

Getting Heidelberg fit for the future

**Local election program 2024
(short version)**

Volt

Preamble

We are...

...progressive!

There are times when optimism seems naive. We feel overwhelmed and powerless in the face of all the crises in the world. In such times of uncertainty, conservatives promote a supposedly better yesterday.

Volt was founded in 2017 as a reaction to Brexit and the rise of nationalism in Europe. Our aim is to counter this uncertainty with a concrete, positive vision: A democratic and transparent EU that defies global crises; that makes socially just climate protection and an innovative economy possible; that takes action against corruption and restores trust in our democracy with transparency and new forms of participation.

...pragmatic!

We are guided by our vision, but are acting on science and facts to achieve a better but realistic future. In this election program, we also work with *Best Practices*. We take successful projects from other countries and cities as a model to solve our local problems. We want cycling like in Amsterdam, digital administration like in Estonia and social housing like in Vienna.

...pan european!

Volt is actively campaigning for these values and demands in 31 European countries. But for us, Europe is not an end in itself. With a reformed EU that is capable of acting, our goals for solidarity, innovation and sustainability can be realised more effectively and we can use our influence as the world's largest single market to advocate for them globally.

...local in Heidelberg!

We need to think European and act locally! Therefore we are not only running in the European elections on the 9th of June, but also in the local elections, because working for a better future means working on every level. And Heidelberg sits at the heart of Europe.

Overview

1. Mobility.....	4
2. Housing.....	6
3. Environment & Climate.....	8
4. Education.....	9
5. Social.....	10
6. Health.....	11
7. Digitalisation & Administration.....	12
8. Economy.....	13
9. Citizen participation.....	14
10. Culture & Free time.....	15
11. Masterplan Patrick-Henry-Village.....	16
12. Heidelberg & Europe.....	17

1. Mobility

A successful mobility transition not only benefits the climate, but also people with low incomes [[Reference](#)]. It is therefore also financially advantageous for the city to transition towards greener forms transportation, besides just electric automobiles [[Reference](#), [Reference](#)]. But this transition requires affordable, reliable and, above all, safe alternatives to car traffic. That is why we are calling for:

- **More bicycle streets** and **wide, safe cycle paths/tracks** connected to a **city-wide cycle network**, separated from other traffic where possible.
- More **bicycle parking** spaces in all public places.

Best Practice: Netherlands [Reference](#), [Reference](#)

- A broader range of **rentable cargo bikes** and **public car-sharing services** to create cheaper and more sustainable alternatives to private cars.

Best Practice: Constance [Reference](#)

- The **expansion of local public transport** and a significant reduction in delays and cancellations thanks to more staff.
- The **extension of existing tram lines** to Wiesloch, Sandhausen and Schwetzingen, among others - in cooperation with the respective municipalities.
- Better connections for Boxberg and Emmertsgrund.
- **More and later Moonliners** with better connections and the expansion of **"on-demand" services** (on-call and women's taxis, etc.).
- **Mobility hubs** are a further development of Park&Ride, as they seamlessly connect buses, trams, cars and bike sharing services, etc. in addition to cars and suburban trains. In this way, we want to reduce commuter traffic and parking space in the city centre.
- By charging **lower parking fees than in the city centre**, we want to create incentives for people to easily park their cars on the outskirts of the city and move around comfortably on foot, by bike or by public transport within the city.

Best Practice: Amsterdam [Reference](#)

- In those hubs, a **parking ticket** should also serve **as a ticket for public transport**.

Best Practice: Strasbourg [Reference](#)

- Remaining parking spaces in the city centre should increasingly be relocated to **neighbourhood garages** in order to free up space on the street for people. These (as well as the mobility hubs) must be planned in such a way that the buildings can be easily repurposed if the need for parking space decreases in the future as part of the mobility transition.

Best Practice: Copenhagen [Reference](#)

- Volt Heidelberg categorically rejects the much-discussed fifth Neckar bridge from Wieblingen to Neuenheimer Feld. Instead of a bridge, we are in favour of examining a **cable car from Pfaffengrund-Wieblingen station via the SRH campus to Neuenheimer Feld** in order to relieve the west of Bergheim from commuter traffic [[Reference](#)].

Best Practice: Toulouse [[Reference](#)]

- Volt Heidelberg is also in favour of a continuous, virtually car-free **promenade along the southern banks of the Neckar** with a wide cycle path and a variety of greenery. The drafts available so far do not go far enough in this respect [[Reference](#)].
- **Barrier-free sidewalks** throughout the entire city.
- Sufficient **parking spaces for delivery traffic, tradesmen's vehicles and care services** off the footpaths and cycle paths.
- **Parking zones for e-scooters** to ensure clear sidewalks and cycle paths.

