"What is my benefit?"

People want to know what they will get out of such a major event before potentially applying. "What is my benefit?" is the central question in our concept. In collaboration with RWTH Aachen University and Professor Dr. Günther Schuh, we are developing visions and concepts for how the Olympics can serve as a motor and driver for the entire Rhine-Ruhr region and thus for the people who live here.
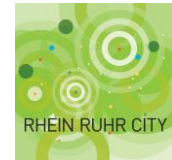
This includes, in particular, the topics of networked mobility and digitization. After all, millions of commuters on the Rhine and Ruhr expect solutions for the future in questions of mobility for the metropolitan region in which they live and work. It cannot be that a train goes on the tracks in Düsseldorf that cannot enter the station in Duisburg, and different rail lines in the Ruhr region do not meet today's requirements to be compatible with each other, or that the Rhine-Ruhr Express (RRX) took years to get on the rails. But even after its launch, only part of the route network is suitable for the RRX. The Olympic and Paralympic Games can help ensure that an infrastructure project like the RRX is indeed fully developed over the course of the next decade, with a frequency that is very attractive for people.

The new "we" thinking of the metropolitan region can help break down barriers and develop joint solutions more quickly and efficiently, which in the end will make it possible to optimally connect the cities with each other and thus also ensure a better work-life balance for citizens.

The overarching vision behind the Olympic and Paralympic Games on the Rhine and Ruhr is therefore: "Metropolitan City". The major event is to serve as an engine and advance to become a model region for technological and infrastructural innovations. The globally unique potential of the Rhine and Ruhr with 500,000 students, 9 DAX companies, 12 MDAX companies (as of the end of October 2021), 450,000 medium-sized companies, a well-educated population and numerous start-ups forms the basis for a unique vision of the Rhine Ruhr City: the creation of an innovation and mobility region, at the end of which stands the most modern metropolitan region in Europe, with the jobs of the future around the universities. To realize this vision, economically and ecologically sustainable concepts are to be designed and implemented. Communities and digital ecosystems are to be advanced through the digital networking of people and companies.

Digitization and networking know no boundaries, which is why no municipality, district or company can develop solutions in isolation. The parochial thinking of the individual municipalities in North Rhine-Westphalia could be broken up by the vision of Rhein Ruhr City, Only if the metropolitan region thinks not in terms of "I" but in terms of "we" and acts as a European player, will there be a historic opportunity to tackle the major future issues and export hits in spe as a "first mover" and transfer them to other regions.

Smart technologies can be developed and new jobs created that sustainably improve people's quality of life. The answer to the mobility of the future can only be found, on the one hand, in the networking of local public transportation (LPT), long-distance transportation and individual transportation within the metropolitan region. On the other hand, in digitization. Here is an example for the rail network: Digitization of the existing rail network leads to a 40% increase in capacity utilization without having to lay a single new kilometer of rail. The Rhine Ruhr City

Decade Project would provide a time frame by which the expansion would have to be completed. People would have a sustainable benefit. Not for, but through Olympia.

With the Olympic idea, the vision of the Rhine Ruhr City metropolitan region becomes a vehicle for networking, mobilization and digitization. Joint action by the metropolitan region serves as an accelerator for the process of joint growth and coalescence of this region with its ten million inhabitants. Therein lies the real value of the Olympic and Paralympic Games on the Rhine and Ruhr and provides the answer to the citizens' question "What do I get out of it?"

Congress #neuland – Creating the digital future together

The congress "#neuland - Creating the digital future together", which was set up as part of Rhein Ruhr City and has been held annually since 2018, has the specific aim of driving forward joint developments in the areas of networked mobility, digitalization and the realization of new forms of work in networked ecosystems and initiating cross-industry communication. Realizing the goals of the congress, such as improving traffic flow by networking vehicles with the transport infrastructure, optimizing vehicle efficiency and usage behavior, transport chain optimization using new, low-emission mobility offers and their intelligent intermodal combination, requires not only the existence of physical and digital infrastructures. Rather, it must be possible for even competing companies and municipalities with the same but also different competencies to work together synergistically. Congress is putting things into action.

The Olympic Village as the "Smart City of the Future"

An exciting topic in this context is also that of the Smart City. What will the cities and metropolitan regions of the future look like? What about the last mile, how will the issue of CO_2 neutrality be resolved, what do fair working conditions look like? The Rhein Ruhr City Initiative is pursuing the goal of planning the Olympic Village for the nearly 17,500 athletes in such a way that it can serve as a pilot project for the Smart City of the future. In perspective, this could alleviate the housing shortage where housing is urgently needed. Regular workshops and strategy boards with decision-makers and thought leaders from science, administration, municipalities and business, which are already being organized and conducted by the Rhine Ruhr City Initiative, should produce usable results.