



"What do I get out of it?"

People want to know what they get out of such a big event before they apply. "What do I get out of it?" is the central question in our concept. In cooperation with the RWTH Aachen University and Professor Dr. Günther Schuh, we are developing visions and concepts of how Olympia 2032 can serve as a motor and driver for the entire Rhein-Ruhr region and support the people who live here. This includes the topics of networked mobility and digitalisation. Because: millions of commuters expect solutions for the future in questions of mobility for the metropolitan region in which they live and work. It is not acceptable that a train goes onto the tracks in Düsseldorf that cannot enter the station in Duisburg and that different railway lines in the Ruhr region aren't compatibility with each other or that the Rhein-Ruhr Express (RRX) took years to get onto the rails. But even after its start only a part of the route network is suitable for the RRX. The Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032 can help to ensure that this fast-regional train will actually be fully developed by the end of the next decade, with a timing that is very attractive to people.

The metropolitan region's new we-mentality can help to break down barriers and develop joint solutions faster and more efficiently, to provide cities with optimal networks and therefore also to ensure a better work-life balance of their citizens.

The overarching vision behind the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2032 is: "Metropolitan City". This major event is to serve as a motor and become a model region for technological and infrastructural innovations. The globally unique potential in the Rhein/Ruhr region, with 500.000 students, 9 DAX companies, 11 MDAX companies (as of the end of September 2019), 450.000 medium-sized companies, a well-educated population and numerous start-ups, forms the basis for a unique vision of the Rhine Ruhr City: the creation of an innovation and mobility region, which will be the most modern metropolitan region in Europe, with the jobs of the future around the universities. To realize this vision, economically and ecologically sustainable concepts will be designed and implemented. Communities and digital ecosystems should be advanced through the digital networking of people and companies.

Digitalisation and networking know no boundaries, which is why no municipality or company can develop solutions in isolation. If the parochial thinking of the individual municipality in NRW broke up, if they think not in terms of "I" but in terms of "we" and act as European players, there is a historic opportunity to tackle the big future issues and export hits as "first movers" and to transfer them to other regions.

Smart technologies can be developed and new jobs created that sustainably improve people's quality of life. On the one hand, the answer to the mobility of the future can be found in the networking of local public transport, long-distance transport and individual transport within the metropolitan region. On the other hand, in digitisation. Here is an example for the rail network: Digitisation of the existing rail network leads to a 40% higher capacity utilisation without having to lay a single new kilometre of rail. The target corridor 2032 would provide a time limit by which the expansion would have to be completed. People would have a sustainable benefit. Not for Olympia, but through Olympia.



With the Olympic idea, the vision of the Rhein-Ruhr City metropolitan region becomes a vehicle for networking, mobilisation and digitalisation. Joint action by the metropolitan region will serve as an accelerator for the process of joint growth and integration of this region with its ten million inhabitants. This is the real value of the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2032 and provides the answer to the citizens' question "What do I get out of it?"

Congress Metropolitan Cities

The congress "MC 2032", which has been held annually since 2018 under the patronage of the Prime Minister Armin Laschet, is part of Rhein Ruhr City and has the concrete goal of promoting joint developments in the areas of networked mobility, digitalisation and the realisation of new forms of work in networked ecosystems and initiating cross-industry communication. The realisation of the goals of MC 2032, such as the improvement of traffic flow by networking vehicles with the transport infrastructure, the optimisation of vehicle efficiency and user behaviour, the optimisation of transport chains using new, low-emission mobility offers and their intelligent intermodal combination, requires not only the existence of physical and digital infrastructures. Rather, it must also be possible for competing companies and municipalities with the same but also different competencies to work together synergistically. The congress makes things happen.

The Olympic Village as "Smart City of the Future"

An exciting topic in this context is Smart City. What will the cities and metropolitan regions of the future look like? What about the last mile, how will the issue of CO₂ neutrality be resolved, what will fair working conditions look like? The Rhein Ruhr City 2032 initiative aims to plan the Olympic Village 2032 for the almost 17.500 athletes in such a way that it can serve as a pilot project for the Smart City of the future. In the long term, this could alleviate the shortage of living space, where housing is urgently needed. Regular workshops with decision-makers and thought leaders from science, administration, municipalities and business, which are already being organized and carried out by the Rhein Ruhr City Initiative, should lead to usable results.