

# Gute Chancen für alle Kinder

## Tübingen Preventive Concept against Child Poverty

An overview for

by Gerd Müller, 2021-12-03

 [www.gatm.de/ccp](http://www.gatm.de/ccp)



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**BÜNDNIS**  
**FÜR FAMILIE**  
**TÜBINGEN**

# Gerd A.T. Müller

## Life Perspective

- Born in Germany 1953
- Master Computer Science [KIT](#) and degree in communications psychology
- 8 stepchildren / kids
- Pro bono work with non-profit organizations and low income families
- Interests:  
Photography,  
reading Physics,  
Philosophy,  
Theology



## Business perspective

Teacher for blind students ([blista](#))

32 years at [Hewlett-Packard](#)

- Technical Support
- Research & Development
- Manufacturing
- Information Technology
- Human Resources
- Outsourcing Services
- Account Management
- Process Management
- Quality Management
- Organization Development
- Change Management
  
- Middle Management
- Program Management
- National - European - Global
- Advisory Bord [Software Zentrum](#)

Self employed [gatm ccc](#)

# Tübingen

[Tübingen](#) (German: ['ty:ʁɪŋən]) is a traditional university city in central Baden-Württemberg, Germany. One in three of the 90,000 people living in Tübingen is a student. The city has the lowest median age in Germany of 40 years. The Eberhard Karls University founded in 1477 is one of the oldest in Central Europe.



# What Does Children's Poverty Mean in Germany?

## Poverty is relative

In common parlance, poverty is understood absolutely. After that, he who has little is poor. However, politics defines poverty and child poverty in relative terms. It is measured against the prosperity of the society in which people live. According to the prevailing definition of poverty in the EU, people who have less than 60% of the median net income are poor.

## Poverty means fewer opportunities

Poverty is measured according to what others have and is experienced subjectively. And poverty is not only material, it is also measured by the care that children have and the parents give. Poor children are excluded from the normal standard of living; they are excluded from the areas of education, culture and sport very early on.

## How does child poverty feel?

- Noisy, small, cold apartment.
- No mud pants and boots in kindergarten.
- No place to invite for a birthday, no own room or desk.
- School lunch is not paid for.
- At home there is hardly any meat, fish or vegetarian food to eat, but mostly cold, bread and jam.
- Not a week of vacation a year outside of the apartment.
- No bike, helmet.
- No money to go to the cinema or swimming pool with friends.
- No pocket money on the school trip.
- Do not go to the school camp with you.

Equivalent income (2014, net, SOEP)						
	very poor	poor	median	wealthy	very wealthy	rich
% of median	< 40	< 60	100	> 200	> 300	> 400
€ / month	704	1.056	<b>1.760</b>	3.520	5.280	> 7.040
€ / year	8.448	12.672	21.120	42.240	63.360	> 84.480
% of population	~9	6,8	~60	8.2	1.6	~15

