



Landkreis
Kassel



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Art4Rights

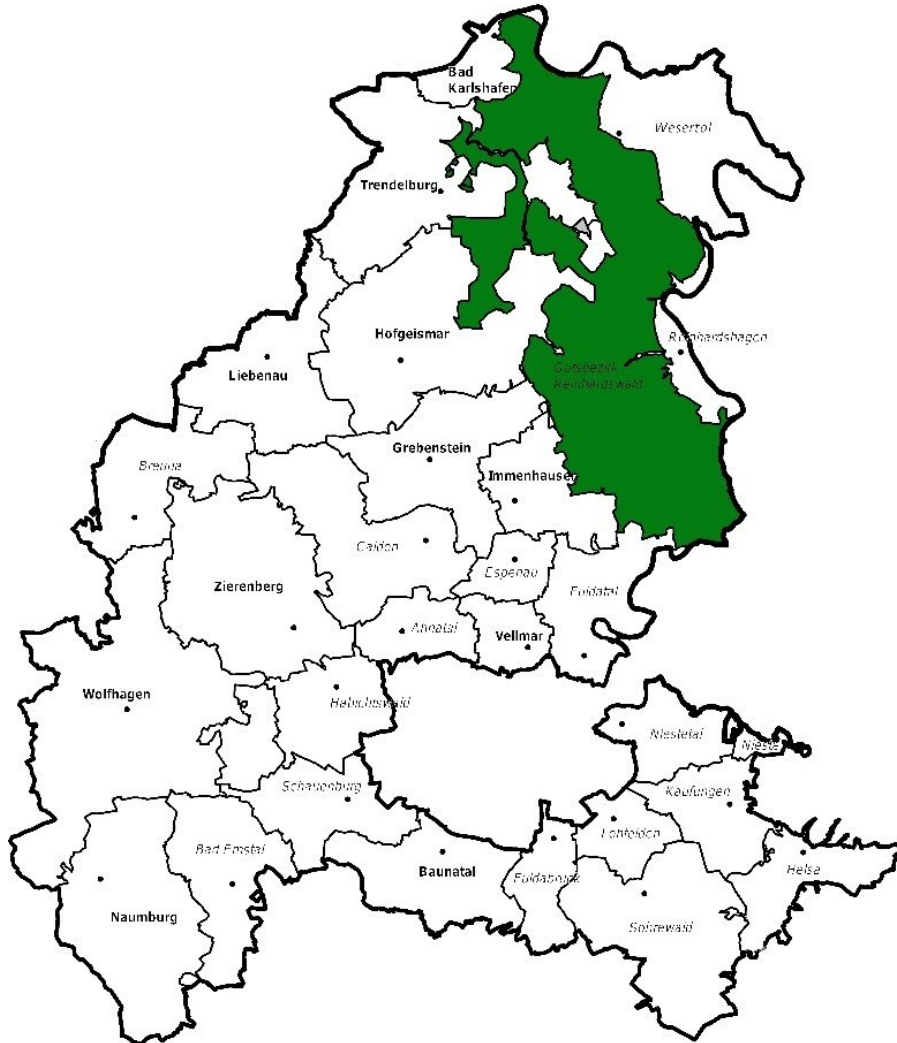
When a space becomes a place

Patricia Ruffini

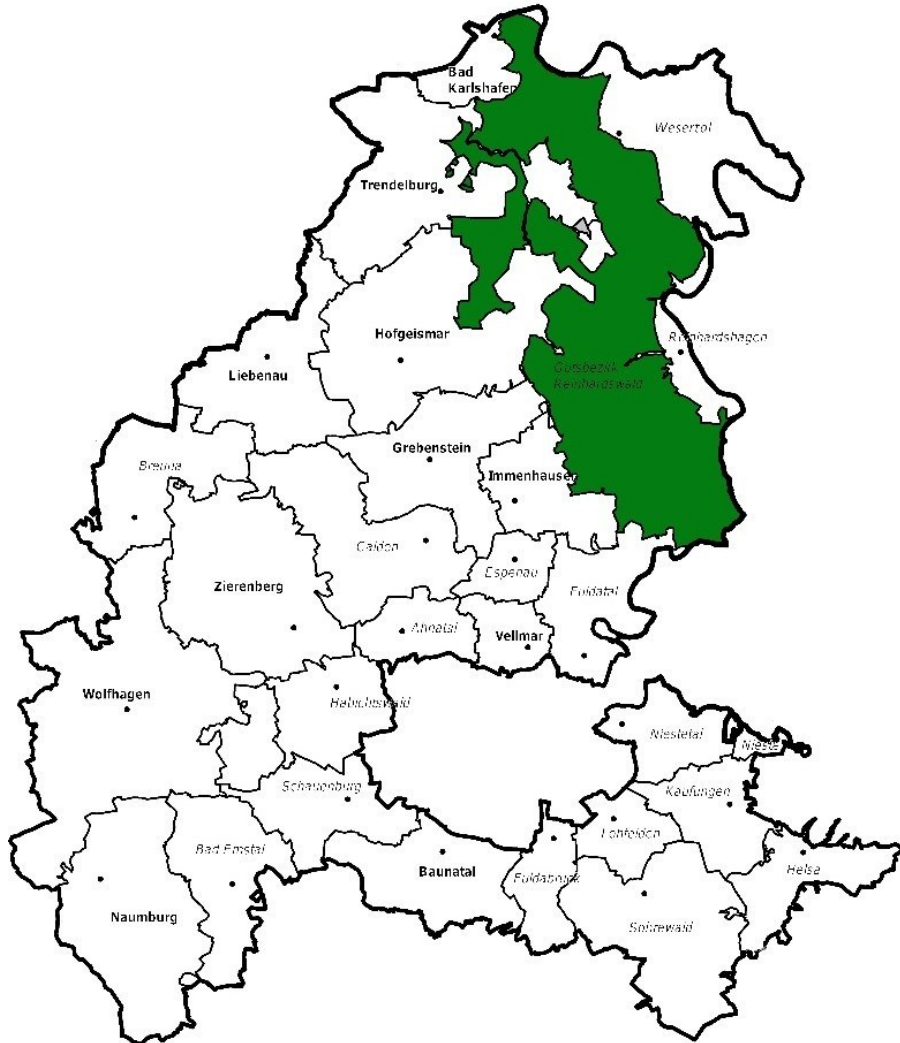
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- Landkreis Kassel – Key data, structure, landscape, heritage
- Approach to the implemented art project
- Project description and why this choice
- How does the art project answer to the motto “when a space becomes a place”
- Link to the European values
- Citizens’ involvement and impact on participants, organisations, public in general



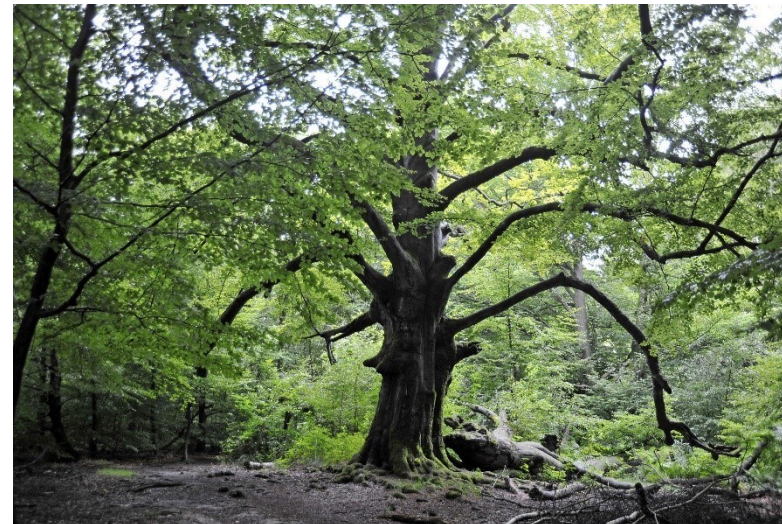
- one of the five districts in northern Hesse
- founded 1972 - union of three independent districts
- total area – 1.293 km²
- inhabitants – 242.000
- municipalities – 28
- Villages – 130
- approximately 1.800 employees
- average age 46,5 years (one of the oldest districts in Hesse)



- suburban ring around city of Kassel
- very rural in the north, west and south west
- meaning of local identities



- located between the river **Diemel** in the north and west, **Weser** and **Fulda** in the east and near to **Eder** in the south



- low mountain range with **Reinhardswald** (north), **Habichtswald** (west), **Söhre-Kaufunger Wald** (east)
- different landscape areas with influence to local identity of the population – especially the large forest areas

