because there are always different interests. So it can happen, that some countries, some Länder are not satisfied but the majority decides finally, We have a democracy where the majority with hopefully the best arguments decides. But I can report – I have worked 20 years in a ministry before I started my professor's career – how political decisions will happen. So, we in Germany are moving more and more towards a consensus democracy. We talk so long to get the consensus – that is a new phenomenon in Germany. "Stuttgart 21" would not happen anymore nowadays. That was an old decision – fifteen years ago. Each spatial development decision in Bavaria, either a new airport or a new motorway or, or, or, tries to find a societal and political consensus. That means that all planners, all authorities in charge must have soft skills, must develop themselves towards mediators and communicators and workshop experts and, and, and.

New challenges to education

That is a new challenge also for our education, and I am sure that Prof. Nebel will teach in the same direction in Berlin and now in Oman like me in Munich. The young students must learn to communicate and work with people. Mr. Büchs studied spatial planning in Dortmund – he can confirm this.

We go a little bit further: Why do we need regional development? File 21 explains it very clearly and please do not forget: Regional development is more than urban development, is more than rural development. I comprise both. That is why regional development is so important – also in Egypt. We hope, or better, we are quite sure, that this regional development can better produce win-win situations between urban and rural areas. Like a good couple of man and wife – it is a win-win situation. Files

22 and 23 from FAO and OECD demonstrate the need of a paradigm shift of regional development policy to make it successful in a globalised and rapidly changing world. This shift from sectoral to place or space-based policy, or from single government level to a multi-level governance approach is underlined by Barca-Report (file 24) and OECD's famous criticism "The new rural paradigm" (files 25 and 26). In former times only the central government was the main actor and now different levels of government, various stakeholders are needed. That is exactly your discussion in Egypt. Everywhere one can read about the need of enhancing the new competitiveness of regions – for example by tourism or by "harmless" industry or the need of focussing on indigenous assets, the potential of the people of the region. Therefore, we very often call it indigenous regional development. What means space- or place-based? We should focus on a certain space, on a certain place with the whole complexity of life – with the whole range of basic functions instead of only one aspect or sector anymore. With all interdependences between these different sectors – to manage this we need all disciplines, not only one. We need techniques to cross these disciplines, which is called cross-cutting. And now, the last one is, we need different levels of the government. So, when I was a young professional – I was very young when I was appointed to go to the ministry – I was the technical boss for different governorates in Bavarian sense. The director generals in the governorates – all older than me – did not enjoy that such a young guy could give them directives. When I gave them some directives, then they always joked about me. They always said to me, if you stand higher you can see farther. But people who work locally, they see clearer. My answer was: That's why I need you! We need people who look farther, who have a good overview about all – and we need you who know the details. That is a very good reason why you really need to cope with these technical challenges like participating all different government levels and stakeholders and so on. Once again, in file 25 we see the term competitiveness of rural areas. That means a shift in the mind of many urban people, even of politicians. Rural areas should not remain like a helpless area to which you give money for nothing, like a humanitarian attitude. You should try to develop rural regions in a sense of a competitive region. In order to reach this you must find out what is the potential of this rural region, what are the natural resources, how are the people, what are the skills of the people and, and, and. You know that a desert is a potential for tourism, for people who pay a lot of money to enjoy desert. That is behind this idea and what

is demanded again: various sectors of rural economies should be targeted and created, not only agriculture anymore. In order to push something, you need all levels of government, national, regional and local, you need vertical and horizontal cooperation. You have exactly mentioned this already in the morning: Vertical and horizontal coordination. Please keep this in mind: three governance's dimensions (file 26). Two times horizontal, horizontal on the local level with all different stakeholders and actors, and the same on the level of governorates or on the national level and one-time vertically across all levels of government from national to local! That is not easy, I know this from my time in the ministry, to work together with other ministries. Each ministry is an own kingdom. And, you need many skills, charm and power to convince people to work together. On the level of a governorate it should be easier if you have a strong leader, a strong governor. And now, you surely can agree with me when I say the vertical cooperation works better, the better you have integrated institutions and people before. If you have developed a regional development plan on governorate level and you have already participated in the local level, then, when there comes an order from the governor to implement it on local level, all can say Yes, that is our common regional development. And when the people have been informed and have participated, you should not have problems to implement it.

