



städtebau workflow City Regions:

Resilience as a Responsive Development by Higher Education

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**RWTH AACHEN
UNIVERSITY**

UNESCO-Chair for Cultural Heritage and Urbanism
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Cultural Heritage and Urbanism

CITY REGIONS: RESILIENCE AS A RESPONSIVE DEVELOPMENT BY HIGHER EDUCATION

City regions are perceived as an anchor that connects the cities and regions on one level and develops a better understanding and valuation of the own assets in a city or region whether architectural, cultural, or social on the other level. The DAAD funded project aimed at perceiving the major city regions in the MENA region through a new lens. The project is thought to analyze the developments and massive urbanization processes undergone in the city regions of Beirut, Cairo and Amman and face the challenges of urban transformation process that resulted in spatial segregation associated with social polarization that divided the cities into different parts on one level and brought in informal development and less sustainable framework for a resilient future on the other.

Through intercultural dialogue between the partners, RWTH Aachen University, Bauhaus University Weimar, Notre Dame University in Lebanon, Cairo University in Egypt, and the German Jordanian University in Jordan have tried to identify common challenges facing these city regions and create a starting point to develop a strategic vision towards more resilient development. The project also sought to identify regeneration frameworks and urban design concepts for underdeveloped spaces that catered for action areas contributing to the integrated and holistic vision it targeted.

The aims of the project were met through two lines. The one dealt with the opportunity to triggering a planning network in the MENA region through the different partners from higher institutions. This network can is seen vital for the future collaborative work and assessment that can venture in developing urban planning curricula as well as options for urban change and development as a practice within the MENA region. The second line tried to seek substantial interventions activated through the intercultural dialogue between the German and MENA region higher institutions and their students’ bodies, capturing the challenges in these regions and interpreting common stand points affecting their development.

Further envisioning of urban and regional concepts was articulated through an intensive constructive environment allowed by the milestone of this project. The good practice and challenges workshop conducted in Aachen in November 2023, with the four partner universities is considered as a stepstone in a future sustainable exchange of knowledge. Research questions like, how intercultural dialogue can contribute to more insight and therewith, more resilient development in the MENA region is a next intervention field between the partners.

City Regions:

Resilience as a Responsive development by Higher Education

Dr. Maram Tawil

Informal development, unorganized urban sprawl on one level, depopulation and shrinking cities on the other, are crucial challenges facing cities nowadays. Through the partnership of the higher education institutions taking part in this project, challenges of urban rural development will be tackled and analyzed towards more social responsibility of universities in the local settings to enable better social inclusion and sustainable resilient development in the corresponding cities.

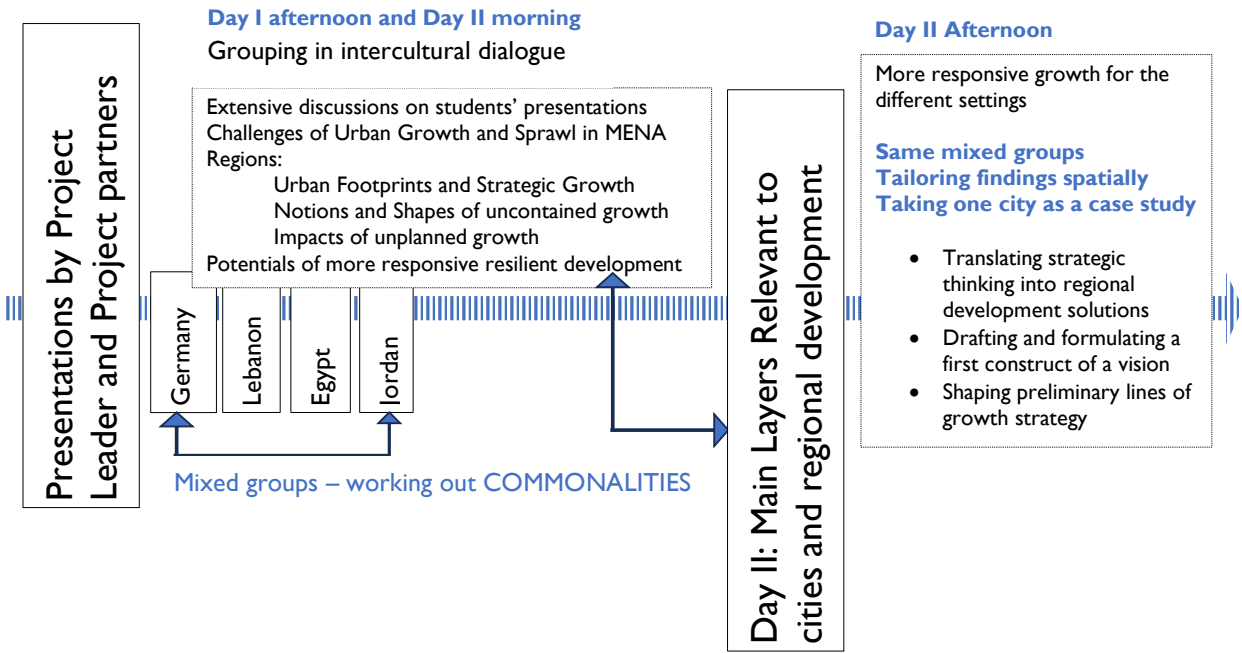
Urban rural development, urban functional areas and development of city regions are an integral part of planning education in terms of approaches towards resilient development. The conception of curricula in such a multiscale level is anticipated in German educational environments. This is developed through the continuous link to practice, where city and regional challenges are met and touched base upon through the specialized educational insti-

tutions. In the Middle Eastern setting however, this level of undergoing developmental steps in curricula development that meets the local crucial challenges is existing to a certain extent. The gap, however, lies in the realization of such efforts through an effective link and partnership between the city authorities and the educational institutions and through creating flexible curricula that can adapt and develop continuously towards arising challenges.

