



PROJECT:

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF SOCIAL CAPITAL IN THE SOCIAL
ECONOMY TO LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN
EUROPE**

REPORT OF WORKPACKAGE 4:

**BASELINE LOCAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES: DATA
COLLECTION**

**LOCAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE FOR "SOLDINER KIEZ"
DISTRICT OF WEDDING, BERLIN.**

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**Socio-Economic Profile of the "Soldiner Kiez" –
District of Wedding, Berlin**

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Foreword

Within the context of the CONCISE research project, the following document represents an attempt – as far as we know the first of its kind in this country – to formulate a socio-economic profile of two areas in Berlin: the Soldiner Kiez in the district of Wedding (Borough of Mitte) and parallel to this a study of the Wrangelkiez¹ in the district of Kreuzberg.

The objectives of these profiles include the following:

- to describe the area with, above all, a view to the social economy each supports;
- to identify the presence of local social capital in each area;
- to trace the connections between social capital and social enterprise.

The approach known as socio-economic, or community, profiling has been developed over recent years in English-speaking countries. HAWTIN et al (1994) define community profiling as

"a comprehensive description of the needs of a population that is defined, or defines itself, for the purpose of developing an action plan or other means of improving the quality of life of a community"

HAWTIN, M. et al. *Community Profiling: Auditing Social Needs* (Buckingham: Open University Press, 1995, p. 4).

We have utilised four specific techniques for the creation of this profile:

- evaluation of secondary data (statistics, scholarly publications, etc)
- survey by questionnaire of social enterprises in the Kiez (see provisional evaluation under pts. 5 and 9)
- survey by questionnaire of the residents of the Kiez (see provisional evaluation under pt. 8)
- critical examination of the results by a "soundings group," a group of residents and project representatives in the Kiez who know the situation on the ground, and who can use their experience and judgment to assess our results.

We regard these local socio-economic profiles as the first attempt to deploy this particular instrument in this country, but we also want to proceed to adapt it gradually to the specific social and cultural environment(s) found in Germany. At the same time, the instrument itself will be subjected to an analysis of its effectiveness and suitability. It is, therefore, the task of the soundings group, and of the readers of

¹ The term "Kiez" (pronounced like the poet Keats) is a vernacular North German word that, in Berlin in particular, means a local area and the community that belongs to it. Spatially, such an area is somewhat larger than a few blocks but smaller than a district: "neighbourhood" would appear to be an obvious English translation, but one would generally not speak of a "Kiez" in reference to a middle-class suburb, for example, whereas "neighbourhood" would be completely appropriate in English in that context. A further complication involves the fact that a gentrified inner city area, for example, might still be a "Kiez" to the local community even if many new, better-off residents now form part of it. Nevertheless there is something casual, street-wise, lower class, perhaps even oppositional in the term – closer perhaps to the contemporary American derivative "the 'hood" but without its sense of minority ethnic uniformity. Subsequent to this brief explanatory note, I will use the original term "Soldiner Kiez" in the translation.

this report also, to judge whether, and to what degree, a local socio-economic profiling can carry out the empirical task of investigating the relationships between social capital and social enterprises on the ground.

1. Introduction

The Kiez around the Soldiner Strasse in the "old" Borough of Wedding² has generally had a negative image in the public mind, the area having been characterised as a focal point of social dysfunction, or social crisis. In this part of the city, one can indeed observe a number of problematic tendencies reflecting those affecting the whole nation. There have been accounts in which a major role is ascribed to demoralisation through long-term unemployment, alcoholism, drug abuse, as well as ethnic conflicts and juvenile crime. In addition, there are problems of economic structure, part of open spaces and play grounds are in a poor condition, and the over-crowding in available local housing. The actual high level of residential transience embodies the danger that, increasingly, families with normal income levels will leave the area: this is a process that has, for many reasons, a negative effect on social integration and one that must be stopped or even reversed if possible.

In addition to the real existing problems the negative public attitudes toward a problematic neighbourhood can lead to an intensification of its downward spiral. Any qualities or even interesting characteristics that a locality might possess tend to vanish from view.

To what extent the real danger of a worsening of the problems, of a kind of collapse into a "ghetto" situation, is present depends on a number of factors: both those that are out of the hands of the local area (e.g. public policy on immigration, or demographic shifts of established residents and new arrivals) and those that involve many elements and interventions that can be influenced locally.

A so-called "Neighbourhood Management Office," established on April 1st 1999 by the Berlin Senate Administration of Construction, Housing and Transport, has the responsibility of nurturing a realistic assessment of the problems in the area and developing mechanisms for providing solutions that improve the quality of life in the Kiez and serve to gradually strengthen social cohesion.

The development of social cohesion will be determined essentially by how social capital can develop out of the relationships and behaviour of local people interacting with each other. The formation and development of social capital will have to, in that process, work with the potential and resources available in that neighbourhood.

The socio-economic profile we have generated here will reveal both the existing deficits that affect the Kiez as well as its potential and available resources.

² When the Berlin public administration reforms came into effect, the 23 boroughs that had existed until December 31st 2000 were collapsed into 12 boroughs. The Borough of Wedding was consolidated with the Boroughs of Mitte and Tiergarten and the entity is now called Borough of Mitte.

2. The Soldiner Kiez: Geography and History

The **geographical location** of "Soldiner Strasse and Adjacent Area," as it is officially designated, lies on the northeastern border of the present district of Wedding. The neighbourhood management project on the ground focuses its work on this area around Soldiner Strasse,³ which is included in the statistics as "Neighbourhood Management Area 03."

The latter is a residential area consisting of twenty-nine blocks of old multi-storey housing stock. In the context of urban planning statistical survey definitions, the Soldiner neighbourhood makes up Area 4 (statistical area 006).⁴ The Soldiner neighbourhood is bordered on its southern edge by Osloer Strasse, to the west by Schwedenstrasse, Ritterlandweg and Provinzstrasse. To the north Kühnemann- and Nordbahnstrasse enclose the area, and the S-Bahn suburban rail line marks its eastern boundary. The land area is 170.65 hectares. The Panke river flows through the middle of the locality in a north-south direction.

The Neighbourhood Management Area (NMA) consists of thirteen blocks, bordered by Osloer Strasse to the south, Koloniestrasse to the west, Freienwalder Strasse to the east, and Gottschalkstrasse and Heubuder Strasse to the north. Within the NMA are three smaller areas that have been targeted by the Berlin Senate for redevelopment (see map).

The area adjacent to Soldiner Strasse is **not an administrative unit**. This is the main reason why integrated statistical data for this locality are hardly available at all. The economic and social structures of the NMA, however, broadly reflect those for the larger Soldiner Kiez: nonetheless, there is considerable need for precise data analysis down to the block level, as social differentiation can take place on a very small geographic scale.

The **history** of the Soldiner Kiez, including the NMA, is embedded in the history of the old Borough of Wedding:

Wedding gained its real significance with the arrival of the Industrial Revolution. We know from the recorded history of the borough that the building of housing for new settlers began in 1780 along today's Koloniestrasse⁵ and Uferstrasse. The dominant mode was the four-storey apartment house with a two-storey building attached that served as a stable, workshop space or just as a shed for storage.

In 1861 the areas of Wedding and Gesundbrunnen were integrated into the municipality of Berlin. From that point on, many major Berlin companies with long histories, particularly in the electrical

³ On 10.3.1873 Soldiner Strasse received its current designation as a result of a Cabinet Order naming it after the city of Soldin in the Neumark, which is now the Polish city of Myslibórz (*Sozialstudie*, p. 20).

⁴ The district of Wedding is divided, for statistical purposes, into ten social survey Areas.

⁵ Around 1784 the first settler of the "Settlement behind the Luisen Baths" received his certificate of ownership. The actual street, formerly called Schönholzer Weg, was in existence by 1800 and presumably gained its current name of Koloniestrasse around this period (*Sozialstudie*, p. 20).

industry, were inseparable from the name Wedding. Of the founding generation, the most important names became Schering, Schwartzkopff and Rathenau.⁶

The NMA contains two former factories with interesting histories behind them.⁷ Both these plants now serve as the base for, respectively, two community organizations and/or projects that contribute in important ways to the reproduction of social capital in the neighbourhood:

- the former Hutfabrik Gattel,⁸ today a residential complex at Prinzenallee 58 and home of the Prinzenallee Neighbourhood House and the housing cooperative; and
- the old Zündholzmaschinen Fabrik (match-machine plant)⁹ at Osloer Strasse 12; this has been a local community and cultural center since 1985 with one section dedicated to neighbourhood action.

⁶ The pharmacist Ernst Schering bought an apothecary business in 1851 and set up his factory thirteen years later, which began by manufacturing chemicals for pharmaceutical and photographic purposes. During subsequent decades the firm was transformed into a joint-stock corporation. Today Schering AG is a global player with a workforce of more than 20,000 employees world-wide (in Berlin more than 5,000 employees.)

Louis Schwartzkopff established his iron foundry and engineering works in Wedding in 1852. He made an international name for himself with the manufacture of locomotives. The firm of Schwartzkopff was active in multiple areas of production until the 1970s, when the crisis in the mechanical engineering industry forced the closing of the entire plant. Today, the name Schwartzkopff has vanished completely from the Berlin commercial map.

In 1883 the Berlin entrepreneur Emil Rathenau founded the "Deutsche Edison-Gesellschaft für angewandte Elektrizität," that four years later became AEG, "Allgemeine Elektrizitätsgesellschaft." AEG was still employing about 10,000 people in the 1960s, but the company was hit by an economic decline that could not be reversed. In 1983 AEG began closing all its units in the Brunnenstrasse plant and ultimately withdrew from Wedding completely.

⁷ The following details were taken, with much condensing, from Beyer, I. *Geschichte(n) aus dem Wedding*.

⁸ The Gattel Hat factory was founded by the brothers Richard and Max Gattel during 1890-1, who had the Prinzenallee 58 complex built. The hat factory employed 175 people, which did good business until the world-wide Depression of the early 1930s. The plant had to close, and all employees were made redundant. The estate was put under compulsory state administration. The Gattels, an old Berlin Jewish family, were expropriated (the company was "aryanized," to use the Nazi term); both brothers and their families were deported in 1942, and only two daughters survived the War.

From 1932 all upper floors of the house were converted into small apartments, and a steam laundry and an egg wholesale business moved into the ground floor. In 1940 the building was sold to Kempinski Hotels (which had also been aryanized in the meantime), which expanded the laundry rather than building a hotel of any kind. It was 1977 before the property was sold again, and the new owners wanted to empty it and sell it in this period of large-scale property speculation. By 1981 the majority of the apartments were empty. Ultimately it was occupied ("squatted") and renovated by the remaining tenants and new residents-activists, becoming the 100th successful building occupation in West Berlin. They began immediately with redeveloping and rehabilitating – to an extent also reconstructing – the property. The concept was to convert the residential stories into large shared apartments and make the ground floor available to social and cultural projects. For this purpose the Prinzenallee Neighbourhood House Association was founded; it still manages the project as a social enterprise.

⁹ This company was set up in 1855 by a skilled tradesman named Albert Roller, and moved into the newly built property – that had been constructed especially for the match machine factory – at Prinzenallee 24 (the then front entrance to the complex; now the main entrance is at Osloer Str. 12). At first there was a workforce of 60, which had become 200 by 1905. The machines were primarily built for export and the firm was a major foreign currency earner for the German Reich as it made assiduous preparations for war in the years leading up to 1914. A worker earned about 100 Marks per month, a poverty-level wage. The infant mortality rate in Wedding at that time was 42 per cent. After the First World War the situation became more unstable: wages were paid out on a daily basis, as the money would be completely worthless the next day due to the upwardly-spiraling inflation rate. Even after the currency crisis was over, wages remained under the acceptable minimum for normal existence, and thus it's hardly to be wondered at that the Wedding working class was politically very combative. There were violent street clashes near the factory at the beginning of the 1930s. The company, however, managed to weather all crises and there were once again 200

The forward march of industrialization brought Wedding, by the end of the 19th and the beginning of the twentieth century, a complex of social problems that appeared to be almost insoluble. Mass accommodation to hold the permanently increasing working class population was thrown up. One of the most notorious "tenement barracks" was the so-called Mayers Hof, which at certain times was home to almost 2,000 people. The tenements of Wedding could serve as the embodiment of the "stone Berlin" (a phrase from the period) with its extremely dense built-up areas. Certain core areas developed with population densities of between 400 and 800 inhabitants per hectare. The great majority of the population had migrated from the provinces, in the slipstream of industrial development, in search of work. Even at that time the borough of Wedding had, in comparison with other parts of the city, the largest number of immigrants speaking foreign languages, of which the largest single group was composed of citizens of Polish origin (*Sozialstudie*, p. 15).

