



Child Friendly
Cities Summit
Cologne, October 2019

The Three Global Minimum Criteria

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Mayor, Weil am Rhein, Germany



Child friendly City of Weil am Rhein:



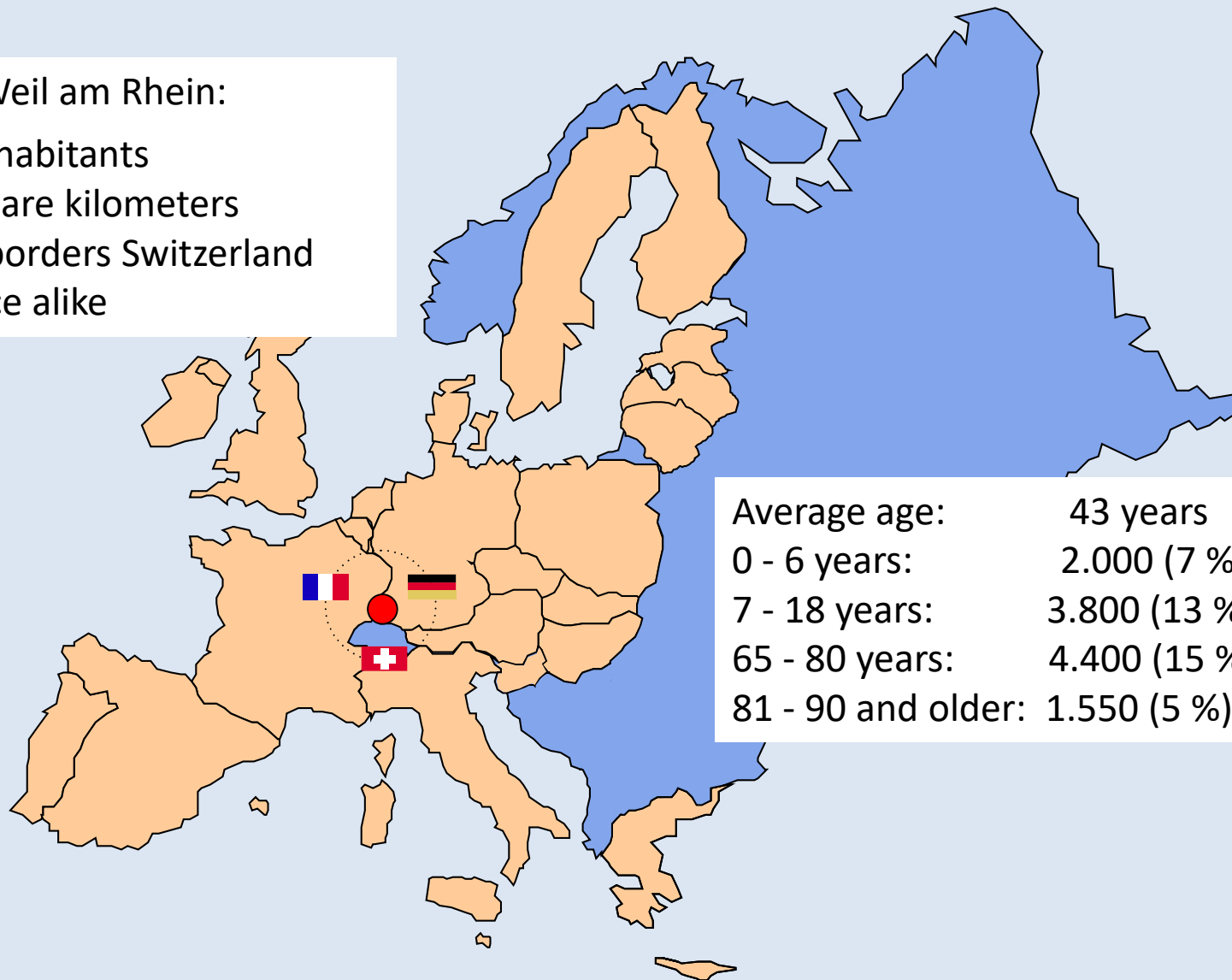
"Creating results for children with children"



Wolfgang Dietz
Lord Mayor, City of Weil am Rhein

The City of Weil am Rhein:

- 31.000 inhabitants
- 19,47 square kilometers
- The City borders Switzerland and France alike



Average age:	43 years
0 - 6 years:	2.000 (7 %)
7 - 18 years:	3.800 (13 %)
65 - 80 years:	4.400 (15 %)
81 - 90 and older:	1.550 (5 %)

KINDERFREUNDLICHE
KOMMUNEN



Ein waldeson



Border triangle Germany – Switzerland - France



Economy and Transportation





Lord Mayor (Oberbürgermeister)

- 8 year term
- elected directly by the people independent from local parliament
- chairperson of the local parliament by law and
- head of the local administration



City Council (local parliament)

- 5 year term
- elected by the people via representative vote
- composed of various political fractions
- number of seats depends on size of community (Weil am Rhein: 26)
- responsible for major policy decisions:
Annual Budget, Senior staff, City planning, Local services, Housing, Cultural affairs

Functions of local authorities / cities

- **City Urban Planning** via local building laws and zoning
- **Facility management** for city owned buildings (93)
- **Cultural Affairs:** Public Libraries, Adult education system, theater, museums, Studios for artists
- **Social affairs:** Social housing (1.100 apartments), Program for the elderly
- **Fresh water exploitation and distribution / Waste water treatment**
- **Long-distance and local heating**
- **Economic development** by planning instruments (zoning laws), Developing and lending economic development sites



Functions of local authorities / cities

Transportation

Road construction and maintenance

Bike pathways

Public transportation (busses, tramway to Basel/Switzerland)

