

## 1.3 Reach out to parents and involve them – Case studies

### Networks

Working on networks the school can use and develop existing supportive structures for families. Working on networks supports families and furthermore creates additional values:

- Information increase and structure gain
- Networks always mean further education
- Networking the social surrounding brings together information of the district, enables the connection of information, individual consultation and parents education activities.
- Networking these areas serves to tactically using resources (financial resources as well!) in the districts, strengthens competences, enables access to target groups who aren't used to learning and supports the openness of institutions for parents education.

Networks have different legalities to organisations. Within networks different cultures meet, conflicts of interest and competition are a fundamental part of networking. Social problems that may arise while building networks can be the following:

1. The single professional protagonists work on the basis of different legal foundations, targets, self-concepts and resources. Besides, they each have self-interests. This can lead to competition and stress.
2. The organisational and institutional framework of the individual protagonists partially complicates networking, e.g.
  - teacher working time in comparison with opening times of stakeholders – access to school beyond opening times
  - time for networking besides original tasks (normative frame)
  - marginal time budget

3. The present strict separation of the teachers' professional status through the school form complicates mutual cooperation within the network:
  - snobbishness
  - different special languages
  - partial knowledge deficits about the network partners' work
  - possible competition
  - parallel information and communication structures
4. Important partners can't be "forced" to cooperate.

In order to create comprehensive organisation networks, the protagonists must have special skills while network maintenance needs favourable basic conditions.

### Managing networks

The first step in networking is the institution's openness towards the part of town and its participation in district round table talks as well as contacting people and the identification of potential cooperation partners. These partners are to be informed systematically and won over (see 1.2).

Favourable basic conditions evolve by defining responsibilities and duties as well as by exchanging relevant information and creating an effective information flow. All these points must be agreed on in a cooperation agreement. The thematic/strategic orientation of a network should be phrased in clear target-oriented behaviour (see Material 3).

All protagonists/institutions need "key coordinators". Networks must be created actively and therefore network managers have to carry out challenging tasks to:

- create communication
- exchange relevant information
- save information
- organise information flow
- offer room for information exchange
- enable the building of confidence
- recognise conflicts and work on them
- work on evaluation: save results and analyse them for the protagonists, organisations and the network
- balance competition and cooperation

*According to professionally managed networks and co-operative networks Move Organisationsberatung GbR, Münster*

Networking in the local part of town is based on a preventive approach. An investment in this area can help to recognise problems and aberrations in time and eliminate them. The following demands contribute to a successful networking:

- A connection-oriented and interdisciplinary way of thinking is required for all protagonists.
- The protagonists' organisational and normative framework has to change in the way that networking becomes a natural part of the work (free space for networking).
- Joint advanced training of cascaders (multipliers) instead of separate further education of single professions and areas of education.

*According to: Expertenforum 1: Sozialraum und Bildung: Kooperationen und Angebote für bessere Bildungschancen 18.09.2007, DGB-Haus Köln, Experten: Prof. Dr. Herbert Schubert, Fachhochschule Köln, Forschungsschwerpunkt Sozial Raum Management und Renate Blum-Maurice, Leiterin des "Kalker Netzwerkes für Familien"*