The working population lived on the edge of poverty. Their principal representatives, the Social Democratic movement, enjoyed a lot of support but had to fight a bitter struggle for survival against the political establishment and its legal weaponry, such as the "socialist laws" that restricted political activity. The so-called "three-class suffrage," according to which fifty per cent of elected representatives to municipal assemblies had to be property owners, also disadvantaged the workers. To counteract this state of affairs the prosperous and liberal publisher Hugo Heimann, to mention one memorable example, had houses built in 1901 on Prinzenallee and made their worker-occupants into owners. The community soon became known throughout Wedding as "the Red Houses."

In November 1918, at the end of World War I, the Wedding working class set the German Revolution in motion with a mass demonstration.

The industrial recovery of the early Twenties led to yet another population explosion in Berlin and put the final shape on the working class and tenement culture of the Borough of Wedding as we think of it today. Between the two Wars, in 1925, Wedding reached its maximum population of 352,000 inhabitants. Today, the number of residents is less than half that figure.

The desperate economic conditions of the last years of the Weimar Republic saw not only the Communist but also the National Socialists enjoy increasing support. This often led to bloody confrontations such as those after the May Day celebrations in 1929 when violent street battles left 19 people dead and 200 injured. Although the Nazis did not have an easy time of it in Wedding, their rise to power could not be prevented there either.

In the years between 1933 and 1945 over 1,300 residents of Wedding, men and women, were imprisoned, some for many years. Many did not survive. In the course of those years, the population fell until the number was 190,000 at the end of the War. The southern part of the borough in particular

workers and administrative staff by 1935. In the Nazi period the firm went into munitions production, and made machines for manufacturing grenade shells – also using forced labor. This line of manufacture was revived again in the early 1950s, only this time the machines were for the United States during the Korean War. When this conflict ended in 1953, half of the workforce was made redundant. A less aggressive period followed as the company began to produce machines for match production once again. Indeed, well into the 1970s the firm offered relatively progressive employee benefits, and the wage and salary levels were above average. The trouble came with the economic crisis of that decade and in 1977 the firm left the Osloer Strasse complex – which was now in need of renovation. In 1979 the company's history ended when it declared bankruptcy.

had been severely damaged by bombing, and a third of all accommodation space had been made uninhabitable. In the area around Soldiner Strasse / Soldiner Kiez that we are looking at, however, relatively few houses had been destroyed (*Sozialstudie*, p. 17).

Developments after 1945

The reconstruction of the borough began in 1946. At first the most important task was creation of housing for the many homeless in the city. Under the slogan "Wedding Changes Its Look" the redevelopment of many of the tenement complexes was started, although in this process a multiplicity of social structures and much conservable housing stock were lost. In later years, alternatives to demolition and clearance-type development became more acceptable.

In contrast to some parts of Wedding, the Soldiner Kiez and the NMA managed to retain much of their traditional shape and attracted little public attention until well into the 1970s.

Since the Seventies the borough has been hit hard by a never-ending loss of industrial jobs. The majority of the big companies that once dominated Wedding (AEG, Siemens, Nixdorf, OSRAM) have either moved away or are in the process of closing down their plants. A quarter of all jobs disappeared between 1970 and 1987. The decline in the processing industry in particular is proceeding apace. The negative consequences of economic transformation, intensified by the disappearance of the Berlin Wall, have become the unavoidable experience for the local residents: job loss, firm relocation or closure, rising commercial rents, luxury modernization, lack of affordable accommodation, dismantling of social infrastructure, increasing personal or family debt, and the cutting back of public services – the list could go on.

The citizens' initiative movement that emerged at the end of the 1960s aimed at the following infrastructural deficits and social problems:

- lack of child-care facilities, long waiting-lists;
- an authoritarian educational ethic in schools and kindergartens;
- badly-designed and pedagogically irresponsible play areas
- large-scale demolition as the method of urban planning
- no local public debate outside the media and the political parties; no dialogue with citizens/residents, no right of participation in borough and municipal decision-making.

The citizens' initiative movement became the embryo of a social and self-managed economy in Wedding, first of all in the areas of child care, housing, social services, education, and cultural activities.

The Wedding "Timeline"¹⁰ reveals the following with respect to local political developments:

- 1969 the first "Kinderladen" (independent day nursery) opens its doors in Wollankstr.;
- 1975 opening of the "children's centre" in Afrikanische Strasse 123, and of a training centre in Schwyzer Str. 6;

¹⁰ From *Wedding im Überblick. Schriftenreihe Wedding*, vol. 1 (ed. J. Novak), 1990.

- 1980 the Islamic Cultural Centre and a number of individual artists move into the former industry complex at Lindower Str. 18/19;
- 1981 Prinzenallee 58 becomes the 100th house to be occupied by squatters in West Berlin;
- 1981 establishment of the self-help residential project in Sparrstrasse;
- 1982 "Pankehallen e.V." develops a vital cultural programme, that unfortunately has to be closed down again due to the demolition of the building;
- 1983 areas designated for conservation-orientated urban redevelopment, affecting 125,000 inhabitants, are identified – they include Schulstr., Neue Hochstr., Sparrplatz, Exerzierstr., Biesentaler Str., Koloniestr.;
- 1983 founding of the Wedding Children's Farm at Luxemburger Str. 26;
- 1983 founding of the Neighbourhood House, Prinzenallee 58 (a residential and community project);
- 1987 the Berlin Senate Programme for Self-Help Housing Renovation is announced, and generates proposals for rehab from both landlords and tenants' initiatives in the Soldiner Kiez;
- 1993 establishment of a housing cooperative in Prinzenallee 58

Until the 1980s the citizens' initiative movement regarded its role overwhelmingly as one of local community opposition to the policies of the borough council and the political parties.

Today, one can find in Wedding (now, of course, a district of the large Borough of Mitte¹¹) altered and sometimes more challenging and problematic social conflicts. A number of tendencies towards segregation can be overlooked no longer. These include, in Wedding as a whole and above all in the Soldiner Kiez the following (in various degrees of seriousness):

- unemployment frozen at a high level, accompanied by poverty;
- uncontrolled exploitation by property owners and landlords to maximize their own profits;
- young people growing up in segregated milieus with limited chances of succeeding in society as adults;
- criminal behaviour;
- illegal residence and activities that in their turn feed on unemployment and loss of life-chances, often causing social detachment and also defensive withdrawal into religious and national/ethnic identities.

Not only ordinary citizens but also politicians have expressed doubts that these problems can be solved by targeted neighbourhood and community work in a situation where financial support for social and cultural projects have been subject to cutbacks for years. On the other hand, there is no alternative to making effective use of whatever potential and resources are available. This includes developing new forms of cooperation between institutions, projects and initiatives rather than engaging in competitive struggles for public funding that is decreasing in volume. By this we don't mean some kind of "forced togetherness"; rather, this process has to be a win-win situation consciously experienced by all those participating as working to their advantage.

¹¹ From the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961 until 1989, Wedding was a border area of the former West Berlin; now the district is in the centre of the city, very close to the government quarter.

In contrast to the situation that pertained until the Eighties, today's activist agenda has to go further than operating as a counterforce against local and municipal political establishments. The reconstruction of social cohesion can only be achieved by the development of partnerships between actors from all three economic sectors. Furthermore, more attention has to be given to enabling the self-help potential available in Wedding and the Soldiner Kiez to translate more effectively into civic engagement.

3. The Residents of the Kiez

Wedding has a current (as of 30.6.2000) total population of 153,742, and the land area is approximately 15 square kilometers.¹² The population density of Wedding outstrips that of Berlin as a whole by a considerable margin. Wedding's 106.3 inhabitants per hectare put it significantly ahead of the average for the city as a whole (38.5 per hectare).

While the larger Soldiner Kiez (statistical area 006) has 22,364 residents (14.6 per cent of the population of the borough), the NMA (Neighbourhood Management Area 003) is home to 12,888 people (8.4 of the Wedding population).

Even in 1998 Wedding still had, compared with other boroughs in Berlin, the highest percentage of blue-collar workers among the employed population (47.3) and the lowest percentage of white-collar employees (40.1).¹³ The percentage of the inhabitants in receipt of a retirement pension in the same year was 15.75 (place 6 in the Berlin comparative chart of 23 boroughs).

Since the 1970s the population map of the NMA has been radically transformed by the arrival of non-German households. Initially, single "guest workers" (as the designation went) lived here, and subsequently family members came to join them. The cheap rents obviously played an essential role, but so did the fact that the property owners were unwilling to rent larger and better quality apartments to non-German families. In subsequent years the maintenance of the older housing stock was intentionally neglected. Also, the social infrastructure of the area did not receive the investment it would have needed. The consequence was the increasing departure of German middle-class families in particular. Those who remained were the less mobile parts of the community: elderly people, the poor and/or unemployed. The newer arrivals were, to an extent, non-German families who had to leave their apartments to make room for the Brunnenstrasse renovation plan. The number of empty apartments reached a critical mass, as more residents left than new residents moved in. Today, the character of the Kiez is stamped by the non-German minorities, and especially by the Turkish minority, that have settled here permanently but without giving up their cultural identity or letting themselves be completely assimilated (*Sozialstudie*, p. 17).

As regards the officially registered 12,888 inhabitants of the NMA, 8,143 are German and 4,745 are foreigners. That represents an immigrant proportion of 36.8 of the population. Of the total number of non-Germans 2,270 (57.3 per cent) are designated as Turkish. For comparison, the percentage of foreign residents of Wedding as a whole is 31.1,¹⁴ in Berlin as a whole 13.0, in East Berlin boroughs 5.8, and in West Berlin boroughs 17.3 per cent.

¹² All the population data in this section are from the Berlin Regional Statistics Office, dated 30.6.2000.

¹³ *Sozialstrukturatlas Berlin 1999*, p. 56.

¹⁴ On 31.12.1998 the percentage of the population of Wedding designated as foreign was 30.41, according to the *Sozialstrukturatlas Berlin 1999*, p. 34.

The majority of the immigrants in the NMA come from states outside the European Union. Since the mid-1980s citizens of other nations besides Turkey have settled in Wedding. They would include many asylum seekers from North African and Middle Eastern nations, but also many from Ghana. In the 1990s there was an increase in numbers of people arriving from the former Soviet Block countries, and also a large influx of war refugees from the republics of the former Yugoslavia.

Country of origin of officially resident foreign nationals in the NMA:

<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>% of the population</i>
Europe	3,900	30.3
EU states	308	2.4
Italy	59	0.5
Greece	111	0.9
Non-EU states	3,592	27.9
Turkey	2,270	21.1
Former Yugoslavia	531	4.1
Poland	202	1.6
Former USSR	92	0.7
Africa	129	1.0
North America, Australia and Oceania	13	0.1
South America	20	0.2
Asia	395	3.1
Stateless or similar category	288	2.2

The number of inhabitants of the area under investigation was rose continuously until the middle of the 1990s. The average age of the population went down. The proportion of non-German residents among the total population increased rapidly, although the number of inhabitants of Turkish nationality remained constant.

Age map of the population of the NMA according to nationality:

category	total		age groupings													
			under 6		6-15		15-27		27-45		45-55		55-65		65 and older	
	abs.	%	Abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%
total residents	12.888	100	1016	7,9	1404	10,9	2150	16,7	4044	16,7	1473	11,4	1518	11,8	1283	10,0
German	8.143	63,2	560	6,9	746	9,2	1215	14,9	2429	29,8	973	11,9	1086	13,3	1134	13,9
Non-German	4.745	36,8	456	9,6	658	13,9	935	19,7	1615	34,0	500	10,5	432	9,1	149	3,1
Turkish	2.720	21,1	269	9,9	440	16,2	992	36,5	371	13,6	246	9,0	316	11,6	86	3,2

In the NMA – as is the case in Wedding in General – the proportion of children and young people is much higher than the average (in the NMA children and young people up to 18 years of age form 22.6% while the Wedding average is 19.3%), which can be traced to the above-average proportion of

foreign children and youth. The proportion of non-Germans among children and young people under 18 is 45%, and the corresponding figure for Wedding as a whole is 41%.

In the NMA the number of residents who have moved to the Kiez over the last five years is around 30% (roughly equivalent to the percentage of new arrivals in the district of Wedding).¹⁵ German residents, however, and German families in particular are leaving Wedding. This demographic movement is especially problematic in that it doesn't constitute merely a neutral exchange of population with other areas: on the contrary, the departing households tend to be exactly those in which the majority of the members are in employment.

Wedding is no longer an attractive part of the city for many German tenants, as the new arrivals are generally foreign. Immigrants from abroad tend also to move into those flats and houses not particularly favored by the native population. This trend, as many social scientists have emphasised,¹⁶ cannot be counteracted by limiting immigration but only via a stabilisation of the current resident population. As two-thirds of the foreign immigrants arrive in Wedding directly from their countries of origin, they often have little knowledge of the language and the surrounding culture. For that reason, the pressures on the integration work of the borough authorities and the local inhabitants themselves continue to grow.

¹⁵ Figures taken from *Schritt für Schritt. Informationsblatt für den Soldiner Kiez*, Nr. V. 1/01, p. 2.

