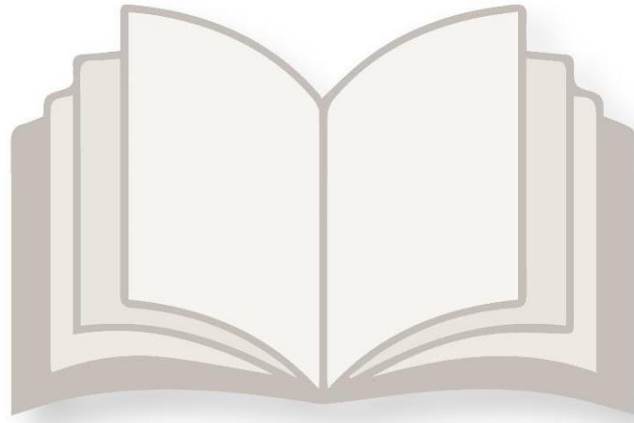




Sustainable Accessible Future Environments



# LEARNING DIARY

# ISP KIEL – DAY 1

DATE: 27/11/2023

We arrived in Kiel and the Youth hostel at 1AM after a long day of traveling by train. After breakfast in the morning, we met the other students and professors for the introduction of the weeks programme. Chrissi Agrianidou and Anna Neugebauer of the Office Social City Gaarden presented to us the district of Gaarden and its characteristics. We heard something about the history of the district, its socio-economic situation and criminality problems – especially drug usage and degradation of space. After the presentation I would have loved to meet the students in our focus group but there was unfortunately no time.

We continued our day with Jane's walk in the district. A local took us through some of the main areas and explained the situation. The district has a littering problem and prioritises cars in public areas. My overall impression of the area was more positive than what I have been told in the presentation before. The buildings were well maintained and there were a lot of locally owned businesses, shops, and community centres. Other than the littering and some broken glass, I did not notice any other forms of degradation in space. Later it was explained to us we did not encounter drug users because it is getting too cold for them. I had a similar experience in Malmo, Sweden this year's international week – we have been presented with a problem of segregation but had trouble seeing it that obviously on site. The issue of segregation is apparently not as visible in space as I thought.

After lunch at the hostels followed the presentation of the Slovenian group. First by prof. Fikfak who presented Urban design and workshops and the concept of "learning by doing". Secondly, assist. Prof. Grom presented the concept of universal design based on a Slovenian town. That was followed by the presentation of the book *Doing Disability Differently* by us Slovenian students. The book has been a bit of a challenge since it provides a lot of insight into the difficulties disabled people face but almost no of actual solutions.

Next were the presentations by the Finnish team – prof. Henriksson and prof. Mantere along with their students – on the questions of safety and surveillance in public space. After that followed presentation on Data collection & general information by prof. Britta Thege. She gave us guidelines on how to prepare for the interview with our local target group representatives the next day.

After that we formed the international groups. Our group had Alicia from Granada, Wictoria from Bygoszcz, Juuso from Vantaa, Frideriecke from Kiel and I. Our target group was families with children so we started our discussion on what can we ask the parents of Gaarden. All the team members contributed to the discussion and had a wide array of knowledge from their own study programmes, which made me very happy. The day ended with a trip to the newly opened Christmas market in the city centre, where we went to hang out.



*Figure 1: Jane's walk in the area.*



*Figure 2: Slovenians in the Christmas market.*



## ISP KIEL – DAY 2

DATE: 28/11/2023

In the morning we met again with our teams and started the day in preparation for the safety walk with our local target group representatives. First, Aleš presented the value and guidelines for urban mapping, followed by Chrissi and Anna presenting the locations of the safety walk and some suggestions on how to go about the district. With the prepared questions our group followed Annika, our local representative of the group families with children, to the courtyard of an apartment building in Gaarden.

