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8	8		4	1	6	27

Example:

The „Council on Environmental Advice“ is a good tool in Tokyo to close the gap between the scientific and political spheres and civil society.

In **Freiburg**, the town council committees are advised by members of the scientific community. In addition, there is the Sustainability Council, composed of experts from the political sphere, business, the scientific community and civil society. This council advises the city council and city administration with regard to the goals of sustainable development and their implementation (Freiburg Management 2013 # 36). Citizen participation or involvement in Freiburg takes place via a variety of formal and informal procedures. A high number of the procedures goes beyond the legal requirements, such as the inclusion of the citizenry in urban planning processes, e.g. land use plans, town planning, district guidelines, regular public talks with the citizens by the mayor in the districts, integration of the Freiburg-based citizens' associations – the right to speak in district council committees, active participation in the important planning decisions in the run-up to implementation, regular citizen surveys (online and in writing) regarding current issues.

In **Berlin**, there is the Potsdam-Institut Klimaforschung (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research), which is leading a consortium for the feasibility study called „Climate Neutral Berlin 2050“. In parallel to this, work is being done on an energy transition act (Energiewendegesetz) in Berlin, which codifies this objective in law and identifies instruments for its implementation.

1. Differentiated description of the key field

Many aspects of sustainable urban development require sound scientific expertise as well as the exchange of views at expert level. Policy advice complements the comprehensive knowledge essential for fulfilling the tasks of urban policy (urban planning, environmental development, technology integration, use of IT, etc.).

The advice given to political actors in cities by members of the scientific community and civil society (associations or NGOs) represents an important building block in the development of qualified political decisions for sustainable urban development.

However, an „ability to be advised“ by the scientific community and civil society is also part of political counselling. This is above all reflected in how often experts get a chance to speak on political committees.

2. Reference to sustainability:

Especially with regard to sustainability issues, the facts are often highly complex. Different sectors, viewpoints and competing objectives need to be reconciled with each other. Sound scientific counselling of the decision-makers is, therefore, of immense importance here.

Risk if ignored:

Due to a lack of information, less than optimal decisions are often made that do not take into consideration essential aspects of sustainability and/or do not anticipate future consequences.

Allowing the scientific community and civil society to give advice on local government policy gives rise to an exchange of sound technical knowledge, which can lead to locally adapted concepts for sustainable urban development.

3. Relevance to industrial sectors?

Mobility:	Medium
Energy:	Medium
Production & logistics:	Medium
Security:	Medium
ICT:	Medium
Water infrastructure:	Medium
Buildings:	Medium
Governance:	Medium

4. Impact:

- Citizens demand transparency regarding major decisions
- Decision-making processes become more transparent through consultation with the scientific community and civil society
- Greater acceptance if citizens were involved in decisions
- Scientifically sound decisions can be enforced better
- Possibly different perspectives and because of that inter-departmental solutions,
- Independence thanks to „mixed“ teams
- Innovations are fostered.

5. Implementation measures:

Policy advice generally comes in two main forms:

- ☐ Project-related advice including assistance with implementation.
- ☐ A committee which constantly meets to tackle important issues of relevance to key stakeholder groups in the city.

In the area of sustainability in particular, the establishment of an advisory committee is advisable, one that continually gets to grips with problems in the fields of the environment, society, ecology and resilience. In the process, one must in particular ensure that the composition of the committee is not decided according to political proportional representation but on the basis of issues and content.

6. *Actors: Who can shape things? With whom?*

City council: This is primarily responsible for the appointment of experts to the committee.
Research facilities, civil society, experts, citizens are key players in advising the local political actors.

7. *Prerequisites:*

no prerequisites needed

8. *Obstacles/barriers:*

- Fear of loss of power on the part of politicians.
 - Complex dependency relationship between the scientific sphere and politics.
- How do political actors deal with undesirable results?
- „Experts’ dilemma“: scientific expertise is increasingly seen as unsafe and is partly characterised by ignorance.
 - Instrumentalisation of science by the political sphere. For every expert a counter-expert can quickly be found.
 - Not just a token committee or workshops, but also genuine participation, possibly linked to monitoring.
 - Does civil society participation place an excessive burden on the scientific system?({Schneidewind 2013 #37}).

9. *Indicators:*

- Number of external experts on the city’s political panels
- Transparency of the decision-making processes

10. *Special features/remarks:*

Further reading:
{Fleischer #38}, {Pies 2009 #39},{Haum 2007 #40}, {Kamp 2011 #41}, {DNR 2013 #42}, {Ministerium für Wissenschaft 2013 #43}