¹⁶ Andreas Kapphan: "Sozialräumliche Entwicklungen im Bezirk Wedding." In *Arbeit und Nachbarschaft. Integrierte gebietsbezogene Handlungskonzepte für die Verbesserung der Lebensqualität in benachteiligten Stadtquartieren*. Die Lokale Partnerschaft Wedding. Dokumentation der Kommunalpolitischen Konferenz am 7. März 1998, p. 17.

4. The Local Economy

The scale and scope of the local economy presented here involves first of all the economic structures obtaining in the areas of manufacture (including skilled trades/crafts), retail, and services. Here we find not only the private sector active, but also community-run entities and the social enterprises of the third sector, or system.

The data on the number and structure of commercial enterprises in the Neighbourhood Management Area were collected by the NMA project itself, and refer to the state of affairs in February 2001. According to this study, 260 business enterprises were identified as operating in the NMA. No evaluation of economic potential (volume of business, profit rate, etc.) was made, however.

The full range of data in this section of our report were taken both from the NMA's "Quantitative Analysis of Business Activity in the Kiez," as mentioned, and also from the report entitled "Development of the Economic Structure of the Borough of Wedding: Partial Report on the Soldiner Strasse Neighbourhood." Within the parameters of the latter study, 535 enterprises were counted -- by means of an actual field survey -- as operating within the larger area. In addition, a standardised Q&A survey was carried out, in which 224 businesses participated. This survey generated statements involving an assessment of the economic situation and prospects in the area (as regards location advantages or disadvantages), which also touch upon the issue of the development of social and cultural capital.

4.1 Economic Activities

The range of economic activities in the area is reflected primarily in distribution figures per sector:

Sector distribution by number of enterprises

<u>Sectors</u>	<u>number</u>
Manufacturing	24
Skilled trades/crafts	45
Retail	61
Services	130
Total	260

In the NMA there are 24 active manufacturing enterprises (not including skilled trades/crafts), which can be further divided into the following branches:

<u>Branches:</u>	<u>number</u>
Construction (e.g. joinery supplies, roofing)	9
Metalwork (e.g. pipes and pipe-laying systems, doors and gates)	5
Wood Supplies (e.g. furniture, prefab interiors)	2
Gravestones and commemorative plaques	2
Other (e.g. community enterprises with disabled)	6

employees, printers)	
Total	24

In the area of skilled trades/crafts there are 45 businesses in the NMA distributed as follows:

<u>Branches:</u>	<u>number</u>
Motor mechanics	14
Building trades	9
Shoe repair / keys and locks	1
Hairdressing	14
Other (e.g. laundry, dry cleaning, sign painting, mobile repair services)	7
Total	45

4.2 Retail and Services

Retail

In the NMA the retail sector is represented by 61 enterprises. They are listed as follows:

Retail:

Car sales	3
Flower shop	4
Newsagent / Tobacconist	9
Second-hand clothes	13
Groceries (food and beverages)	21
Cosmetics	2
Pets	1
Other	8
Total	61

Services

In the NMA the service sector is marked by a particularly strong presence (39 units) of catering and related enterprises:

Catering and related businesses:

Restaurant	4
Pub	19
Snack Bar	11
Café with cultural programme	1
Hotel / B&B	2
Other (gaming hall, erotic bar)	2
Total	39

In the service sector there are also 33 individual professionals in business in the NMA:

Professional service:

Lawyer	2
Medical doctor / qualified therapist	14
Health (e.g. pharmacist)	8
Personal hygiene/cosmetic (e.g. chiropodist)	4
Other (e.g. business consultant, publicity/advertising consultant, customer service operators)	5
Total	33

Various other service enterprises are registered in the NMA in the Soldiner Kiez:

Type of service:

Bank	2
Travel agency	3
Insurance representative	2
Personal hygiene/cosmetic (e.g. sun-tan studio, massage, fitness centre)	3
Grüntal private seniors' home	1
Tailoring/alterations	2
Bicycle rental	1
Undertakers	1
Call centre	1
Training in publicity/advertising	1
Entertainment/theatre	1
Driving school	1
House and flat clearance	1
Dry cleaning	1
Office services	1
Total	22

In the area of community and social enterprises and independent agencies, 36 entities were surveyed.¹⁷

Associations of various types and with various target groups	7
Further education and training	4
Children and young people	10

¹⁷ This does not encompass the total number of all initiatives, particularly the many self-help projects in the social services category. See also points 5 and 7.1 in this connection.

Supervised group living	2
Culture and sport	3
Counseling and assistance	2
Church-based or faith community project	4
Housing cooperative	1
Professional/trade association	1
Other community-run entities	2
Total	36

4.3 Employment¹⁸ / Unemployment / Poverty

Employment

In Soldiner Kiez (Area 4) 1,720 individuals (including self-employed) are employed in 224 commercial enterprises. Of that number, 64 (4%) work in one-person enterprises, 265 (15%) work in the "2-4 person" businesses, 753 (44%) work in enterprises with between 5 and 50 employees, and 638 (37%) in enterprises with 51 or more employees. The largest enterprise in the Soldiner NMA employs 130 individuals.

Approximately one fifth (18%) of all production enterprises together account for over one third (35%, 625 persons) of all employment in the Soldiner NMA, with 22% (376 persons) in manufacturing and 14% (249) in construction. The average number of persons employed per production enterprise (average size of enterprise) is 15, almost double the average size (8 persons) of enterprises in general. Service enterprises employ an average of 6 persons per business unit.

Number of employees according to sector (proportion of total in brackets)

Manufacturing	376 (22%)
Construction	249 (14%)
Distributive services	461 (27%)
Consumer services	114 (7%)
Business services	375 (21%)
Social services	145 (8%)
Total	1,720 (100%)

The 183 enterprises active in the service sector, four fifths (82%) of the total number of enterprises, employ two thirds (64% or 1,095 individuals) of all employed persons.

Of the business services (9% of the total), 20 enterprises employ one fifth of the total staff in that sector. This high figure can be traced both to two unusual examples -- high-level business consultancies in the area of data processing and software with 130 and 70 employees respectively -- and to 4 laundry and cleaning services for businesses of which one employs a staff of 110. If these

¹⁸ Data source is the Borough of Wedding economic structure analysis, Partial Report Soldiner Strasse Neighbourhood.

exceptions are removed from the data, business services employ an average of 4 employees per enterprise.

Due to the large number of enterprises in the retail sector, dependent as they are on both commercial and individual consumer demand, and making up more than a third of all businesses (37% or 83 entities), the majority of employees is to be found in this sector despite the low average size of 5 employees per enterprise.

The lowest average numbers of staff per enterprise are those of the purely consumer services (2 employees per enterprise). The lowest number of individuals (7% or 114 persons) in the Soldiner NMA work in this branch.

In the social service area the larger educational/training entities and a seniors' home register an average of 7 employees per enterprise.

Most employees work in wholesale and retail businesses (including repair services), representing one quarter of the total number of employees of the businesses surveyed. Following this come the processing firms with one fifth of the total and the construction branch with one seventh. One very noteworthy result is the three-figure staff number in the data processing sector, accounting for more than half of all employees in the business services branch with its numerous and varied activities. The percentage of total employment for other branches remains under 10%.

Enterprises and Employees by Sector and Branch

<i>Sector:</i>	<i>employees</i>	<i>enterprises</i>	<i>average no. of staff</i>
Manufacturing total	625 (36%)	41 (18%)	15
Processing	376 (22%)	21 (9%)	18
Construction	249 (14%)	20 (9%)	12
Services total	1,095 (64%)	183 (82%)	6
Business services total	375 (21%)	20 (9%)	19
Banking, financial	7 (0%)	1 (0%)	7
Electronic data processing	200 (12%)	2 (1%)	100
Law, business consulting	19 (1%)	3 (1%)	6
Architects and engineers	16 (1%)	4 (2%)	4
Real estate, property management	2 (0%)	2 (1%)	1
Publicity: consulting, design	2 (0%)	1 (0%)	2
Laundry, office cleaning	125 (7%)	4 (2%)	31
Exhibition space, studios	4 (0%)	3 (1%)	1
Distributive services total	461 (27%)	86 (38%)	5
Wholesale, retail, repair	439 (26%)	83 (37%)	5
Transport: taxi, haulage	22 (1%)	3 (1%)	7
Consumer services total	114 (7%)	54 (24%)	2
Restaurants, pubs, cafés	58 (3%)	32 (14%)	2
Hair, personal hygiene and cosmetic	26 (2%)	13 (6%)	2
Media: cinema, film rental	13 (1%)	2 (1%)	7
Gaming hall	3 (0%)	1 (0%)	3

Sun-tan studio, massage	14 (1%)	6 (3%)	2
Social services total	145 (8%)	23 (10%)	7
Training and education	37 (2%)	3 (1%)	12
Health services	57 (3%)	15 (7%)	4
Veterinary	2 (0%)	1 (0%)	2
Supervised accommodation and related services	45 (3%)	2 (1%)	23
Undertakers	4 (0%)	2 (1%)	2
Total	1,720 (100%)	224 (100%)	8

Unemployment

The borough of Wedding, part of a cluster that includes the boroughs of Kreuzberg, Neukölln and Tiergarten, has had the highest unemployment rate in all of Berlin over the last few years (since 1997). Unemployment in Wedding in 1998 was 22.2%.¹⁹

As a consequence of the current restructuring of the Berlin Labor Offices (Arbeitsämter), the only official figures available for 2001 are those for Wedding and Tiergarten:

Unemployment Figures January 2001

Labour Office for Mitte/Central (*data for Wedding and Tiergarten only*)

Number of registered unemployed persons

The total number of registrants can be broken down further as follows: 25,380 (total)

37.1% are female	9,417
5.7% are seeking part-time work	1,457
69.7% are classified as Arbeiter ("blue-collar")	17,692
30.3% are classified as Angestellte ("white-collar")	7,688
33.9% are foreign immigrants	8,598
3.6% suffer from a serious disability	920
2.6% are under 20	670
11.6% are under 25	2,940
12.4% are over 55	3,142
34.6% are classified as long-term unemployed	8,777

As a comparison, the unemployment levels for the city of Berlin as a whole were assessed for January 2001 as follows:

16.4% of all residents of Berlin capable of gainful employment;
and in a dependent relationship 18.3%.

¹⁹ *Sozialstrukturatlas Berlin 1999*, p. 83.

Poverty

Unemployment is the primary cause of poverty in Wedding. Poverty can be gauged by studying the average monthly net household income levels and the social welfare payments data for the population.

Mean net household income levels in Wedding (in Deutschmarks):

Year	1993	1995	1997	1998
DM	2,250	2,500	2,450	2,400

In 1999 the mean monthly net household income had dropped to DM 2,350 and was the second lowest of all 23 boroughs.²⁰ The mean per-head income was DM 1,250 in 1998 (2nd lowest: as a comparison Kreuzberg was the lowest with DM 1,200).²¹

The income levels reveal the substantial presence of low earners: 38.1% of income earners received less than DM 1,400 per month in 1995, a 20% increase from 1994 when only 31.9% fell into that category. In contrast, the number of persons in gainful employment who earned more than DM 2,500 per month fell by 15%, from 27.8% in 1994 to 23.8% in 1995 (*Mikrozensus* 1995). The negative income level development and the social welfare data give – along with the high unemployment figures – a clear picture of the social landscape of the borough of Wedding.

The total number of social welfare (transl. note: "Sozialhilfe," not unemployment benefit) recipients for the old borough of Wedding was about 16.9%, the second highest figure in Berlin as a whole. In 1998 this was 25,633 individuals; the number of minors included in the figure for regular recipients of social assistance was 9,173. The number of social welfare recipients per 1,000 of the population was 158, and the figure for minors per 1,000 minors was 302, a significant "recipient density."²² The borough of Wedding disbursed welfare assistance amounting to, on average, 160 million DM annually.

The social welfare recipient percentage for the larger Soldiner neighbourhood in 1998 was 18.9%. Women, children and young people are the groups most often living on (or forced to live on) this type of income. The approximate figure for children under 6 years, in fact, was 40%.

About 54% of those eligible were German and 46% non-German. The principal countries of origin for the latter were Turkey, Yugoslavia (Serbia/Montenegro), Lebanon, Bosnia, Poland, Greece and Russia. More than 61% of social welfare recipients had no professional or vocational training and 18% had not even completed their secondary school education. 46% of recipients were registered with the Labor Office as seeking work.²³

²⁰ From *Die Kleine Berlin-Statistik 2000* and *Sozialhilfebezug im Wedding in Dezember 1998*.

²¹ *Sozialstrukturatlas Berlin 1999*, p. 96.

²² *Sozialstrukturatlas Berlin 1999*, p. 89.

²³ Figures taken from D. Pattloch-Geißler, *Sozialhilfebezug im Bezirk Wedding*. Institut für angewandte Demographie GmbH.

