Münster Innovation District
Towards a knowledge based urbanism

Content

Technology Park +

Leonardo Campus

Ring road / BRT

Gate North

Food hall

Student village

Science Park
Student village

Start up campus

Reseach campus west

Gate Central

MID Central

Music Campus

Schlotzpark

Science Center
Wissenmarkt

Library

Dömplatz

Hotel

Mobility square

Hbhf

Münster Hafen

Münster Acces

University hospital

Office Hotel

MID South

Mensa

Markt ring

Reseach campus east

Campus of religions

Political and social science

Promenade

Gate South
Student village

Science Rambla

Innovation hub

Meet (formal)

Meet (informal)

Mobility hub
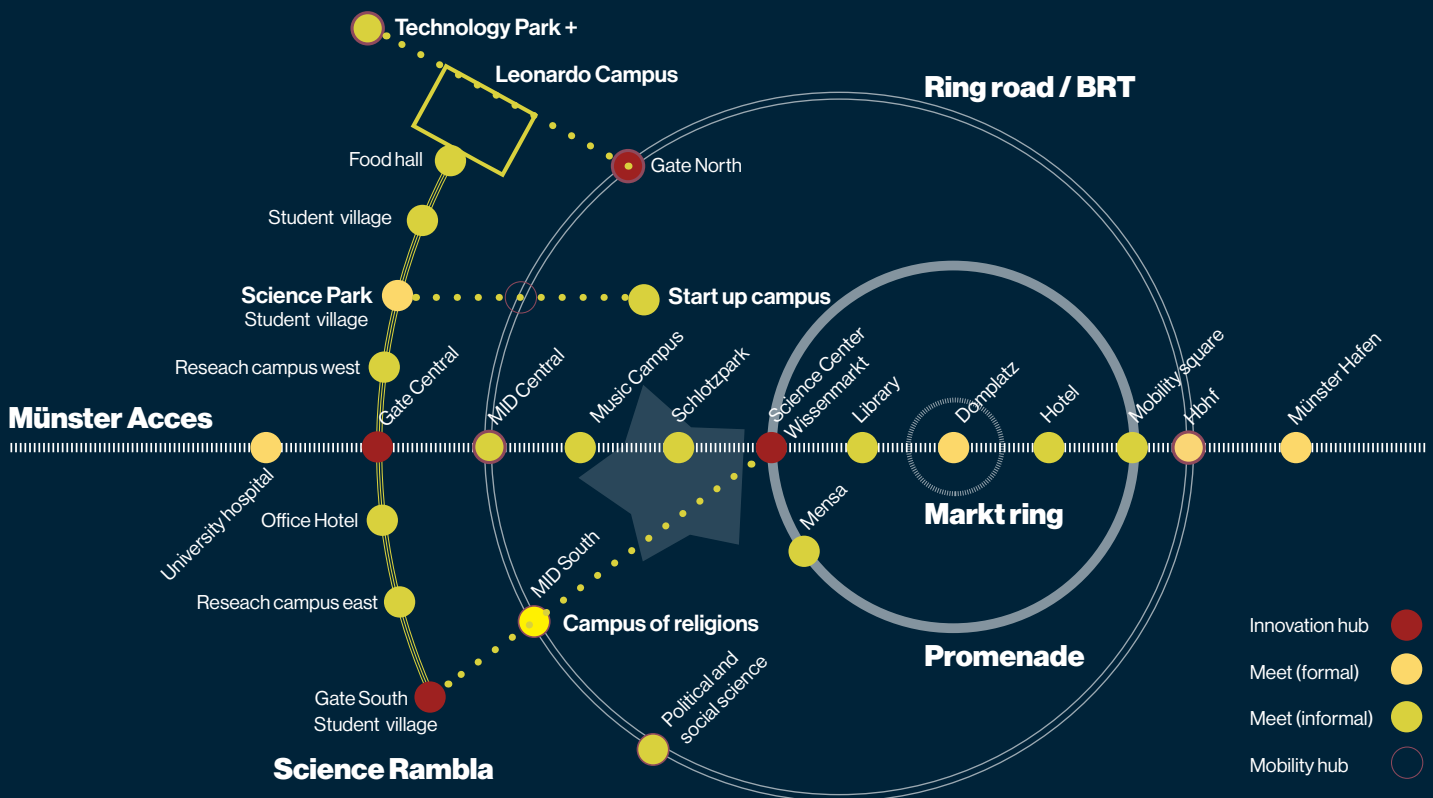
Meet Map

5 min distances

1. Introduction

Towards a knowledge based urbanism
What defines our cities and contemporary urban culture of today? What shapes our lifestyles and how does it differ from city to city? Why does some cities successfully become bike capitals or the opposite, carcentric? And finally how does the knowledge society perform at its best and profit from the urban evolution.