City regions are perceived as an anchor that connects the cities and regions on one level and develops a better understanding and valuation of the own assets in a city or region whether architectural, cultural or social. Hence, developing a more comprehensive and integrated framework of action that encompasses diverse layers of crucial potential and opportunities to the city and its region is essential. Such anchor emphasizes the need to link different urban

areas together towards more polycentric development that enables better use of the space and better orientation for the future development. It, hence, creates a community vision of the region that incorporates needs and aspiration of the different stakeholders. Urban Change as an outcome will be molded and developed based on learning from innovative practices based on regional thinking and polycentric development from the case oriented for the best practice in the Revier region /NRW.

Perceiving the importance in integrating these conceptions with proper link to practice, this anticipated project strives for achieving this link as a crucial line of intervention. It also tries to achieve a proper network as a first step between MENA Region countries with Germany and with potential nonacademic organizations that can carry on the load towards a more sustainable manner. In that sense, educational as well as practice-oriented outcomes can be more realized.

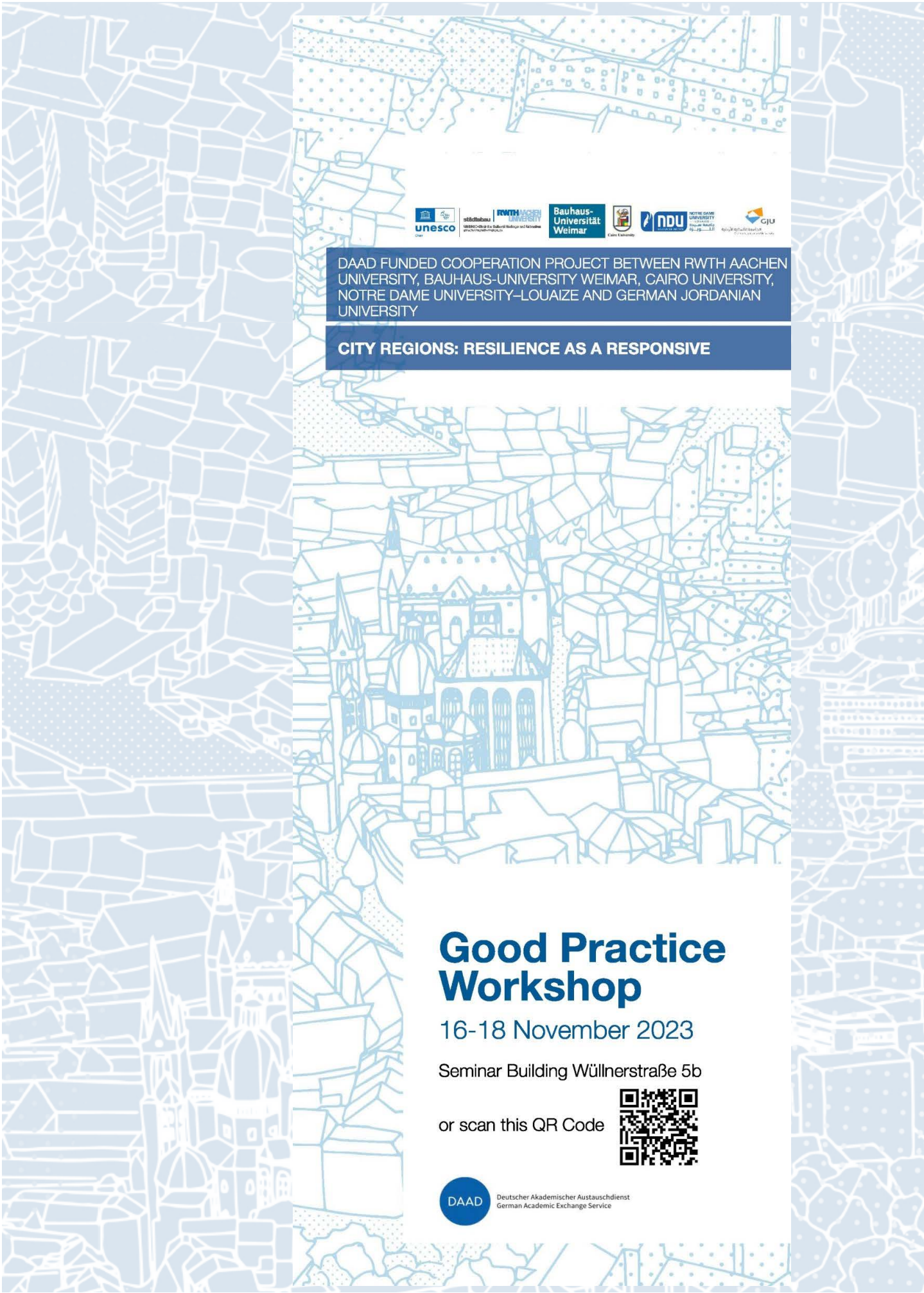


The project Rationale



The main goal of this application is to enable and establish an effective network of partners from Cairo University in Egypt, Notre Dame University in Lebanon and the German Jordanian University in Jordan with the RWTH Aachen and the Bauhaus University Weimar in Germany. Aims of this partnership is to tackle urban growth in city regions in the MENA Region and accumulate research through exchange to bring in scenarios of better and more resilient development based on different pillars of challenges facing these cities. The anticipated project will discuss the following questions: 1- How can collaboration prepare the cities and institutions to capitalize on their assets and sketch a better vision for a more resilient development in term of urban growth? What can be learned from best practices in Germany? 3. How can educational institutions be part of the development in cities and regions in the MENA Region? To this end, the project will investigate two main case studies in both Cairo and Lebanon. To tackle these points and articulate crosscutting fields of interest set as an added value out of this planned proposal, three levels of intervention are considered in this application:

- 1- Establishing a line of exchange of different stakeholders including students, young researchers and professors as well as representatives of non-academic institutions that are expected to transfer knowledge and plans to own agendas of their organizations and contribute to the line of development in the corresponding cities.
- 2- Interactive sessions and workshops with multi-dimensional exchange of knowledge and experience and learning from best practice strategic interventions in Germany to transfer and adapt. This should form as a base for a future network of partners that can set forth for further future collaborations.
- 3- On-site workshop in Cairo or Beirut to bring in knowledge and multi-cultural and interdisciplinary efforts into thinking development opportunities in the local case study. This will encompass, professors, MSc students and nonacademic organization representatives to investigate the case for the aim to enable capacity building and learning from each other.





