

Carl and Anneliese Goerdeler foundation 2025 for outstanding achievements in municipal administration and politics

Topic: Peaceful coexistence in cities *SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions*

Motivation and goal of the award

In memory of Carl Goerdeler's work in local politics as Lord Mayor of the City of Leipzig and his resistance activities against Nazi rule, the Carl and Anneliese Goerdeler Foundation awards a local politics prize to honour outstanding achievements in local government practice. The award is intended to promote peaceful co-operation between municipalities and municipal alliances, especially in Europe (as defined by the Council of Europe) and beyond. At the same time, mutual learning is to be promoted for the benefit of the inhabitants. The call for proposals is also part of the activities of the "Connective Cities" project, which is being implemented as a cooperation between the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Engagement Global GmbH / Service Agency Communities in One World, and the German Association of Cities. Implementation partners include selected regional and national city associations in Africa, America, Europe, and Asia as well as their member cities. The "Connective Cities" programme is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Target group

The award is intended to recognise outstanding achievements ("best practices") by local authorities or regional communities of responsibility, possibly also involving civil society forces. The award will recognise cooperation between municipalities or municipal alliances involving a German municipality or municipal alliance.

Description of Content

In cities, people from different social and cultural backgrounds live in very confined spaces. Different ideas, needs and values clash time and again in cities. Cities are also often the first port of call for people fleeing war zones, leaving their familiar social and cultural environment and having to find their way in a new municipal setting. All of this leads to conflicts arising that jeopardise peaceful coexistence on the ground.

As a result, local authorities and local politicians in many cities are faced with the challenge of rethinking the issue of peaceful coexistence locally and bringing it to life. Especially in times of political and social conflict, these challenges are becoming ever more pressing. Cities around the world are therefore increasingly looking for strategies and solutions to enable citizens of different backgrounds and convictions to live together in peace, trust, and inspiration.

As municipalities around the world are facing similar challenges, they can benefit from close cooperation and lively exchange with a view to peacefully resolving conflicts of interest. At the same time, international understanding and cultural exchange can be strengthened through cross-border municipal cooperation. Last but not least, this contributes to international peace (e.g. Mayors for Peace).

Municipal approaches to peaceful coexistence can include the areas of housing/neighbourhood management, education, culture and sport, climate, economy, social affairs, but also law and order. It is particularly important that the population is involved in these measures. Only through participatory and civil society approaches can the projects have an impact on urban society.

In 2025, the Carl and Anneliese Goerdeler Foundation will therefore be honouring cross-border municipal cooperation projects that are committed to peaceful coexistence in cities and municipalities. Creative solutions and innovative approaches that contribute to achieving the sustainability goal "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16)" of the United Nations 2030 Agenda are in demand.

Funding

Euro 2,000 (in the case of two or more applications of equal value, the prize money can also be split) and a high-profile award.

The application must be accompanied by documents (in German or English). The following points should be noted and attached (max. 10 pages):

1. Contact person/contact of the applying municipality or region
2. Information about the submitting municipality or region/ introduction of the partner municipality or region
3. Presentation of the solution as "best practice", possibly also in a virtual format (Showcase)
4. Stakeholders (who were/are involved)
5. Benefits for the citizens
6. Transfer potential

Application deadline: 30 November 2024

Applications should be sent by e-mail to Mrs Ricarda Meissner or Mrs Paulina Koschmieder. If you have any questions about the application, please contact via e-mail.

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The award winners are selected by a jury of representatives from the participating institutions. The jury's decision is made in accordance with the principles of strict party-political neutrality. The award ceremony takes place annually at the beginning of February to commemorate the day of Carl Goerdeler's death on 2 February 1945. The prize is awarded in close co-operation with the City of Leipzig and is presented by the Lord Mayor of the City of Leipzig at a ceremony.

Jury

The jury consists of one member each from the Institute for the Public Sector, the Association of German Cities, the City of Leipzig, GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), SKEW (Service Agency Communities in One World) and the Carl and Anne-Liese Goerdeler Foundation.