

# THE ROLE OF GREEN INNOVATION AREAS IN REVITALIZING GERMAN AND MEXICAN CITIES

From contested spaces to economic resurgence?

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16th February , Panacea Green Infrastructure?



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# Green Innovation Areas

- Many cities are undergoing structural changes, with symptoms of economic crisis (Pallagst, et al. 2013)
- Vacant or abandoned urban areas offer both:
  - Potential for a sustainable transformation of former polluted sites and for creating jobs in new emerging areas such as BIOECONOMY



# Green Innovation Areas

- **Appeared 2010 in the master-plan of the city of Flint (USA)**
- **Former residential areas will be converted to urban agriculture**
- **Process of de-urbanization... turn into green space with a use to be determined... filled with entrepreneurial ideas...**



# Targets of GIAGEM

**Green Innovation Areas in GERman and Mexican Cities (oct.16 – sept.19)**

- **RESEARCH:**

- enhancing the use of vacant inner city spaces as green innovation areas for bioeconomic uses and their potentials for implementation in German and Mexican cities

## Research questions of GIAGEM

- Which key knowledge transfer aspects regarding green innovation areas can be derived from ongoing projects (Germany, Mexico)
- What are the legal, administrative, economic, and societal conditions for green innovation areas and for developing areas for bioeconomic uses in Mexican and German cities

## Research questions of GIAGEM

- In what way can existing approaches such as green innovation areas serve as prototypes for other cities (toolkit)?
- Which areas for further research can be identified by the partners, setting the frame for coordinated projects?

# Methods

- Literature review, discourse analysis
- Evaluate case-studies
- Policy recommendations
- Identify further research gaps

→ Develop a handbook

# Study-case: A new kind of urban sea fish farm

## Aquaculture- FRESH Völklingen GmbH



Source: FRESH corporation



# Initial Situation in Völklingen



## Socio-economic:

- Structural change in cities economy
- New fallow land in inner city with a good connection to the infrastructure
- Decline in employment possibilities

## Ecological:

- Increasing demand for fish worldwide → led to overfishing
- Aquaculture as alternative to satisfy demand & reduce ecological footprint
- Marine aquaculture not an option to achieve that goal



# Urban sea fish farm - as solution



Source: FRESH corporation

## Farm details:

- FIRST of its kind, unique, no comparable standard available
- includes four large fish water pools
- Closed-looped biological purification, careful use of resources
- System can produce up to 700t of fish yearly



Source: neomar GmbH

# Site qualifications

## Site qualifications:

- Based on a former coking plant in the city of Völklingen
- Runs on 100% renewable energy
- Short transport routes to customers

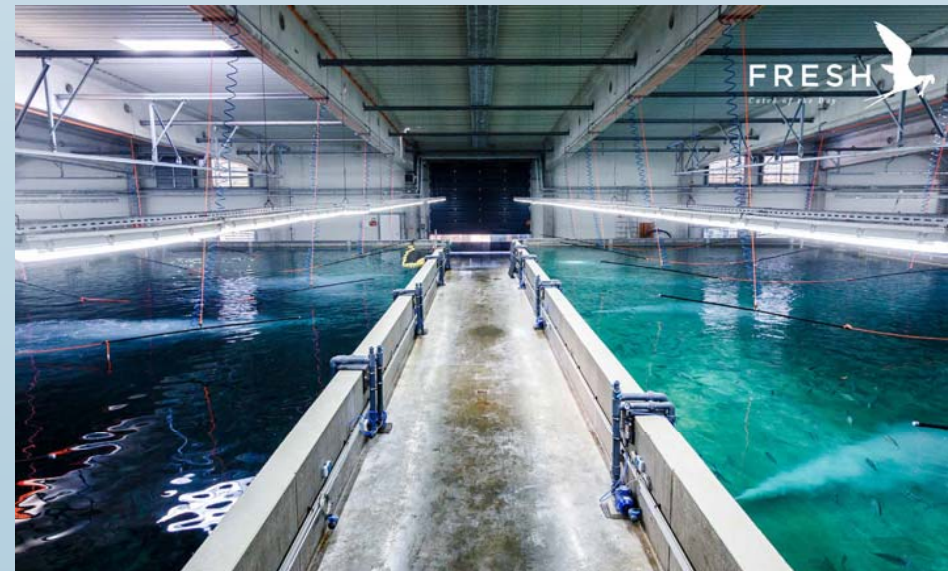


Source: ZDF

# Estimated costs

## Building-costs

- This fish farm has cost around 25 Mio. €



Source: FRESH corporation

# Transferability

**“In principle, a FRESH fish farm can be built anywhere where industrial land is available, even in the very commercially interesting metropolitan areas, where the markets are, so to speak, right before the fish farm door,”**  
CEO Peter Zeller.



Source: FRESH corporation



# Outlook

**Green innovation areas as solution for abandoned urban space!**



Source: FRESH corporation

**GIAGEM Handbook will show more examples of entrepreneurial ideas from Germany and Mexico (available at the end of 2019)**

# Thank you for your attention!

Questions?