DAAD FUNDED COOPERATION PROJECT BETWEEN RWTH AACHEN UNIVERSITY, BAUHAUS-UNIVERSITY WEIMAR, CAIRO UNIVERSITY, NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY-LOUAIZE AND GERMAN JORDANIAN UNIVERSITY

CITY REGIONS: RESILIENCE AS A RESPONSIVE

Good Practice Workshop

16-18 November 2023

Seminar Building Wüllnerstraße 5b

or scan this QR Code





CITY REGIONS: RESILIENCE AS A RESPONSIVE DEVELOPMENT BY HIGHER EDUCATION

16-18 November 2023

PROGRAM DAY 1

16 November 2023, Seminar Building Wüllnerstraße 5b, 301

10:00 – 11:00	Polycentric Development – Rheinische Revier Prof. Dr. Christa Reicher RWTH
11:00 – 12:30	Inputs from the regional partners – case-oriented challenges Dr. Nadine Hindi – Beirut NDU Dr. Sahar Imam – Cairo CU Dr. Nabil Abu Dayyeh – Amman GJU
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 14:15	Growth of Amman Lubna Alawneh BUW
14:15 – 17:00	Students’ presentations on their analytical assumptions so far with extensive feedback sessions by supervisors and civil society to ensure a first insight into reality.

PROGRAM DAY 02

17 November 2023, Seminar Building Wüllnerstraße 5b, 301

10:00 – 10:30	Regional Development in Germany / Europe: Governance in Germany – Limburg & Raumstrategie Christian Larisch RWTH
10:20 – 10:40	DaZwischen – Insights to Excursion Andreas Klozoris RWTH
10:40 – 11:00	A Spatial Approach for Monitoring Urban Growth in Large Agglomerations: Cairo, Beirut, and Amman. Fabio Bayro Kaiser RWTH
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	Intercultural interdisciplinary students groupwork Researching and analyzing commonalities: Common challenges and common opportunities
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30 – 17:00	Intercultural interdisciplinary students groupwork Restructuring the discussion of students’ groups to target case-oriented settings: Beirut, Cairo, and Amman Translating strategic thinking into regional solutions and visions in the different cases.

PROGRAM DAY 03

18 November 2023, Seminar Building Wüllnerstraße 5b, 301

10:00 – 11:30	PIN UP of the students’ works and outcome of the workshop.
11:30 – 15:30	Excursion – Rheinische Revier

Polycentric Development



Prof. Dr. Christa Reicher | RWTH

During the first session, Dr. Christa played a pivotal role in introducing a groundbreaking spatial planning approach. The crux of this methodology centered on the integration of informal planning techniques, specifically focusing on elevating the influence of local community blueprints. The case study revolved around the re-urbanization of the x-industrial sector of Köln. Notably, Dr. Christa advocated for a poly-centric approach to address the complex dynamics of the urban landscape.

One of the key challenges highlighted in the presentation was the ongoing debate regarding the project's direction. The central point of contention revolved around striking a balance between promoting agricultural initiatives and considering economic development factors. In response to this challenge, the team, meticulously crafted three alternative development proposals. These alternatives were carefully designed to harness the power of community participation and draw upon the valuable contributions from educational institutions.

The session underscored the significance of community involvement in shaping the re-urbanization process. Dr. Christa emphasized the need for a holistic approach that not only considered economic factors but also took into account the local community's aspirations. Furthermore, the incorporation of educational institutions added an extra layer of depth to the planning process, reflecting a commitment to a comprehensive and sustainable urban development strategy.



Inputs from the regional partners

case-oriented challenges

Theoretical foundation

Challenges were addressed in this section as three experts from the MENA region explored the planning dynamics and the primary obstacles confronting the region. They did so by examining three cases related to three significant cities—Cairo, Beirut, and Amman. The discussion encompassed topics such as urban structure, urban development, strategic plans, and socio-economic and physical critical issues within these cities. The aim was to establish a theoretical foundation for the workshop.



**Spotlight on Beirut:
Along the river & about the port**

Dr. Nadine Hindi - NDU

Dr. Nadine Hindi from Beirut, provided a comprehensive analysis of the general issues within Lebanon’s context. Dr. Hindi initiated the discussion by delving into the historical borders of Beirut, unraveling the city’s past and its evolution over time. A significant aspect covered was the intricate web of regional railway links and the pivotal role played by Beirut’s ports, shedding light on their importance in shaping the urban landscape.

The presentation seamlessly transitioned to address various urban issues afflicting the capital. Dr. Hindi explored the morphology and inherent differences within the city, offering valuable insights into the diverse challenges faced by different regions. Administrative borders emerged as a crucial focal point, and Dr. Hindi delved into the complexities surrounding this matter, underlining its impact on urban planning and governance.

A notable aspect discussed during the session was the coverage of the city’s river. Dr. Hindi provided a nuanced perspective on the challenges and opportunities associated with the river’s presence in the urban fabric. This encompassed ecological considerations, as well as the broader implications for the city’s aesthetics and functionality.

The impact of the sprawl in the urban centers

Dr. Sahar Imam — CU

In a nuanced analysis, Dr. Sahar Imam meticulously examined the distinctive Egyptian context, honing in on the repercussions of urban sprawl on the historical core of the city, precipitating both decay and gentrification. The exploration commenced with a thorough unraveling of Cairo’s recent history, spotlighting its rapid expansion and the subsequent emergence of new development areas, accompanied by a discernible pattern of economic segregation.