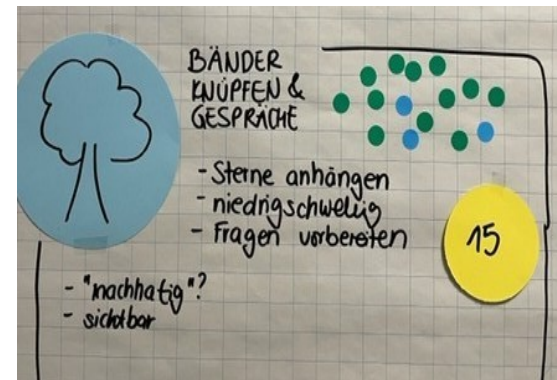
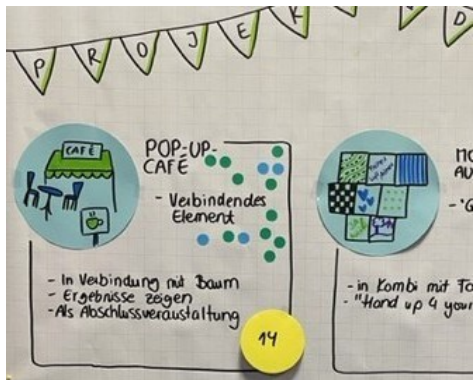


- most villages are characterized by half-timbered houses
- end of 17th century settlement of 1.500 Huguenot refugees in our region
- cultural heritage shaped by fairy tales of Brothers Grimm – each municipality relates to a specific fairytale character

Principles:

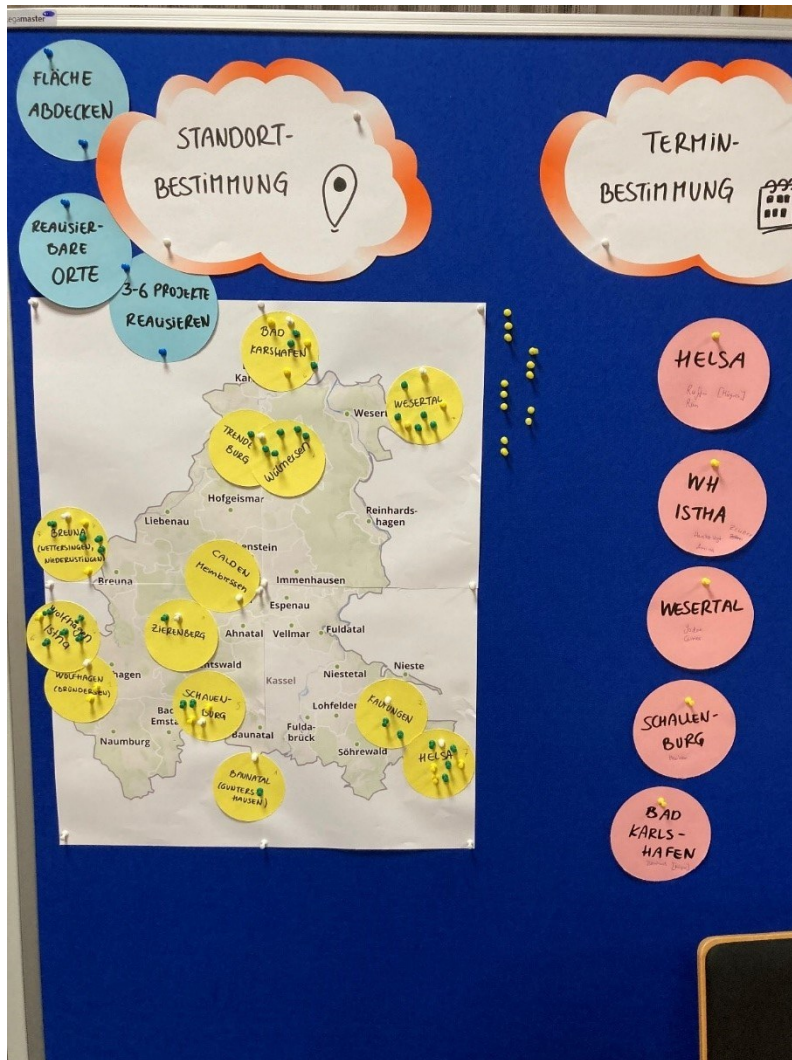
- Art4Rights project planned as a series of actions or happenings on different places while people are coming together – informal and relaxed happenings
- actions are intended to make public space visible as a place for discourse and communication
- actions should take place in all three old districts
- we want to reach people from different population groups
- It should be easily possible for everyone to take part
- the project is intended to give public spaces a new meaning

- The project is intended to invite people to think about the values of the EU.
- July-September 2023, a series of participatory events will be held in public spaces.
- Participants can design wooden stars based on their thoughts about the EU's values.
- The stars are hung in a tree in the public place.
- The trees and public space are transformed into a gallery of collected thoughts and ideas.
- To promote community and communication, each event is accompanied by a Pop-up café.



Why this choice?