# GCfaK - How it Began

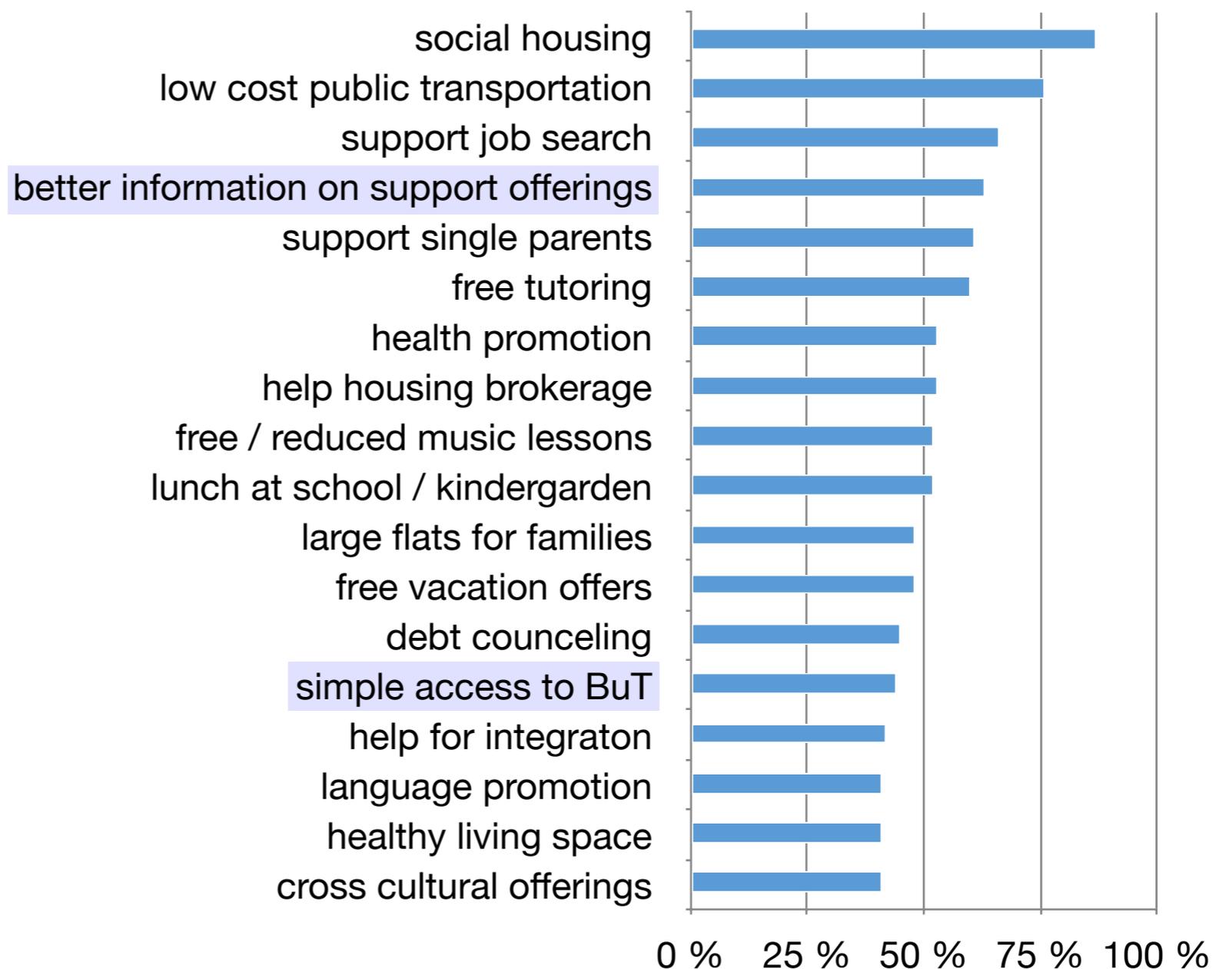
**2013** the research study „Gute Chancen für alle Kinder“ (GCfaK) - good opportunities for each kid - was done.

- Don't talk about families and poverty, talk **with** the families.
- **Participation**: More than 250 families were interviewed from professionals and interested people. More than 400 people got involved. They were identified by a snowball system.
- A **plan** with objectives, recommendations and actions was derived.
- Support from **city council** and **administration** was obtained.

**2014** the round table was founded with about 50 volunteers across institutions, administration and citizens. This is the central place to drive progress.

## Which help should be more?

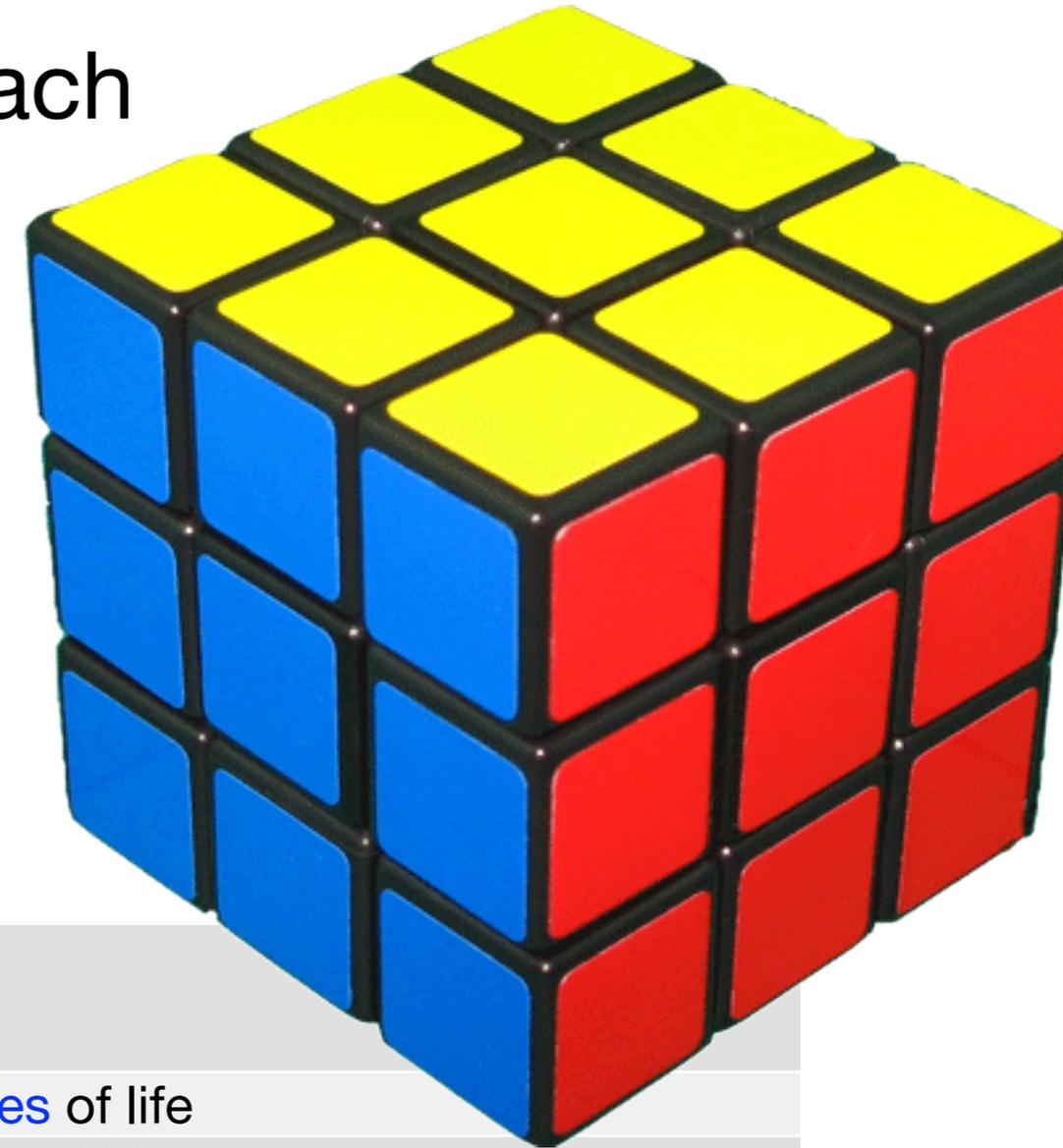
High need for **information** about available support and **simple access** (BuT is nation wide funded support for education and participation, 15 € / month)



