



GIZ-Governance Support Programme (GSP)

on behalf of the

**German Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Bonn**

Let's Talk Accountability Journalism, citizen participation and government communication

Learning journey of South African delegates to Germany

11-24 June 2015

Thursday, 11 June 2015 Day 1

Arrival & Welcome

Time	Programm
09.55h	Arrival in Berlin-Tegel on flight LH 176 from Johannesburg via Frankfurt
	Transfer & Check- in to hotel Suite Novotel Anhalter Str. 2 10963 Berlin Phone +49 (0)30 / 20 05 60
13.00h	Lunch at the restaurant Ibis - next to Suite Novotel - Anhalter Str. 4 10963 Berlin Phone +49 (0)30 / 26 10 50
14.45h	Walk to GIZ-House Berlin
15.00h	Welcome Meeting Welcome by <i>Daniela Funke</i> , senior professional GIZ Representation Berlin Welcome & Introduction by <i>Andrea Tapper</i> , journalist & tutor Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH GIZ-House Berlin Reichpietschufer 20 10785 Berlin Phone +49 (0)30 / 72 61 40
17.00h	Walk First impressions of Berlin: A walk through famous Tiergarten
	Dinner at Café am Neuen See Lichtensteinallee 2 10787 Berlin

Friday, 12 June 2015 Day 2

Media & Political Overview - Workshops

Time	Programm
09.40h	Walk to GIZ-Haus Berlin
10.00 - 13.00h	<p>Workshop Media system and journalism in Germany today <i>Andrea Tapper</i>, journalist and tutor</p> <p>@ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH GIZ-House Berlin Reichpietschufer 20 10785 Berlin Phone: +49 (0)30 / 72 61 40</p>
13.15h	<p>Lunch at Restaurant Coa Potsdamer Platz 5 10785 Berlin Phone +49 (0)30 / 23 00 54 62</p>
14.30 - 17.00h	<p>Workshop The political and federal system in Germany and its influence on political communication <i>Lisa Hiemer</i>, GIZ advisor</p> <p>@ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH</p>
19.30h	<p>Dinner at Augustiner Bräu Charlottenstraße 55 10117 Berlin Phone +49 (0)30 / 20 45 40 20</p>
21.30h	<p>Cultural programme Cinema @ Freiluftkino Kreuzberg or Hackesche Höfe</p>

Saturday, 13 June 2015 Day 3

Political Sightseeing in Berlin

Time	Programm
08.10h	Walk to German Parliament
09.00 - 10.30h	Sightseeing Deutscher Bundestag and Reichstagskuppel Paul-Löbe-Allee 2 10557 Berlin Phone +49 (0)30 / 22 70
	Time for individual research
	Lunch at own disposal
15.00 - 18.00h	Sightseeing Citytour of Berlin „Recent history“ Meet Jodock at hotel Suite Novotel
20.00h	Dinner at own disposal
21.00h	Cultural programme Angela Brown & International Blues Duo @ Yorkschlösschen Yorckstr. 15 10965 Berlin-Kreuzberg Phone +49 (0)30 / 21 58 070

Sunday, 14 June 2015 Day 4

Media Workshop

Time	Programm
09.45h	Walk to Hotel Relexa
10.00 - 14.00h	<p>Workshop Let's talk accountability: Learning objectives of the journey <i>Andrea Tapper</i>, journalist and tutor Topics: What are your challenges in South Africa? What is your key interest? What are you hoping to ask during on-site visits? Communication issues: How to use the blog; who does what (assignments protocol/ blog/ social media)? What could be your coverage at home?</p> <p>@Hotel Relexa Stuttgarter Platz Anhalter Str. 8-9 10963 Berlin Phone +49 (0)30 / 26 48 30</p>
14.00h	<p>Lunch at Ristaurante Marinelli Anhalter Str. 1 10963 Berlin Phone +49 (0)30 / 25464770</p>
16.00h	<p>Cultural programme Kenako Festival @ Alexanderplatz</p>
	Dinner at own disposal