On the basis of the social structure in Wedding in its totality, the Social Index assessment for the Soldiner Strasse district and the Soldiner NMA is a negative number.²⁴

The *Sozialstrukturatlas Berlin 1999* pegs the "Sozialindex" assessment of Wedding at minus 1.8231; the figure for the statistical area of the Soldiner Kiez has been given a value of minus 1.9348.²⁵

4.4. Qualification and Training

In Wedding, the percentage of the population with only general secondary school certificates, or without any completed secondary education at all, is far above the Berlin average; as a corollary, the proportion of residents with third-level education is the lowest in the entire city.

The proportion of the population with certificates of vocational education was approximately 16% in 1998, which represents an increase of around 10% over the figure for 1991.²⁶

The percentage of individuals without a professional or vocational diploma was 31% for the borough of Wedding in 1998 (after Tiergarten, this is the second highest figure in the city). In 1991, however, this figure had been about 7% higher. Despite the apparent improvement, this environment of low qualification levels must be seen as having a major influence on the way the loss of jobs in the district over the last 10 years has been so starkly mirrored in the unemployment and social welfare statistics.

In the Soldiner Str. neighbourhood, 48 of the 224 businesses take on trainees or apprentices:²⁷ that is, 21% of all the enterprises that we interviewed. In these 48 enterprises, roughly half of all employees are full-time staff with benefits (849, or 49%) – including all the trainees. At the time the survey was conducted, a total of 115 individuals were in training, distributed across 44 enterprises.

Divided into sector-related figures, 37 persons (32%) were being trained in construction trades, followed by 25 (22%) in the retail trade. 17 individuals were receiving training in the electronic data processing area, 15% of the total. With 8.5 trainees per enterprise, the data processing branch presents the highest trainee acceptance level of all branches considered. Construction comes in second with 3.7 trainees per company.

Training data according to sector or branch:

	<i>enterprise</i>	<i>trainees</i>
	number (%)	number (%)
Processing industry	6 (14%)	11 (10%)
Construction	10 (23%)	37 (32%)
Banks, financial	1 (2%)	2 (2%)

²⁴ The "Sozialindex" indicates relative levels of social disadvantage and disempowerment by area and social grouping (Berlin as a whole is set at zero). The index is based upon approximately 60 indicators derived from data on demographic developments, household structures, education, employment, income, housing, and health care.

²⁵ *Sozialstrukturatlas*, pp. 142, 154.

²⁶ *Sozialstrukturatlas*, p. 54.

²⁷ These and other data in this section were taken from *Wirtschaftsstrukturentwicklung zum Bezirk Wedding. Teilbericht Soldiner Quartier*. BBJ SERVIS gGmbH Berlin, August 2000.

Electronic data processing	2 (5%)	17 (15%)
Laundry and cleaning	1 (2%)	2 (2%)
Business services	1 (2%)	1 (1%)
Wholesale, retail, repair	13 (30%)	25 (22%)
Hair and cosmetic	2 (5%)	4 (3%)
Arts, media, video	1 (2%)	2 (2%)
Health	7 (16%)	14 (12%)
Total	44 (100%)	115 (100%)

Just under one third (13, or 30%) of the training enterprises belong to the wholesale and retail area. They have taken on one fifth (25 or 22%) of all trainees. Construction represents one quarter (10, or 23%) of all training businesses, and accepts almost one third (37, or 32%) of trainees or apprentices.

Health-related enterprises (7, or 16%) and the processing industry (6, or 14%) are only weakly represented in the training data. They account for 12% and 10% of the trainee total, respectively. The 17 trainees (15%) divided between only two companies in the electronic data processing branch is a noticeably high statistic. The remaining 5 branches taken together only represent 13% of training enterprises, responsible for 11 trainees.

When respondents were queried about what might prevent an enterprise from taking on trainees, the cost to the business was the primary reason offered (mentioned 31 times), followed by the lack of available time and resources to supervise and mentor the trainee (mentioned 27 times).

Factors which were rarely, if at all, mentioned include the following: the lack of available instructional qualifications in the enterprise; the inability to cover all stages of the trainee's career; the unsuitability of the applicants.

For especially disadvantaged young people, the social enterprises Zukunftsbau and GSE-NBB are of great significance when it comes to training and qualification opportunities. Full-time training is available for the following trades and crafts: plastering, electrical installation and repair, painting, masonry and carpentry; there are also similar opportunities for those interested in becoming a cook, kitchen assistant, office administrator or industrial cleaner (see also point 5). We do not have any precise figures, however, on how many young people from Wedding or from the NMA have actually been, or are being, trained and which qualifications they have obtained.

4.5 Social Capital in the Local Economy

The evaluation of positive location factors on the part of the enterprises themselves relates to the development dynamic of social and/or cultural capital:

- The most significant location factor across the board, from the point of view of businesses, is the "proximity to regular customers" (mentioned 177 times in the category "very important"). It is obvious that the worrisome assumption that the drain of employed people from the area would lead to a loss of consumer potential -- and thus especially to problems for the retail sector -- does not in

fact appear to be coming true. This may well reflect both a relatively healthy profile of local economic and income circulation as well as the confidence among the various actors of the local economy in the community's robustness and capacity to develop.

- In the case of the socio-cultural factors, the "social climate" (98 mentions in "very important") and the image of the borough (96 mentions) are clearly dominant. Although the "image of the borough" gets an extremely negative assessment (76% of the respondents checked "bad"), only a few enterprises regard this as a reason to move out of the area: only 25 out of the 220 businesses that were asked in 1999 were thinking of relocating.
- Equally negatively evaluated is the range of "cultural institutions and activities" on offer; 76% of the responding businesses see this aspect of the district as "bad." Although this response is referring to, we are certain, the lack of mainstream cultural institutions such as theatres, cinemas, and the like, this deficit could well be seen as a challenge to local social and cultural projects and enterprises to improve the quality and quantity of their output and to develop a diverse "Kiezkultur."

5. The Local Social Economy

(Transl. Note: a number of German legal abbreviations are used in this section. The most frequent are “e.V.” [registered association], “GmbH” [company with limited liability], and “gGmbH” [company with limited liability engaging in socially beneficial activity].)

In the Neighbourhood Management Area the local economy is characterised by a series of social enterprises that can be divided, in terms of structure and direction, into the following sub-groups:

- social enterprises that are primarily, or also, engaged in commercial activity;
- socially useful and community organizations that are primarily net beneficiaries of funding from elsewhere;
- social self-help organizations and projects.

The social enterprises in the NMA that are either primarily commercially engaged, or which are so engaged in addition to other activities, will be the ones portrayed in this section.

In section 7.1 of this study, the socially useful and community organizations, which are primarily funding recipients, and the social self-help projects will be described.

Among the social enterprises that are primarily, or also, commercially active are:

- Zukunftsbau, gGmbH
- Union sozialer Einrichtungen gGmbH (U.S.E.)
- Stadtteilgenossenschaft Wedding für wohnortnahe Dienstleistungen e.G.
- Gesellschaft für Stadtentwicklung, Nachbarschaftszentren, Beschäftigung und Bildung gGmbH (GSE-NBB).

Zukunftsbau gGmbH

Zukunftsbau gGmbH is, as a commercially active social enterprise, the core of the Zukunft Bauen complex of projects.²⁸ This consists of five sponsor companies that have come together to form the project association. Of these, the first four social enterprises and their projects focus on the district of Wedding:

- Zukunftsbau gGmbH
- Zukunftsbau e.V. (see section 7.1 of this study)
- Casablanca gGmbH (see section 7.1 of this study)
- L.I.S.T. gGmbH (see section 7.1 of this study)
- Baff e.V.

The focus of the association is on young people and young families on limited incomes, as well as on single mothers.

The social enterprise Zukunftsbau GmbH is one of two subsidiaries of the parent company Zukunft Bauen e.V that has been working since 1983, against the background of public youth and social

²⁸ See also <http://www.zukunftsbau.de>

welfare programmes, for the aforementioned target groups. They offer professional/vocational training and accommodation, as well as social mentoring and counseling.

Their workshop complex is a point of contact and a counseling center for renovating old housing stock and planning ecologically responsible construction. Their building centre in the borough of Weissensee was set up as a training and qualification centre for construction and allied trades, in which young people can become plasterers, electricians, painters, masons and carpenters. They have resources to fully train 70 young people and to provide another 100 with specific qualifications.

In total there are 210 people working in the workshop complex. The carpentry shop and paint shop are the largest craft shops in the complex, taking up about one third of the total floor space. In addition, vocational training is offered for the following areas of employment: cook, kitchen assistant, office administrator, and industrial cleaner.

Further projects under the aegis of Zukunftsbau GmbH include:

- ABLEGER: crèche and after-school centre;
- AQUA: vocational training and partial qualification for young people;
- employment and training agency service
- BETRIEBSHOF ROELKESTRASSE: skilled crafts training centre
- FRISBEE: neighbourhood service office
- JOBCENTER: employment and qualification for young unemployed people
- WEITBLICK: canteen and catering
- KITA-KÜCHE: qualification and training for young women in cookery and kitchen operation
- MOVE: educational and employment orientation for secondary school drop-outs
- HANDS-ON MEDIA: media centre and qualification for young people
- SONNE: schoolchildren's and community meeting-place
- ZENIT: restaurant and café; training enterprise for young women.

Of the above, WEITBLICK, KITA-KÜCHE, HANDS-ON MEDIA and its New Media training centre, SONNE and ZENIT have located their main activities in Wedding.

Hands-on Media, New Media Training Centre

The clients of Hands-on Media either come directly from the project MOVE in the Mitte district or are referred to Hands-on by a Youth Protection or Social Welfare Office. They are:

- between 16 and 25 years old;
- generally have not completed a secondary school education
- are socially disadvantaged or disempowered
- have almost no chance of succeeding on the regular job market without the special assistance.

Hands-on Media offers:

- orientation in the world of media employment and professions
- assessment of individual strengths and interests
- training and vocational preparation for media employment
- work on actual production tasks (video production, sound, camera, web design, event technology and logistics, multi-media)
- internships in media enterprises

- job-finding during training
- the possibility of gaining an external school certificate.

The project has been in existence since 1st October 2000 and has a cooperation agreement with the emmix Media Agency and the Media Café Together e.V., with whom it shares premises. Cooperation arrangements also exist on both the regional and national levels with other sponsors, enterprises and institutions. The objective is to develop standard qualification structures, or modules, that will both make it easier for the young people to move into the world of work, and lead to the different models for this kind of training becoming more comparable. Hands-on media is being supported as a model project by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. A small staff including media instructors, a social worker and an educator look after its 15 trainees.

Kita-Küche

The project offers vocational counseling and job market qualifications for 5 trainee-employees. Every day, meals for 370 children in local Wedding crèches and day care centres are supplied by Kita-Küche. The project has been in existence since 1975.

Sonne schoolchildren's and community meeting place

This semi-open-door project offers homework assistance, school-related social work, schoolwork help, leisure groups (music, pottery, cycling, swimming, cooking, table-tennis), external activities (vacation trips, Berlin trips, theater and cinema visits), parent counseling, neighbourhood consultation with other counseling and assistance organizations, various local activities (street parties, tenants' meetings, courtyard parties), and the SONNE music group; also offered are German classes and field trips in and around Berlin in cooperation with the Volkshochschule (adult education centre) Berlin-Wedding.

The project is open to children and young teenagers from 10 to 14, local residents, parents and former schoolchildren from the neighbourhood. The project currently employs two permanent staff members, a number of part-timers on a fee basis, and two volunteers.

Zenit Restaurant and Café – catering culture in the Kiez

This project offers young women (16-25) who are unemployed, as well as women with limited educational qualifications, 6 training slots for chefs, 4 training slots for the hotel and catering branch, and 7 other qualification and employment places. The project is supervised by a professional staff (chefs and other instructors).

Kantine Weitblick

The project offers vocational orientation and training for young women without other vocational qualifications. The training is geared to produce skilled employees for the hotel and catering area. The project is supervised by a staff of 4.

Currently the social enterprise Zukunftsbau has 124 employees as its core personnel (the great majority full-time), around 200 trainees, and around 40 unpaid staff (mostly interns doing practical training).

The enterprise has an annual turnover of approximately 40 million DM.

Zukunftsbau maintains a multiplicity of connections with other enterprises and institutions; among them are Kirchbauhof GmbH (construction services), "Neue Arbeit" in Tübingen, "Grünbau" in Dortmund, various training and qualification companies, the BIBB, the Berlin chamber of commerce and industry and the crafts corporation; they also have relations with borough civic authorities, the various NMAs, AG Jugendberufshilfe, local community initiatives, self-help housing groups, and local groups involved in work with children and young people, and BVAA; on the national level there are connections to BSU e.V. (the national association of social enterprises), to BAG, and to the Evangelische Jugendsozialarbeit; on the European level there is a connection to the European Construction Association.