Best Practice: Cologne [[Reference](#)]

- **Smart traffic lights** have the potential to improve traffic flow for everybody [[Reference](#)]. We want to test this concept, with priority for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport.

Best Practice: Hamburg [[Reference](#)]

- More **30 km/h zones in the city** and more **traffic-calmed areas**. This would improve safety and the quality of life in the city centre.

Best Practice: Spain [[Reference](#)]

- In order to improve the efficiency of the remaining motorised transport, we want to create a system of **smart, bookable loading zones**. Time-coordinated utilisation could save valuable space and improve conditions for logistics companies.

Best Practice: Hamburg [[Reference](#)]

2. Housing

Many people in Heidelberg cannot find housing that is suitable for their current living situation. This applies not only to the disproportionately expensive offers on the free housing market for people on low incomes, but also to the de facto lack of housing for families with two or more children or for people with disabilities. Moving within Heidelberg is hardly possible for most citizens despite changes in their life situation, such as starting a career, starting a family, divorce, children moving out, retirement or needing care.

- Volt Heidelberg is in favour of the sustainable **construction of new housing** on already sealed areas of the city and at the same time calls for a significant **densification** of the housing stock. A particular focus here is on the "**PHV**" area (see Chapter 11) and the "**Weststadt industrial area**".
- We want to ensure the affordability of large parts of this new housing through an **active urban land policy**.

Best Practice: Vienna [Reference](#), Ulm [Reference](#)

- In addition, Volt Heidelberg is calling for the use of **targeted housing subsidies** for **families with children** and **people in special life situations**.
- **Company flats** are also a tried and tested method of creating affordable housing. The city and companies should plan together. Affordable housing in Heidelberg could be made possible in this way, especially for less well-paid but systemically relevant occupational groups. (e.g. nurses in cooperation with the university hospital, etc.)
- Due to Heidelberg's very young population, **more dormitories for students and trainees** are also an important contribution to easing the housing market.
- Volt Heidelberg is calling for **more transparency in Heidelberg's housing sector**. For example, we want to record the potential of vacant buildings (e.g. unused office buildings) and sealed open spaces as well as energy-saving refurbishments
- [[Reference](#)].
- With a city-managed **home exchange platform**, citizens in changed living situations could swap their flats if necessary.

Best Practice: Freiburg [Reference](#)

- Volt Heidelberg is calling for a "**Housing First**" **strategy**¹ to be implemented in order to support local organisations in preventing homelessness in the city and to reintegrate people who wish to do so into society in the long term.

Best Practice: Finland [Reference](#)

¹ Housing First is a concept in homelessness services that aims to offer homeless people permanent accommodation as a first and most important measure, without this being tied to conditions such as substance withdrawal or the fulfilment of other obligations.

- We want to **curb speculation in the residential sector by means of building restrictions**. If the construction of a building has not begun on a given plot after three years, the area reverts to the municipality. In this way, the municipal right of first refusal can be utilised to a greater extent.
- Volt Heidelberg is pursuing the goal of reducing the demand for city centre living space. This is possible, for example, by **improving connections between our city and the surrounding area** (see Chapter 1).

In order to achieve not only a housing turnaround, but also a contribution to mitigating climate change in Heidelberg's urban planning and construction sector, we are calling for

- **Renovation, addition of storeys and conversion of buildings before demolition and new construction** in order to reduce the enormous consumption of resources by the construction industry [[Reference](#)].
- Sustainable materials such as wood must be favoured for new buildings. For example, we want to examine the construction of **timber high-rise buildings** in the PHV and Weststadt industrial estate.

Best Practice: Sweden [Reference](#)

The **energy transition** must also be accelerated in the **housing and building sector** through targeted **municipal subsidies** for renewable energy sources, including through:

- the expansion of **photovoltaics on commercial and public buildings**, noise barriers, residual traffic areas (see chapter 3),
- **energy-efficient renovation** of public buildings and
- the **expansion of renewable energies** to limit heating with fossil fuels (see Chapter 3).

The creation of sustainable building quality, with a focus on **recyclable, climate-positive constructions** and the expansion of **climate resilience** are further concerns [[Reference](#)].

That is why Volt Heidelberg demands:

- new buildings to be constructed with **renewable materials** wherever possible and to be designed from the outset with adaptable floor plans for a variety of uses
- to use **components that can be dismantled** so that they can be used several times. Customised products that can be produced quickly and cost-effectively are conceivable here.
- **avoid sealing any new areas** wherever possible in order to increase the city's climate resilience. The microclimate and local water management should be taken into account.

