

The network association “Netzwerk Märkisches Viertel”

In 2003 the network association “Netzwerk Märkisches Viertel” was founded on the initiative of the housing company GESOBAU, the Reinickendorf coordination office for assistance services for elderly people “Rund ums Alter”, and the Reinickendorf district office. All members joined the network aiming to strengthen and develop the social infrastructure of the neighbourhood as well as to find out and remedy its still existing shortcomings.

The active involvement of the members is the result of their identification with the district and their sense of responsibility.

The motto “Hier will ich bleiben!” (Here is where I want to stay) emphasises the network’s aim to enable elderly residents of the district “Märkisches Viertel” to lead an independent life in their own home as long as possible.

The network partners support senior citizens to manage every day life by offering low-threshold educational, consultation and prevention programmes as well as social services and cultural activities.

The close networking between the partners is furthermore intended to find intersections for cooperation and to identify and alleviate the residents’ social problems in an early state. A common service point gives an overview of the social service market and facilitates the access to different providers.

Until 2008 network partners used to sign a cooperation agreement when entering, this fixed their aims and obligations. Meanwhile the agreement’s central issues are part of the statute of the 2008 founded association.

The network involves 25 members and honorary members as well as 50 institutions. It thus associates traditional providers of medical, nursing, social and other services with representatives of seniors groups, authorities, housing and craft companies and schools.

The network is run on a voluntary basis and funded by membership fees. It supports the debate of socially relevant topics, civic participation and neighbourly help as it considers them essential to harmonious coexistence. Thus, the network furthermore positively influences the neighbourhood’s economic development by strengthening a functioning community.

The network of various service providers created by the association is able to respond adequately to the demographic development of the district “Märkisches Viertel”. The aspects of residents’ participation enable providers to adapt their supply to the existing needs of senior citizens.

The network’s projects finally allow a continuous reflection on the development and offer thus the basis for quality-oriented work.