# Characteristics of Tübingen Approach

**Resource orientation:** Don't always invent, connect existing capabilities, empower people, invite for participation, avoid parallel structures. Create occasions, opportunities and space to meet and learn from each other. Once a year we offer a workshop to deepen knowledge.

**Evaluate and learn:** Twice a year we look together at status of the projects, exchange information. We council about next steps and how to overcome hurdles.



## Three perspectives

### Aspects of life

- Everybody may **participate** in the cities diversity
- Everybody enjoys material security for **basic needs**
- Everybody may get **education** and develop its skills
- Everybody grows in **health** circumstances
- **Empower parents** with their responsibilities

### Social **district** focus

Currently 14 districts in the city. This changes as the city and the people change.

### Phases of life

- Around birth
- 1 - 3 years - day care
- 3 - 6 years - kindergarden
- 6 - 10 years - primary school
- 10 - 18 years - secondary school
- >15 years - professional education

The **prevention chain** connects these phases to identify gaps and manage the interfaces.

# Participation

All kids can participate in the cities life even if there is not a lot of money.

## Examples

- [KreisBonusCard](#) (KBC) is a credit card like item giving access to free or cost reduced offerings. It is issued central if kids come from low income families.
- [Coordination](#) role „Kinderchancen“ in the administration. It maintains the network, wins new partners for KBC, informs families ([newsletter](#), [wiki](#)).
- [TAPs](#) - a network of on-site (school, kindergarden, clubs, chrurch, ...) contact people. They are trained to observe poverty and know the most used offerings.
- [Stocherkahn](#) - free boating on the river allows kids to invite friends.
- [Team Ticket](#) offers ticket for concerts, theater, ... to invite a coach.
- [Christmas Wish Tree](#). Kids put a wish on the tree and citizens select and fulfill it.

Plan is to expand offerings from the city to the county.

# Basic Needs

The basic needs as work, income, living space and mobility are available.

## Examples

- [Clearing point life](#) helps to find an adequate flat, helps managing trouble with landlord, trains how to be a good tenant.
- [Fair housing](#) drives creation of subsidized flats in mixed living areas - no ghettos.
- [Mobility](#) offers low cost tickets for public transportation and repair service / education for bicycles.
- [District social work](#) in challenging districts: Meeting points, social consulting, arrange help.
- The team [Work](#) offers consulting for single parents to reenter business.

Plan is to expand the district social work into more districts.

# Education / Occupation

Each young person receives best opportunities for personal development, education at school and for profession, and may develop its skills.