The infrastructure we plan, design and build for our cities shape our ways of moving from a to b, and thereby our everyday behavior and forward urban culture, ultimately making our lifestyle shaped by infrastructure as the skeleton of how we live, meet and share ideas during the everyday life. It pushes our knowledge society in different directions, and facilitates how knowledge is spread physically in the network of our cities. Today where the fast pace digital society is taking more and more focus in our daily routines, this question is more relevant than ever, and should be considered as a serious matter in the knowledge society.

For a knowledge based city like Münster, where knowledge is the very resource of growth and success, it should be considered how we move and meet more than in any other city, since this is what makes us share and innovate. This is the very reason to highly prioritize the way we shape and structure the urban layout, so people cross each other's ways in defined spaces in close visual contact, almost curating spontaneous meetings to occur and generate the new and unexpected knowledge, fostering innovation.

Münster knowledge city and university clusters are challenged today, by a open undefined urban structure, with a lack of clear connections and hierarchy in places to meet, showing the importance of reinventing the area, in a short and long term strategy for the further evolution of the knowledge city, taking a step towards a more coherent innovation district, where clear connections, defined spaces, open functions and shared facilities are linked closely by a high quality network of paths for bikes and pedestrians to safely move, meet and be welcomed in a future - Münster Innovation District. (MID)

2. Analyse

Munster Circles
The urban culture of Münster is defined by circles of infrastructure, from the inner walking ring, the Markt Strase, to the "Promenade", defining the historical city center with a green and inviting circle for bikes and pedestrians linking the bike network of the entire city. Finally, on the outskirts, a more traditional ring road defining the outer ring of Münster, also defining where the city becomes more car based, visible by a large amount of surface parking influencing the urban spaces, generally lacking connectivity and hierarchy, being one of the main challenges for the knowledge clusters in Münster.

All cities are built over centuries, and different epochs provide different qualities and networks for the city to work at its best. Changes in urban structures like the old fortification line of Münster, historically protecting the city from foreigners, in modern times torn down to become an open and inviting Promenade inviting people inside to take part of Münster knowledge society. The Promenade has furthermore worked as an important urban spine for sustainable mobility, which for decades has improved mobility for everyone, and positioned Münster as the leading bike capital of Germany.

The status of Münster as the German bike capital is being challenged today by other bike cities in Germany and marks the importance of bringing the bike culture to the next level, possibly framing an evolution of bike culture and knowledge culture that goes hand in hand for the future development of Münster Knowledge City, which needs to be better linked with the rest on Münster, improving urban spaces for people to meet in.

The project for MID is based on an improved network for pedestrians, bikes and micro mobility in general, together with an idea for an upgraded public transportation circle. Together framing a network for people to move and meet naturally around the city without needing a car. Perhaps

making Münster lead in the field of a "knowledge based urbanism", an environment structured to share space and knowledge, as key to create a successful knowledge culture and innovation district suitable for the 21. Century.

3. Vision

Meet in Münster

Based on "Münster circles" the project for MID suggests a "MeetMap", pointing at potentials to build a stronger and more integrated knowledge network for the future evolution of Münster. The MeetMap suggest to strengthen the existing circles that all take upgraded roles in the new urban layout, and add two new linear connections.

The existing Promenade is forwardly an important element in the planning of the Innovation district. The intersections of "The promenade" and the new "Münster Access" is framed by new developments and urban spaces like a possible new Science Center and the "Wissenmarkt" by the Castle on the west, and on the east a new "Mobility square" linking the trainstation with the promenade and the "Access" corridor.

"Münster Access" connects east and west to strengthen a direct relation of the knowledge city and Münster historical center, possibly reaching all the way to the Main trainstation and Münster Hafen area. A connection that will co-work with the attractive Schlotz Park, but provide a more efficient 24 hour connection to the knowledge clusters for bikes and pedestrians.

The "Science Rambla", a combination of Corrensstrase and Domagkstrase, creating a new north–south going "Rambla" dedicated users of the knowledge city, where new functions and spaces are proposed to frame meetings between different users.

The idea is to connect the individual clusters, core functions, new "innovation hubs" combining common functions and urban spaces as attractive situations to stop and meet. Linking the users; students, teachers, researchers, workers and guests of Münster knowledge city, to meet in new surprising ways. Distances between the "intersectionpoints" are planned to be 5 min by bike, staging a range of different meeting points on the way through the city.

3. Strategy

Knowledge network

Three strategies set the framework for Münster Innovation District, with the overall ambitions to qualify the different sub areas and connect them as a whole, for the users of today, the future and Münster as city to be prepared for the future as a sustainable and resilient knowledge society.

1. INTERFACE

The interface marks where City meets Knowledge, setting a number of addresses in a clear hierarchy, and defines three geographic areas of MID North, MID Central and MID South.