Union sozialer Einrichtungen gGmbH (USE)

The enterprise operates under the direction of the Federal Labour Office as an officially recognized workplace for the disabled, and receives financial support.²⁹

The spectrum covered by the USE gGmbH encompasses the central areas of service provision and craft training. Over the course of years a large regular customer base has been built up comprising private individuals, public agencies and commercial firms. The paint shop, carpentry, tailoring, metalworking, printing/bookbinding and silk-screen printing units are all in a position to meet very specific customer requirements, and can provide both unique and serial production solutions. The spectrum of catering operations stretches from a works canteen and a café to licensed restaurants. The services offered include general catering deliveries, organizing and delivering buffets, and supplies and logistics (including space rental) for events and celebrations. Together with the professional and supervisory staff, the overwhelmingly mentally or psychologically disabled employees participating in vocational/remedial training work in craft production and services to the same standards as would apply in any "normal" enterprise: the currently expected quality levels of goods and services are guaranteed and maintained. Master craftsmen and journeymen work together with the disabled staff (individuals with various psychiatric conditions) in a vocational/remedial structure with the goal of enabling them to enter (or re-enter) the normal labour market.

Stadtteilgenossenschaft Wedding für wohnortnahe Dienstleistungen e.G.

The project, the Wedding Neighbourhood Cooperative for Local Services, was established in October 2000 as an initiative of the Wedding Community Forum (see point 7.1).

The primary motivation for setting up the enterprise was (and is) the current social landscape in the district:

- the unchanging unemployment figure of over 20%, and the approximately 30,000 people living on social welfare payments;
- the limited consumer base and the associated "hidden" poverty of the local economy, including the large number of vacant premises;
- the increasing neglect of the residential and housing environment.

²⁹ There was no opportunity to survey U.S.E. directly, thus we have no concrete data available regarding turnover, staff levels, etc.

The legal form of a cooperative was selected as this permits its members to be, simultaneously, co-owners, decision-makers and customers, which in turn opens up new possibilities for participation for the local community.

The objectives of the Neighbourhood Cooperative are

- the economic support of the members
- the setting up of employment-generating social, cultural and ecological enterprise activities
- supporting local business and commerce
- the creation of individually appropriate employment for long-term unemployed individuals, and
- the improvement of the quality of life and intercultural tolerance in the district.

Many groups can profit from the cooperative: members can obtain services and goods produced by it at attractive discounts; local unemployed people have opportunities for regular work; partners (e.g. local businesses) can bring their own services into the complex, place orders or assist in the establishment of new enterprises. Customers who are not members can of course purchase services too, but at the normal market rates.

Membership is open to everyone, as the membership fees are set at a level to exclude nobody. For customers and supporters, the membership fee is theirs to decide in a range between 5 and 10,000 Euro. Employees and cooperative partners pay 50 Euro membership. The number of shares for mandatory purchase is graded according to membership group. Customers and supporters must purchase at least one share, for example. In the case of a member leaving the cooperative, their membership fees will remain with the institution as capital reserves, but the shares bought upon entry to the cooperative will be repaid.

The work has already begun. The enterprise area "craft services" already exists in the form of the "Neighbourhood Works" segment of Wedding Community Forum. After recording in the register of cooperatives, this project will be taken over by the Neighbourhood Cooperative as a model enterprise. The enterprise area "socially useful services" is being set up, and other areas will follow. There is no data as yet on business volume.

The close relationship with Wedding Community Forum will provide the cooperative with a multiplicity of contacts and networking potential.

GSE-NBB Gesellschaft für Stadtentwicklung, Nachbarschaftszentren, Beschäftigung und Bildung gGmbH

GSE-NBB is an employment and training company for the unemployed which is orientated around neighbourhood centres; it runs a construction materials warehouse as well as a number of social projects. GSE – the Urban Development Association – is the only shareholder.³⁰

GSE-NBB was founded in 1988 as a socially-useful limited company by the Berlin Labour Welfare Agency and the Institute for Social Pedagogy, and began operating in 1989. The thinking was

³⁰ The GSE is a trustee of the Berlin city authorities and is active in obtaining private and commercial properties for disadvantaged tenants/applicants. It is also engaged in social projects aimed at combating homelessness.

to integrate socially-conscious urban renewal, construction, employment creation, and social care under the umbrella of the relevant Berlin Senate programme active at the time, with the aim of generating a synergy via the connections created.

Today, the principal activities of the company are focused on employment creation, training programmes and labour market development. Parallel to this GSE-NBB is active in the area of children and youth work in the Neighbourhood Management Area (NMA), operating -- together with Putte e.V. -- the independent youth club at Osloer Str. 9/Biesenthaler Str.

GSE-NBB offers a spectrum of services:

- employment, primarily in the areas of construction and allied trades and materials recycling
- social services (for children, young people, disabled individuals, and seniors)
- social assistance (employment and applications counseling, job-finding, problem solving).

GSE-NBB employs a staff of 22 and has about 300 individuals in a wide range of employment projects and structures. Its turnover in the last financial year was 12.5 million DM, the entire volume of which, broadly speaking, benefits social objectives.

The scope of its employment creation programme enables this project to realize successfully goals that have been set by the state employment creation policies. They are as follows:

- reintegration into the so-call "primary" labour market
- training long-term unemployed individuals, which includes work-orientated ethics and the ability to adapt
- social "pacification" in the district, in particular in terms of work with young people, and
- intercultural work.

GSE-NBB cooperates, in particular, with employment and training companies, with its parent enterprise for service contracts, Putte e.V., with the Berlin-Brandenburg Employers Association as well as with its training agency D & B.

Taken together, the enterprises listed above represent a considerable employment potential. The future, however, is not without a few dark shadows for pure employment and training sponsors like GSE-NBB. Even during the last few years cutbacks were necessary, and this was not merely a quantitative development for those participating in various public-funded programmes like ABM and SAM. In respect of the "quality" of the employees in the sense of qualifications, reliability etc, it appears that even more will be serious cases of long-term unemployment in which the individuals concerned arrive here as a result of "rehabilitation" measures. These participants are often less than motivated as they realize already that their chances on the normal labour market are minimal. Solutions for these individuals need to be developed via a completely different track to that pursued by GSE-NBB. The more important questions are, however, what kind of proposals the employment companies are bringing forward and which paths they want to go to offer more sustainable employment possibilities – to enable their businesses and enterprises to develop their own economic resources and stability.

6. The Local Social Infrastructure

6.1 Education and Training

The Education and Training Assets of the NMA

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Number</i>
Crèches and Kindergartens	
- municipally run	6
- independently run	10
(Total child care places in Wedding) ³¹	(7,052)
Primary schools	2
Secondary modern schools	1
Comprehensive schools	0
Grammar schools	0
Vocational colleges (communications technology)	1
Polytechnics or other third-level colleges	0

Due to the large presence of migrants and their families in Wedding and in the NMA in particular, the situation regarding competence in the German language is very serious. A language ability test carried out in Wedding recently with more than 1,400 schoolchildren (first grade) revealed that only one quarter spoke and understood German at an acceptable level. From those children with a foreign background, only 90 could follow the lesson without difficulty. Equally, 10 % of the school-beginners with German as their mother tongue also urgently required language/communication teaching. In total, 42% of those surveyed would need an intensive individual pedagogic support if they are not to suffer disadvantages for their entire school career. While the language deficit among the non-German children can be ascribed to the fact that they only hear their native languages at home, the disappointing test results achieved by the German children are part and parcel of a social deficit: homes where there is little conversation, where parents never read their children a story, and where the TV is likely to be the most important "communicator" in the household. Clearly, the work done so far with children in child care and pre-school facilities has not been sufficient to prepare them for starting school, as 92% of the first-graders had spent two and sometimes three years in those facilities. Their level of language competence was no better than that of the children who had stayed at home.³²

The inadequate equipment currently available to educational facilities in the NMA is a special problem. Current projects under way include the reconstruction of two school playgrounds and a new gymnasium with a media centre.

A number of measures are being realized with the aim of improving the educational and leisure environment for children and young people. These include, for example, building and extending a

³¹ Figure for 1999. *Die Kleine Berlin-Statistik 2000*.

³² Data from the *Berliner Abendblatt*, Wedding local edition, 14 March 2001.

"media innovation and training centre."³³ To this purpose, Zukunftsbau GmbH has converted an empty factory space and set up a technical training programme. The project was made possible by a sponsoring packet from a consortium made up of the electrical company RWE and the French firm Vivendi.

6.2 Housing

The number of accommodation units in the area of the Soldiner Kiez under study is around 5,500. Those housing associations that have municipal involvement, DEGEWO and GESOBAU, administer a very large slice of this. But there are others such as the cooperative housing company "Vaterländischer Bauverein," for example, which owns Prinzenallee 58.

We have no data on the total number of apartments that are owner-occupied as against how many are rented from private and other property owners.

At the moment, the only way of counteracting the pressure of high rents – a real problem for individuals on limited incomes – is to work towards reductions in operating and utility costs.

A private firm, in collaboration with the Neighbourhood Management project, offers advice and assistance with trash separation and waste avoidance techniques.

Issues of rent arrears are dealt with by a team made up of the unemployment group of BBJ Service gGmbH, the Labour Welfare Organization, and the local project "Helfende Hand."

6.3 Health

The problematic social structures in Wedding also have effects on the health levels enjoyed by the local population. Mortality rates, for example, are indicative of this: premature death rates in Wedding are noticeably higher than in boroughs with a higher "social index."³⁴ A similar configuration can be seen in the connection between the social index and fatalities otherwise avoidable by medical-preventative intervention.

In a city-wide comparison, Wedding has more deaths from hypertonia and stroke as well as from cardiac problems; this also applies to deaths from lung cancer and alcohol-related illnesses. In 1998 the Borough of Wedding, again in a Berlin-wide comparison, revealed the highest number of new cases of TB. This is connected to the large number of foreign residents who suffer a higher risk of TB contraction. In 1998 the percentage of non-Germans contracting TB was 38% of the Berlin total.

There are no health data available specifically for the NMA.

6.4 Transport

Wedding has good access to the public transport system.

- 3 underground lines cross Wedding, stopping at a total of 12 stations (U6, Alt-Tegel to Mariendorf; U8, Wittenau to Hermannstrasse; U9, Osloer Strasse to Rathaus Steglitz)
- one suburban rail line, the S1 from Oranienburg to Wannsee, stops at three stations in Wedding; the old circle line has not been reopened yet, however, and the stretch between Gesundbrunnen station in Wedding and Schönhauser Allee in Prenzlauer Berg is missing

³³ *Schritt für Schritt*, no. IV, 10/00, p.1.

³⁴ These and subsequent figures are taken from the *Sozialstrukturatlas Berlin 1999*, p. 100.

- 2 tram lines, numbers 23 and 24, link east and west Berlin, running between the Virchow Clinic in Wedding and the S-Bahn station Schöneweide and Hansastrasse in the borough of Weissensee, respectively
- several bus lines run through or near the Soldiner Kiez.

Wedding has a paved street network of 116.8 kilometres (as of 1990) in total.

At present, the Wedding Traffic Forum and a traffic planning consultant are investigating the traffic situation in Soldiner Kiez and conducting a survey of local residents, a process that is still under way.

Some of the problems include:

- various 30 km zones signposted, but are not recognizable as such due to the street architecture
- pedestrian-friendly crossings (with lights or zebra-stripes) are needed at the junctions of Pankestr./Soldiner Str. and Prinzallee/Gotenburger Str.
- currently existing cycle paths could be extended (e.g. on Koloniestr.)

The strategic concept of the Neighbourhood Management project envisages an increase in traffic safety by various measures.

7. The Local Civil Society

7.1 Socially Useful and Community Organizations

The overview presented here of the socially useful and community organizations in the NMA is provisional. It is based on answers to surveys provided by the projects and enterprises concerned.

At the end of this section an inventory of socially engaged initiatives in the NMA (data from November 1999) is attached.

L.I.S.T. gGmbH

The socially useful, trustee-status, renovation and urban development sponsor was established in 1989 to meet the needs of disadvantaged areas and the residential and employment needs of their inhabitants. On the basis of Berlin urban development programmes, construction projects were sponsored – integrating development, employment, social and youth work elements – that provide sustainable improvements in the often difficult life situations of a wide range of residential groups.

Further targets and tasks:

- improving local infrastructure and supporting resident-orientated urban development
- providing residential and commercial space
- supporting self-help groups involved in construction projects and social services
- property servicing and management.

L.I.S.T. gGmbH has been the sponsor of the Neighbourhood Management project in the study area since 1 April 1999. It has a "neighbourhood shop" in Koloniestr. 129 at its disposal with two offices and two conference rooms. There is a staff of 5 full-time and 3 part-time employees, and 6 others work on an hourly fee basis.

The "neighbourhood shop" is open for all residents of the Soldiner Strasse neighbourhood and indeed for residents of Wedding generally.

