

## GERMANY

# Implementing Local Development Strategies

**Location**  
Heidesee

**Programming period**  
2007 - 2013

**Axis / Priority**  
Axis 4 – LEADER

**Funding (EUR)**  
Total budget 649 895  
EAFRD 389 937  
National/Regional 97 484  
Private 162 474

**Project duration**  
2013 – 2014

**Project promoter**  
KIEZ Frauensee

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EAFRD funding was used to convert three disused buildings into a fire protection education centre for kids.

### Summary

Children are frequently unaware of the dangers of fire. In Brandenburg, Germany, EAFRD funding helped convert three disused buildings into a fire safety centre. At the centre, the 'Fire Protection for Kids' project sought to teach children aged 3 - 12 about the dangers of fire. Hands-on activities and demonstrations showed children hazards in the home, how to handle a fire and how to call for help. Children attending the courses also learnt what happens in a fire station when an emergency call is received at a mock-up of a real fire station.



### Results

In 2016, 1,193 children attended fire safety day courses and 436 children attended a three-day fire safety field trip. Fire safety seminars took place in Brandenburg, Berlin and Poland, and fire station open days were held.

Using hands on activities children learnt how to prevent fires, how to act in the case of a fire, and how to alert parents to dangers.

Networks of fire fighting associations established as a result of the activities held at the centre have helped promote the centre.

### Lessons & Recommendations

- Fire awareness training for children should be a key part of fire prevention strategies. Teaching fire prevention is as important as teaching ways to tackle fire.
- Hands on, fun activities are an effective way to teach children since they want to actively participate.
- Showing children what happens at a fire station can motivate them to become interested in joining a youth fire brigade.
- There is a high demand for fire training and accident prevention teaching designed for children.

## Context

There is hardly any knowledge transfer in families, day-care centres and schools in the areas of fire protection and security education. Thus, children usually no longer learn to deal with open fires, they also develop little sense of safety and danger, and are often helpless in emergencies. This is a major problem for the safety of children and their environment. Accidents and fires are very often caused unknowingly by children.

For this reason, the project "Fire Protection for Kids" was established at the Floriansdorf. The Floriansdorf is offered by the Children and Youth Center (KiEZ) Frauensee. Here, children can take part in courses with meaningful topics such as fire prevention. The name Floriansdorf was chosen because of the holy Florian, the patron of fire brigades.

## Objectives

The "Fire Protection for Kids" project aims to help children learn how fire works and how to handle it safely. It teaches them to understand what fire is used for and what sources of danger are associated with it. Based on this knowledge, children are trained about the effective control of a dangerous situation such as a fire or an accident.

Furthermore the project strengthens the enthusiasm of children for the youth fire brigade and their work by, among other things, learning how diverse and responsible their work is. The goal is also to motivate children to participate in the youth fire brigade.

## Activities

Three disused buildings in the KiEZ Frauensee in Heidese, Spreewald were converted into a Floriansdorf with EAFRD assistance, resulting in an interactive, educational meeting place promoting fire and safety education for children aged between three and 12 years. Constructional measures were implemented, as well as conceptual works and exhibitions.

The result is a fire academy with an exhibition, a house of dangers and a children's fire guard on a total of 240 m<sup>2</sup>.

In the fire academy children can follow different activities with the focus being on active and interactive communication. Children gain new knowledge by observing, informing, trying out, and experiencing a variety of activities and taking part in role play games.

Under the guidance of members of the youth fire brigade, firefighters and educational staff the children learn how fire works and how to use it. They practice to ignite fire

themselves and to supervise and to use fire, for example by cooking together. They are also told how to react properly in the case of a fire and to extinguish the fire.

Further activities take place in the House of Dangers. Playfully, Freddie the fox teaches the children about possible risks, especially in the household and how to avoid accidents and fires. The dangers of candles, electricity, poison, injury, explosion and smoke are the focus here. For a better understanding, the children are given simple examples of what happens, for example, when a hair dryer falls into the water or when you try to extinguish burning fat with water by demonstration if possible. Kids can actively participate in the search for answers and try out a lot. Children also learn about the dangers of toxic smoke, the importance of smoke detectors and how to do an emergency call.

In the third building, the children's fire-station, kids practice the work of real fire-fighters. The station simulates what happens after an emergency call arrives at the command station and what it means to save or rescue somebody and to extinguish fire. Children play fire-fighting operations themselves and learn to act independently.

*"Tell a small child to paint fire and it will paint a burning house. But what is fire really for us? Where is it hiding in our modern homes (for example as electricity)? How do you deal with this correctly? Where are the dangers in our environment and how do we avoid accidents? To understand and realise this, is the reason for the development of the Floriansdorf."*

Joachim Schneider, Managing Director KiEZ Frauensee



## Main Results

The project "Fire Protection for Kids" successfully teaches children how to deal with fire. The children know after visiting the Floriansdorf in Heidesee how useful fire is and how it works, but also what dangers are connected with fire.

They are made aware of fire protection and the origins of danger so they can actively prevent accidents in the household. They learn how to do an emergency call correctly. Furthermore they can alert their parents to dangerous situations and contribute to less damage, e.g. by making sure that smoke detectors are installed throughout the house.

In 2016 alone, 436 children took part in a three-day project trip and 1193 children's participated in day programs with modules of the program. In addition seminars for fire protection educators from Brandenburg, Berlin and Poland, open days, meetings of polish children's groups and the autumn youth camp of the local fire brigade association took place.

The youth fire brigades in the region are enjoying increasing popularity. The concrete share of the Floriansdorf in this development can not be estimated.

## Key lessons

There is a high demand for the courses on offer. The project is intended for children in elementary school and kindergartens, but increasingly, children's and youth fire brigades as well as fire-protection educators use the Floriansdorf for further education. The fire-protection educators of the Floriansdorf have to prepare themselves for this by developing and providing further appropriate offers.

An additional plan is the gradual expansion of the KiEZ Frauensee to an accident prevention centre for children.

The fact that the project is very interactive and children are taught knowledge in different ways, sparks their interest and makes them want to participate actively. They are enthusiastic which keeps their knowledge on a different level, compared to a static knowledge transfer about fire protection.

Networks with fire brigades and many other organisations have emerged that had a positive effect on the public perception of the KiEZ. In 2017 the German-wide forum of fire-protection educators (after Lübeck, Frankfurt am Main and Würzburg) will take place in the KiEZ Frauensee.

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### Additional sources of information

[Brandschutzerziehung- und Aufklärung Floriansdorf](#)  
[Floriansdorf KiEZ Frauensee Video](#)  
[Projekt des Monats „Brandschutz für Kids“](#)