The strategy proposes two new corridors with a range of clear addresses for the Innovation district, by planning a range of potential "Gates", as Innovations Hubs which can be either common campus functions as a new media library or convention center, or public attractions like a Science Center for the public to engage with the content explored by the universities and research institutions.

"Münster Access" is a new strengthened east-west corridor for bikes and pedestrians, connecting the Trainstation and Münster Hafen in the east with the innovation district in the west, over a number of formal and informal meeting points and important new and existing knowledge anchors or Innovation hubs.

"Science Rambla" is a combination of, Corrensstrase and Domagkstrase, that is redefined as a generous new space prioritized for bikes and pedestrians, that connects the innovation district from north to south. Along the "Rambla" a number of new functions and spaces are proposed to frame meetings between different users. Student housing is planned as concentrated small student villages along the connection giving the area a pulse of steady energy from north to south.

2. CLUSTER.
By densifying and developing the identity of the individual Campuses, Parks and Research areas with new potential developments and a clear hierarchy of spaces, a range of clusters defines different knowledge cultures that should be strengthened forwardly with each their meeting points and functionality. As well the connections between clusters and the overlapping or sharing of functions within each geographic location is taken into the further planning.

3. NETWORK
By connecting the area for fully integration with the rest of Münster, the strategy defines a clear wayfinding pattern, and hierarchy in urban connections.
The network of the innovation district sets a hierarchy of connections and places for users to meet within. This network is the backbone of a successful knowledge environment, and is planned to focus on high quality environments for pedestrians, bikes and other micro mobility.

4. Strategic plan
The strategic plan for Münster Innovation District brings the three strategies together with the different ongoing initiatives in Münster. A draft of how the future "Innovation district" could be imagined.
The new corridor "Münster Access" aims to bring a new important layer to the urban connections of Münster, making the full integration and connection with Münster city as a whole as important as the knowledge city itself, for the future planning. Its creates a new "section" through the cityscape, bringing attention to the historical layers of the past like the beautiful architecture of Münster, the present with new modern institutions and finally connects it with the future "Science Rambla", where a new access point is established as a "Innovation Gate", as a "one entrance" to Münster innovation district for new users and visitors to orientate around and go to for full information on MID. It brings a new common space for knowledge sharing and information with a possible library, eating hall, meeting facilities, office hotel etc. A gathering point and center for the district, connected with "Münster Access" corridor going underneath the ring road and connected to the "Science Rambla" which takes you to any cluster in the innovation district.
The "Rambla" is the new spine of the Innovation district, connecting north and south through a new public space where a range of student housing are planned together with cafés, mini markets and other extrovert functions, bringing life and energy to the connection as the future spine for the different clusters to evolve around, bringing the full scale of the innovation district closer together. New developments are planned on vacant spots, surface parking or within the existing infrastructure which can be integrated in the new street section of the "Rambla".
Parking is gathered in strategically placed parking hubs, close to major roads and closely connected to bike stations for easy access to the entire district.

5. MID North

Where Tech meets Creative
The two clusters "Leonardo Campus" and the "Technology Park" are located in the northern part of the innovation district together with a number of regular housing areas and leftover postindustrial structures, with a more or less suitable use for university functions. A "21. Century" district is envisioned north of "Austermannstrase", framing the possibility for the Technology park to expand across the street.

The planproposal is based on the strategic plan with the overall aim to frame a clearer hierarchy in use, connections and most important, meeting places. The site ends the north south going "Rambla" in a big triangular space with different exiting building strutures to be repurposed as a mock space with galleries and bars. An event space for the creative cluster to express their projects to the rest of the Innovation district.

By Apfelstadtsstrase the plan propose to convert the last piece of Corrensstrase into an urban parkspace and lead the car traffic via Horstmarer Landweg instead.

The site is addressed at the new Gate North landmark and proposed BRT (Buss Rapid Transport) stop on the east, where a new extension for the Leonardo Campus is proposed. This is connected, via a possible new start-up cluster for both creatives and tech spin offs, to the extended Tech Park and 21. Century area by a "smart boulevard" crossing Austermannstrase with a plus shaped a plaza. The "Plus plaza" frames a center for the technology park where meetings and mobility derive around, shaping an address and strong identity for the cluster.

The "smart boulevard" envisions the idea of a green boulevard, as a meeting space and connector between the Tech park and the creative cluster Leonardo Campus. Integrated with flex zones for bikeparking, greenery and urban hangouts that connects and mixes the knowledge of the northern cluster in a range of spaces and functions next to the boulevard. On top of that, the boulevard could be continuously developed and shaped as an experimental, playful and innovative green street space primarily for bikes and pedestrians, with technologies implemented for smart city experiments and new urban furniture in the making. A test bed for new urban technologies to be explored by the Tech Park and the creative nest of Münster – where Leonardo meets Technology.