Monday, 15 June 2015 Day 5

New media and state-citizen relations

Time	Programm
10.19h	Take the S-Bahn S2 Gesundbrunnen, change for U8 to Voltastrasse
11.00 - 13.00h	<p>Media visit</p> <p>Free radio and TV for all – how does a successful community station operate?</p> <p><i>Volker Bach</i>, director of ALEX</p> <p><i>Mischka Franke</i>, project manager,</p> <p><i>Sonja Rutow</i>, head of kommunikation</p> <p>Topics: Producing and learning, finances, student TV</p> <p>ALEX Offener Kanal Berlin Voltastrasse 5 13355 Berlin Email rutow@alex-berlin.de Phone +49 (0)30 / 46 40 05 14</p>
13.12h	Take the subway U8 to Herrmannplatz, change for U7 to Bezirksamt Neukölln
13.30h	<p>Lunch at AWO Scultur</p> <p>Erkstraße 1 12043 Berlin Phone +49 (0)30 / 61 39 63 61</p>

Time	Programm
15.00 – 17.00h	<p>Municipality visit Neukölln – a problem district? Communication between municipality, press and citizens <i>Arnold Mengelkoch</i>, officer responsible for migration & integration</p> <p>Bezirksamt Neukölln Karl Marx-Strasse 83 12040 Berlin Email arnold.mengelkoch@bezirksamt-neukoelln.de Phone +49 (0)30 / 90 23 9 2951</p>
17.13h	Take the subway U7 to Hermannplatz
17.30h	<p>Dinner and Discussion at Antep Sofrasi Kottbusser Damm 36 10967 Berlin Phone +49 (0)30 69 50 48 55</p>
18.30h	Take the subway U8 to Leinestrasse, walk 8 minutes
19.00h	<p>Media visit Is hyperlocal the future? Visit to the Neukoellner.net online-community-news and a walk around Neukölln <i>Regina Lechner</i> editor-in-chief <i>Cara Wuchold</i>, editorial team <i>Katrin Friedmann</i>, editorial team Topics: How do hyperlocal news look like? Creative formats and ideas? What are the challenges?</p> <p>Neuköllner.net Schillerpromenade 31 12049 Berlin Email regina@neukoellner.net Phone +49 (0)176 / 72 82 05 09</p>

Tuesday, 16 June 2015 Day 6

Citizen participation & state communication

MORNING:
SEPARATE PROGRAM GROUP 1 AND 2!!

Time	Programm
	Group 1
11.01h	Take the subway S 1 to Oranienburger Strasse walk 5 minutes
11.30 - 13.30h	Company visit Zebralog: When professionals manage citizen participation <i>Matthias Trénel</i> , CEO Zebralog Berlin Chauseestrasse 8 10115 Berlin Email trenel@zebralog.de Phone +49 (0)30 / 20 05 40 260
13.45h	Lunch at Restaurant Neumond Borsigstraße 28 10115 Berlin Phone +49 (0)30 / 28 57 505
Afternoon	Individual Blogging & working time
	Group 2
Morning	Individual Blogging & working time
	Lunch at own disposal
12.30h	Take the subway U2 to Alexanderplatz Walk 10 minutes

Time	Programm
13.00 - 16.00h	<p>Government visit Berlin's government communication: Understanding of role, examples of tools used Visit to Senate press conference, followed by meeting and dicussion with <i>Bernhardt Schodrowski</i>, deputy press speaker <i>Wolfgang Huske</i>, project manager online public order office, department for the interior and sport Topics: How important is online? MAERKER – the modern `Fix my street`? Communication when the going get's tough: problem child Berlin's new airport</p> <p>Berliner Senat Jüdenstrasse 1 10178 Berlin Email bernhard.schodrowski@senatskanzlei.berlin.de Phone +49 (0)30 / 90 26 24 26</p>
	Both groups
	Meet at GIZ-Köthenerstrasse
17.00 - 18.00h	<p>Reflection Bringing it together <i>Andrea Tapper</i>, Journalist and tutor Topics: Key lessons from both groups and outlook on Potsdam and Hamburg</p> <p>@ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Köthenerstrasse 2 10963 Berlin Phone +49 (0)30 / 33 84 24 589</p>
	Dinner at own disposal

Wednesday, 17 June 2015 Day 7

Local media & government transparency

Time	Programm
08.00h	Check out at the hotel with luggage
08.45h	Transfer by private bus to Potsdam
10.00 - 12.00h	<p>Media visit</p> <p>Local journalism today: Is there a future for print?</p> <p><i>Sabine Schicketanz</i>, editor-in-chief, PNN</p> <p>Topics: Challenges and chances of classic local newspapers, National news vs local news - co-operation with „Berliner Tagesspiegel“</p> <p>Potsdamer Neueste Nachrichten Platz der Einheit 14 (WilhelmGalerie) 14467 Potsdam Email chefredaktion@pnn.de Phone +49 (0)331 / 23 76 0</p>
	Lunch on the way to Rathaus Potsdam