A pivotal facet of the discussion revolved around the transformative impact of new urban projects, with a particular emphasis on the ambitious endeavor—the new capital. Dr. Sahar delved into the profound implications of these projects, not merely in terms of physical alterations but also in reshaping the socioeconomic fabric of Cairo. The discourse extended to encompass the formidable challenges faced by the historical core, addressing the evolving economic activities and the concurrent implementation of major infrastructure projects.

Dr. Dahar complemented this narrative by providing additional insights into the nuanced challenges borne by the historical core’s evolution. Her contribution included a closer examination of the difficulties posed by newly introduced economic activities and the transformative effects of significant infrastructure initiatives. Together, these discussions painted a vivid and comprehensive picture of Cairo’s historical center, capturing the intricate interplay of economic, social, and infrastructural challenges that define the contemporary urban landscape.



Planning Amman

The city’s master plans



Planning Amman

Dr. Nabil Abu Dayyeh - GJU

Dr. Nabil Abu Dayyeh delved into the developmental trajectory of Amman, tracing its historical origins back to the Tanzimat era during the Ottoman period. From this historical foundation, he transitioned to a critical examination of a key issue influencing the city’s planning—the over-privatization of land ownership and the absence of robust regulations facilitating effective urban planning.

During his session, Dr. Abu Dayyeh scrutinized the impact of colonial influences, notably British colonial policies that predominantly focused on agriculture. He highlighted the implementation of unrealistic ring roads, featuring bridges between Amman’s mountains. This historical context set the stage for subsequent planning approaches, with a notable influence from Japanese planners who shared similar ideas, particularly regarding bridge structures.

The narrative then shifted to the Greater Amman Municipality Development Plan (GAMCP), emphasizing its focus on housing and the preservation of agricultural lands. Subsequently, Dr. Abu Dayyeh highlighted the Amman Plan of 2008, which concentrated on the development of high-rise zones within the city. As he navigated through these various plans, he seamlessly transitioned into an exploration of the significant challenges intertwined with informal spaces and the urban pattern.

In encapsulating the evolution of Amman’s urban landscape, Dr. Abu Dayyeh not only unraveled the historical layers but also underscored the pivotal challenges associated with informal spaces and the overarching urban pattern, providing valuable insights into the city’s dynamic planning history.

Growth of Amman



Growth of Amman

Lubna Alawneh — BUW

Architect Lubna Alawneh delved into her dissertation, which focused on the urban growth of Amman and the intricate interplay of socio-economic factors that propelled this sprawl. The exploration commenced with a chronological representation of major regional political events, emphasizing their profound impact on the formulation and evolution of the city. This historical context laid the foundation for understanding how migrations, stemming from these events, exerted significant influence on the socio-economic dynamics and lifestyle within Amman.

In her dissertation, Architect Alawneh systematically unraveled the multifaceted repercussions of immigrant populations on the city. She meticulously examined the diverse ways in which these migrations affected regulations and policies, shaping the urban landscape. The intertwining of regional complexities with socio-economic factors formed a pivotal focus, providing a comprehensive lens through which to analyze Amman's urban fabric.

A key aspect of Architect Alawneh's study involved connecting these layers of historical events, socio-economic shifts, and regulatory changes with the typo-morphological patterns of the city. This interdisciplinary approach aimed to illuminate the intricate relationships between regional dynamics and the physical structure of Amman. By doing so, Architect Alawneh sought to unravel the collective contributions of these layers, offering valuable insights into the formulation of the city, particularly considering the wide-ranging impact of regional complexities.

Students' presentations

MENA region

Students' presentations on their analytical assumptions so far with extensive feedback sessions by supervisors and civil society to ensure a first insight into reality.



Cairo university

In the engaging discourse among the students, the focus centered on the intricate dynamics of Cairo, Egypt, and its public spaces, unraveling a narrative deeply embedded in the city's historical tapestry. As the capital and largest city of Egypt, Cairo stands as a testament to a rich legacy, boasting a cultural heritage intertwined with ancient wonders and a vibrant urban life. However, the students astutely delved into the contemporary challenges that this bustling metropolis grapples with. The dialogue revolved around the complexities posed by rapid urbanization, highlighting the common struggle faced by many burgeoning cities worldwide. The discourse navigated through the nuances of Cairo's urban planning hurdles, the soaring population density, and the perpetual quest for adequate public spaces, laying the groundwork for a comprehensive exploration of the city's evolving landscape.

Within the student conversation, the acknowledgment of Cairo's unique blend of historical significance and modern urban demands created a backdrop for thoughtful analysis. The students discerningly recognized that the scarcity of available spaces in Cairo poses a distinctive challenge, given the city's historical layout and the presence of iconic landmarks. As they unraveled the layers of this urban conundrum, the discussion seamlessly wove together the narrative of a city caught between its storied past and the imperatives of contemporary urban living. By spotlighting the universal themes of urban planning, population density, and the pivotal role of public spaces, the students painted a vivid picture of Cairo at the crossroads of tradition and progress, sparking a dialogue that resonates with the challenges faced by cities globally.