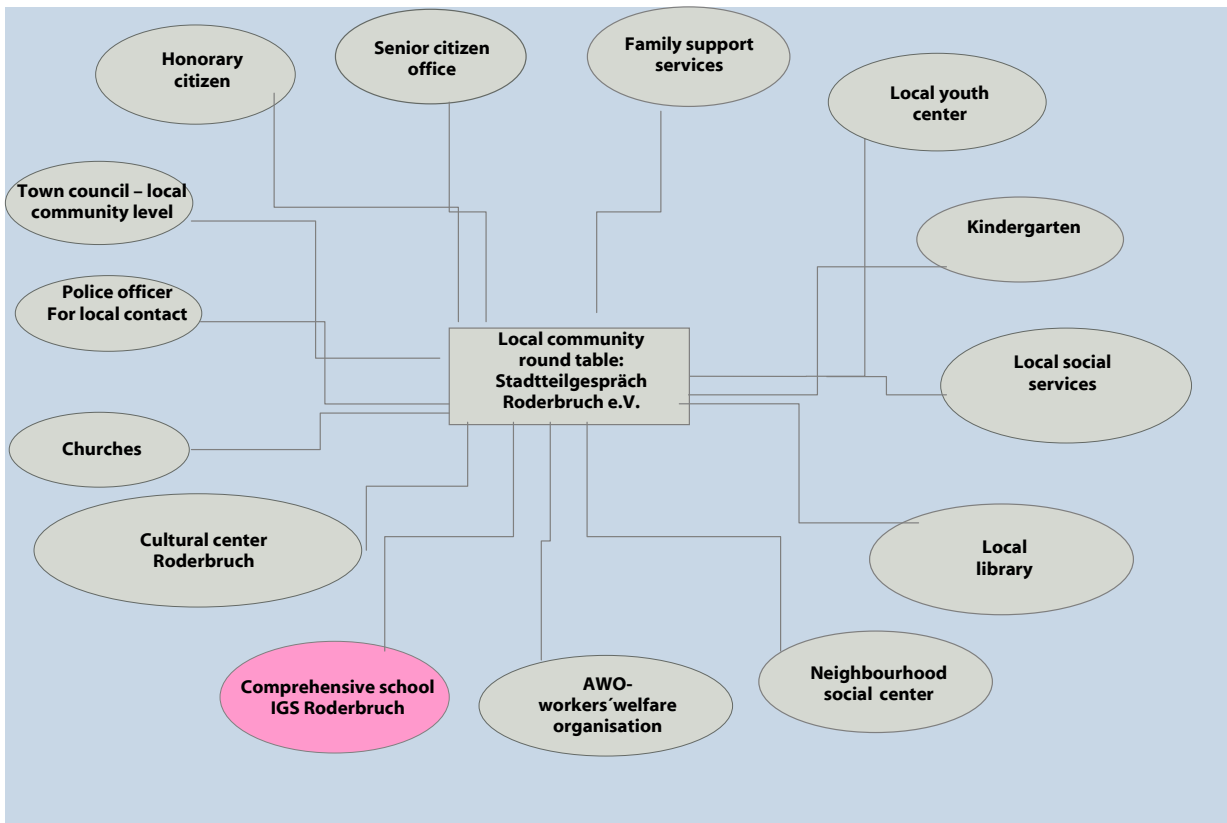
## Reaching out

"By opening schools ... for the district ("district schools") new aspects of education evolve that can be used for recreational activities and intercultural encounters in order to support integration."

*Presse- und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung (Hrsg.): Nationaler Integrationsplan, Berlin Juli 2007, p.116  
➔ [www.bundesregierung.de/Webs/Breg/DE/Bundesregierung/BeauftragtefuerIntegration/Integration/NationalerIntegrationsplan/nationaler-integrationsplan.html](http://www.bundesregierung.de/Webs/Breg/DE/Bundesregierung/BeauftragtefuerIntegration/Integration/NationalerIntegrationsplan/nationaler-integrationsplan.html)*

By reaching out, the schools discover and use the various social, cultural and ecological (etc.) activities of the district and can develop supportive activities for families and parents and a systematic district curriculum from the cooperative work. An example of this kind of networking is the cooperation of the IGS Roderbruch with the round table Roderbruch e.V.

The following protagonists/institutions meet regularly on the second Thursday of every month from 4.30 to 6 pm:



Community round table talk Roderbruch e.V., Stand: 06/2009

The venues for the district round table talks alternate so that every institution will host the others. The cooperation is voluntary. In order to actively take part in the district round table talk, you don't have to be a member.

The main objective is to improve the quality of life of the people in the Roderbruch district of town in Hannover.

This target is to be achieved by networking the institutions, groups, parties, etc. Those people, who cooperate in the district round table, do more

than "their job" – they get involved with the people in the district.

The Roderbruch round table has managed many successful projects and measures for the people's benefit in the housing projects of Roderbruch. In November 2000 the "housing project Roderbruch" received the second prize in the state-wide competition "Lower Saxony – the Children's state" and was given a seal of approval for proven child-friendliness and for their exemplary, child-friendly activities.