Time	Programm
13.00 - 15.00h	<p>Municipality visit</p> <p>The new Germany 25 years after: Press work in a formerly communist city hall</p> <p><i>Dieter Jetschmanegg</i>, head of department communications, economics and participation</p> <p><i>Markus Klier</i>, press officer</p> <p><i>Nils Jonas</i>, civic participation office</p> <p><i>Jean-Marce Bonoho</i>, social worker for refugees in Potsdam</p> <p>Topics: Administrative & political sphere: How do they work together? Citizen participation: just more bureaucracy? Xenophobia in Germany: confronting it with communication</p> <p>Rathaus Potsdam Friedrich-Ebert-Straße 79/81 14469 Potsdam Email dieter.jetschmanegg@rathaus.potsdam.de Phone +49 (0)331 / 28 91 262</p>
	<p>Early Dinner in Potsdam at Restaurant Rothenburg</p> <p>Gutenbergstraße 33 14467 Potsdam Phone +49 (0)331 / 28 05 353</p>
17.00h	<p>Transfer by private bus to Hamburg</p>
21.00h	<p>Check-in at Hotel Suite Novotel Hamburg</p> <p>Lübeckertordamm 2 20099 Hamburg Phone +49 (0)40 / 27 14 00</p>

Thursday, 18 June 2015 Day 8

Grassroots & established media

Time	Programm
10.07h	Take the subway U1 to Steinstrasse, walk 7 minutes
10.30 - 12.00h	<p>Media visit A voice for the voiceless: Hinz & Kunzt in Hamburg Visit to the editorial offices of one of Germany's top homeless papers <i>Birgit Müller</i>, editor-in-chief Topics: 20 years of homeless magazines – how do they work and who benefits? Communication with and for marginalized groups</p> <p>Hinz und Kunzt Altstädter Twiete 1-5 20095 Hamburg Email birgit.mueller@hinzundkunzt.de Phone +49 (0)40 / 32 10 84 01</p>
12.15h	<p>Lunch at Daniel Wischer Steinstraße 15 a 20095 Hamburg Phone +49 (0)40 / 32 52 57 95</p>
	Walk to Ericusspitze 1

Time	Programm
14.00h	<p>Media Visit News, glamour and success: Visit to Germany's most famous news magazine and online news site DER SPIEGEL <i>Christian Teevs</i>, online editor Topics: Recipes for a successful news site What sells? How to generate money online. Dialog with readers. What can we learn from a giant, what can a giant learn from us?</p> <p>Der Spiegel Ericusspitze 1 20457 Hamburg Email christian.teevs@spiegel.de Phone +49 (0)40 / 38 08 0-218</p>
17.00h	Walk through "Schanze", a young, cultural district
18.30h	<p>Dinner at Altes Mädchen Lagerstraße 28b 20357 Hamburg Phone +49 (0)40 / 80 00 77 750</p>

Friday, 19 June 2015 Day 9

Changing role of local media & political administration

Time	Programm
08.37h	Take the subway U1 to Bahnhof Süd, change for U3 to Mönckebergstrasse
09.00 - 11.00h	<p>Editorial workshop and walk</p> <p>Journalist or activist? The role of alternative media</p> <p><i>Annika Demgen</i>, editor-in-chief Eimsbüttler Nachrichten Herlingsburg 16 22529 Hamburg Email a.demgen@eimsbuetteler-nachrichten.de Phone +49 (0)40 / 55 89 22 41</p> <p>@ Lilienhof Co-working Office Lilienstraße 11 20095 Hamburg Phone +49 (0)40 / 20 93 21 00 - Room Alsterblick -</p>
12.30h	<p>Lunch at Hamburg Haus</p> <p>Doormannsweg 12 20259 Hamburg Phone +49 (0)40 / 42 80 13 559</p>
13.45h	Walk to Bezirksamt Eimsbüttel

