

Our BENN-goals for the Allende district

BENN Allende-Viertel action concept 2023-2025



Photo: BENN office on Pohlestraße 4.

Dear neighbours,

It's finished: our BENN 2023-2025 action plan is ready! The following summarises the goals of our BENN work in the Allende district. Local institutions and local people were involved in the creation, through numerous initiatives and two large neighbourhood workshops in the area. The Treptow-Köpenick District Office and the Senate Department for Urban Development, Building and Housing also contributed to the creation of this concept. Many thanks for your participation! The BENN action plan will form the framework of our activities in the next few years (2023-2025). The concept is divided into the four BENN fields of action: "Encounter and active cooperation", "Empowerment and participation", "Communication and dialogue" and "Networking and neighbourhood development".

What is BENN?

BENN stands for "Berlin Entwickelt Neue Nachbarschaften" – or "Berlin Develops New Neighbourhoods". BENN is a programme by the senate administration to promote urban development, construction and housing for neighbourhoods with accommodation for refugees and displaced people. The programme is run in partnership with the district offices. There are 23 locations altogether in Berlin and the Allende-Viertel is one of these locations. BENN aims to strengthen social cohesion in the neighbourhood. It encourages exchange between long-time residents and new neighbours, and it helps refugees and displaced people to get involved in shaping neighbourhood life.

1. Encounter and active cooperation

The number of people over the age of 65 in the Allende district is growing. At the same time, more people are moving to the area, which increases the diversity in the neighborhood. Encounters at eye level and tolerance are prerequisites for good coexistence between neighbours in the face of growing diversity. That is why we have set ourselves the goal of promoting dialogue between different age groups and different countries of origin. Volunteering plays an important role in this. We want to empower local volunteers and invite new people to volunteer.

BENN intends to:

- ➔ Encourage encounters through joint initiatives for the neighbourhood, festivals and public offers: for example, through photo competitions, exchange markets or exhibitions and events in the KIEZKLUB and other local meeting places.
- ➔ Encourage encounters between people of different ages and countries of origin, e.g. in the meeting cafés or in the community garden on the common grounds of the shared accommodation in Salvador-Allende-Straße and the KIEZKLUB.
- ➔ Regularly review who is reached by the offers. For all those whom we don't reach, we want to create new offers or change existing formats to appeal to those people.
- ➔ Persuade more people to volunteer, especially young people and refugees.
- ➔ Relieve volunteers, e.g. by means of supplementary offers by the Sternenfischer Volunteer Centre and support in the projects.
- ➔ Identify and reduce discrimination together, for example through education and joint learning.

2. Empowerment and participation

The past few years have been marked by numerous crises. Many people in the Allende district have less money. In addition, more people suffer from loneliness. Participation in shaping the neighbourhood can improve and facilitate the lives of all people in the Allende district. There are already many opportunities for participation in the Allende district. Currently, however, only a few people use the existing possibilities. In particular, young people and refugees are poorly represented in neighbourly structures such as the Roundtable (RuTi). In addition, there are few local offers and spaces for young people, in particular.

BENN intends to:

- ➔ Conduct two major neighbourhood forums per year to discuss challenges and wishes for the Allende district with local facilities and people.
- ➔ Disseminate information on district-wide opportunities for participation.
- ➔ Make structures and offers for refugees visible and expand them, e.g. through referral advice and support in finding rooms and participating in offers.
- ➔ Strengthen the self-organisation of refugees, e.g. by setting up their own rooms, supporting events or promoting networking throughout Berlin.

- Promote existing offers and spaces for children and young people in the area, such as the Children's Summer Programme in the Allende district or the BENN district maps.
- Facilitate participation in offers, e.g. through support and permanent contacts.
- Organise activities for children and young people together with local institutions, such as football and table tennis tournaments, sports festivals, joint explorations of the area, graffiti workshops or photo competitions.
- Promote curiosity and interest in democracy among young people.
- Strengthen mutual neighbourhood assistance, e.g. through exchange markets on the BSR Bulk Waste Day, shared meals or cultural events.

3. Communication and dialogue

- Address and prevent neighbourhood conflicts, e.g. through regular discussion meetings with institutions and housing administrations and joint implementation of solutions.
- Work together to identify discrimination and reduce prejudice, e.g. through training and education.
- Observe compliance with the rules of conversation at events (listening, letting people finish speaking, promoting mutual understanding, etc.).
- Support local institutions in joint advertising to reach more people.

4. Networking and neighbourhood development

Many people want more beautiful spaces to spend time outside and meet their neighbors. Sufficient lavatories and seating are particularly important. Exercise is important for the health of all people in the Allende district. BENN wants to support play and exercise opportunities in the neighborhood. Many dedicated institutions work in the Allende district, offering a varied range for the neighborhood. But they often lack time and money. BENN therefore wants to support the cooperation of these institutions so that they can achieve more together.

BENN intends to:

- Beautify meeting places together with the neighborhood, such as the "Schweinchenplatz."
- Promote initiatives such as clean-up or bulk waste disposal days and gardening together in public green spaces.
- Identify sports and exercise opportunities in the area, raise awareness of them and develop offers that are currently lacking.
- Encourage more play opportunities and more tolerance for children in the "Allende 1" neighbourhood.
- Organise regular networking meetings of local institutions, e.g. to agree on the annual programme, and to plan and promote initiatives together.
- Involve schools and nurseries more actively in BENN work.
- Strengthen networking with the Alliance for Democracy, Tolerance and Diversity.
- Evaluate existing data on public places in the Allende district.

What happens next?

Get active for the Allende district yourself!

We hope that our goals have inspired new ideas! As our action concept shows, BENN supports neighbourhood involvement in a variety of ways. We can discuss your ideas and wishes in a personal conversation. We will implement our goals and ideas from summer 2023 to summer 2025 and look forward to your involvement and the mutual exchange of ideas.

How BENN offers support:

- Help with planning and implementing ideas for the neighbourhood
- Financing of ideas
- Establishing contact with other participants
- Help with finding local premises
- Public relations, e.g. the creation of posters or advertising on the BENN website

Contact:

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