The shop offers:

- information and advice on the area
- citizens' initiatives
- citizens' discussion forums
- legal information
- housing and tenant advice
- social assistance counseling
- commercial advice
- youth counseling, streetworkers
- Wedding jobcenter open hours
- school homework assistance.

As already mentioned, the Neighbourhood Management project was started because of the Kiez had developed a "social crisis point" reputation due to rising unemployment and poverty, conflicts among neighbours, feelings of insecurity, and inadequacies in the housing and social infrastructure.

For many years now, initiatives and residents have been working on solutions to these problems, supporting each other, and campaigning for the neighbourhood. This is the point where the NM project intervenes. The core idea is to coordinate measures and activities, support them, and realize them in collaboration with the residents. Using approaches based on non-academic thinking and acting, the idea is to work with the local people, the local businesses, the municipal authorities and the various citizens' initiatives to achieve improvements in the following areas:

- the development of relations between the residents of the area
- joint solving of social problems
- accommodation and the residential environment
- securing employment in the Kiez
- dealing with infrastructural inadequacies (green area, social institutions, consumer opportunities, traffic distribution, etc.)

The operating style of the NM project is marked by close cooperation with all economically active elements in the Kiez, and beyond that with bodies such as the North Berlin Labour Office, the qualification and training company Zukunft in Zentrum, BBJ, GSE, Türkischer Bund Berlin-Brandenburg e.V., IHK, Bürgerstiftung, GSE "mobile play spaces," Wedding Local Partnership, Steering Group and Kiez Working Group of the Safety Council, housing agencies, property owners, tenant advice centres, churches, mosques, schools, "green-cops," the representatives of the affected tenants of the Soldiner Str. development plan, community policing officers, and many others.

The principal activities of the NM project so far have been:

- compiling an inventory of businesses in the area
- compiling an overview of the social projects in the NMA, each with activity and address
- publishing a local newsletter
- mounting citizens' forums
- offering advice and courses on the premises (e.g. adult education in the German language)
- consolidating a "strategic concept 2000" with the following target areas:
 - improving residential surroundings, ecology
 - local economy
 - employment and qualification
 - residential self-help activity and social networks
 - social/cultural infrastructure and educational resources
 - integration and communication
 - property
 - public spaces and technology
 - publicity work and image-refinement.

Alongside the strategic concept, the operating style of the NM project is characterized by the following:

- coordination, weekly team meetings
- participation in sessions of the Borough authorities and the Borough Assembly (the youth committee, play area committee, immigrant council, urban development committee, and so on)

The NM Soldiner Str. is project-orientated, puts the networking of available resources and the initiating of exemplary projects at the centre, and links that with the principles of local involvement and help toward self-help.

The work of the NM project would be impossible without the development of partnerships with all social, socially useful and community enterprises, and indeed beyond that.

Close cooperation with many actors can be seen especially clearly in the project "reshaping the play area at Koloniestr. / Soldiner Str." Supported by the Senate Administration of Construction, Housing and Transport and in collaboration with the Borough authorities, the following participants are working together:

- the association for sport and youth social work "Erlebnisräume" – in order to guarantee that future users participate in the planning and reconstructing of the play space
- L.I.S.T. GmbH as project director
- "inab" training and employment company as operations manager
- Staudinger, a landscaping company.

Similar to all other 15 NMAs in Berlin, the NM Soldiner Str. has received extra funding to the sum of DM 500,000 for the year 2001-2, the use of which monies should be decided by local citizens and groups.³⁵

Zukunft Bauen e.V.

The association Zukunft Bauen manages two projects in Wedding:

- supervised accommodation for mothers and children
- "frauenort" women's and children's refuge.

Its areas of activity are

- professional qualification
- youth assistance and social services counseling
- housing provision and neighbourhood rehabilitation

In the field of action between economic profitability and state assistance, life situations can be changed in an immediate and concrete way. Individual professional qualification is connected up to the creation of public value (urban renovation) and with the growth of the social infrastructure (children's projects, flats for young families, spaces for social assistance and self-help activity).

A variety of social and vocational measures, for both personal and social benefit, are combined with the focused application of public and private assets toward economically efficient "production" – that is, individual help plus social goods/services plus creation of social value.

On these principles, a considerable number of synergy effects have been achieved, also in respect of economic value. The pedagogic projects of supervised accommodation, family and children's mentoring, and child outreach work are orientated toward principles of small space, integration in the neighbourhood, and flexible response to problems.

The detailed individual goals are:

³⁵ *Berliner Abendblatt*, Local edition Mitte, 21 February 2001, p. 1.

- economic efficiency by clustering financial assets from various sources
- concept flexibility via multi-dimensional tasking and funding packages
- activating self-help among the target groups
- learning in real market situations
- putting flexibility into youth assistance work
- productivity and sustainability of assistance
- further development of new training curricula and certification
- increase of networking on the European level
- maintaining productivity in qualification activities
- cooperation with the regular economy
- securing alternative financial resources for urban renewal and other areas of interest.

The project "Betretetes Wohnen für Mutter und Kind" offers supervised accommodation to pregnant women and young mothers age 14 and older, who require help in accordance with section 19 of the Children's and Young Person's Assistance Act. There are 17 places each for mothers and children. The supervisory personnel consists of educators, remedial educators, social pedagogues, a qualified nurse, and a psychologist. The project has been in existence since 1991.

"Frauenort"

This is the name for 5 apartments with a total of 15 places that offer refuge and assistance to women, with or without children, of any age and nationality, who are threatened by or are victims of violence, or are in some other temporary crisis. Women with alcohol or drug dependencies are referred to other organizations.

What is offered is protected, anonymous living space for approximately one year, assistance with handling the experience of violence, advice on everyday problems, psycho-social and social-legal counseling, support when dealing with the authorities, provision of addresses of other institutions, special resources for children, and support when changing crèches and schools.

The available staff consists of 3 social workers/pedagogues for the women, and a qualified educator for the children.

Casablanca gGmbH

Casablanca gGmbH offers help in the educational area:

- support for families
- supplementary support for families
- replacement and supplementary support
- supervised accommodation for youth, young adults and young mothers.

Of a total of 8 projects, two are active in Wedding;

- RaBe, space and advice for self-help
- Kinder- and Familienhaus

RaBe

Rabe offers the population of Wedding and local initiatives

- space for self-help groups working on various topics, groups and courses with supervision, events of various kinds, public discussions and neighbourhood activities
- counseling and assistance on social, health-related and psycho-social issues, introduction to self-help groups, assistance in setting up new groups, social assistance claims advice, conversations on self-help therapies, space (160 sq. m.) and equipment allocation (copy machine, fax machine, books, videos, toys).

There is a staff of 2 social workers with appropriate extra training. The project has existed since 1986. Since 1997 the project has been a member of the Wedding Neighbourhoods Association; it continues to work in the areas of self-help, volunteering, and psycho-social counseling and assistance.

Kinder- and Familienhaus

The "house for children and families" offers children, young people and families

- mobile help for educational problems: social group work, education counseling, social-pedagogic family help, intensive individual social-pedagogic assistance
- partly in-house help for educational problems, day groups for children, advice, mentoring of children, young people and families.

There are 9 places available in the day group, and up to 20 families receive mobile (house visit) assistance; 16 places are available in the social group activity. The project, in existence since 1995, employs 4 educators and 5 social workers (some with therapeutic training).

Fabrik Osloer Str.³⁶

The "new" history of the "Osloer Strasse Factory"³⁷ begins in 1978 with the signing of the first lease with DEGEWO that envisaged the former Roller match-machine factory being converted into young people's supervised accommodation. In 1983 the Fabrik Osloer Str. Association was established as an organization of the then users and user groups, and the property was handed over to the urban renovation trust SPI. A modernization and rehabilitation contract was negotiated. With the participation of all tenants and user groups, the buildings were extensively modernized by 1989. The total cost was in the region of 4.2 million DM, of which the self-contribution was 800,000 DM. The greater part of that was "muscle capital," that is, actual physical work on the construction.

The most important users of the building complex are:

- Bund Deutscher Pfadfinder (Scouts) who operate youth accommodation and a hostel;
- Putte e.V. which manages an foreigner assistance project with pre-school, after-school facility, young people's facility, with counseling sessions and special programmes for migrants;
- Durchbruch e.V. which offers vocational training for young people in gas and water systems installation;
- Wohnwerkstatt e.V. which is a young people's accommodation and metalwork training project;
- Kindermuseum Labyrinth which has been in the former assembly plant building since 1997 (with about 1,000 sq. m. museum space) and has hosted approximately 270,000 visitors of all ages (school classes, children's groups, families, individuals)³⁸

³⁶ See also <http://www.stadtteilzentren.de/osloer.htm>

³⁷ See section 2 of this "Socio-economic Profile" for the history of the old match-machine factory.

³⁸ In 1995, after a long struggle, the Berlin Senate made 2.4 million DM available as an urban development grant for the conversion of the assembly plant building, which was under a conservation order. Ultimately, the decision on a

- commercial enterprises: silk-screen print shop; carpentry shop; car repair workshop.³⁹ The association Fabrik Osloer Str. e.V. manages the property – there have always been flats in the complex, originally occupied by the "activists" but today, overwhelmingly, by ordinary private tenants – and runs the Neighbourhood Studio with cultural activities for young people and families.

The Neighbourhood Studio has, apart from the main event hall with its café, three rooms for group activities, a wardrobe and storage room as well as office space. It is supported by the Senate Administration for Social Affairs and, as a member of the Association for Social and Cultural Work, has a staff of two social workers and some funding for extra employment on a fee/honorarium basis. Other resources and equipment have to be funded internally. Programmes and running costs are covered by donations, specific targeted grants, space rental, etc. In addition, a number of individuals are regularly employed and/or trained via work-creation programmes and other internships.

Since the Neighbourhood Studio was set up, the governing principle has been socio-cultural community work in the local area. In the beginning, the emphasis was on cultural work and the organization of large-scale neighbourhood street parties, but over the years the social dimension took on more importance. In summer 1997, altered circumstances required a new concept and orientation. The altered circumstances were, on the one side, the catalogue of services offered by the neighbourhood organizations and bodies which, for the first time, formulated a clear set of requirements, and on the other the opening of the Kindermuseum Labyrinth under the aegis of the Verein Fabrik Osloer Strasse. As a result of the new element and the shift in the content of the Neighbourhood Studio towards working with families, the Osloer Strasse Factory project began to show a distinct tendency: the target groups were families with children, volunteers, seniors, and the guiding idea was "we're here for you - open to all, flexible, and convivial." A wide variety of social, cultural and political interests, shared by the population of Wedding, has flowed into the work of the "neighbourhood studio."

The question of the networking of Wedding institutions is now playing a more significant role than it did up to the mid 1990s. More concretely, since 1997 there have been regular cooperation meetings between the "neighbourhood studio," the "neighbourhood house" at Prinzenallee 58 and the self-help and contact point RaBe.

In the aftermath of budget cuts the development of a structure and content for a community centre became a new task and challenge for the Borough of Wedding. It is absolutely crucial that the institutions and locations that have grown and put down roots – in their various Kiezes – are saved and maintained. To try and set up a central location in the big and recalcitrant district of Wedding would be counter-productive for most of the target groups, particularly if the objective is to support social crisis areas. A far better idea is a "switchboard," a local neighbourhood council as an "impulse donor" for locally-orientated community work, and for a social policy emphasis in close collaboration with other key players in the borough. Away from isolated work in small units, on to a broader vision of what self-help and neighbourhood work could mean for Wedding, on to more efficiency and better services to the population via larger planning units that are put into concrete practice by small entities that can create

new concept for its use went in favour of children's and young people's issues. There has been a changing programme of exhibitions since the museum opened, and the current large-scale interactive exhibition for children and families is called "Spies, Informants, Detectives – On the Trail of Sherlock Holmes."

³⁹ In 1991 the Fabrik Osloer Strasse was able to employ 115 people with the standard benefits (*Schriftenreihe Wedding*, vol. 3, p. 29)

personal identification. The key themes have been set out in the contract governing the community centre activity:

The Neighbourhood Studio of the Fabrik Osloer Strasse stands for work with families with a full range of educational and social programmes for parents, children and seniors.

Nachbarschaftshaus Prinzenallee⁴⁰

The neighbourhood house is in the ground floor of the former Gattel hat factory.⁴¹ The squatting movement of the early 1980s saved the house from being torn down. A house community a hundred strong occupied the three floors and began the renovation and the converting of the plant space and the empty apartments. In 1983 about 20 of the squatters/occupiers of Prinzenallee 58 founded the association Verein Nachbarschaftshaus Prinzenallee 58. The chief activities of the neighbourhood centre today are

- neighbourhood and community work
- managing events in and for the Kiez and the surrounding area
- space rental

Among the offerings are

- courses and groups (German, judo, theatre, intercultural work with girls, dancing)
- local exchange of goods and services
- events on themes such as migration and integration
- parties and similar events
- premises and space.