3. Environment & Climate

The national goal of climate neutrality by 2045 can only be achieved if concrete climate protection measures and a rethink towards greater sustainability and resource conservation take place at all levels - including at municipal level [\[Reference\]](#).

- We are calling for the city to continuously **subsidise photovoltaics**, for example by leasing roof space. We see great potential, especially for commercial buildings or the university buildings in Neuenheimer Feld.
- In addition, **agri-photovoltaic projects** on agricultural land around Heidelberg should be promoted [\[Reference\]](#).
- To support a stable electricity mix, we are in favour of the **local expansion of wind power**. However, species protection in particular must be taken into account when selecting sites.
- Together with the other municipalities in the Rhine-Neckar region, we want to drive forward the usage of **geothermal energy** [\[Reference\]](#).
- In the area of sustainable district heating supply, we also support the building of **large heat pumps for the Neckar**.

Best Practice: Mannheim [Reference](#)

Extreme weather events such as heavy storms, rainfall and prolonged periods of heat are already becoming more frequent.

- We want to counteract this with **removing asphalt and more greening** of public spaces [\[Reference, Reference\]](#).
- **Additional shading by trees** is essential, especially in **large open spaces** such as the Neckarwiese.
- In addition, more **public drinking fountains** should be installed throughout the city (see chapter 6).
- We want to better protect the native populations of nocturnal insects through **insect-friendly lighting** [\[Reference\]](#).
- **Biotopes with a variety of plants** are to be created in small open spaces in the city centre, and **green roofs and facades** are to be planted as an alternative.

Best Practice: Utrecht [Reference](#)

Another problem for cities continues to be plastic waste pollution.

- To counteract this, **more public rubbish bins** are needed.
- We also support the calls for a **tax on single-use packaging** [\[Reference\]](#). We want to return the revenue from this tax to local restaurants in the form of subsidies for more environmentally friendly packaging.

Best Practice: Tübingen [Reference](#)

4. Education

The municipality is responsible for the outfitting, care, staffing, and proper provisioning of all city schools. . This includes the provision of modern and functional buildings as well as appropriate staff (with the exception of all state civil servants, i.e. teachers). Under these conditions, we demand the following measures:

- The **renovation of school buildings** must be pushed forward. All educational facilities must be equipped with **high-speed Internet access** (see Chapter 7).
- All schools and daycare centres should have **water dispensers** (see Chapter 3).
- **Affordable, healthy, regional and seasonal catering** must be offered everywhere every day.²

Volt Heidelberg would like to create the following framework conditions so that more staff can be employed in schools:

- **Multi-professional teams** of social pedagogues, speech therapists, etc. should be set up to support daycare centres and schools [[Reference](#)].
- In order to counter the **shortage of staff** at schools and daycare centres, the city should do more to help staff find suitable accommodation and, if necessary, provide financial support (see chapter 2).
- The creation of a cross-city **staff reserve** to cover staff shortages of particular strength.
- Professional municipal **IT specialists** to support the schools in all digitalisation processes [[Reference](#)] (see chapter 7).
- More **programs for digital education**.

Best Practice: Hannover [[Reference](#)]

- Volt is committed to ensure that the **"Continuous language support" project** continues to be funded in the future [[Reference](#)].

In the long term, Volt is in favour of **free daycare and kindergarten places**.

- However, as free childcare can only be decided at state level, we are initially calling for **more transparency regarding fees** for daycare centres and kindergartens via the city's website.
- Volt Heidelberg is in favour of hiring **more childcare workers**. We are calling for **financial support for training and retraining** as well as an **increase in pay**.
- The city should also provide more support for the establishment of **additional daycare centres and kindergartens** and examine suitable locations.
- Daycare centres and primary schools should work more closely together in the transition to school.

² With the expansion of all-day schools, schools are required by law to offer catering.

5. Social

Volt sees the fight against poverty and social exclusion as one of the central public tasks. Shaping a spirit of solidarity and a willingness to help others are fundamental values of a free, diverse and inclusive society.

- A **socially orientated housing policy** is the central element of a good social policy (see Chapter 2).

In order to improve equal opportunities in society, the consequences of the connection between social background and educational success must be revealed more transparently and mitigated through concrete measures.

- This requires comprehensive **child and youth welfare services**. This includes intercultural playgroups, additional language support in daycare centres and more specialist educational staff (see chapter 4).

Best Practice: Monheim am Rhein [Reference](#)

Accessibility is of great importance to us as it promotes inclusion and equal opportunities for people with disabilities as well as families with young children and older people.