Time	Programm
14.00 - 16.00h	<p>Municipality visit</p> <p>District communication: Transparency and dialogue</p> <p><i>Dr. Elmar Schleif</i>, head of press and communication</p> <p><i>Dr. Gudrun Rieger-Ndakorerwa</i>, head of health department</p> <p>Topics: Working relationship between administration and media; crisis intervention: health expert explains</p> <p>Bezirksamt Eimsbüttel Grindelberg 62-66 20144 Hamburg Email elmar.schleif@eimsbuettel.hamburg.de Email gudrun.rieger-ndakorerwa@eimsbuettel.hamburg.de Phone +49 (0)40 / 42 80 13 519</p>
17.30h	<p>Dinner at Casino Kampnagel</p> <p>Jarrestraße 20 22303 Hamburg Phone +49 (0)40 / 27 87 74 39</p>
19.30h	<p>Cultural programme</p> <p>Barricades and dances @ Kampnagel</p> <p>Jarrestraße 20 22303 Hamburg Phone +49 (0)40 / 27 09 49 49</p>

Saturday, 20 June 2015 Day 10

Individual reseach

Time	Programm
10.17h	Take the subway U1 to Hauptbahnhof, change for U3 to Landungsbrücken
10.45h	<p>Cultural programme</p> <p>Harbour Cruise with Maritime Circle Line Landungsbrücke 10 Bei den St. Pauli Landungsbrücken 20359 Hamburg Phone +49 (0)40 / 28 49 39 63</p> <p>Emigrants museum BallinStadt Veddeker Bogen 2 20539 Hamburg</p>
15.00h	<p>Lunch at Copper House Davidstraße 37 20359 Hamburg Phone +49 (0)40 / 75 66 20 11</p>
	Evening at own disposal

Sunday, 21 June 2015 Day 11

Citytour

Time	Programm
Morning	Individual reseach
	Lunch at own disposal
14.00 - 17.00h	Sightseeing Citytour of Hamburg Meet at hotel Suite Novotel
18.00h	Get-together Informal reception at Andrea Tapper's home; snack & drinks Schinkelstr. 12 22303 Hamburg Phone +49 (0)40 / 27 87 84 80

Monday, 22 June 2015 Day 12

Press & state accountability

Time	Programm
09.37h	Take the subway U1 to Hauptbahnhof, change for U3 Mönckebergstrasse
10.00 - 14.00h	<p>Expert talk Press freedom, state accountability and Hamburgs transparency laws <i>Petra Reiner</i>, lawyer and media expert of German Federation of Journalists (DJV)</p> <p>DJV Landesverband Hamburg Rödingsmarkt 52 20459 Hamburg Email reiner@djv-hamburg.de Phone +49 (0)40 / 36 97 100</p> <p>@ Lilienhof Co-working Office Lilienstraße 11 20095 Hamburg Phone +49 (0)40 / 20 93 21 0 - 0</p>
	Lunch on the way
14.36h	Take the bus 109 from Gerhardt-Hauptmann-Platz to Fonteney

Time	Programm
15.00 - 17.00h	Citizen organisation visit The transparent parliament: The watchdog work of „Abgeordnetenwatch.de“ <i>Frederik Röse</i> , representative and fundraiser Topic: New tools of citizens control; Accountability via Internet: How effective are the online tools? How were they developed? How did you get politicians to oblige? Abgeordnetenwatch.de Mittelweg 12 20148 Hamburg Email roese@abgeordnetenwatch.de Phone +49 (0)40 / 31 76 91 021
17.16h	Take the bus 109 to Stephanplatz, change for U1 to Lohmühlenstrasse
17.30h	Reflection Bringing it together Reflection on Hamburg, outlook on Bonn @ Hotellobby
	Dinner at own disposal

Tuesday, 23 June 2015 Day 13

Citizens in focus

Time	Programm
08.30h	Check out at hotel with luggage
09.00h	Transfer to railway station Hamburg by taxi
09.46h	Departure ICE 1025 from Hamburg to Bonn (Arrival at 14.12h)
	Transfer to hotel by taxi and check-in Hotel Derag Bonn Adenauerallee 148 53113 Bonn Phone +49 (0)228 / 68 44 0
15.07h	Take the tram 66 to Ollenhauerstrasse
15.15h	Lunch at Ginyuu Ollenhauerstraße 1 53113 Bonn Phone +49(0)228 / 18 47 41 67
17.27h	Take the Tram 63 from Museum König to Uni/Markt and walk 8 minutes
18.00h	Evening lecture and discussion Digital Citoyens – citizen participation in times of social media <i>Prof. Caja Thimm</i> , university lecturer and director University Bonn Abteilung Medienwissenschaft Poppelsdorfer Allee 47 53115 Bonn - Raum 0.003 - Email thimm@uni-bonn.de Phone +49 (0)228 / 73 47 46