What should Nile Centers do?

File 27 shows the final picture about regional development as a comprehensive or holistic task. You need a sustainable spatial planning. You need coordination between all levels. You need the right institutional and legal framework. You need economic, ecological and socio-cultural development programmes. So, for example, if you want to improve the conditions in the villages you need a village development programme or you need an urban development programme with financial options. And you need awareness and capacity building. When you have villagers in Egypt who cannot formulate or understand questions or give own answers, then you have to train people. That is exactly the task of the SIS, of the Nile Centers. The Nile Centers are your partner in capacity building villagers. We had the same problem in Germany. When I started with participatory planning I had the problem, that the villagers were not used to express their own opinions. And there were two groups; the first group said, that is wonderful, so we can do what we want – that was mainly

the group of old experts. And me and some friends as young guys said No, it is against human dignity, against human rights – we must train them, we must help them. In 1991/92 for two years I was advisor for rural development on behalf of the European Commission in the five new (East German) Länder. We started with participative planning and the citizens asked what are you talking about, what are you planning. And we said, we want to hear your opinion and to learn about your ideas. They were not used to express their opinion publicly and to accept different or even dissenting opinions. So, we have started smoothly to train them in managing conflicts and finding consensus etc. – and that is called capacity building programmes. You need capacity building programmes and institutions in Egypt. -We have established such institutions in Germany (Schulen der Dorf- und Landentwicklung), they are working very successfully. No mayor, no politician is afraid anymore to get pure opposition only. No, they rather get constructive, positive contributions.

Regional development consists of two parts. File 28 shows regional urban development and regional or integrated rural development. Both, urban and rural development in a regional framework, should always keep a close interrelationship. Even if a city starts only with urban development and does not want to integrate the rural surroundings, it must always think about the interrelationship, the physical, the social, the economic and, and, and interrelationship.

Cities as motor for regional development

I come to the third part. We heard that Mr. Mayer opened this workshop with remarks that we are moving towards a totally urbanised world. I am not content with the saying that this urbanisation is inevitable. We still have the hope to mitigate the rural-urban mitigation, at least in Europe. In Bavaria we could even stop it, we have even converted it. The majority of regions which are increasing are the rural ones and not the cities anymore (except Munich's city region, Munich itself has lost population since years). But it is for sure, that the cities are the engines of growth. This is also the opinion of the European Union. In file 29 you will find the metropolitan areas – London, Paris, Milan, Munich. They build a net of big cities in Europe now, which should communicate faster and easier. For example, there is a big discussion that in future we can go by train from Berlin or Munich to London within only four or five