GJU

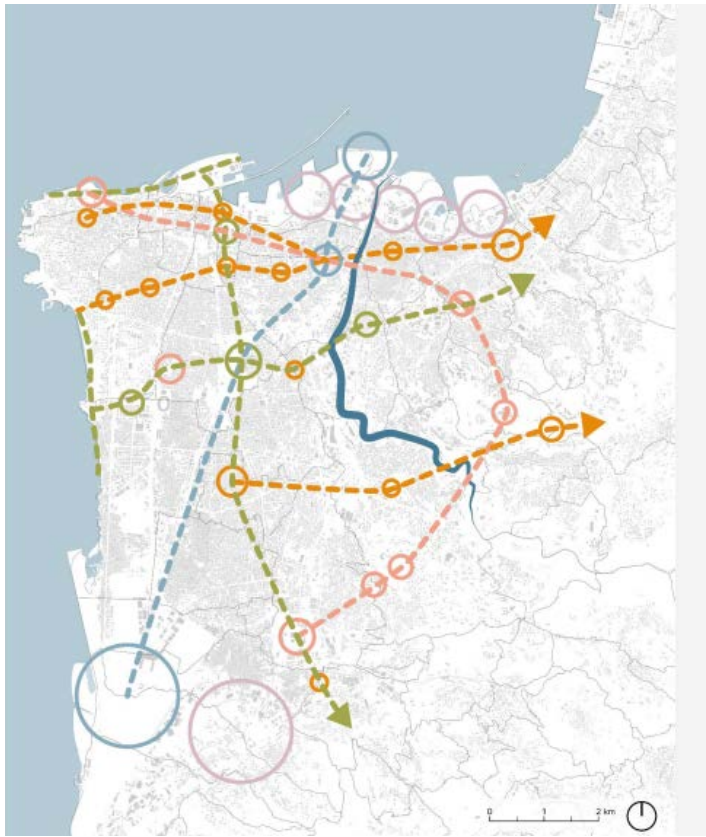
Aseel Al Labadi and Marwa Hmmod - GJU

Aseel Al Labadi and Marwa Al Azeh, both Master's students at GJU, engaged in a comprehensive discussion centering on the concept of the MENA region. Their discourse commenced with a meticulous definition of the region and an exploration of its shared historical underpinnings. Delving into the rich tapestry of common experiences, they set the stage for a nuanced examination of critical issues prevalent within the MENA region.

A significant portion of their discussion was devoted to shedding light on pressing challenges, with a focal point on socio-economic and planning issues. Aseel and Marwa strategically navigated through the complexities surrounding poverty, unemployment, and other socio-economic concerns, providing an insightful analysis of the multifaceted dimensions these issues assume within the MENA context. Their exploration not only sought to define the region but also to untangle the intricate web of challenges that define its contemporary landscape.

Students' presentations

Bourj Hammoud _ Regional context of Beirut



RWTH & NDU

The collaborative efforts of students from Notre Dame University (NDU) and RWTH Aachen resulted in a meticulous examination of Bourj Hammoud and Beirut city in Lebanon. Their analytical journey, initially focused on the morphological and physical dimensions of Beirut, seamlessly transitioned into a concentrated exploration of the unique Bourj Hammoud area.

A key emphasis emerged on the area's social uniqueness, elevating it as the central theme of their discussions. Noteworthy is the independent formulation of enhancement visions by students from both institutions. For instance, RWTH Aachen students introduced a development approach titled „The Green Ribbon of Beirut - Connecting Spaces and People.“ This initiative reflects a commitment to sustainable urban development, symbolized by the metaphorical green ribbon, signifying the integration of green spaces and the promotion of connectivity within the urban landscape.

Regional Development in Germany / Europe:



Spatial Strategy for Zuid-Limburg - Benefits of informal planning

Christian Larisch - RWTH

The session began with a brief introduction to the German planning system. This was intended to contextualize the projects presented during the workshop and to introduce the differences between formal and informal planning. In the Zuid-Limburg border region, the benefits of informal planning (including a greater degree of flexibility) are particularly evident. Zuid-Limburg - as a region in the heart of Europe - has only 8 km of border with the Netherlands. Spatial planning across national borders is essential for the development of the region’s potential. In this context, the spatial strategy Zuid-Limburg in the Euregional context (ZL’EU) developed a long-term spatial vision for the region with a view beyond national borders, addressing issues such as settlement development, mobility, open space, economy and culture. The spatial vision was derived from the analysis and the scenarios created, and accompanying strategies were developed.

These were divided into four areas: The Resilient Landscape, The Healthy City, The Connected Region and The Strong Brand. The planning process is not only designed to contribute to the long-term development of the region, but has already functioned as a forum for cross-border spatial development in the Euregio and has already been able to realize a central project with the New Regional Bauhaus.

DaZwischen — Insights to Excursion

Andreas Klozoris- RWTH

Andreas Klozoris provided an overview over the proceedings in the Rhenish coal-mining region, focusing on the research project „DA-ZWISCHEN“ which accompanies the structural change within the context of the planned coal-phase-out.

At around 55 billion tonnes, the region boasts the largest lignite depository in Europe and is therefore unique in its size and effect. For decades, the slowly moving open-cast mine edges have subjected the area to far-reaching infrastructural and spatial restructuring, which has left a strong landscape- and economic imprint on the area.

Andreas Klozoris explained how the project serves as a laboratory for adaptation of the structural changes that will come to the area once the open-cast mines have reached the end

of their decomposition. DAZWISCHEN provided analyses results on the central structural changes and future-oriented development strategies and models to stimulate a far-reaching energy turnaround in the region.

Strategically regional economies, mobility and settlement development are to be conceived as sustainable, climate- and resource-saving as possible and closed material cycles and recycling economies are to be implemented.

With the help of real-life laboratories, an interdisciplinary process brought together the worlds of science, business, politics and interested citizens to cooperate.

Finally, the project presented regional development strategies, accompanied by a digital multi-hierarchical spatial information system. Currently the project focuses on the implementation of these strategies.



A Spatial Approach for Monitoring Urban Growth in Large Agglomerations: Cairo, Beirut, and Amman.

Fabio Bayro Kaiser

In his research presentation titled „A Spatial Approach for Monitoring Urban Growth in Large Agglomerations: Cairo, Beirut, and Amman,“ Dr. Fabio Bayro Kaiser unveiled a comprehensive methodology aimed at understanding and analyzing urban growth patterns and dynamics within large agglomerations. Central to his approach was the integration of remote-sensing data and Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques to provide a nuanced perspective on the evolving landscapes of three distinct cities in the MENA region—Cairo, Beirut, and Amman.

He intricately detailed the application of remote-sensing data, emphasizing its pivotal role in unraveling the complex dynamics of urban growth. By harnessing the power of GIS, his research facilitated the monitoring of various growth patterns within each city, offering a sophisticated spatial analysis that delved into the intricate details of their expansion.

