

Marzahn in the 90s - A metropolitan area in transition -

The present study on the new housing development Marzahn is the research result of a working group of the IFAD Berlin, which was developed in the period from September 1991 to May 1992.

The new housing estate in Berlin-Marzahn, built over a period of around 12 years, is one of the largest closed new housing estates in Europe, with around 169,000 inhabitants and a housing stock of 64,637 apartments.

The allocation of the apartments, primarily to young families, led to the emergence of a socio-demographic structure that deviates significantly from the overall urban profile, which is primarily characterized by a relatively young population (average age 33 years) and the largest number of children aged 6 to 15 on the Berlin population (approx. 37,000 children). Compared to the former GDR or the eastern part of Berlin, the population of Marzahn has an above-average level of education and qualifications; more than 40 percent of Marzahn's working-age population has a university or technical college degree. Approx. two-thirds of the workforce was employed in non-manufacturing areas particularly affected by structural change and job cuts, such as the state apparatus, science and culture, education and the service sector.

The central starting point of the research of the working group was the thesis that due to the specific demographic-social structure of the new housing development Marzahn, the socially relevant changes associated with the social upheaval in the former GDR appear more intensely. A case study on the situation of single women in Marzahn plays a central role in the research work.

On the basis of a comprehensive demographic analysis of the population of the district, infrastructural and municipal problems as well as development perspectives are pointed out. Some selected local political consequences were discussed from a demographic point of view and the effects on the local level were pointed out..