

shaping healthy communities



**Urban  
Synergies**  
group

## Creating liveable cities

Reclaiming child friendly environments is a challenge for everyone who knows that children have a right to participation in leisure time, play, cultural and artistic life in accordance to the UN-Convention on the Rights of the child. Child friendliness, including free and self-directed play, often represents a significant and forgotten agenda for most professionals and decision makers that are involved in governing and planning urban environments across the globe. Academic evidence suggests that direct and interdisciplinary action is required to bridge the boundaries and help drive change on the implementation level.

Strong synergies between the healthy cities agenda (World Health Organisation), climate change policies and child friendly cities movement offer the unique opportunity to deliver sustainable and long-lasting change internationally in order to achieve more liveable environments for all people. Most countries have now ratified policies in place. However, implementation in regional and local contexts has been identified as the strongest barrier in delivering better outcomes on the ground.

In order to overcome these barriers Urban Synergies Group is offering an innovative client orientated support service to international stakeholders that share the vision of achieving healthy and child friendly environments.

Benefit from the latest academic evidence, experience based learning techniques and Gregor H. Mews' wisdom of collected over 16 years of practical experience in the field advising governments, NGO's and other stakeholders in the international context.

Please find in the following pages a small selection of our recent contributions for your consideration.



## Knowledge transfer through strategic advice

This format is particularly useful for decision makers and government officials that would like to familiarise and learn more about how to achieve healthy and child friendly environments. Clients' needs can be met and targeted directly. This can be tied in with media launches and theme related events in order to raise awareness on healthy and child friendly environments.

This service has been successfully delivered to:

- Government of the Australian Capital Territory, Canberra, Australia;
- Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk, Berlin, Germany;
- Truong Nguyen Dinh Chieu school for visually impaired children, Hanoi, Vietnam.

## Presentations

Most clients appreciate as part of our involvement a presentation on the topic. Fill your program with compelling evidence and passion. Take advantage of Gregor H. Mews' talks that are entertaining, inspirational and substantial. The content provides a valuable impulse where a meaningful impact is a desired outcome.

Examples include:

- "Social inclusion through active travel" at Eco Mobility World Summit, Suwon, South Korea;
- "Making Canberra a people city" at Ecocity World Summit, Montreal, Canada;
- "Designing healthy places for people" at Valladolid in Transition, Valladolid, Mexico.



## Seminars

Example: “Play and the urban environments”

This two-day compact seminar is designed particularly for interdisciplinary groups of up to 20 people with a background in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Transport Planner, Government administration, Urban Planners, Urban Designers and Educators.

The aim of the seminar is not just to gain a better understanding of the child friendly environments and the contemporary challenges in the local context, but finding practical solutions on the implementation level.

After identification, experience and collective reflection on the issues the group will discuss and develop solutions that will enable participants to not just gain more knowledge, but to allow better implementation of planning and design where it matters most.

Four themes will be covered as part of the seminar:

- Right to play;
- Risk competency in urban environments;
- Creation of sustainable play spaces;
- Children’s participation.

Please note that depending on local culture and emerging challenges, seminar components can be modified on request of the client.

This seminar module has been successfully delivered at:

- Edward Ziegler Center for Child Study, Yale University, USA;
- Stadt Essen, Local Government, Germany;
- Stadt Dortmund, Local Government, Germany;
- SIK-Holzgestaltungs GmbH, Berlin, Germany.

For price enquiries and other services including strategy development, input for master planning projects and guideline development please contact us at Urban Synergies Group.



**For urban health and well-being information:**

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