Wednesday, 24 June 2015 Day 14

Communication role models

Time	Programm
10.00h	Take the Tram 66 to Hauptbahnhof change for subway U 18 to Robert-Kirchhoff-Strasse
10.30 - 12.00h	<p>Media visit</p> <p>Political coverage – on local and national level</p> <p>Visit to one of Germany's most established daily newspapers, <i>Andreas Mühl</i>, deputy editor-in-chief</p> <p>Topics: Battlefield or buddies? Relations between press and politicians. Changing content & formats: What do readers want?</p> <p>Bonner General-Anzeiger Justus-von-Liebig-Straße 15 53121 Bonn Email a.muehl@ga-bonn.de Phone +49 (0)228 / 66 88 430</p>
12.19h	Take the tram 63 from Tannenbusch Süd to Ollenhauerstrasse
12.45h	<p>Lunch at FEA Canteen</p> <p>Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 40 53113 Bonn</p>

Time	Programm
14.00-17.30h	<p>Final workshop Lessons learnt, ideas developed, inspiration taken <i>Andrea Tapper</i>, journalist and tutor <i>Lisa Hiemer</i>, GIZ advisor Topics: A resume of our German journey: What can we use for our editorial offices? What can we use for our municipal environment?</p> <p>Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Bonn Friedrich-Ebert-Alle 40 53113 Bonn Room BM14068 Phone +49 (0)228/ 44 60 0</p>
17.37h	Take the tram 66 from Ollenhauerstrasse to Bundesrechnungshof, walk 10 minutes
18.00h	<p>Dinner at Restaurant Joligs Ermekeilstrasse 22 53113 Bonn Phone +49 (0)228 / 24 37 12 37</p>
19.38h	Take the tram 62 from Weberstrasse to Bertha-von-Suttner-Platz, walk 5 minutes
20.00h	<p>Sightseeing Nightwatchman tour Meet at Rheingasse/ Corner to Brassertufer</p>

Thursday, 25 June 2015 Day 15

Departure and Goodby

Time	Programm
11.00h	Check out at hotel
	Individual studies
15.30h	Leave for railwaystation Bonn
16.14h	Train to Frankfurt Main international airport IC 2027
22.05h	Departure from Frankfurt on flight LH 572 to Johannesburg

Notes

Members of the delegation	Position
Chengetai Chikadaya eccf.coordinator@gmail.com	Coordinator, Eastern Cape Communication Forum (ECCF)
Siyasanga Hompashe shompashe@nkonkobe.gov.za	Communication Manager, Nkonkobe Local Municipality
Siyabulela Makunga Siyabulelam@amathole.gov.za	Communication Manager, Amathole District Municipality
Tabita Ngqunge tabita@gcis.gov.za	GCIS Regional Coordinator, Amathole District
Joseph Mandlenkosi Ngala JosephNgala@mbombela.gov.za	Communication Officer, Mbombela Local Municipality
Phumza Sokana-Ntongana phumzas@dispatch.co.za	Journalist, Daily Dispatch
Thomas Richard Nkosi tom@ziwaphi.com	Editor, Ziwaphi
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Thembisa Mjiba-Makasi dikelethunews@gmail.com	Editor, Idike-Lethu News

Members of the delegation	Position
Lisa Hiemer Lisa.hiemer@giz.de	GIZ advisor
Andrea Tapper giz@tapperpress.com	Journalist and tutor
Holger Hohensee hhohensee@aol.com +49(0)172 / 70 21 913	Escort

Background informations

ALEX

Free radio and TV for all

ALEX is a non-commercial community radio and television in Berlin, funded by public radio fees. Community stations like Alex – formerly known as Open Channel Berlin - took root in many big cities in Germany when commercial cable TV was introduced in the 80s and 90s. Alex is meanwhile fully digital, available via cable, live stream and on YouTube. Reporting about parliamentary sessions as well as cultural events but keeping a focus on non-mainstream issues, Alex reaches 1,6 Million TV-viewers and 3 Million radio listeners. It has a training unit for lay journalists and community production workshops. The latest addition to ALEX is “Digga”, a program for and by school students

alex-berlin.de

Bezirksamt Neukölln

A problem district changing

Neukölln is one of 12 boroughs (“Bezirke”) of Berlin, each with its own local municipality (“Bezirksamt”). Neukölln, located in the southeast of the city, has a large number of immigrants. 40 per cent of the population of 310,000 are of non-German origin, many of them Turkish and Arabs. Neukölln became (in)famous in 2006 when an elementary school, the Rütli school, was declared unmanageable by its own teachers. This sparked a nationwide debate about school systems and violence. Meanwhile the school has been reformed and serves as a role model; 90 per cent of its students are still of non-German background. Like the school, Neukölln is rapidly changing with an influx of middle-class and creative people.

