

Expeditie RUHR.2010

Study trips to the Ruhr region | Brochure

A joint programme of the Netherlands Institute for Heritage and Legend-
gesellschaft.org



Expeditie RUHR.2010 is part of NL-RUHR



Contents

Introduction	3, 4
The Ruhr region as a case study	5
Challenges in the Ruhr Region	6 - 8
Expeditie RUHR.2010	9 - 17
Target group and mission	9
The study programmes:	10 - 17
Utopias of Yesteryear: about reconstruction architecture	10
Made in Marxloh: urban renewal German-style	11
Emschertal Polderland: a complex water challenge	12
Post-industrial cultural landscapes: regeneration and reuse	13
Motorway heritage: infrastructure as a cultural challenge	14
Schrumpfende Städte: consequences of contraction	15
From Steel Plant to Creative Quarter: regeneration of industrial architecture	16
City of 1,000 Villages: village qualities in the metropolis	17
Practical information	18, 19
About the Netherlands Institute for Heritage and Legenda-gesellschaft.org	20, 21

Introduction

Everyone in the Netherlands is familiar with the Ruhr region and could pinpoint it roughly on a map. But where precisely is it and what does it actually look like? A closer study of the region reveals many places that correspond precisely with the image that many people have of a run-down industrial area. But there is a lot more to it, from extensive residential suburbs to pleasant green space. You can travel through the Ruhr region and see it in a way that matches your preconceptions, but you can also do so in a way that places those same prejudices in an entirely new perspective. The region is currently undergoing major spatial, economic and socio-cultural transformations that offer interesting comparative case studies for problems on the Dutch side of the border.

This year offers an ideal opportunity to study spatial issues and heritage-related topics in the Ruhr region. Not only is this post-industrial region facing many of the same challenges that the Netherlands is or soon will be confronted with, the Ruhr region is also the Cultural Capital of Europe in 2010. This is why, in association with Lagenda-gesellschaft.org, the Netherlands Institute for Heritage is organising *Expeditie RUHR.2010*, a series of study programmes for professionals on a number of topical issues affecting both the Netherlands and Germany in relation to spatial planning, social policy and heritage.

The programme for *Expeditie RUHR.2010* encompasses a wide range of interesting themes, from the complexity of water management in the region to contraction, from the reuse of industrial heritage to addressing social challenges in deprived neighbourhoods.

The brochure contains details of the programmes for eight four-day study trips. With *Expeditie RUHR.2010*, Dutch professionals will have an opportunity to spend a few days exploring the Ruhr region for themselves and learning more about it through a series of excursions, lectures, debates, workshops.



RUHR.2010: Cultural Capital of Europe

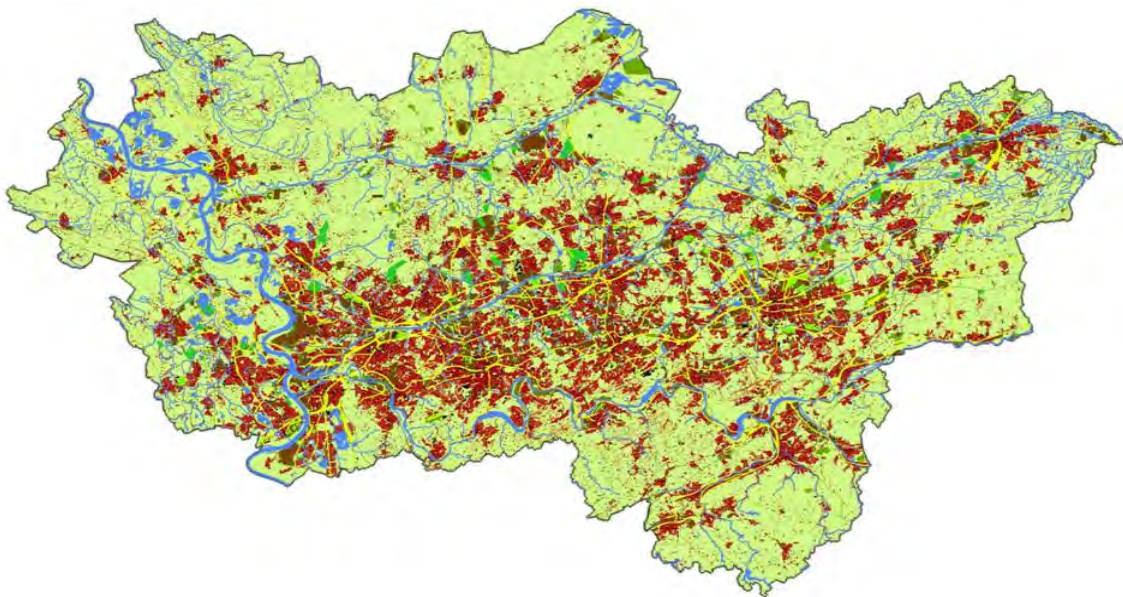
The Ruhr region is the Cultural Capital of Europe in 2010. Many cultural activities are being organised throughout the year to highlight the diversity of Europe's cultural heritage. The theme of the programme of activities during Capital of Culture RUHR.2010 is the identity of this post-industrial region. The programme highlights measures taken to improve the quality of life in the 'Ruhr Metropolis' and to encourage the creative industry. The region's status as European cultural capital provides the pretext for inviting Dutch professionals in the fields of spatial planning, urban planning, architecture, landscape architecture and heritage to discover for themselves the challenges facing the Ruhr region and in so doing to learn from the approach taken by our German colleagues and partner organisations in dealing with those challenges and enable them to benefit from our expertise.