The significance of this research lies in its ability to not only observe but also interpret the multifaceted processes of urban development in large agglomerations. Bayro Kaiser's approach, combining remote sensing and GIS, represents a cutting-edge method for researchers and planners to gain insights into the spatial transformations of dynamic urban environments, particularly in the context of Cairo, Beirut, and Amman within the MENA region.



Intercultural interdisciplinary students groupwork

Intercultural interdisciplinary students groupwork

Following the acquisition of diverse insights and perspectives, the intercultural interdisciplinary student groupwork took a strategic turn. Students were organized into three groups, each intentionally composed of members hailing from different countries, boasting unique experiences, and bringing diverse backgrounds to the table. This intentional diversity aimed to infuse a rich variety of perspectives and ways of thinking about the regions and their key issues.

The collaborative structure of these groups facilitated a dynamic exchange of ideas, leveraging the wealth of cultural, experiential, and academic diversity within each team. The fusion of varied viewpoints allowed for a holistic exploration of the complexities inherent in the regions under consideration.

This intercultural interdisciplinary groupwork not only encouraged collaboration but also served as a microcosm of the globalized world, emphasizing the importance of diverse perspectives in comprehensively addressing and understanding the key issues faced by the regions in focus. The synthesis of cultural backgrounds and academic disciplines within each group became a catalyst for innovative thinking and problem-solving as students collectively worked towards a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities inherent in the studied regions.



Different backgrounds and collective thinking



The group discussions revealed a mix of work experiences, spanning municipal, educational, and practical backgrounds. This diversity brought distinct perspectives to the main regional issues, leading to varied and comprehensive discussions. Individuals with municipal expertise offered insights into governance and infrastructure, while those in education contributed nuanced understandings of societal dynamics. Practical experience added real-world context, enriching the conversation with on-the-ground perspectives. The collaborative environment, drawing on this diverse expertise, sparked creative solutions for addressing the complex challenges faced by the regions under consideration. The multifaceted mix of experiences resulted in dynamic exchanges, fostering innovative approaches to problem-solving.



Different backgrounds and collective thinking



Define commonalities

The discussions commenced with a focus on researching and analyzing commonalities among the countries in the region. This included a comprehensive examination of key challenges and issues that are shared across these nations, as well as identifying common opportunities. Participants engaged in collaborative efforts to dissect and understand the underlying themes that bind these countries together, laying the groundwork for a holistic exploration of regional dynamics. The emphasis on commonalities aimed to foster a unified understanding of challenges and opportunities, setting the stage for collaborative problem-solving and the formulation of region-specific strategies.



Groups progress



Cases-oriented discussions

Subsequently, the discussion transitioned towards case-oriented settings, specifically focusing on Beirut, Cairo, and Amman. In these targeted sessions, each group delved into the unique challenges and issues within the respective city setting. The aim was to translate strategic thinking into regional solutions and visions tailored to the specific nuances of each case. Participants engaged in an in-depth exploration of the intricacies of the urban landscapes in Beirut, Cairo, and Amman, working collaboratively to devise comprehensive and context-specific strategies. This shift from a broader regional perspective to case-specific discussions allowed for a more detailed and nuanced examination of the challenges and opportunities present in each city.



Groups progress



Experts feedback



Pinning up & discussion



Insights & outcomes

On the final pin-up day of the workshop, students took the stage to showcase their collective efforts and ideas. The presentations kicked off by identifying the overarching common challenges faced by the region. From this broad perspective, the focus narrowed down as students delved into the specific issues prominent in their respective cities—Beirut, Cairo, and Amman.

Each group passionately shared their nuanced understanding of the identified challenges, presenting comprehensive analyses of the root causes and implications. This paved the way for the students to articulate their main solutions, drawing on the knowledge acquired during the workshop. The collaborative spirit was evident as participants engaged in a vibrant exchange of ideas, pooling together their diverse insights.

The culmination of these presentations resulted in the formulation of a common strategy. By aligning their perspectives, the students aimed to devise a unified approach to address the identified challenges. This collaborative strategy was designed to elevate the situation, offering a collective and innovative response to the complex issues facing the region. The final pin-up day served as a culmination of the workshop, showcasing the students' dedication to understanding, addressing, and collectively overcoming the challenges in their cities.

Beirut group

The group assigned to Beirut directed their attention towards the prevalent issue of ethnic segregation within the city. Their strategy for mitigating this challenge involved proposing a development along the Beirut River. The envisioned project aimed not only to bring diverse communities together but also to serve as a hub for social enhancement. By strategically utilizing the riverfront as a shared space, the group sought to foster interaction and integration among different ethnic groups, fostering a more inclusive and interconnected urban environment. This solution reflected a proactive approach to address social challenges and promote unity within the city of Beirut.



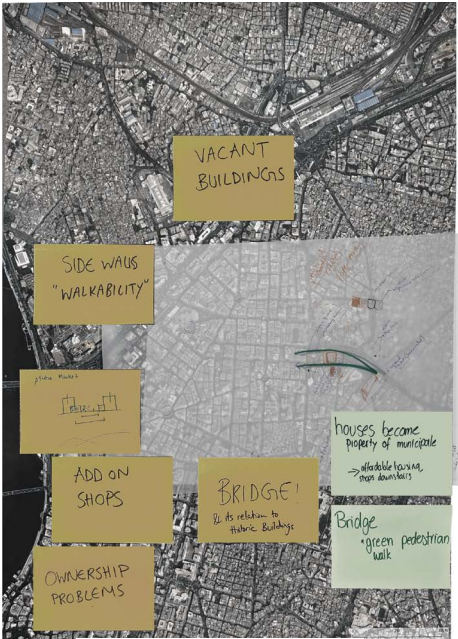
Pinning up & discussion



Amman group

The group assigned to Amman directed their efforts towards addressing the issue of informal settlements within the city. Their primary objective was to enhance the living conditions for those residing in these areas. The proposed solutions included innovative strategies, such as utilizing rooftops effectively and incorporating new and green materials. By leveraging underutilized spaces and introducing environmentally friendly elements, the group aimed to elevate the overall quality of life in these informal settlements. This approach showcased a forward-thinking and sustainable perspective, aiming not only to improve immediate living conditions but also to contribute to the long-term resilience and well-being of the residents in Amman's informal settlements.