- To ensure that people with walking or visual impairments can move around safely and independently, we are calling for more **pedestrian traffic lights with clearance signals** and **wider pavements**, among other things. The latter will also benefit families with pushchairs.
- At bus stops, the **boarding area** for people with walking disabilities and pushchairs should be **clearly marked**.
- We demand **free periodicals** in educational and public facilities.

Best Practice: Scotland [Reference](#)

Our diversity includes the migration background of many of our citizens. Unfortunately, this is too often misused as a target. Migrants and their successor generations encounter prejudice, discrimination and racism. We must consistently counteract this. Places like the Intercultural Centre contribute a lot to this, but we can expand public life even further together.

- In order to better protect our Heidelberg residents from discrimination, Volt is calling for more education and a stronger focus on the topic of **violence prevention** in educational institutions.
- We call for more **awareness-raising and education** through organisations that offer workshops, seminars and projects to people of all ages to improve the protection of BIPoC, LGBTQIA+, people with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

6. Health

Access to preventive healthcare and medical treatment is vital and must be possible for all people, both in the outpatient and inpatient sector. Due to the density of hospitals, medical care and prevention options, citizens can already be offered very good care at a municipal level. Nevertheless, we at Volt Heidelberg still see some areas that could be expanded:

- These include the possibility of giving birth outside of a clinic. As the midwife-led birthing room at St Elisabeth Hospital will soon be closed, we need a new alternative in Heidelberg. We are therefore calling for a **birthing centre in Heidelberg**. Pre- and post-natal care as well as self-determined birth should be possible here.
- Demographic change is increasing the importance of home care. We need designated car parks in the city that are available for the vehicles of care services, among others.
- The installation of **free drinking fountains** in the city centre should also contribute to heat prevention, especially for older people (see Chapter 3).

Sport is essential for health, especially for people who get little exercise in their jobs. Sports clubs help to get people excited about physical activity and therefore play an essential role in our healthcare system. In addition, clubs provide affordable access to sports equipment and organised training and are often the only way to pursue these passions; however, this requires equipment and sports facilities that meet the needs.

- We want to ensure that the city continues **investment in sports clubs** so that they remain modern, well-equipped and attractive and can adapt to people's needs. Club sport is an alternative and supplement to health-orientated individual sport and offers great advantages over it in the social sphere.

7. Digitalisation & Administration

Volt Heidelberg sees the opportunities of digitalisation and supports the current measures to expand it. However, there must be no rivalry between the city's digital and non-digital offerings; they must complement each other.

- Volt Heidelberg is calling for a long-term **smart city strategy**. An independent **smart city Coordinator** should be appointed for this purpose.

Best Practices: [Reference](#)

- We are committed to the **digitalisation of administrative services** in order to create more efficient and practical alternatives to bureaucratic processes. **Chatbots**, for example, are a useful tool for making digital administration as user-friendly as possible for all population groups [\[Reference\]](#).

Best Practice: Estonia [Reference](#)

- At the same time, more IT security measures are needed, such as training for employees and regular security checks.

Digitalisation also offers opportunities to support education (see chapter 4). We are calling for this:

- An up-to-date **digital infrastructure** at all schools and (public) universities This includes a fast and stable internet connection, Wi-Fi hotspots and modern media technology.
- Support for educational institutions by **IT specialists** in the implementation of digital processes and in the maintenance of servers and software.
- **Digital training programmes**.
- Digital tools can also facilitate **democratic participation** and create **more transparency** in local politics (see chapter 9).
- Volt Heidelberg wants to consistently promote the **expansion of stable, symmetrical glass fibre networks**. The development of the **5G network** should also be driven forward
- In addition, we are calling for secure, **free WiFi hotspots** to be available at municipal meeting places.
- We also want to help create a **comprehensive LoRaWAN network** (Long Range Wide Area Network) at municipal level by installing the necessary technology on public buildings [\[Reference\]](#).

8. Economy

Volt Heidelberg wants to promote the local entrepreneurial spirit and support citizens who contribute to the prosperity of our city by taking on economic responsibility. We are in favour of creating new jobs, as long as they are in line with social and economic requirements. Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to sufficiently realise Heidelberg's innovative potential in many areas.

So far, start-ups have been given little incentive to locate their companies in Heidelberg. The prices for commercial property in suitable locations are high, the traffic situation is difficult and city subsidies can often not be accessed at all or only in small amounts due to bureaucratic hurdles.