## Examples

- We offer [day care](#) for 80% of the kids, [kindergarden](#) for all kids. Some of those organization do offer [consulting for parents](#).
- All schools have resources for [socio-educational counseling](#).
- [INET](#) - an intercultural network - has 144 volunteers supporting migrants in all challenges around school and education. INET did exist before we started GCfaK.
- More than 50 volunteers work in [sponsoring teams](#) ([learning im team](#), [young people support peers](#), [sponsoring for mentally disables kids and parents](#)) to support and guide.
- [Youth Houses](#) and [vacation](#) offerings from the city and churches.
- [Cultural offerings](#) from clubs for music, fine arts, sports, ... are financially supported.

Plans are to ensure this reaches more kids and especially migrants.

# Health

Each young person grows up in a health supporting environment.

## Examples

- Each [day care](#) and [kindergarden](#) supports physical and mental health. Several programs do support the institutions. To become self-confident is key.
- [Swimming for all Kids](#) offers free training for KBC members to become a safe swimmer. It is a voluntary project funded by donations. With [rent-a-trainer](#) schools are supported to be more effective in swimming classes.
- Offerings on the [weekends](#) and during [vacation](#) give motivation to not hang around (e.g. [SpaS](#)).
- [CTC](#) - Communities that Care - is a standardized program for prevention and mobilizing people.
- [Team Health](#) focusses identifying more supporters and volunteers.

Plan is that the district center West becomes a focal point for health promotion.

# Empowering Parents

Each parent shall be strengthened in its parental responsibility.