Pinning up & discussion



- REGIONAL
POLITICAL + Economic HUB
e
- URBAN
GROWTH
↑High
- TRANSPORTATION
Weak
- WASTE
MANAGEMENT
Weak
- ENERGY
CONSUMPTION
↑High

Cairo group

The Cairo group concentrated their efforts on preserving the cultural heritage of the city amid the challenges of urbanization, high population density, and ongoing infrastructure projects. Their focus extended to finding solutions for managing the intense activities within this culturally rich area and addressing the potential distortion of its visual identity due to new infrastructure developments. The group’s proposal, termed ‘The Green Magnate,’ centered around transforming a bridge into a pedestrian-friendly space. This innovative approach aimed to not only alleviate the impact of high-density activities but also enhance the entire heritage area. By repurposing the bridge into a green and pedestrian-friendly zone, the group sought to create a harmonious balance between preserving Cairo’s cultural heritage and accommodating the evolving urban landscape, providing a sustainable and culturally sensitive solution for the city.

Excursion into the Rheinisch Coal-Mining Area:

From resettlement to structural change

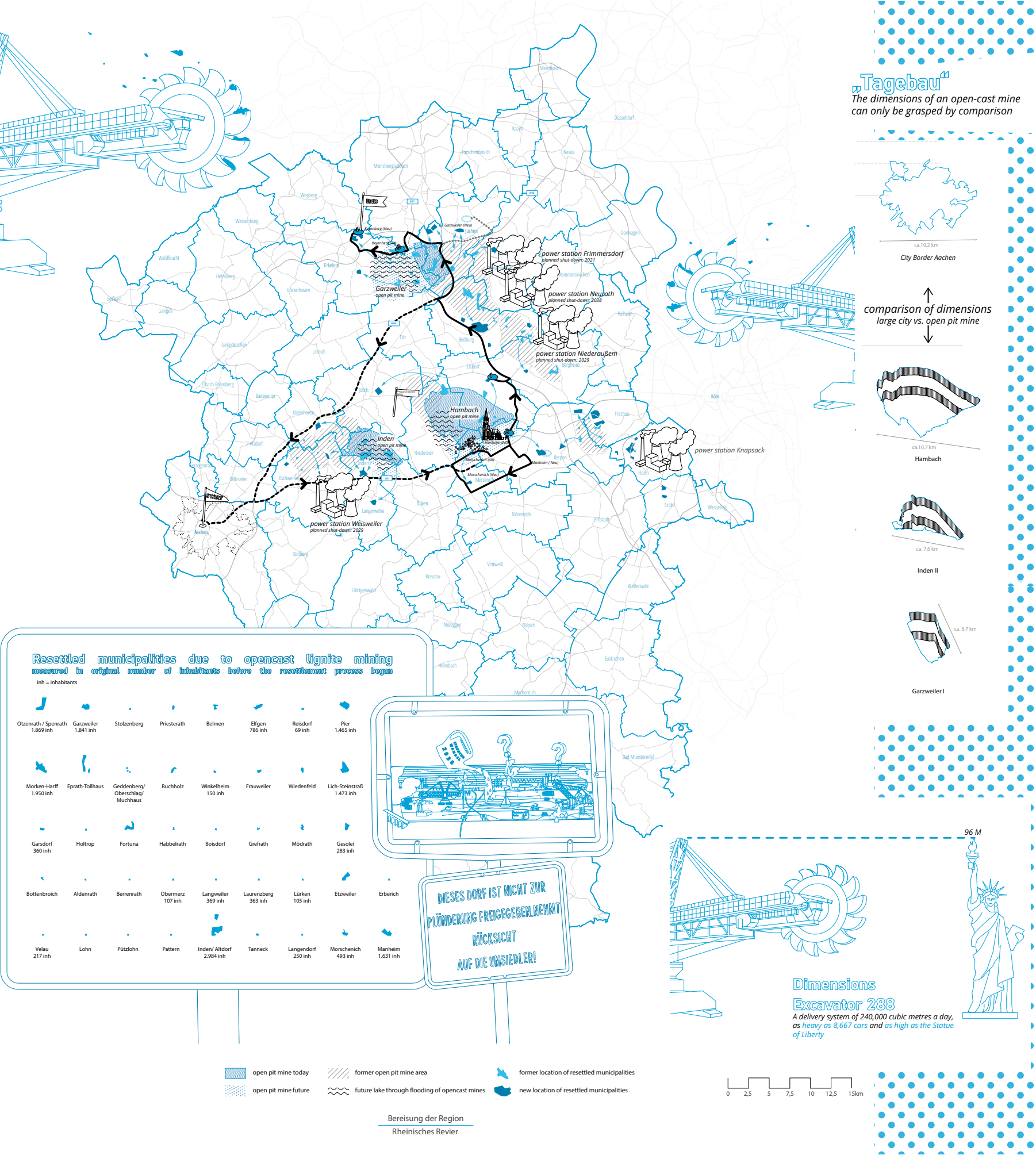
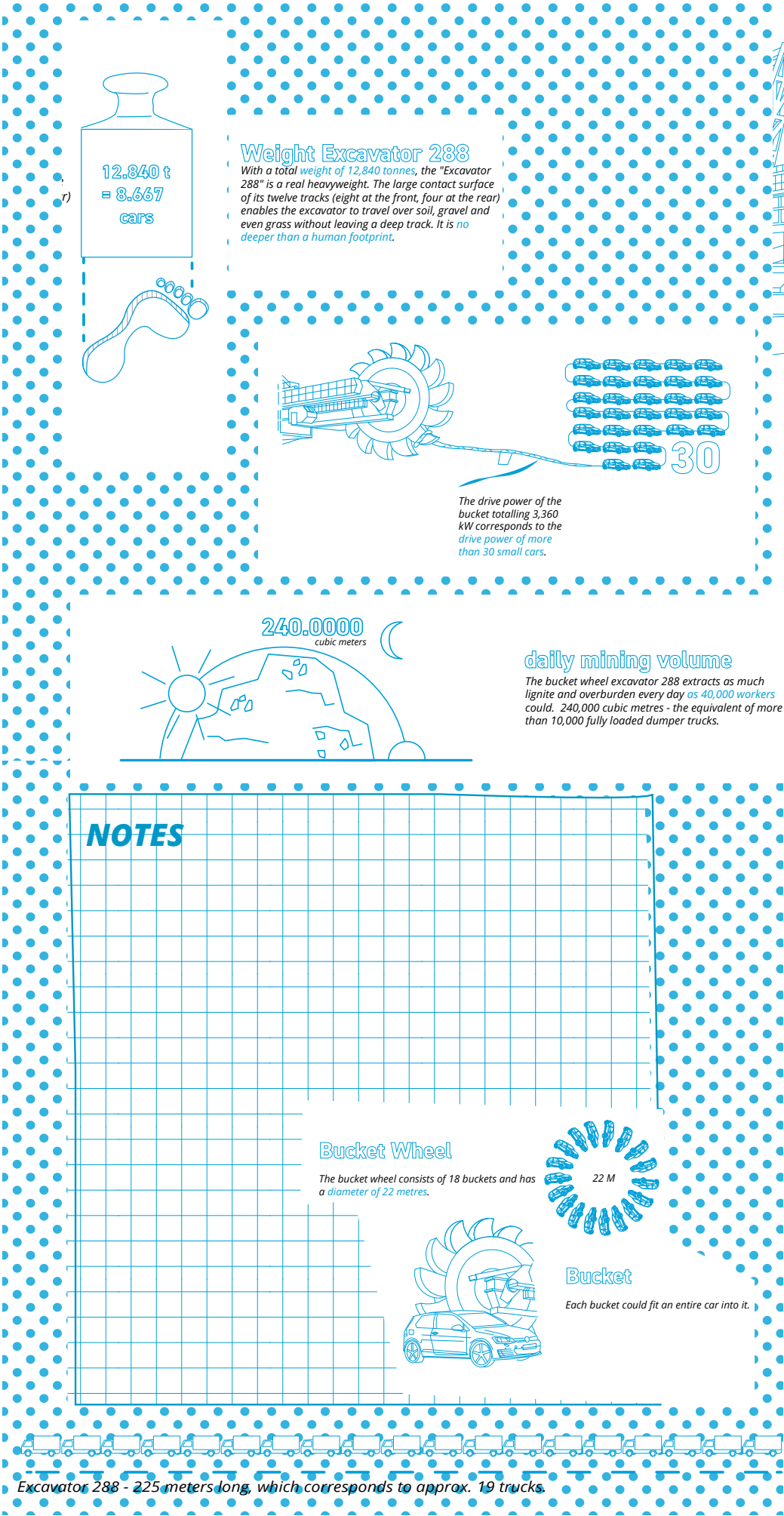
Dipl.-Ing. Andreas Klozoris