The neighbourhood house has the following social objectives:

1. neighbourhood work and support for similar activity
 2. enabling meetings and exchange between a wide spectrum of local residents
 3. support for specific target groups
 4. supporting civic engagement and commitment
 5. promoting the networking of initiatives and projects in the locality and in the newly created borough.
- Currently the Nachbarschaftshaus employs a staff of 2 (1 full-, 1 part-time), 1 intern, 6 individuals on a fee/honorarium basis, and 9 trainees.

The commitment of the residents over many years, their own work and (later) financial support have allowed the neighbourhood house to become a community meeting place utilised for many different purposes: the café "escapade" is used for a wide spectrum of socio-cultural activities, as is the multi-purpose hall, the exercise room and the seminar rooms. Regular offerings include dance, music and sporting events, exhibitions and concerts. Theatre groups rehearse here. Legal advice for immigrants from Arabic countries is another theme, for example, as are the activities of a wide range of self-help groups. The hostel has space for 30 guests and is (as are all other areas of the project) accessible to disabled persons.

⁴⁰ See also <http://stadtteilzentren.de/prinz.htm>

⁴¹ See section 2 of the study for a brief history of the former Gattel factory.

The Nachbarschaftshaus Prinzenallee 58 targets its work especially toward the following areas: the integration of disabled and non-disabled people, migrant issues, and the Soldiner Str. Kiez. As do all entities in the Wedding Local Alliance, the neighbourhood house is looking in a more focused way at the potential for civic engagement and the revitalising of volunteer work. The association has relations and other cooperative contacts with

- Fabrik Osloer Strasse
- RaBe e.V.
- Verband für kulturelle Arbeit
- DPW
- NM office
- Wedding Community Forum
- Wedding Local Partnership
- Housing cooperatives, and
- many contacts to individual Wedding projects, e.g. the Association of Arabic Parents' Groups.

Housing Cooperative Prinzenallee 58

The housing cooperative was founded in 1986 as a registered cooperative by around 89 residents of the formerly squatted/occupied house of the same address (the earlier name: Association for the Protection of Cheap Accommodation).

The principal activities of the cooperative were and are the management of their own accommodation, the maintenance and renovation of the flats by the residents themselves, and also the maintenance of local workshops by cooperative members, leasing of the "kulthalle" (used by the neighbourhood house, providing space for disabled-friendly educational and other events, including guest accommodation).

The workshops offer primarily craft products, but also many other services, for example, graphics and silk-screen printing, woodwork, metal work, a motorbike workshop, computer facilities, and a rehearsal cellar for musicians.

The social goals of the housing cooperative are:

- the long-term securing of good, reasonably-priced accommodation
- supporting self-help efforts
- nurturing identification with the Kiez among the residents and the various ethnic groups
- making specific programmes available to disabled and other groups with particular needs.

As the administrative work of the cooperative was passed up to the Association for Cooperative Accounting, the cooperative doesn't have any staff of its own, i.e. is not an employer.

In the financial year 1999 the turnover of the enterprise was approximately 470,000 DM; it produced a surplus of 65,000 DM in the context of a total asset volume (fixed property) of around 1.5 million DM.

The surplus served primarily to maintain the value of the property and finance some modernization measures (e.g. a firewall and the building insulation were renovated, the heating and solar energy system had to be repaired). However some of the funds went into convivial social events, and

other social and political projects were supported (e.g. sponsorship for the Storytelling Café, among others).

The cooperative has business relations, collaborative arrangements and contact with the following entities: the association of cooperatives, Nachbarschaftshaus Prinzenallee, Fabrik Osloer Str., Pfefferberg e.V., various disabled groups and initiatives, and other projects in the Kiez.

Das Kommunale Forum Wedding e.V.

The Wedding Community Forum is a borough-based networking project. Since 1988 it has initiated and supported cross-sectoral and multi-departmental collaboration, resident/community activity, neighbourly self-help and local employment initiatives under the slogan "working for more quality of life in the Kiez." The guiding concept of "work and neighbourhood" was developed by Kommunales Forum Wedding early in 1998.

The Wedding Community Forum (KoFo) manages a number of projects and areas of activity. With the neighbourhood cooperative, it has also created a social enterprise (described under point 5 of this study) that acts "purely" as a business. In addition, the KoFo has realized a number of projects for which it has acted as sponsor and funding channel.

The KoFo's aim is to create a "relationship to locality" in all its activities, connecting up community development and employment creation using a micro-level approach and individually tailored solutions. Until 1999 the KoFo was also particularly active in the Kiez, initiating the Soldiner Kiez Steering Group. In particular, the KoFo staff took a major part in the preparation of a survey of residents designed to encourage community action. This made a significant contribution to the mobilisation of social capital, something that ultimately resulted in concrete initiatives – among other things, a neighbourhood exchange, run as a self-help initiative, and based in the Nachbarschaftshaus Prinzenallee.

The following projects and activities, in addition to those listed above, are under the wing of KoFo at the present time:

- the neighbourhood store "Aktiv im Kiez," a meeting point for residents to enable self-help and cooperation, for information on local activities and developments, and for the initiation and support of local projects
- the model project "work not welfare" which aims at integrating long-term unemployed people via individual vocational orientation, jobs in the private and/or the community economy, development of new areas of employment geared to local needs, and the promotion of self-help and self-managed organization.
- the founding of an employment alliance via cooperation with public and community organizations, the coordination of employment creation measures, filling vacancies with long-term unemployed individuals with a view to both the needs of the enterprise concerned and the interests and abilities of the individual.
- participation in the neighbourhood management of Sprengelstrasse/Sparrplatz Kiez, focusing on the theme of encouraging local resident activity and coordinating district projects.

Some other activities in which KoFo is currently engaged include:⁴²

- running the administration office for the Wedding Local Partnership. This body initiates cooperative projects, hosts conferences on future prospects, brings partners together to find ways to secure a children and family-orientated atmosphere in the Sprengelkiez, realizes plans for projects in the parameters of “work and neighbourhood,” organizes and runs public meetings, and serves as the public relations office.
- The agency for the Promotion of Development Partnerships in Berlin-Mitte. This is a regional advocacy agency operating against the background of local employment promotion programmes (in particular, with the Federally-sponsored programme “learning is changing – change by learning: learning cultures and developing competences”).
- Looking after cooperation and exchange on the European level via participation in the Association for Citizen Participation, Community Work, and Local Social Development in the new borough of Mitte, participation in the setting up of the national network Community Work and Local Social Development, organizing a series of events under the title “learning from one another in Europe,” membership and project work in REVES, the European Network of the Cities and Regions of the Social Economy, membership in the European Network for Economic Self-Help and Local Development, and cooperation with the Combined European Bureau for Social Development (CEBSD).

Das Kommunale Forum Wedding has, this year, 23 full-time employees, 9 part-timers, and 4 volunteers. The turnover for the last available financial year was approximately 800,000 DM.

Self-Help Initiatives by Local Residents

In the NMA, economic self-help, more particularly the kind involved with building renovation, is an established tradition. Among many examples are the initiatives set in motion by the former squatters/occupiers in Prinzenallee 58 which led to the founding of the housing cooperative and whose influence is manifest today, and the campaign to find new uses for the old Osloer Str. Factory, which led to new businesses opening up there.

Both socio-economic and cultural self-help initiatives are supported by the Neighbourhood House in Prinzenallee, the Neighbourhood Studio in the Fabrik Osloer Str, and from RaBe.

One initiative that has achieved particular significance is the Union of Arabic Parents, which devotes itself to issues of special concern to ethnic minorities, including migrants with insecure or doubtful visa status, and works in cooperation with the Nachbarschaftshaus to organize public meetings and events.

A number of self-help initiatives are of recent origin or are being revitalized after a period of inactivity:

- Neighbourhood initiative Obere Koloniestrasse. This initiative came about 2 years ago as a protest against overcrowding in three neighbourhood houses occupied by immigrants from countries of the former Yugoslavia. The initiative has, among other things, organized street parties and sporting events and thus expresses its appreciation of the many supporters who have contributed to improving the residential environment: sponsors such as the Borough Sports and Recreation Office,

⁴² See also the enterprise questionnaire from Wedding Community Forum e.V. attached to this study.

the companies Eduard Winter and Beysan, DEGEWO Housing Association, and the Athletes Institute in Kühnemannstrasse, Nordstern Sports Association, the NM project and many individual helpers from the Obere Koloniestrasse.

- The Goods and Services Exchange (a project from the Neighbourhood House Prinzenallee 58) came into existence in 1999 as one result of the residents survey and currently has 15 members. As in other Berlin LETS exchanges, transactions are non-monetary and are made on the basis of hours of work, that is, different types of work are given equal value by the Exchange irrespective of their value on the labour market: the principle is that 1 hour of work done for others is 1 hour of life, no matter how intellectually or physically demanding that work is.
- The owner and tenant initiative Soldiner Str. 41 first saw the light in 1987 when the present owners (2 brothers) bought the old house from their grandmother and, with the assistance of the Senate Programme for Construction-Related Self-Help, set up a comprehensive joint renovation and modernization project with 12 participating tenants. Among other improvements, solar panels on the roof for water-heating have led -- and still lead today -- to low operating and utility costs. The inner courtyard, with its summerhouse and space for barbecuing, is a pleasant spot for neighbourhood social gatherings. Both landlords and tenants have been involved in the NM project on a volunteer basis, particularly in respect of ideas to increase the attractiveness of the locality for its residents.
- The Soldiner Treff in Soldiner Str. 22 is a self-help project for individuals with alcohol problems, started on their own initiative by a number of residents and supported by Neighbourhood Management.
- The efforts of the Islamic faith community to extend the mosque at Koloniestr. 128 are also regarded as a self-help initiative – they are currently engaged in looking for financial sponsors as well as assistance with the construction work.

Overview of Social/Community Initiatives in the Neighbourhood Management Area Soldiner Strasse

Group 1: Children's and Mother & Child Projects

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Address</u>
Abenteuerspielplatz Panke	kids' and youth club	Wilhelm-Kuhr-Str./Gottschalkstr.
Beschäftigungswerk BBV	interaction between disabled and non-disabled children	Osloer Str. 106
Fabrik Osloer Str. (Neighbourhood Studio)	Various options for mothers with babies and small children	Osloer Str. 12
Youth Club	child and youth work	Koloniestr. 116
Kinderhaus Casablanca	day care for children with difficulties in school etc.	Drontheimer Str. 17
Kindermuseum Labyrinth	museum with changing exhibitions	Fabrik Osloer Str. Osloer Str. 12
Mutter-Kind Project	supervised accommodation for	Grüntaler Str. 38

(Zukunft Bauen e.V.) Putte e.V.	mothers and children Turkish-German pre-school for socially disadvantaged children	Prinzenallee 24
Remise Schülerladen Perlmüt	kids' and youth club day care, especially for children (6-10 yrs) of working parents	Osloer Str. 9 Prinzenallee 58.
Sozialistische Jugend Deutschl. "Die Falken" & "Villa Freundschaft"	contact to the wider labour movement, summer camps	Nordbahnstr. 14
Stephanus-Parish community	kids' and youth club	Jugendheim der Stephanus-Gemeinde Soldiner Str. 21

Group 2: Youth Projects

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Address</u>
Diakonische Jugendhilfe	supervised accommodation for young people with educational problems	Soldiner Str. 84
Youth Club Martin Luther Parish	kids and young people children's midday meals and homework circle	Koloniestr. 116 Wollankstr. 84
Abenteuerspielplatz Panke Putte e.V.	<i>see Group 1</i> kid's and youth club	Biesentaler Str. 7
Remise Stephanus Parish	<i>see Group 1</i> <i>see Group 1</i>	
Wohnwerkstatt e.V. Sozialistische Jugend Deutschl. "Die Falken" & "Villa Freundschaft"	youth accommodation (6 places) <i>see Group 1</i>	Osloer Str. 12

Group 3: Seniors Projects

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Address</u>
Fabrik Osloer Str. (Neighbourhood Studio)	Seniors' sport group "meet and move"	Osloer Str. 12
Martin Luther Parish Seniorenheim	seniors discussion group in- and out-patient care	Haus Grüntal Grüntalstr. 53
Seniorenwohnhaus Stephanus Parish Stephanus Parish	supervised accommodation study circle older women's discussion group	Wilhelm-Kuhr Str. 50 Prinzenallee 39/40

Group 4: Women's Projects (see also Group 1)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Address</u>
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Autofeminista e.V.	courses (various)	Prinzenalle 68
Neighbourhood Studio	activities (various)	Osloer Str. 12
Mutter-Kind Project	<i>see Group 1</i>	

Group 5: Job Finding and Training

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Address</u>
Durchbruch e.V.	youth vocational training (gas and water installation)	Osloer Str. 12
SOS-Kinderdorf e.V.	vocational training center for the socially disempowered (various trades)	Koloniestr. 116
Werkschule Berlin e.V.	youth training for those w/o school certificate (electrical installation)	Wriezener Str. 38
Wohnwerkstatt e.V.	preparation of young people for training (metalwork, fitter)	