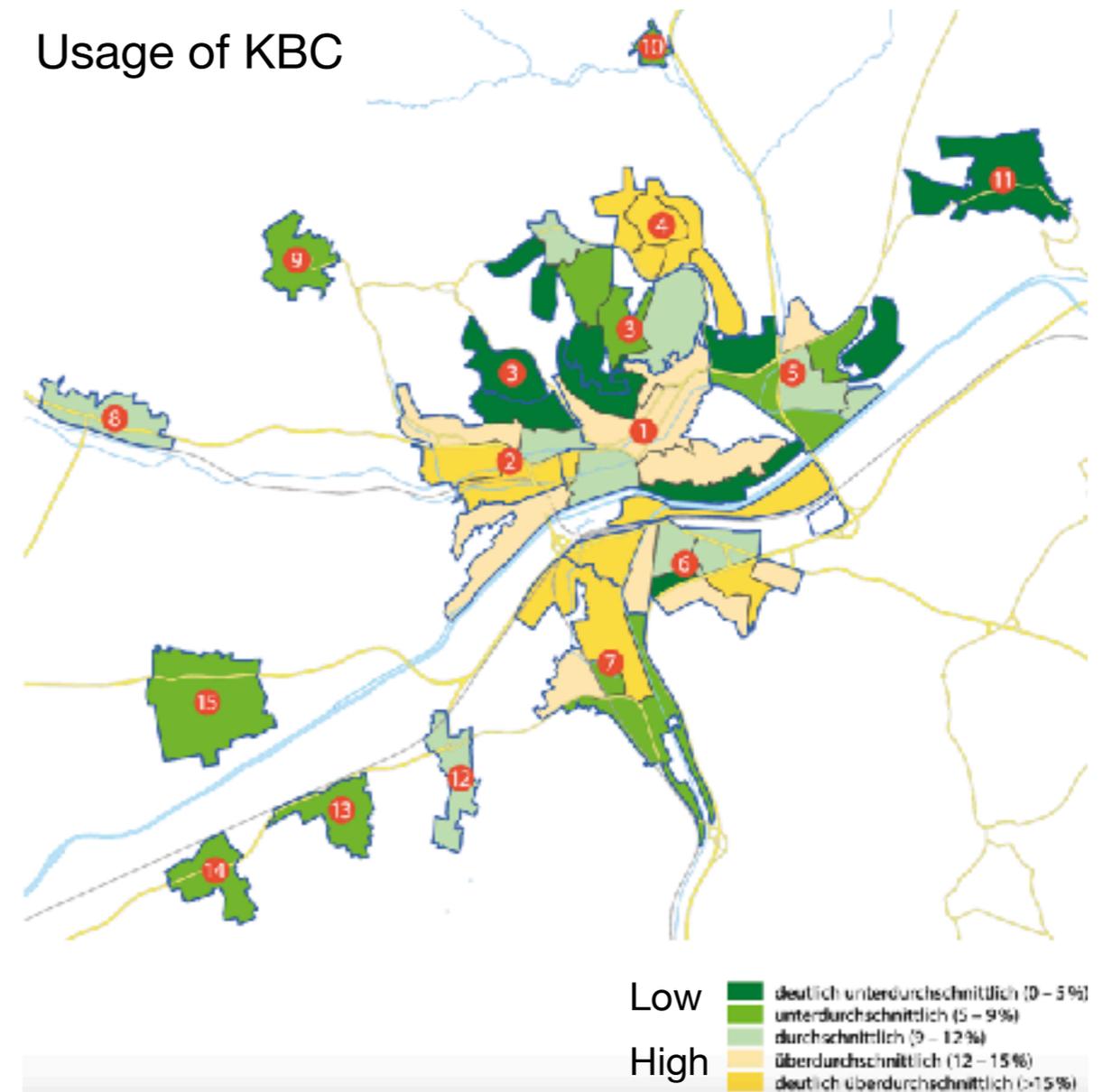
## Examples

- Advice and help for parents is offered through many institutions: youth welfare, [pro familia](#), churches. They cooperate closely.
- The district centers offer place to meet, discuss and learn from each other
- [TAPs](#) is a network of more than 150 people working on-site in child care, kindergarden, school, church, club, ... They are trained in child poverty and are first contact very often.
- [EfA](#) is special support for single parents in ad hoc situations (e.g. take care of kids in an urgency) and temporal situation (e.g. qualify for a job, reenter work life).
- In Kindergarden and school parents are empowered to actively [participate](#).

Plan is ensuring continuity for EfA, a well received program, expanding TAPs and strengthen the district centers.

# Social district focus

Usage of KBC



- Many people do not leave their social district
- Participate people in building the local structures

More information is here:

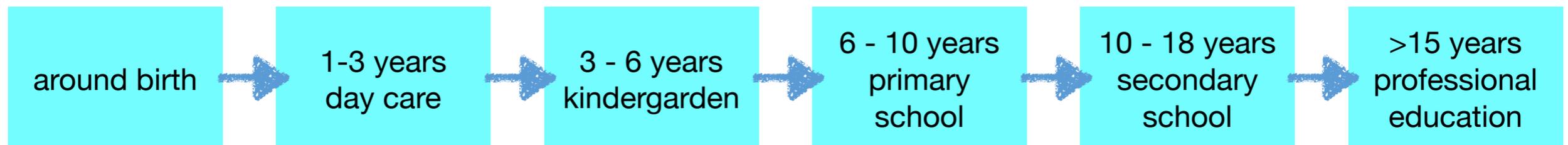
- Projects: [Bündnis für Familie](#)
- Available help: [Wer hilft weiter?](#)

# Prevention Chain - Phases of Life

Key: Support kids and parents from pregnancy to entry into occupation to prevent poverty

- **Cooperate** between all participants - administration, organizations, clubs, individuals, politics.

- Manage the **network**: relationships, information, education
- Identify **gaps**
- Identify **obstacles** between phases
- This is **not** a **static** picture, review regularly