The Rhenish coal-mining area, located in the west of North Rhine-Westphalia, is a region of historical importance characterised by its close connection to the coal industry and its industrial character. The region has played a decisive role in Germany’s economic development since the 19th century, particularly through the mining of coal deposits. The Rhenish region is characterised not only geographically but also culturally by coal mining, and mining activities have shaped the lives of the people and the landscape for generations. The gravest form of the effects the mining activities had on the people within the region is seen in the resettlement processes that were common until recently.

As the open-cast mines took up ever larger areas and follow the coal under the soil entire villages and towns had to make way for the open-cast mine boundaries, forcing their populations to resettle. In addition to the physical relocation of houses and infrastructure, residents were faced with the task of rebuilding their social networks and finding their identity in a new environment. Historically established community structures were broken up and emotional ties to familiar surroundings put to the test.

The economic impact was also considerable. Local businesses, which were often tailored to the location and inhabitants, faced existential challenges. The resettlement process was shaped by various stakeholders, including the mining companies, the government, local communities, and planners. Transparent communication and the participation of those affected were crucial to the success of this transformation process. It was important to ensure that the interests of the local people were considered and that their needs were included in the planning of their new settlements.





The Rhenish coal-mining area has recently undergone significant change, particularly as a result of structural change in the energy sector and the gradual move away from fossil fuels. This transformation is not only shaping the region's economy, but also its social fabric and presenting residents with new challenges and opportunities. Developments in the region reflect Germany's transition to more sustainable energy sources and efforts to achieve future-oriented and ecologically compatible development.

During the excursion the group had the chance to see the vast open pit mine of Hambach at the lookout of TerraNova. The tour continued towards Mannheim-Alt and Morschenich-Alt just south of the pit-mine. These villages were to be torn down and were thus vacated. The increased pressure to move away from fossil fuel, led to an early end to coal mining, resulting in the preservation of the now abandoned villages. Currently stakeholders are in the process of determining the future development of these left-over structures.



Excursion — Rheinisches Revier





Excursion — Resettled villages

During the excursion, participants had the unique opportunity to delve into the historical intricacies of a resettlement project prompted by industrial activities in the mining sector. The impact of mining expansion led to the necessity of relocating residents from villages situated along the excavation's expansion line. Andreas Klozoris, a knowledgeable guide on the historical process, provided valuable insights into the challenges and transformations faced by these communities. The visit encompassed exploration of both an old village, representing the pre-resettlement era, and a new village that emerged as a consequence of this industrial evolution.

Immersing themselves in these contrasting environments, participants gained a profound understanding of the socio-economic and cultural dimensions tied to resettlement. Andreas Klozoris' expertise illuminated the intricacies of the resettlement project, shedding light on the resilience and adaptation demonstrated by the affected communities. The excursion not only served as an educational endeavor but also fostered empathy, allowing participants to witness firsthand the dynamic interplay between industrial progress and its impact on local populations.





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