Information about RUHR.2010 is available online at www.ruhr2010.de

Information about the Dutch contribution to RUHR.2010 is available online at www.nl-ruhr.de

The Ruhr region as a case study

A visit to the Ruhr region quickly reveals its many aspects. Immediately evident are the enormous former industrial complexes, some of which have been transformed into centres of creative industry and landscaped parks. The spatial structure of the region is characterised by the criss-cross pattern of railways and roads and extensive industrial areas linked to *Wohnsiedlungen* for workers in the steel and mining industry. There is a lot of green space in the Ruhr region, where mining has created artificial differences in the elevation of the landscape. High-tech knowledge centres alternate with deprived neighbourhoods; reconstruction architecture can be found amidst an enormous infrastructure of roads and waterways. This all creates a complex and fascinating spatial pattern.



The challenges facing the Ruhr region represent a very special case study for Dutch professionals. They reflect the problems that are approaching for the Netherlands. Issues such as contraction, ageing, water management and a lack of occupants for new business parks are major challenges for which the Netherlands will also have to devise new strategies within the foreseeable future. In the study programmes, Dutch participants will not only learn and experience more, they will also join their German counterparts in searching for possible solutions that are topical, relevant and useful for the region.

Challenges in the Ruhr Region

The Ruhr region faces a number of complex spatial, social, cultural and economic challenges. The study programmes in *Expeditie RUHR.2010* are devoted to some of them. The following paragraphs sketch a few of the topics currently being addressed in the Ruhr region as a brief introduction to the programme for *Expeditie RUHR.2010*.

One of the most striking features of the Ruhr region today is the closure of many industrial concerns and the conversion of former **industrial architecture** to new uses. Many of the former mining and coal industry complexes have been demolished, and more are disappearing all the time. This trend is disguising the reason why many of the population centres in the Ruhr region existed. The most attractive, valuable and useful buildings have been retained and given new uses, but what is striking is the scale on which buildings and structures that are less than roughly 70 years old are disappearing. The cities in the Ruhr region face another major and politically sensitive challenge when the industrial complexes of companies like Opel or Nokia in Bochum are vacated in the future.

The disappearance of the mining and coal industry left behind extensive, often undeveloped sites, many of which are now being used for different purposes. Examples of these new functions include the establishment of centres for innovative companies and the development of commercial leisure activities such as attraction parks or toboggan runs. The contraction of industrial activity and enormous supply of land raises the question of how these **post-industrial cultural landscapes** should be used in the future. The spontaneous appropriation of sites and their conversion into allotments by individuals is one of the possibilities, but the complex division of ownership often prevents the planned redevelopment of undeveloped sites.

Another typical feature of the Ruhr region is the high density of **infrastructure networks**, which is based in part on the structure of the pre-industrial 'Landstrassen', but was determined mainly by the presence of the coal and steel industry. The region has a remarkably dense rail network, an extensive system of gas pipelines and a number of motorways that have greatly influenced the structure of the region. The cultural and historical appreciation of this infrastructure network is a relevant factor in the redevelopment and transformation of the former industrial region. One of the highlights of Cultural Capital RUHR.2010 will be the closure of the A40 motorway for a day, allowing the general public to relax and enjoy themselves on the region's traffic artery and experience for themselves the cultural significance of the region's infrastructure.

