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Pilot-Projects as Drivers of Sustainable City Visions

Sustainability arose out of a grass root movement. The very base of the population followed the aim to achieve the common purpose establishing the vision of a sustainable world. Bottom-up initiatives used to be the motors to change wastefully urban systems.

Recently sustainability is getting more and more applied by various institutions, in politics, economy, public administrations. But so far a spongy understanding and the lack of a supported and wide spread vision concerning sustainability promotes the development of it as a self-service store or a showbag.

The transformation of urban regions into sustainable and holistic cities might be up to 20% construction of buildings hence city's „hardware", but the crucial 80% instead are (social) „software" within the city. Commitment, breathe life into, method, humor etc. are vital for the sustainability movement. Nowadays, the key requirement is research and development concerning the software of future sustainable cities, even more than its hardware. Visions for future cities are the motors and the condition for future cities to find a way out of political blockades, opening the possibilities and creating innovative pioneer-projects. Such pioneer-projects offer the requirement to exercise the potential.

The aim of this paper is to examine pioneer-projects which are the drivers of sustainable city visions, analyzing their software regarding the sustainable, holistic city development as well as simultaneously **developing the methodological instruments** in this field of research. The pioneer-project is chosen by an application of the what- and the why-rules.

Further on this paper discusses the **research results taken out of my master thesis** concerning the known targets. The research results out of a Swiss pioneer-project are going to show what kind of interactions and impacts between hardware and software are

given and what is crucial for constructing social software. The chosen pioneer-project created a software within the hardware to build up a culture of being close to each other. This leads to the formation of social networks that trigger innovation processes and enhance the urban quality. Further the master thesis contains a discussion about the dimension of culture within sustainability.

Now these above stated issues have to be transferred into an **international context.** The international context is decisive due to the above mentioned imprecise understanding and use of the sustainability concept enclosing innovation, software and many more qualitative units. On the base of a global comparison, the component of culture will find systemic boundaries which lead to a better understanding and are decisive for the implementation of sustainability and holistic visions in a city. It is not to forget that the concept of sustainable development demands justice, both in a temporal intergenerational perspective, as well as in a spatial, so-called intragenerational terms. Sustainability refers to the entire world community and the human development (anthropocentric point of view) is and stays in the foreground.