hours. To realise this goal you find philosophies behind. During the German presidency of the European Union 2007, the German Government prepared two very important documents, the Leipzig Charta and the Territorial Agenda (file 30). If we substitute the word “territorial” for “regional”, than the title of file 30 is exactly in accordance with my keynote “Regional and Urban Development”. Many people, for example in Asia, say Germany is the leading country in spatial planning in Europe and it was not by accident that under the German presidency this two European documents were endorsed. And, exactly last week in December 2010, the European Parliament has discussed regional development and urban issues (file 31). It made a short review about European joint movement for sustainable European cities. And now I come to a very important issue which was also discussed and which you should know and understand even in the case of Europe. The magic word is cohesion or cohesive policy. Cohesion in Egypt would mean that not only the Cairo region should prosper, but all regions in Egypt should prosper and flourish. Back to Europe: Not only the so-called rich Germany or Scandinavia should prosper, but also Spain, Portugal and Greece or Ireland – that means cohesion policy. Therefore, we spend much money now to help these countries. And now, back to our field. Cohesion means, that we should aim for equal living conditions everywhere in Europe. This idea is an essential part of our German constitution. And it is also goal of the European, not constitution, but the Lisbon Strategy and all respective documents. And within this cohesion policy the towns and cities are playing a crucial role. Europe still has no legal power to formulate European spatial planning policy – not yet – but it has informal power in terms of ideas and money. The most informal power is, that Europe can offer financial incentives. And no German city denies to receive money from Europe and no Bavarian region says No, you are not legally privileged to give me money – “Pecunia non olet”, “Money has no smell”. In case of urban development! Europe has an idea e.g. about: “Can European cities grow smarter, sustainable and inclusive?” (file 32) Can Cairo grow smarter, sustainable and inclusive? Why does Munich not grow from 1.3 million up to 7 million? Can you give me the answer – why not? Munich is so attractive, has the best salaries, has opera, best universities, everything! What is your answer? The answer is: Our urban development in Europe is not focussing on growing, growing, growing cities. That is, what you should know. And integrated urban development means that we always aim at inclusive urban development. And once again, you can see the two axes of

integrated urban development, the vertical and the horizontal integration (file 33). When we compare our European and Egyptian systems, then this is the most important issue; we should discuss about how can we reach it in Egypt if you find that the vertical and horizontal integration is the right way. Together, integrated and inclusive, we can begin to discuss: What is urban development? (file 34) Once again, urban development starts with a vision. What is the vision of Stuttgart? What is the vision of Munich, what is the vision of Cairo? For which year : 2040 or 2050? And urban development is more and more a continuous process – it never finds an end. I have brought with me a little bit of a description about how urban development does function in Germany (file 35, 36). You should know that we really have a special federal development policy. There are six areas which show very clearly the main challenges and priorities for urban development in Germany (file 37). Look at No. 6 “The Future of the city is the region.” Is this not also a message for Egypt? A city needs the surroundings. And it should not regard the surroundings only as a potential for waste management or for consumption of land. It should give also own functions to the surroundings.

To strengthen cities, we have separate financial programmes for urban development in Germany – very popular and successful programmes (file 38). In his former life, Wolfgang Mayer was a monument protectionist in the city of Stuttgart, he has used this programme very successfully. Parallel, we also have own rural development theories and programmes in Europe and Germany (file 39, 40). In the meantime we have 27 countries of the EU. And there were some countries like Spain and Greece, which got programmes for rural areas first time in their history. The first time in history, Spanish experts had to learn participative planning. They became great friends of European rural programmes. Unfortunately, because of other reasons they could not prevent the financial crisis in these countries. There was no consistency behind. But we have also success stories. We have successful Scandinavian countries with remote areas like in Egypt, with no or less migration, with working economy, with internet access everywhere – go to Sweden, go to Finland, go to Norway, go to Scotland. You see that rural development works also in such sparsely populated countries. The main tool is the so-called integrated rural development with different boxes (file 41): You first have to develop an integrated concept (ILEK) and this concept later on will be a directive or umbrella e.g. for the following village

renewal measures. This ILEK concept must be integrated in the whole hierarchical spatial planning. Finally, when you got rural programmes and urban programmes you can put them together (coordination and cooperation), and then you have only to find and manage the right organisational structure, you have to find the right citizens who are interested and able to participate – if they have time. And, if you have a financial programme behind you, you can really convince the people. Only to talk and only to plan is not enough. But only spending money without comprehensive planning is also very bad. So, we need always the right order: planning, discussion, joint decision and then a very quick implementation.

Let me sum up: How far can European and Germany experiences be an inspiration for Egypt? It is a lot, which can be read in detail in files 42 and 43. It is up to our Egyptian friends to decide on the topics of joint discussions and seminars.