Water management is an extremely complex challenge in the Ruhr region. The industrial and mining activities have caused soil subsidence and severe pollution in a number of rivers. Since the end of the 1980s, a programme of ‘renaturierung’ has been underway around the canalised and heavily polluted Emscher river. The water authority, the *Emschergenossenschaft*, is investing heavily in an effort to transform the river system into a clean, natural water course with added value for the social environment in the new parks and residential neighbourhoods.

Apart from the issues relating to infrastructure and water management, the Ruhr region also faces a number of social challenges, including high unemployment, a shrinking population and poverty. The homogenous composition of the population in many deprived neighbourhoods cannot be altered, as it is in the Netherlands, by demolishing rented housing and building properties in a higher market segment. A different approach has to be found for social problems. In **Marxloh**, a disadvantaged neighbourhood near Duisburg, an innovative approach is being taken in efforts to improve the quality of life in the district. A group of residents are responsible for managing and spending the budgets available for the development of the neighbourhood’s hardware and the software. This form of local democracy is highly experimental in nature; the initiators have no way knowing where it will lead, since it is the residents themselves who decide what to invest in. Marxloh is also a fine example of the spontaneous emergence of creative industry. There are around 25 Turkish businesses making wedding dresses and generating economic activity in the almost written-off area tucked in amongst the still fully operational steel plants.

As in many other Germany cities, planning in the Ruhr region in the 1960s and 70s was driven by optimistic blueprints, resulting in modernist urban structures. This **‘Wirtschaftswunder architecture’** was based on distant planning horizons and projections of high growth rates that later proved too optimistic. Consequently, many of the plans were never fully implemented. In various places in the urban environment one can still see the how yesterday’s planning utopias have produced bizarre and fascinating spatial structures, such as modernist apartment complexes in fields on the outskirts of cities, a monumental centre between two cores that never merged, or a road network built for a business park that has never been occupied by a single company. In other words, a lot of the development plans in the Ruhr region were designed to cater for growth that never came.

In the past, contraction was mainly a problem in rural areas, but it now also a problem in the large cities from the industrial era. Particularly in the older industrial regions, such as the Ruhr Region, the populations are declining substantially. The population of the city of Gelsenkirchen, for example, has fallen from 400,000 to 270,000 since the 1950s. Contraction is a topic of debate in the Netherlands at the moment, but the problem of vacant shopping centres, swimming pools, libraries, schools and churches has been a factor in the Ruhr region for a lot longer. In other words, the region has accumulated a lot of

knowledge and experience on the subject of **contracting cities** from which regions in the Netherlands facing the prospect of contraction in the future can learn a lot.

In the last few decades, planning concepts have always treated the Ruhr region as a ‘metropolis’. Even the programme for Cultural Capital RUHR.2010 describes the region as metropolitan. But the Ruhr region has little of the supra-regional or international impact or appeal of metropolises like London and New York. Even in a spatial sense, the scale of the region is small and the pre-industrial revolution village structure can still be clearly seen. The Ruhr has the anonymity of a large city, but it is a very heterogeneous region in terms of its structure and identity. The region remains a **city of a thousand villages**.



The station in Oberhausen

Expeditie RUHR.2010

Target group and mission

The aim of *Expeditie RUHR.2010* is to allow a wide range of professionals and other interested parties in the Netherlands and Germany to share their knowledge and experience. Dutch professionals working in the heritage sector, spatial planning, urban planning, architecture and landscape architecture, the arts and culture will have an opportunity to participate in eight four-day study programmes in the Ruhr region between May and September 2010.

Eight study programmes

Each study programme has a different character because each of them addresses a different present-day social challenge. Each trip lasts four days, during which the participants will study a central issue or challenge in a series of workshops. The departure point for each study programme is the home base of Legenda-gesellschaft.org in the station at Oberhausen, where the organisation has a room where various presentations and workshops will be held. During the programmes, participants will attend events being held as part of RUHR.2010 that are related to the theme of the programme. There will be between eight and 15 participants on each trip. Each of the study programmes contains the following ingredients:

- Focus on current challenges, formulated in consultation with local partners
- Workshops with participants from the Netherlands and Germany
- An excursion by public transport, by bicycle or on foot
- A visit to the research area or the location of the challenge
- Talks and lectures by a range of experts at the location
- A concluding debate
- Visits to exhibitions and performances in the Cultural Capital RUHR.2010 programme