berlin.de/ba-neukoelln/

Background informations

Neukoellner.net

Famous, wild and unpaid

Just looking at the website you'll notice the difference: a translation bottom into eight languages, a vibrant yet clear lay-out, news sections imaginatively labelled "art & kitsch" and "power & fairy tales". No wonder, the hyper-local journalism site Neukoellner.net has been nominated for Grimme Online Awards 2015, a prestigious media price in Germany. The community neighbourhood platform bridges the gap between the immediacy of blogs and classic local journalism. A voluntary team of media professionals reports about art, politics, social issues, events and everything in between – receiving more than 12,000 clicks a day. And on 18 June 2015 they will know if they won the price!

neukoellner.net

Zebralog

Professional citizen participation

As soon as the word (and the idea) of citizen participation came up and administrations all over were wondering just how to do it, the Berlin-based agency of professionals around founder Matthias Trénel was born - offering their service since 2003. The agency manages everything from concept to design, technical development to communication issues, management to evaluation – always in projects tailored to give citizens more influence on political processes between elections. The agency has carried out 100 major projects such as school planning in Frankfurt, a participation-website for Bonn and gave people their say during the re-design of Berlin's centre Alexanderplatz. The team of 20 has one motto: "We love democracy."

zebralog.de

Background informations

Berliner Senat

Governing Germany's capital

Berlin is the capital of Germany and one of 16 states ("Bundesländer"), three of which are city states (Berlin, Hamburg, Bremen). With a population of 3.5 million people, Berlin is Germany's largest city. The Senate of Berlin is the city state government of Berlin with the mayor at the top and up to eight senators. It's like a cabinet and meets weekly at the Red Town Hall. Mayor and Senate are represented by one press department, responsible for press conferences, a daily news bulletin, the city's official website www.berlin.de and attending to information and interview requests of national and international press. Berlin was a divided city for 28 years, surrounded by communist Germany, the DDR, until the fall of the wall on 9 November 1989; reunification was completed one year later. Berlin's press speakers have had their fair share of problems recently, among them an on-going airport scandal.

berlin.de

Potsdamer Neueste Nachrichten (PNN)

Daily for sale, weekend for free

Potsdamer Neue Nachrichten (PNN) is one of two daily newspapers in this affluent and historical neighbourhood of Berlin. PNN has a female editor-in-chief, Sabine Schicketanz, a circulation of around 20 000 copies and is the sister publication of the famous liberal Berlin daily Tagesspiegel. The Sunday edition Potsdam am Sonntag is given out free to households and has a circulation of more than 120 000.

pnn.de

Background informations

Rathaus Potsdam

Gem in the countryside

Potsdam is the capital of the federal state of Brandenburg with about 160 000 inhabitants and a 1000-year-history, the kings of Prussia once resided here. 15 per cent of the population are students in this beautiful lake and castle environment. Located only 24 kilometres southwest of Berlin's city center, Potsdam was a world apart during communism. Much of the historical buildings have been restored and Potsdam, now a UNESCO-site, is known for tackling local politics with a strong emphasis on citizen participation ("Bürgerbeteiligung"). It even has a local action plan against xenophobia. The movie Inglorious Bastards with Brad Pitt was filmed here, in the famous Babelsberg studios.

Potsdam.de

Hinz und Kunzt

A media project for and by the homeless

Established in 1993 as a joint project of homeless people and journalists, the idea was: Selling a professionally written and designed magazine with the aim to create money, recognition and dignity for the homeless. The magazine would also be a social voice in the city. Since then more than 17 million newspapers have been sold by more than 5000 homeless men and women; annually an average of about 64,000 copies per month. Hinz & Kunzt is the largest street magazine and among the first of its kind in Germany. Meanwhile, there are 26 street papers in German-speaking countries that are members of the global network INSP (International Network of Street Papers).

hinzundkunzt.de

Background informations

Der Spiegel/ Spiegel Online (SPON)

Famous news magazine, popular news site

Der Spiegel is Germany's most famous and recognised weekly news magazine published in Hamburg. It is one of Europe's largest publications of its kind, but even fame and recognition have not spared it from experiencing the general decline of print. Today Spiegel sells 880 000 copies monthly, down from over a million copies before 2003, but it still reaches six million readers per month. Meanwhile, its news website SPON ranks as Germany's No. 1 and is said to make enough money from advertising to sustain a large staff. Experimenting with creative formats such as prominent columnists have helped.