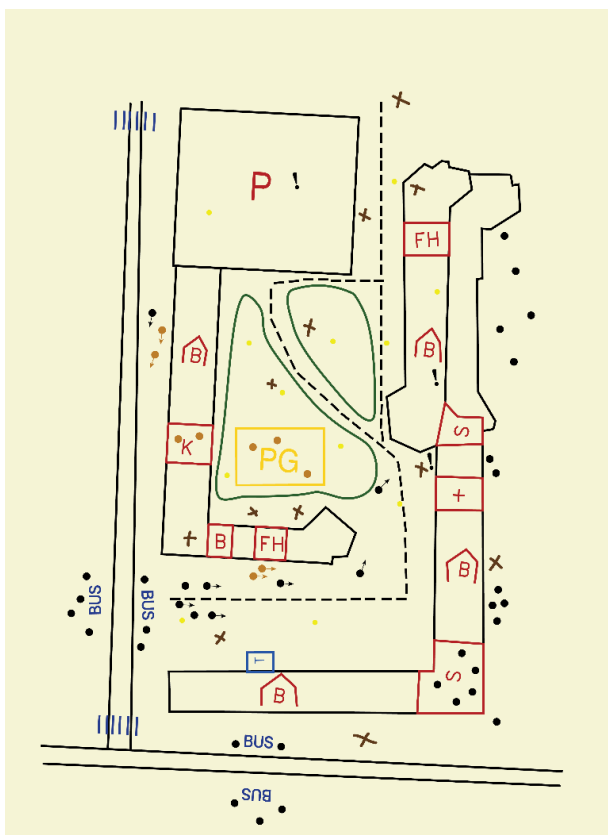


Figure 3: Map made after the safety walk.

Annika is a mother of two, who works as a social worker in the area and lives in Gaarden. She gave us her insight into the area and its problems – why people don't use it, why they don't feel safe, how children perceive it, what are the positive aspects of it etc. She shared with us her personal experiences as well of what she knows about migrant families in the area. In the end she took us to Family house, where she works. It is a community centre for children that are not in kindergarten as well as families looking for help, information, or safe space to hang out.

With her answers we returned to the hostel and worked on writing down her insights and mapping all the things we found relevant in space from the perspective of families with children. We made a map of all the features that stood up in space.



*Figure 4: Location of the safety walk.*

The Spanish group then presented us the concept of accessible tourism which I found quite interesting.

In the evening we returned in the snow and cold to the Christmas market.

## ISP KIEL – DAY 3

DATE: 29/11/2023

On the third day the focus was society and modelling. We started with the presentations of the German team. First, Basic concepts of Gender Studies by Marike Schmeck, a topic I found most interesting since we don't discuss it that often in urban design context. That was followed by the book presentations and results of a survey on living in Gaarden. The presentations were followed by model making. In our group I suggested a simple workflow for model making and other material preparation where everyone could be involved. Luckily, my colleagues were very eager to learn something new and share their views in brainstorming on how we could improve the location. Some of us drew and cut the buildings while others prepared the "story" of our representative, digitalized the map, and cut out urban furniture. I had a very positive experience with our work.

After lunch, we all walked to the main railway station for a city tour. At that point, the snow had fallen quite a lot so in was a bit tiering and cold, but the tour was still very interesting. The tour guide explained to us a bit on the history of the city and its role in German economy and transport, and how its history shaped the Kiel as it is now. He put a lot of emphasis on the negative aspects of war and how it affects the city. He also explained the touristic character of Kiel that comes with the cruise ship terminal. After the walk I had a better understanding of the city and its characteristics.



*Figure 5: City walk in the snow.*

Back at the hostel, Aleš introduced to us role playing in urban scenarios. I took the role of the investor and tried to introduce different ways how location could be developed in a way that is economically viable. The role playing was fun and served us as a way of brainstorming on the solution for the location.



## ISP KIEL – DAY 4

DATE: 30/11/2023

Thursday was reserved for future thinking and scenario making. The Finnish professors had a lecture on future thinking and the Polish group introduced us to different aspects of social policy (accessibility, integration, education...). With the group we made a SWOT analysis to organise the main characteristics of the location. It was very useful for when we started to think about the 5-, 10-, and 20-year scenarios. For the 5 years we tried to suggest small changes and for 20 years a more daring scenario. Our propositions were not perfect but were acceptable based on the time and resources we had. We had fun making models of the scenarios and everyone was included in the discussion on what we could suggest. I prepared the poster with all the material we made. At the end of the day, we were tired but satisfied with the result.



Figure 6: Model of the location.

## ISP KIEL – DAY 5

DATE: 1/12/2023

In the morning our group met and finished the poster. I made a collage of our suggestions while others prepared the presentation and divided our parts. Since most of the work was done soon, we took it easy and took a rest.

The presentations were very enjoyable – it was amazing to see how much a group of strangers from different backgrounds can do in just a few days. The topic was challenging so I did not take the result for granted. Our group was satisfied with the finished materials.



*Figure 7: Final presentations of the projects.*





*Figure 8: Group 4 - feeling proud of ourselves!*

After we were given the certificates, we went to pack and buy food. We met with everyone in Bambule bar where we exchanged our experiences of the week and said goodbyes to each other.

My overall experience of the week was very positive – I enjoyed spending time with my colleagues, my group was very active and pleasant, and the topic of the project was interesting. The location was a complicated one and could easily be a project for a longer time. But the value of the project as I see it, was that we were able to meet the residences of the district, talk to them and see the challenges from their point of view.