Study programmes

Study programme 1

Utopias of Yesteryear: on reconstruction architecture

Period: 17-20 May 2010



Photo Margit Schuster

The urban structures that recall the utopian plans of the sixties and seventies form the basis for this study trip. It is impossible to identify with the top-down designed environments. The programme will look for a relationship with the qualities of informal *do-it-yourself* urbanity. The focus will be on the demand for new uses. There will also be discussion of how the spontaneous and informal use of land and the architecture can contribute to improving the quality of life in existing urban areas that were designed top-down, where contraction is clearly evident. The programme leader, Mustafa Tazeo_lu, will take the participants to Wulfen, Marl and Castrop-Rauxel, where they can experience the utopias of yesteryear and the informal city for themselves.

Study programme 2

Made in Marxloh: urban renewal German-style

Period: 31 May to 3 June 2010

In the Marxloh district of Duisburg, the study programme will focus on the question of how organising local democracy can help to address the social problems of a district. For four days, Mustafa Tazeo_lu will guide the participants around his birthplace and provide a workshop on bottom-up social change based on the innovative concept of participation in Marxloh.



Photo Rainer Kzonsek

The programme will start from the *Medienbunker* in the heart of Marxloh; the city of Duisburg is a partner in this programme. Participants will also visit the *Local Heroes* programme, which is being organised as part of the Cultural Capital year.

Study programme 3

Polderland Emschertal: a complex water challenge

Period: 14-17 June 2010

The complex water system in the former industrial region poses a number of challenges for the Ruhr region that are similar to the water-related issues currently facing the Netherlands. The focus of this programme is the *renaturierung* of the Emscher river. In association with the *Emschergenossenschaft*, design group Observatorium and programme leader Hans Venhuizen will give a workshop devoted to the question of how and why the Emscher region should be redeveloped.



Photo Hans Jungerius

Emscherpolder. Illustration: Emschergenossenschaft

An extensive investment programme is underway to redevelop the entire region around the Emscher and to transform the river from a polluted, canalised water course into a clean, flowing river. The varying elevations and the complex water system in the region play an important role in this project. The workshops will be held in *Warten auf den Fluss*, the temporary art object created by Observatorium on the 'Emscherinsel' as part of RUHR.2010.

Study programme 4

Post-industrial cultural landscapes: regeneration and reuse
Period: 28 June to 1 July 2010

This study programme is devoted to new uses for post-industrial landscapes. Subjects to be discussed will include the influence of processes of contraction on the possibilities of giving these sites a leisure function. Because of the decline in the population and the lack of development of the landscape, it is not easy to develop sustainable and valuable living space. These barren sites have a special aesthetic quality, mainly comprising 'post-industrial spontaneous vegetation', as the unplanned but extraordinary vegetation in these areas is known in the Ruhr region.



Photo
Hans Jungerius

Programme leader Hans Jungerius will lead the workshops, which will be devoted to the former site of an electro-steel factory in Oberhausen and Gleispark Frintrop, where a park has been created on the site of a former railway goods station.

Study programme 5

Motorway heritage: infrastructure as a cultural challenge

Period: 13-16 July 2010

The cultural, social and spatial transformations taking place in the Ruhr region raise the question of what value there is in retaining the region's infrastructure, much of which was constructed specifically for the steel and mining industry and greatly determines the spatial structure of the region. What infrastructure can be regarded as heritage? What aspects of it are worthy of protection and should be retained in new spatial developments? What are the differences and similarities between the various types of infrastructure, such as motorways, railways, waterways and gas pipelines, in terms of their significance and how they are used.



RUHR.2010

Programme leaders Hans Venhuizen and Linde Egberts will take these questions as the springboard for the workshops and visual artist Markus Ambach and architect Raoul Bunschoten will give presentations.

There will be excursions to a number of interesting sites, including Emscherpark and Kreuz Kaiserberg, a hub of motorways, historical avenues and modern railways. Participants will be able to extend their visit to the Ruhr region, for example to experience one of the highlights of RUHR.2010 on Sunday 18 July, when the A40 will be closed to traffic and transformed into a 60-kilometre-long picnic table.