Spiegel.de

Eimsbuetteler Nachrichten

Loving the hyper-local

It's a headache with German Umlaut's such as "ü" and "ö" – they cannot be used in the internet. So when the Hamburg district of Eimsbüttel got its own online magazine in 2013, it had to call itself Eimsbuetteler Nachrichten. The attractive news site with an ostrich in its logo is compiled, written and designed by a staff of more than thirty young journalists, photographers, graphic designers, IT-specialists. Why so many? Most of them hold other jobs since the hyper-local community magazine cannot sustain them yet. The editorial teams says: "We find our topics just in front of our doorstep."

Eimsbuetteler-nachrichten.de

Background informations

Eimsbütteler Bezirksamt

Taking care of 250 000 versatile people

The district Eimsbüttel is one of 7 districts of Hamburg. And the port city Hamburg, way up north, is Germany's second largest city with a 1,8 million population. Eimsbüttel is home to the university. Because of its inner-city location media and creative industries are happy to call it their home. As other districts, Eimsbüttel has its own local administration, the "Bezirksamt", which is responsible for health, schooling, marriages, foreigners, social benefits, street repairs, dialogue with citizens, communication and anything else that matters to 250,000 inhabitants. With 18,000 people per square kilometre Eimsbüttel has one of the highest population densities in Germany.

Hamburg.de/Eimsbuettel

Petra Reiner, DJV – German Federation of Journalists

Press freedom vs. state duties

Petra Reiner, lawyer and media expert of German Federation of Journalists (DJV), talks about press freedom, state accountability and Hamburgs progressive transparency laws. Ms Reiner ist a highly experienced lawyer of the journalist union with an impressive track record. The DJV is one of two trade unions for journalists in Germany (and the only one entirely for journalists) representing the vast number of 38,000 journalists in legal, ethical and salary matters. It upholds the virtues of independent journalism but also stresses the need for "constant self-reflection and self-monitoring" of journalists.

Djv.de (information also in english)

Djv-hamburg.de

Background informations

Abgeordnetenwatch.de

The watchdog of parliamentarians

Parliament watch does exactly that: watching state representatives, and watching them very closely. They follow up on promises made (all questions and answers are saved forever), learn and publish whatever they can find about extra earnings. Before elections (at state, federal and European level) the project is extended to include candidates running for election. For users none of these functions require prior registration and are free of charge. Parliament Watch is financed through memberships and donations. The website counts 6,800 visitors a day and about three million page impressions per month.

Abgeordnetenwatch helped to start similar projects in France, Ireland, Greece and Tunisia – and is looking for interested partners in South Africa!

Abgeordnetenwatch.de

Prof. Caja Thimm

Social media expert from Bonn university

If there's an expert on social networks, twitter, facebook and the like it's Dr. Caja Thimm who studied communication and political science in Heidelberg, San Francisco and Berkeley, and is professor and director of the media science faculty at Bonn university since 15 years. The dynamic social media expert talks to us about her recently published analysis "Digital Citizens: Political participation in times of Social Media" covering case studies in Germany, Egypt and China. She provides insight into an all-important question: In times of digital democracy, what do citizens really want?

Caja-thimm.de

Background informations

General-Anzeiger Bonn

Traditional newspaper – quo vadis?

The Bonn daily founded in 1889 is one of the fixtures of print media in Germany, a reputable source of information even now that Bonn is no longer capital of Germany. A family newspaper owned by a family since 125 years. Like most print media in Germany it lost about a fifth of its circulation in recent years, now sells about 100 000 copies and has 9 local editions. But it's not only size what matters: The General-Anzeiger has won prestigious prizes especially in local journalism in recent years such as a prize for the project "Family paper" in 2012 by Kpnrad-Adenauer-foundation, remains the leading daily newspaper in the Bonn area – and has 26,000 fb-likes. Not bad for an oldtimer!

general-anzeiger-bonn.de/