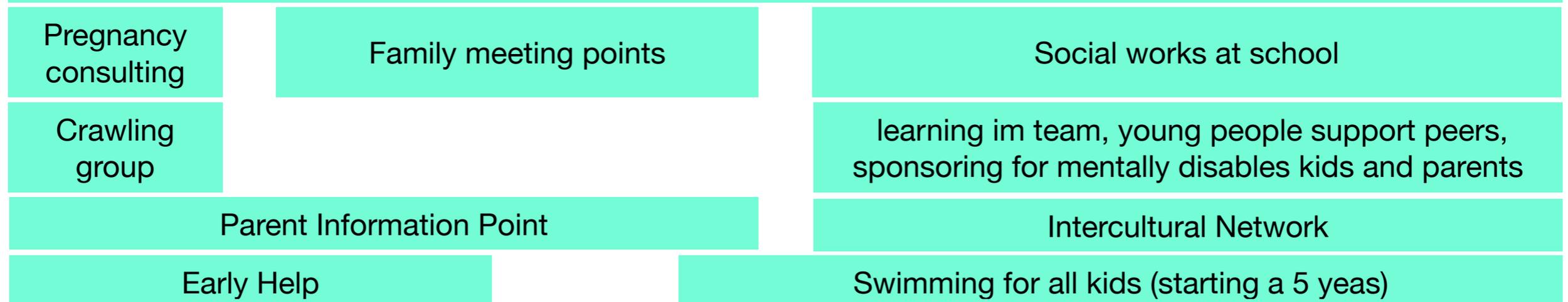


## Offerings across phases (examples)

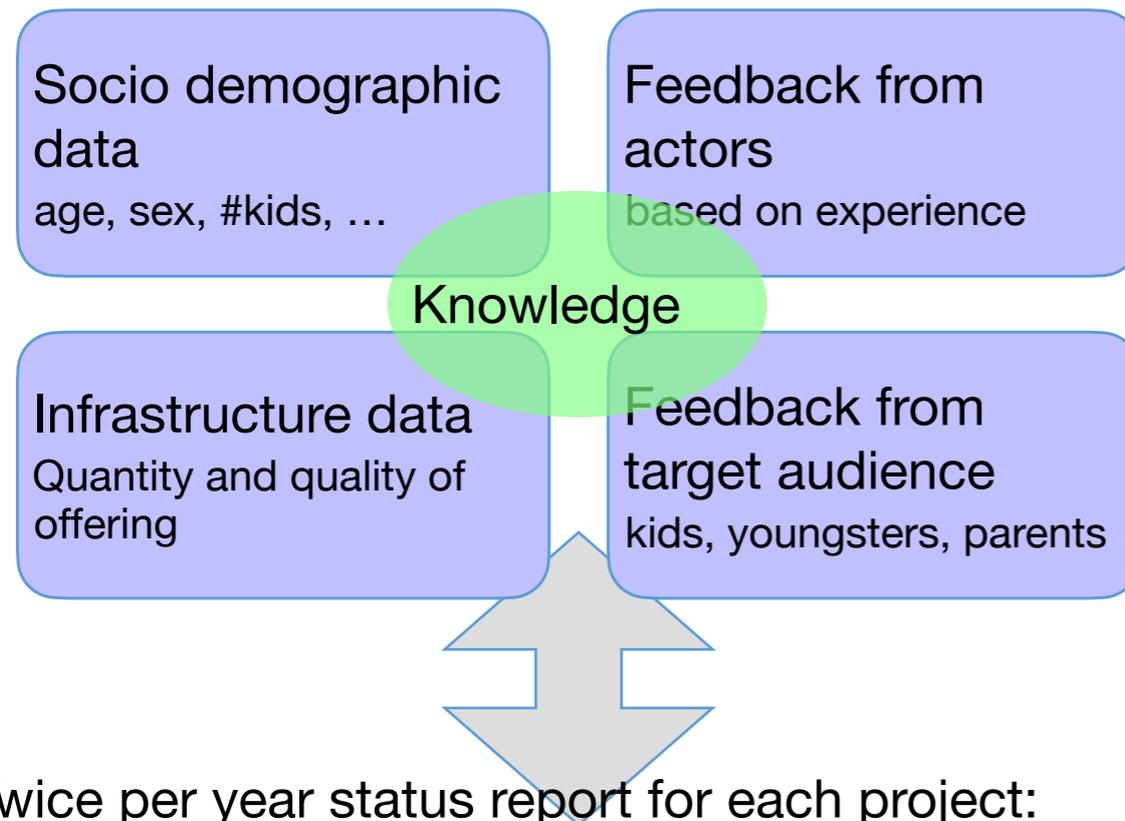
- KinderBonusCard
- TAPs
- Clearing point life
- Mobility