Study programme 6

Schrumpfende Stadte: the consequences of contraction

Period: 30 August to 2 September 2010

This study programme focuses on the contracting city. Contraction is a recent phenomenon for the Netherlands, but has been an issue in the Ruhr region for several decades. Urban contraction has many facets, such as the decline in the population, ageing, de-industrialisation, deterioration of the infrastructure, vacant buildings, the deterioration of entire parts of cities and the bankruptcy of cities.



Photo Hans Jungerius

Under the guidance of programme leaders Dirk Haas and Boris Sieverts, participants will study the contraction of the city of Gelsenkirchen. The Ruhr region's experience could provide lessons and help in formulating strategies to tackle the challenge of future contraction in the Netherlands.

Study programme 7

From Steel Factory to Creative Quarter: reuse of industrial architecture

Period: 13-16 September 2010

The Ruhr region is the place to be in terms of the reuse of industrial heritage. The *Zeche Zollverein* has become a world-famous example of how an old mining complex can be transformed into a cultural mecca, with an incubator for creative companies, museums and a festival site. Besides a visit to this exceptional location, the workshop will explore the question of how to deal with the region's history now that many buildings and complexes that are less than 50 years old are being demolished. The question of finding new uses for buildings will remain in the future, particularly with regard to complexes that do not, in our eyes, possess the charm of the industrial architecture from the beginning of the 20th century, such as Zollverein. Geographer Dirk Haas will lead this study programme, which will concentrate on modern industrial architecture in the city of Bochum.

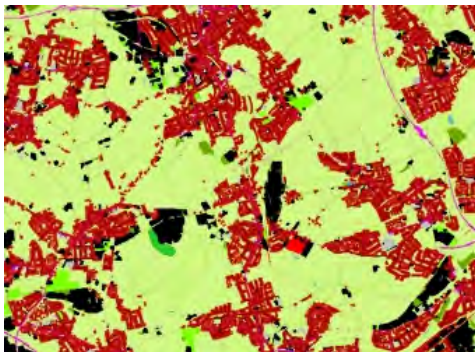


Photo Hans Jungerius

Study programme 8

City of 1,000 Villages: village qualities in the metropolis

Period: 27-30 September 2010



The village-style urbanisation between Bochum and Dortmund

The Ruhr region is called a metropolis, but does not have the dense urban structure associated with the term. The region is actually made up of a network of a great many small villages and communities. One of the advantages of a fragmented and small-scale spatial structure is the omnipresence of highly desirable residential areas in peripheral areas between the urban centres and the countryside. The central question in the study programme concerns the quality of the Ruhr region as a city of a thousand villages. How can one design a *Leitbild*, or planning concept, that does not want to make the Ruhr Region a metropolis but rather builds on the current, village-like qualities of the region?



During the workshop, participants will produce a development plan for 'village-like' qualities in the metropolis. Boris Sieverts and Dirk Haas will lead the programme and the excursions to Herne, Castrop-Rauxel and Bochum.