Port of Weil am Rhein land ownership and handling of containers and bulk commodities

City fulfills administrative functions for the State

Affairs concerning foreign nationals

Building permits

Housing for refugees (app. 400)

Fields of local responsibility and activity:

- Building and maintaining kindergarten
(partly together with other operators)
- Building and maintaining schools of all educative levels
- Social workers at schools
- Youth Meeting Places (Jugendhaus)
- Streetworking
- Programms for teenagers during school vacation



- 7 establishments managed by the city
- 9 establishments managed by the catholic or the protestant church (sponsorship for the cost of operation by the city at around 95%)
- 3 establishments managed by independent groups (same sponsorship by the city)

Total number of places for toddlers: 1.177

(younger than 3 years: 150;
up to 6 years: 997
playgroups: 30)



All types of school available in town:

- 4 elementary schools
- 1 elementary school plus special schooling for children with learning disabilities
- 1 elementary school for children with multitude of handicaps
- 1 Community school
- 1 Secondary school
- 2 High Schools

**Number of schoolchildren
in the local school system: 3.482**



Budget 2019 for Juvenile Sector



Sector	Running expenses	Investment
Day Care	12.500.000 €	65.000 €
Schools	7.500.000 €	5.400.500 €
Encouragement for Youngsters	777.000 €	1.522.000 €
Sports	1.135.000 €	2.162.000 €
Music School	1.770.000 €	45.000 €
Total	23.644.000 €	14.766.000 €



Total Volume of City Budget 2019: 120 Mio. €

- July 2011: Meeting with the Municipality of Riehen, our neighbour community in Switzerland
- Weil am Rhein contacts UNICEF Germany
UNICEF Germany plans to establish program "Child friendly community" like in Switzerland and France
- March 2012: Decision in the City Council
- October 2012: Signing of the agreement
- February 2013: Personal added to the current staff in the Mayor's Office (new position)
- **July 2013: Surveys among and with students**
- October 2013: Delivery of the questionnaire for the administration about structural data.



Participation of children guaranteed through:



- Workshops
- Expeditions through town
 - targeted press work
- to-do lists for administration
 - Inclusion in action plan



The action plan (2015 - 2018)

The action plan is the result of the following activities:

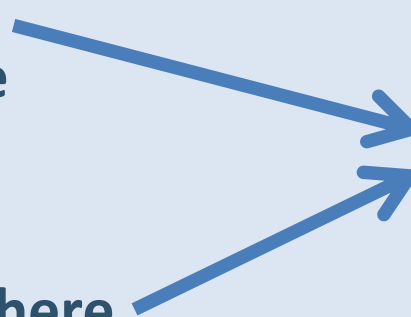
- Self-evaluation of the administration (what has been done up to now?)
- Children questionnaire (distributed in various schools)
- Participation procedures with children and youth (workshops, expeditions)
- Consultation with the association "Kinderfreundliche Kommunen e. V." and experts
- Recommendation for the action plan



The **measures** of the action plan contain two main categories:

A. Anchoring the participation of children and youth in governance

B. Space in the public sphere



A. Anchoring the participation of children and youth in governance:

Shown in the measures

- Creating a mission statement and guidelines
- Establishment of an internal administrative control group
- Training for employees
- Setting up a focal point for children and young people
- Creation of a budget for youth



B. Space in the public sphere

Children and young people claim their public space to play, to meet or to do sports.

Shown in the desires for

- Use areas as playing fields ✓
- "Street Workout-Park" ✓
- Meeting / shelter for teens ✓
- Offer to do sport at night ✓
- "Weil am Rhein should be clean" - actions against waste (continued process)
- "Rheinpromenade" along the Rhine river (in planning and under construction)
- Approach to use schoolyards in the (late) afternoon and on weekends (to be decided)



Award "Kinderfreundliche Kommune"



KINDERFREUNDLICHE
KOMMUNEN



Ein Netzwerk



Granted in November 2014!

Child Friendly Cities Summit / Cologne, 15th – 18th October 2019



Conclusions (What do I consider important?)

- The process has a value as such.
- Raising awareness for the needs and the perspectives of children in the political process.
- Taking a look at our world through the eyes of the children and youngsters.
- Teach your staff to be aware.



Youth Assembly

Established in 1993 on decision by the City Council

Composition: 18 seats

Term of mandate: 2 years

Meetings: every 6-8 weeks



Eligibility and right to vote: age group 14 to 20 years

Majority vote on the bases of personal votes

Latest election: 2019 (turn out 15 %)

Nominees: 26

Elected: 18 youngsters age 14 - 20 years

Next election: 2021



Youth Assembly

Powers

- Advising the local government in questions of planning
- Advisory Statement for budget on local youth activities
- Permission to participate actively in debates in local parliament about affairs concerning youngsters can be granted by the chairperson
- **Own Support Budget**
- budget set aside by the local parliament: € 2.000.- per year,
- teaches responsibility and budgeting



Meeting places for Youngsters / Youth Activity Houses

- Five establishments in various parts of town
- Staff: 10 people employed by the local government
- Offering programs to teenagers (among other things: help with job applications)



Meeting places for Youngsters / Youth Activity Houses



Ground-breaking ceremony October 2019 for the next project for children and youngsters about 7,8 Million Euro!

Participation of children and youngsters in city development projects:

For example for the planning for a new pleasure ground at the Rhine bank with special areas for all generations together with our french neighbours.



Weil am Rhein Community Music School

Classes subsidized by the Community (about 530.000 Euro p.a.)

- 1900 students
- 36 teachers
- 23 instruments



At the very end...

... we are proud to report

that our certification for the second part of the process will
be reached in November 2019!





Thank you for your attention!

Wolfgang Dietz, Lord Mayor City of Weil am Rhein