- Education and Participation
- EfA
- District social work
- INET

## Offerings specific to phases (examples)



# Evaluation

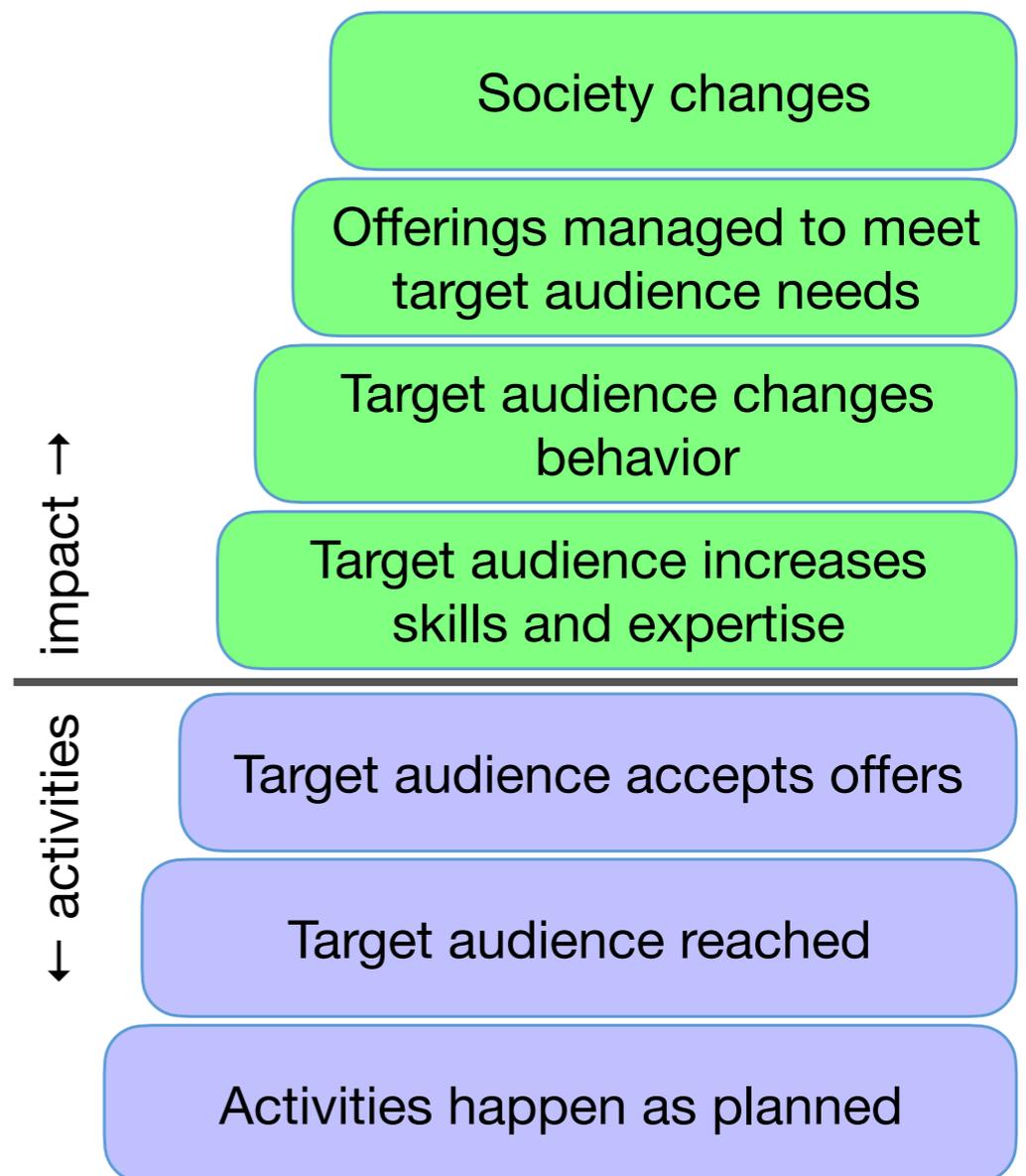


Twice per year status report for each project:

Health		Carolin Löffler 25.10.2021
<p><b>Objective:</b> Every young person grows up in health-promoting conditions</p> <p><b>Success criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interested actors are networked</li> <li>An inventory analysis for the area of health promotion is available</li> <li>Gaps and problems are identified together</li> <li>Small sub-groups are formed to find solutions / to work out projects</li> </ul>	<p><b>Results</b> (since last review):</p> <p>New projects related to health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cycling and self-active mobility: used bike exchange on WHO in spring, repair vouchers</li> <li>Consultation hours on the health of children and families in the Brückenhaus since June</li> <li>We are working on further consultation hours at the Aischbach Hospital</li> <li>AK Mental Health Promotion reissued, in good demand. Plan: Mental Health Week in October 2022 and others</li> <li>Game boxes may be used</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Help needed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Those interested in health promotion are welcome to get in touch</li> <li>Focus: mental health promotion</li> </ul>	<p><b>Plan</b> next 6 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to implement the new projects well</li> </ul>	

In depth evaluation in 2021 / 2022 to learn about impact and improvement opportunities.

## Levels of impact



# How we are organized



[buefa-tue.de](http://buefa-tue.de) is a large [network](#) of citizens, associations, initiatives and institutions. We see ourselves as an open forum for all topics that affect families. We are part of the [Germany wide network](#).

[Steering Committee](#) (6 members) controls the approach of the GCfaK initiative and the projects on the basis of the recommendations of the Round Table on Child Poverty.

[Round table](#) (~ 40-60 people) members: *Affected people, Caritas, Churches, City Administration, Clubs, Diakonie, Initiatives, Kindergardens, League of Liberal Welfare, Politics, Schools, Volunteers, ...* (*Italics* are in the steering committee). Drives the program with regular reviews and workshops.

[Projects / Working Groups](#) (~ 20 groups): **Work, Education, CTC, EfA, Health, INET, Youth, KBC, Emergency Care, Public Transportation, Close-to-nature Play and Open Space, Open Family Get-togethers, Swimming, District Social Work, Boating, TAPs, Family Day, Who Helps, Living Space**