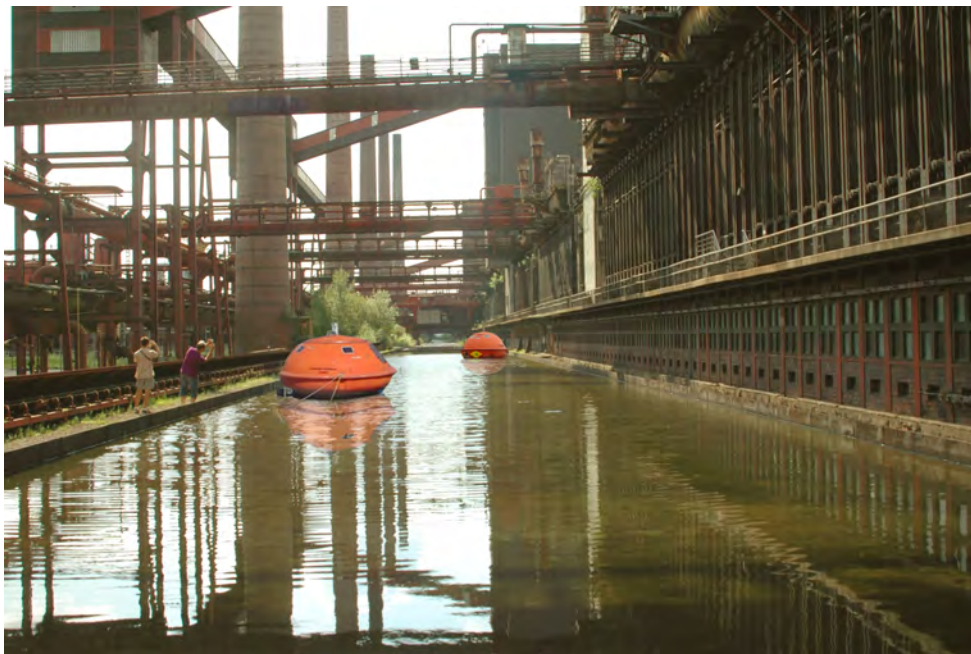
Practical information

Travel

Participants will travel to and from Oberhausen themselves. Public transport will be used as much as possible during the study programmes (these costs are included in the fee). Organised transport will only be used for the excursions.

Accommodation

The participants in the programmes will stay in Oberhausen Hauptbahnhof, a temporary accommodation run by *GastGastgeber* (*GastGastgeber* runs a network of similar temporary accommodations and is also the liaison for the Dutch contribution to the RUHR.2010 programme) in the former water tower of Oberhausen railway station, where designer and guest curator Jurgen Bey has created a number of single and double rooms.



GastGastgeber, bureau Venhuizen

Language

The preferred working language during the lectures, excursions and cultural activities is German, and occasionally English or Dutch.

Participation

There is a fee for participating in one or more of the study programmes. Dutch organisations and companies that are interested in taking part should contact the Institute for Heritage in the Netherlands to discuss an arrangement. A discount on the fee is possible for the self-employed, individuals, students and other individual participants.

Registering and contacts

If you are interested in participating as an individual in the study programme, you can register at expeditieruhr.2010@erfgoednederland.nl. You will receive a reply by the middle of March at the latest. The organisers are hoping to arrange different groups of up to 15 participants.

Dutch organisations or companies that are interested in taking part are asked to contact Eric Dil of the Netherlands Institute for Heritage at e.dil@erfgoednederland.nl or Hans Venhuizen, the contact person for GastGastgeber and Legenda Gesellschaft at hans@bureauvenhuizen.com

About the Institute for Heritage in the Netherlands and Legenda- gesellschaft.org

Institute for Heritage in the Netherlands

As the national institute for the cultural heritage, the Netherlands Institute for Heritage focuses on promoting the transfer of knowledge and innovation in the heritage sector by organising reflection, dialogue and debate between organisations in the heritage sector and other sectors on current social issues. The institute's Heritage in Cultural Landscapes and Urban Environment programme is targeted at professionals involved in spatial planning, urban planning, architecture and landscape architecture and cultural heritage.

More information | www.erfgoednederland.nl

Background to Expeditie RUHR.2010

The Ruhr region faces similar cultural, spatial and architectural issues as the Netherlands. Dutch professionals working in spatial planning, urban planning, architecture and cultural heritage can certainly benefit from the knowledge and experience that has been gained in Germany in tackling these contemporary social challenges. Their German colleagues will be happy to avail of Dutch expertise in the field of cultural heritage, urban planning, architecture, spatial planning and water management. As European Cultural Capital, the Ruhr region is this year making its mark with an extensive programme of cultural events. This was the context that prompted the Netherlands Institute for Heritage to organise *Expeditie RUHR.2010* this year. It is a project designed to facilitate intensive international exchange of knowledge and experience on issues relating to spatial planning and cultural heritage.

Contact person |Eric Dil |e.dil@erfgoednederland.nl

Legenda-gesellschaft.org

Legenda-gesellschaft.org is engaged in research and interpretation of urban landscapes. The alliance of artists, geographers and curators is established in the Ruhr region and organises debates, exhibitions, publications, workshops, excursions and study programmes. The association adopts a multidisciplinary approach, devoting attention to applied research subjects, but also experimental approaches to landscape. The members of Legenda-gesellschaft.org are:

Dirk Haas, geographer and partner in RE_FLEX Architects and Urbanists, Essen, Germany.

Hans Jungerius, visual artist, guide with P-reizen and founder of the Ruhrburo, Arnhem/Oberhausen, Germany.

Boris Sieverts, artist and guide with Büro für Städtereisen, Cologne, Germany.

Mustafa Tazeo_lu, project manager with 'Kreativ.Quartiere' in RUHR.2010 and cultural entrepreneur with Medien Bunker Marxloh, Duisburg, Germany.

Hans Venhuizen, concept manager for culture and spatial planning in Rotterdam and intendant with GastGastgeber, NL-RUHR.

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