- the choice is the result of the vote in the second workshop
- loss of community and creating new community and are often discussed
- social change has changed places – the social function of public space is in transformation
- many meeting places in everyday life no longer exist (pubs, grocery stores). Public places are rarely meeting places because people travel by car and work in other places. Personal contacts are replaced by digital contacts
- growing problem that leads to loneliness. It is therefore important to plan activities where people meet, get in contact, communication and exchange of their thoughts.
- the central tree in the middle of the village is still a symbol of togetherness in the village. But meetings rarely take place there anymore.

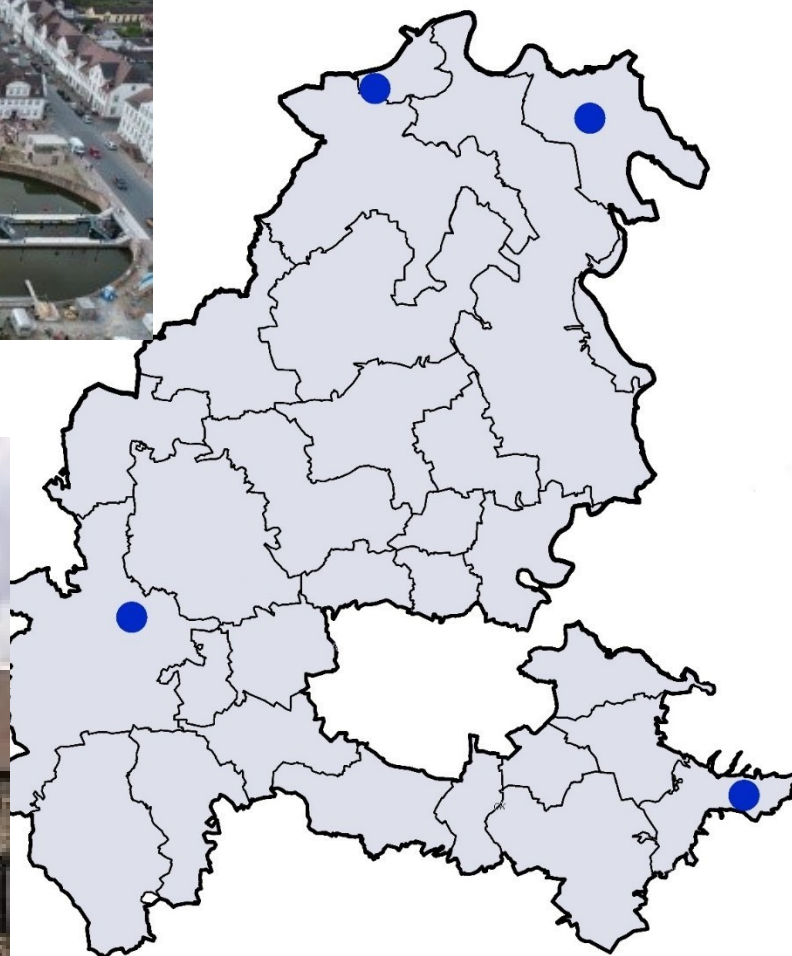


- 1. workshop December 2022 – discussion of the principles of our approach
- 2. workshop January 2023 – decision of the project
- 3. workshop March 2023 – decision of the project places (4 villages)
- decision on dates and concrete places April 2023
- informing the mayors, announcements in (social) media, contact to groups, May 2023
- last preparations and the production of the stars, June 2023

Production of the stars

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0IljCxL8Y9Y>





Local projects Helsa



Local projects Lippoldsberg



Local projects

Istha



Local projects Bad Karlshafen



- public space is transformed into a gallery of collected thoughts about freedom, democracy, equality and solidarity
- leads to transformation from space to a place
- to promote community and communication, each event is accompanied by a Pop-up café.
- three event locations were very rural villages with problems such as population decline and empty houses
- the wooden stars hung in a central tree are also intended to discuss revitalization of these places and villages
- in former times, the linden tree or oak tree used to be central place for public life and community in each village
- ART4RIGHTS project also wants to discuss the meaning and importance of these places nowadays



- question in the focus of every event:
"What do the values of freedom, equality and solidarity mean to me?"
- information material for the participants, a poster of the EU Charter, discussion cards and lots of material for designing the stars
- many topics were discussed, e.g. equal rights for women, freedom of expression, freedom to travel, free choice of career, right to education, peace and the right to asylum



- cultural associations, local museums
- artists
- strong support by every municipality
- tourism management, regional development
- senior citizen work, youth work
- educational organizations
- civil movements for tolerance and democracy
- churches, schools
- refugee aid
- EU parliamentarians
- EU office in North Hesse





- In total, more than 150 stars were designed.
- People of different ages, social groups and backgrounds took part.
- The participants shared their ideas and hopes about freedom, equality, solidarity and peace.
- Most were very proud to be part of a public art event.

Thank you!