They do the work! 😊

# Heartbeat of the Program

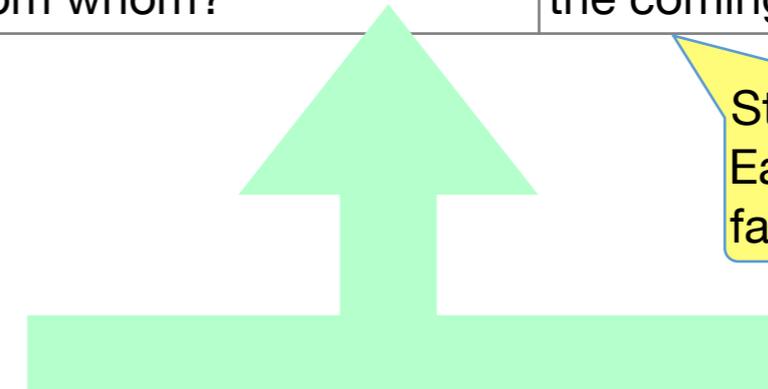
**Workshop** for all interested parties as an educational benefit

- 2015 Communal Concepts of Child Poverty Prevention
- 2016 Guiding Principles
- 2017 Intercultural Sensibility
- 2018 Empowerment and Resilience
- 2019 Intermezzo: What did we achieve?
- 2020 Inclusion
- 2021 Simple Language



workshop

Name of Project		Owner	Date
<b>Objective</b> of the project. Short and concise - one or two sentences.		<b>Results</b> (since last review) The major results achieved since last review.	
<b>Success criteria</b> How to know when success is achieved.			
<b>Help needed?</b> What do you need? From whom?		<b>Plan</b> (for the next period) The target achievements for the coming period.	



Standard schema:  
Easy to read and fast to fill out

information + review

information + review



October

February

April

October

# On One Page

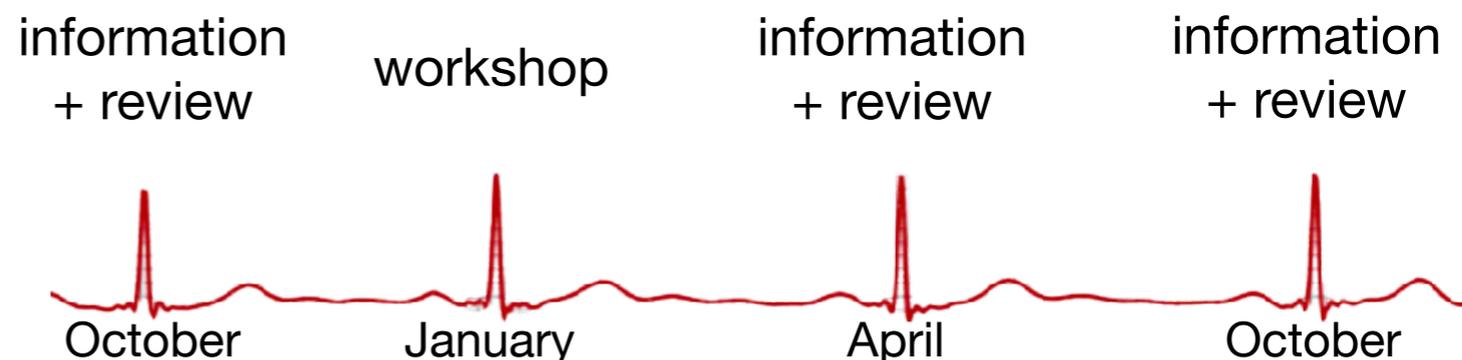
## 10 Things

1. Get support from politics
2. Active the urban society
3. Listen to impacted families
4. Be close to real needs
5. Build and maintain a broad network
6. Keep the three perspectives in mind: aspects of life, phase of life, social district
7. Easy access to information and support
8. Evaluate the results on an ongoing basis
9. Report regular to the stakeholders
10. Enable team learning

## Keys for success

- Everybody is welcome
- All are equal: Administration, city council, citizens, clubs
- Good ideas will be supported and fast implemented
- Specific help now is more important than abstract concepts
- Results are reviewed twice a year, success is celebrated
- Together we're strong

## Heartbeat of the program



# Sources

- [https://www.buendnis-fuer-familie-tuebingen.de/mediawiki/images/5/53/Broschuere\\_Praeventionskonzept\\_Kinderarmut\\_2020\\_Internet.pdf](https://www.buendnis-fuer-familie-tuebingen.de/mediawiki/images/5/53/Broschuere_Praeventionskonzept_Kinderarmut_2020_Internet.pdf)
- <http://www.armuts-und-reichtumsbericht.de/DE/Bericht/Der-fuenfte-Bericht/fuenfter-bericht.html>
- [wikipedia.de](https://www.wikipedia.de)
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- [https://www.tuebingen.de/verwaltung/uploads/sozialkonzeption\\_2015.pdf](https://www.tuebingen.de/verwaltung/uploads/sozialkonzeption_2015.pdf)
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- Pictures: Gerd Müller

Thank You