

Summing Up

After the reunification of Germany, Leipzig as well as eastern Germany in general, was facing massive problems. The negative urban development patterns in the 1990s which made Leipzig an example of a shrinking city was turned into a success story of economic growth and growth in population by city leaders. The success of turning weaknesses of neighborhoods into a driving force for development, the promotion of participating democracy and strategies that provides a social sustainable development, has contributed to the dynamic city Leipzig has become today. The success and popularity of the city is accompanied by side effects. The process of gentrification is currently present in several parts of the city and it must be assumed to gain significant momentum during the next decade. However, contrary to what happens in many other cities, Leipzig leaders have initiated several initiatives and urban development plans aiming at social equity in order to reduce the impact of gentrification. These initiatives have advocated equality and social justice to strengthen social cohesion within the city, and have also contributed to growth and even to curb negative development patterns such as gentrification.

The concept of livability, which has evolved over the years, has also been used by Leipzig planners. It usually describes a range of initiatives aimed at improving community quality of life while supporting broader sustainability goals. Livability in this case encompassed multi-dimensional issues that were present in the planning of urban development in Leipzig. By design or coincidence, all 10 principles for livability preconized by the American Architects Institute are present in Leipzig's strategies: 1. Design on a Human Scale (compact, pedestrian-friendly communities allow residents to walk to shops, services, cultural resources, and jobs and can reduce traffic congestion and benefit people's health.); 2. Provide Choices (people want variety in housing, shopping, recreation, transportation, and employment. Variety creates lively neighborhoods and accommodates residents in different stages of their lives.); 3. Encourage Mixed-Use Development (integrating different land uses and varied building types creates vibrant, pedestrian-friendly and diverse communities.); 4. Preserve Urban Centers (restoring, revitalizing, and infilling urban centers takes advantage of existing streets, services and buildings

and avoids the need for new infrastructure. This helps to curb sprawl and promote stability for city neighborhoods.); 5. Vary Transportation Options (giving people the option of walking, biking and using public transit, in addition to driving, reduces traffic congestion, protects the environment, and encourages physical activity.); 6. Build Vibrant Public Spaces (citizens need welcoming, well-defined public places to stimulate face-to-face interaction, collectively celebrate and mourn, encourage civic participation, admire public art, and gather for public events.); 7. Create a Neighborhood Identity (a “sense of place” gives neighborhoods a unique character, enhances the walking environment, and creates pride in the community.); 8. Protect Environmental Resources (a well-designed balance of nature and development preserves natural systems, protects waterways from pollution, reduces air pollution, and protects property values.); 9. Conserve Landscapes (open space, farms, and wildlife habitat are essential for environmental, recreational, and cultural reasons.); and 10. Design Matters (design excellence is the foundation of successful and healthy communities.) (American Institute of Architects, 2013).

In analyzing the strategies for urban development in Leipzig and showing how civic leaders were able to harmonize planning and equity, the book discusses at length two approaches that the Leipzig planners have adopted: the promotion of culture as a key component of urban development and the reconciliation of the inevitable process of gentrification with social equity. The book shows how these approaches fit well in the case of Leipzig but still could be used in other cities. As discussed in the book, Leipzig has some unique socioeconomic and political conditions that allowed urban planners to cope with the problems of social inequality in an effective manner. Despite these unique economic, social, and political characteristics, Leipzig’s urban policies could very well be a model for the application of social equity in urban development in other cities in Europe and some cities in the United States. The Leipzig approach is timely and could prove beneficial elsewhere because social equity is currently one of the concerns of urban development strategists around the world, although the priority in most cases is to solve some existing economic crises. The strategy adopted by Leipzig is not a universal model. As mentioned at the end of the previous chapter, that strategy may not be successfully applied to all cities since each city has its own socioeconomic, political, and legal systems that provide a framework for workable solutions. But the way Leipzig faces its challenge could be an inspiration for other cities that might want to borrow only some of the transferable features of the Leipzig solution to design their own responses to similar urban development problems.

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Dr. Jean-Claude Garcia-Zamor has been a professor of public administration at Florida International University (FIU) since 1990. His Ph.D. is from New York University. Prior to joining FIU, he taught at Howard University in Washington, D.C., the University of Texas at Austin, and the Brazilian School of Public Administration in Rio de Janeiro. He is also currently an Honorary Professor of Ethics and Management at Leipzig University in Germany where he has been teaching every summer since 1999. He has held a variety of senior positions in both major international organizations and the private sector. He served as Controller of the Inter-American Development Bank, Senior Specialist in Public Administration at the Organization of American States, and President of the International Development Group, Inc., a 25-member Washington-based international consulting firm. He has also worked in Latin America and in Africa as a consultant for the World Bank, the United Nations and the United States Agency for International Development.

Professor Garcia-Zamor is the author of five books, has edited or co-edited six others, and contributed chapters to numerous other books. He has also published extensively on issues of development administration, organizational behavior, comparative public administration, and ethics and government in professional research journals in the United States, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Belgium, Great Britain, the Netherlands, India, South Korea, Poland, and China. His latest book, *The Leipzig Model: Myth or Reality? A Study of City Management in the Former East Germany*, was published in 2008. He served 3 years as a member of the Editorial Board of *Public Administration Review* (PAR) and 4 years as the Book Review Editor of *Public Organization Review*. He is also a Life Member of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) and a member of several other professional and academic societies both in the United States and abroad.

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