Group 6: Special Orientation Projects

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Address</u>
Beschäftigungswerk BBV	<i>see Group 1</i>	
Drogen-Info	self-help re substance abuse, post-dependency help	Freienwalder Str. 33
Neighbourhood House Prinzenallee 58	supporting initiatives begun by disadvantaged groups	
Stephanus Parish	discussion group	Prinzenallee 39/40
U.S.E.	workplaces for the disabled	Koloniestr. 135/136
Wrieze Haus	counseling for substance abuse	Wriezener Str. 36

Group 7: Other Projects (some duplication)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Address</u>
German Scouts/Guides Union (Bund dt. Pfadfinderinnen)	hostel facility, space for 65 visitors, disabled access, alternative Berlin tours and activities	Osloer Str. 12
Neighbourhood House Prinzenallee 58	<i>see Group 6</i>	
Café Esscapade		Prinzenallee 58
“Die Falken” “Villa Freundschaft”	<i>see Group 1 & 2</i>	
Stephanus Parish	musical/choral activities (various ability levels)	

7.2 Politics, Participation, and Civic Engagement

Results of the Berlin City Council and Borough Elections, 10 October, 1999⁴³

<i>Constituency</i>	<i>Turnout %</i>	<i>CDU</i>	<i>SPD</i>	<i>PDS</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>Republicans</i>	<i>FDP</i>	<i>Others</i>
Borough of Wedding	56.7	43.5	28.1	6.3	10.3	5.0	1.6	5.2
	(prev. 61.9)	(36.8)	(33.1)	(2.4)	(15.3)	(4.7)	(1.3)	(2.9)

On October 10th, 1999 the last elections before the implementation of the borough consolidation reform were held. The present distribution of seats in the new Borough of Mitte (comprising the old boroughs of Mitte, Tiergarten and Wedding) is as follows:

<i>Total</i>	<i>CDU</i>	<i>SPD</i>	<i>PDS</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>Republicans</i>
89	35	25	14	13	2

The declining level of voter turnout in the Federal Republic of Germany as a whole is an indication that citizens are demanding, now more than ever, other forms of political representation along with the traditional structures of representative parliamentary democracy.

The Berlin borough consolidation reforms have failed – partly due to their packaging as a cost-saving measure – to delegate political and civic responsibilities downward to the grass-roots in the district or the local Kiez, at least up until now. In the medium and longer-term context, however, grass-roots activity will be crucial for securing political legitimacy. To that extent, it has to do not only with the establishing of client-friendly administrative structures and services, but also with new forms of political participation in civic society – these however should not be imagined as a kind of gift from above, but rather as things that generally have to be initiated and asserted by the citizens themselves.

Volunteer commitment and activity at the grass-roots have been increasingly in demand through the 1990s. The current existing legal and political frameworks, however, are anything but encouraging. Honorary activity and volunteer commitments require structures that nurture and support them. At the level of the Land Berlin (transl. note: Berlin is not only a city but also a constituent state [Land] of the Federal Republic) a campaign for action has formed that is looking for concrete reforms from the Berlin political leadership:

- Appropriate zero-cost qualification options for volunteer coordinators
- Institutions that make possible and promote volunteer commitments (there are already 7 agencies in Berlin that place volunteers)

In addition, there are demands for a legislative initiative in the Bundesrat (translator's note: second chamber of the Federal parliament) that would include:

- Taking volunteer work into account when assessing pension claims
- Amending the legal framework to make it easier for projects and entities to obtain accident and liability insurance
- Regularizing the assessment of qualifications obtained during volunteer activities for job applications.

⁴³ The figures in brackets are the results from the 1995 elections. *Die Kleine Berlin-Statistik 2000*.

In any case, civic engagement and volunteer work in Wedding and in the Soldiner Kiez have grown along with the rise in self-help initiatives. These are described above, primarily in section 7.1.

7.3 Religion

In the Neighbourhood Management Area there are 3 Protestant parishes and 4 Islamic community places of worship, as far as our current information goes.

There is a lack of contact between the various churches and faith communities, but equally there are no specific “inter-religious” conflicts in the everyday life of the Kiez.

Problems of a religious nature, however, do surface at school, when, for example, strict religious rules make it next to impossible for girls to take part in swimming classes or sporting activities.

7.4 Crime and Security

According to information provided by the community liaison officer at the local police station, the rates of incidents in the NMA are no higher than the average for Wedding as a whole. Nevertheless, residents’ subjective perceptions would indicate feelings of insecurity (such feelings are, however, not reflected in the responses to the survey that we carried out; see point 8). The task for the Neighbourhood Management Office is to improve the sense of safety of life and property among the population by means of public education and information measures in collaboration with the local police.

7.5 Information and Communication Networks

For the Soldiner Kiez, including the NMA, the following information and communication networks for the areas of the social and community economy are currently active:

- The Wedding Local Partnership or LPW (based at the Wedding Community Forum)
- The Neighbourhood Management project
- The Wedding District Alliance.

The LPW is an opinion-forming and decision-making organization for the public sphere of the borough. Its working style is characterized by the following:

1. improving the communication and cooperation readiness of the various partners;
2. a district-based approach that opens up new possibilities for cooperation for the actors;
3. the close links that projects have with the local scene and local networks, which ease the way to new forms of integration of disadvantaged individuals into social/neighbourhood relations.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ See “Lokale Partnerschaften: Wirkungsweise und Wirksamkeit sektorübergreifender und multidimensionaler Bündnisse.” Forschungsbericht (research report), p. 46.

The Neighbourhood Management also promotes communication about local issues via thematically focused events, for example:

- A regular neighbourhood meeting, “Soldiner Treff,” takes place in Soldiner Str. 32
- The neighbourhood newsletter “Schritt für Schritt” (step by step) is published quarterly and distributed to households
- A broad spectrum of public information work takes place via posters, information tables, a web page, street parties, surveys, and other vehicles.

The District Alliance for Neighbourhoods and Self-Help in Wedding is comprised of three organizations and promotes information and communication primarily via the publication of an events calendar with a service information section, which local residents can use to establish which office or agency is the appropriate one to which they should direct their particular concerns.

The above mentioned information and communication networks do not merely represent social capital themselves, but they also produce -- and reproduce -- a significant amount of social capital in other forms.

8. Local Social Capital in the Kiez

A provisional evaluation of the unrepresentative survey of residents reveals the following crude picture of the situation (with respect to the indicators developed by the CONCISE research group)⁴⁵ regarding social capital and how it is regarded by the local population:

The local population have confidence in each other as neighbours; the majority of the respondents answered Q1-Q3 in the positive. In contrast, the confidence of the population in most of the local politicians is very minimal. Only 15% of the respondents answered “yes” to the question/statement “Most local politicians would put the interests of the Kiez before their own”; 51% disagreed or disagreed strongly; 32% were undecided.

This response is open to some interpretation. One possible reading would be that the residents’ confidence in themselves and their own self-organizing potential is more strongly felt or perceived than their confidence in normal representative politics, or even in the competence or will of local politicians to solve the problems facing local inhabitants.

The responses to the question of mutuality suggest that the desire, and recognition of the necessity, for mutual assistance is present. Nonetheless around 40% of the respondents were unclear as to whether people usually help one another in the Kiez, and while 30% answered in the positive, another 30% thought otherwise.

To the set of questions on common norms of behavior, the answers came in a wide variety of shadings. While 77% of the respondents assumed that all residents in the Kiez do not in fact share the same values, more than 43% said that they could express their opinions freely even when they were opposed to the “majority consensus.” 30% were unsure of this, however. Just under 42% were of the opinion that the presence of different cultures in the Kiez make the area good to live in; only 24% opposed that position, while 30% were “don’t knows.” 50% believe that foreigners moving into the Kiez are generally accepted here, while 27% were uncertain, and 23% were of the opposite opinion.

With respect to common responsibilities and sense of community the spectrum of answers reveal the following: around 52% were satisfied with the quality of life in the Kiez, and around 20% were not. 53% of the respondents felt that they had some individual responsibility for the future of the Kiez, and only 10% rejected that position entirely, while 25% were undecided.

It is difficult to interpret the responses to Q14 (“When someone says something negative about my neighbourhood, I always defend its reputation”), as the fact remains that the reputation of the Soldiner Kiez is indeed generally a negative one.

Question 15 (“Locals should vote in elections”) generated a 68% positive response (both “agree” and “agree strongly” combined), although the implications of the question might have been unclear to some respondents, as it could be taken to mean either approval of the granting of voting privileges to foreign immigrants or the question of individual motivation to participate in the electoral process.

⁴⁵ Six chief elements were utilized as indicators in the questionnaire: confidence, mutuality, common norms of behavior, common responsibilities and sense of community, social networks, and channels of information. For more details see the CONCISE Questionnaire for Local Residents.

Answers to the questions regarding the residents and their belonging to social networks (family, social contact, neighbourly communication) generated a majority negative response. Most of the respondents have few family members in the Kiez – in fact 41% claimed to have no friends here either. 60% are not of the opinion that they have much to do with the rest of the population of the Kiez; 30% do not believe that the majority of the inhabitants of the NM area communicate with each other.

There was a surprisingly positive response to Q20: the respondents recognized, on average, around 8 to 10 of the 20 local projects/social enterprises that were listed for them; very few admitted to ever having been a member of any of these projects/enterprises, however. Nonetheless one third of the respondents replied to Q34 (community connection) by confirming some connection to a community institution. The majority of these were women. Connections to community institutions were mentioned in respect of the following (randomly ordered) list: EIKITA, Café Esscapade, adult education college (German courses), neighbourhood meeting point, Neighbourhood House Prinzenallee, goods and services exchange, church, women's keep-fit group, choir, housing cooperative, youth club, sewing course.

To summarise, one provisional conclusion of this survey is that, as regards the indicators of confidence, mutuality, responsibility and community connection, social capital is present among the residents and/or is being utilized.

Regarding the responses on the question of people from different cultures living side-by-side, it is clear that there is both openness present and also a level of confidence that future developments will be positive.

In respect of the development of social networks (Q16-Q19), there are obviously deficits here, but the responses don't make it clear whether or not these networks were stronger at an earlier period – which suggests decaying tendencies at work – or how the phenomenon should be regarded at all. On the other hand, there is a whole series of connections with community projects, connections that embody a type of “belonging to social networks” outside the circle of family and friends. Because the survey was not representative, and as the questionnaire obviously made its way to at least some residents who have contact with and/or relationship to community and other projects, no further conclusions can be drawn.

9. Summary and Conclusions

The following assessment of the socially-deprived areas of Wedding was written by a sociologist at the Humboldt University in Berlin:

“. . . the cement of the community disappears, and the sense of wholeness in the area likewise. The conflicts between different groups and their different claims on the locality point to . . . a lack of institutions and individuals who have earned a local legitimacy for their negotiations and solutions in cases of conflict.

The neighbourhoods, standing alone, seem to be overwhelmed by their problems: by the speed of change, by poverty and unemployment. Violence and aggression are mentioned more and more in conversation and debate, as are the lack of prospects for young people, alcoholism among the German population, and the retreat behind ethnic walls on the part of the immigrant groups.

This type of conflict cannot be defined from outside or after the event, and the local residents have to be brought into the process of defining the problem adequately and developing appropriate strategies to solve them. The perception of any conflict in the area varies radically from group to group. Equally, the spectrum of possible solutions will reflect that differentiation. The search for positive strategies must include both the older German population as well as the newer arrivals, as the latter bring fresh resources into the district. In the long term, only the integration of the local population into the development of their community can bring about identification with the area and stabilization . . .

Funding is required for supportive intervention, as well as trust in local “experts” and the local initiatives. The concerns in these areas cannot be addressed from outside, and neither can they be solved with sector-based policies alone such as employment creation measures, housing environment improvements, or urban renewal programmes. Rather, the measures have to be multifaceted in order to meet the complexity of the local problems and issues. Above all, intervention must focus on strengthening local potential and resources . . .’⁴⁶

In our opinion, this evaluation is still relevant. Our survey of residents and enterprises has shown that, above all, the potential for self-help can be more effectively mobilized and that a more intense level of networking of the available resources – connecting up residents with the social enterprises and their projects, with community organizations and self-help initiatives – is both necessary and possible.

What form this development might take, in particular in relation to questions such as how the available social capital among the population can be used in and by the social economy, how it can be reproduced on a wider scale, and what contribution the social enterprises can make to this activity, is a question which, we hope and expect, the process of social auditing will help us clarify.

⁴⁶ A. Kapphan. “Sozialräumlich Entwicklungen im Bezirk Wedding.” In *Arbeit und Nachbarschaft. Integrierte gebietsbezogene Handlungskonzepte für die Verbesserung der Lebensqualität in benachteiligten Stadtquartieren*. Die Lokale Partnerschaft Wedding. Dokumentation der kommunalpolitischen Konferenz am 7. März 1998, pp. 18-19.

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