



"The Sense of We" on the Rhine and Ruhr

A total of 16 municipalities are part of the sports facility concept of the Rhine-Ruhr City Initiative: Aachen, Bochum, Bonn, Brühl, Dortmund, Duisburg, Düsseldorf, Essen, Gelsenkirchen, Cologne, Krefeld, Leverkusen, Mönchengladbach, Oberhausen and Recklinghausen as well as the Schleswig-Holstein state capital Kiel. 16 municipalities that are enthusiastic about the idea of combining forces and synergies for an overriding goal and thinking as one metropolitan region.

The participating municipalities of the Rhine-Ruhr City Initiative have put aside their parochial thinking and instead cultivated a new "we-thinking" approach. This "we", with the Olympic and Paralympic Games as the overarching project and with a specified time frame, offers a great opportunity to decisively drive forward and implement core issues of the future that concern people. Just as, for example, the suburban and subway rail network was for the 1972 Games in Munich, which still today - almost 50 years after the Olympic Games - stands for a sustainable infrastructure in the city.

It is now a matter of making good use of the time until a possible application. We need to get people on board right from the start and communicate and explain the idea of the Rhine-Ruhr City to them and win their trust. To this end, we exchange views with citizens at numerous dialog events, among other things, in order to take on board their constructive criticism. This constantly helps us to improve our concept. The goal must be to create a bid from the middle of society that is supported by citizens and the sports base.