- Volt Heidelberg is calling for the **regional expansion and densification of public transport** beyond the city limits as well as public support for the provision of **company housing** in order to facilitate the recruitment of skilled labour (see Chapters 1 and 2)
- We are also in favour of **increased support for social enterprises** (social entrepreneurship) and **sustainable business ideas**. Therefore we want to adapt the funding conditions so that they are easier to achieve for a large number of companies and the bureaucratic effort involved in applying for funding is reduced accordingly.
- In addition, **young companies** should receive significant **relief on business tax (Gewerbesteuer)** in the first few years in order to incentivise them to settle in Heidelberg and favour their early development and establishment on the market.
- We are also committed to ensuring that all companies in Heidelberg receive **promoted advice** at regular intervals, which provides information on the latest standards and proposes measures for social and ecological development.

Volt Heidelberg sees **local agriculture and horticulture** as an important part of the regional food supply. For this reason, the conservation and environmentally friendly management of agricultural land is given very high priority.

- We are **opposed to the sealing** and structural fragmentation caused by **unnecessary roads or natural gas pipelines** [\[Reference\]](#).
- **Ecologically inspired agriculture** contributes to the preservation of biodiversity and minimises the negative consequences of climate change.
- In addition, Volt Heidelberg is committed to promoting modern agricultural cultivation methods on scarce land and demands the **highest standards of animal welfare** in livestock farming.

9. Citizen participation

Volt Heidelberg is committed to a free and democratic civil society. We welcome the political initiative of citizens and want to support them by consciously creating a space for them.

We believe that the fair and transparent participation of citizens in political processes creates a greater willingness to implement and a higher quality of life for all.

As supporters of representative democracy, Volt sees a participatory process not as an alternative to the local council, but as an addition.

We consider the existing citizen participation programme [\[Reference\]](#) to be a successful basis for participation. However, we want to improve the quality of implementation and, above all, the transparency of existing formats.

- As an addition to analogue face-to-face formats, we are calling for a digital **"open government" platform** on which public streams of meetings of the municipal council, committees and participation events can be followed. These streams should be recorded in future.
- We are also calling for greater **transparency** in the decisions of the municipal council by ensuring that the **voting behaviour** of all members is always recorded and can be viewed by the public.
- It should also be possible to **view and comment on upcoming projects**, the use of budget funds and municipal documents.
- Volt Heidelberg also advocates the creation of a **citizens' office** that is **independent of the city administration** in order to ensure the independent organisation and communication of relevant events.
- Volt Heidelberg would like to introduce a **citizens' budget** for Heidelberg. In the run-up to all municipal budget decisions, at least 10% of the available funds should be set aside for citizens' proposals and a suitable procedure for concrete implementation should be developed.

Best Practice: Potsdam [Reference](#)

- We support the concept of **citizens' councils** [\[Reference\]](#). The use of citizens' councils is already conceptually provided for in the existing Heidelberg guidelines. Volt Heidelberg is calling for this option to be implemented in practice in a large number of future participation projects.

10. Culture & Free time

Leisure activities are an important aspect of everyday life and serve both the well-being of the individual and the social cohesion of a region. It is an important task of municipalities and cities to organise and make those places equally accessible to all citizens.

- Our aim is to **maintain and create spaces used for leisure activities** by providing needs-based funding.
- The **facilities and spaces** are made available to all users **at a reasonable price** and in a sufficient size and suitable location.
- We are committed to creating sustainable and crisis-proof jobs in all leisure sectors.
- Freelancers should be supported in their work in the long term through municipal funding programmes and targeted work offers (e.g. school projects).
- **Sports boxes** are a good way of making outdoor sport even more varied and increasing the range of activities on offer away from expensive fitness centres. They contain various sports equipment such as dumbbells, balls, etc. and can be opened using an app. Cameras inside monitor the removal and return of the equipment.

Best Practice: Münster [Reference](#)

In the area of art and culture, we will also specifically promote the integration of cultural content in schools.

- We support the **integration of freelance artists in the classroom**. At the same time, this will create secure jobs for artists and relieve the burden on teaching staff.
- In addition, we want to expand the range of **extracurricular cultural and sports activities** such as museums, music schools, art courses, theatre clubs, football or swimming courses as leisure activities offered by the municipality.
- We are committed to **inclusive leisure centres** and **more inclusive playgrounds**.

We call for the promotion of small, young initiatives:

- The creation of a central **"Heidelberg Culture App"**, in which residents of the city can publicise their own cultural and leisure projects.
- Volt Heidelberg is calling for a **centre for clubs and initiatives**. An open space should be created here that offers registered initiatives and associations the opportunity to meet, exchange ideas and organise events. This meeting place should be managed by the city and be available at low cost. It should also be possible to book **rooms in schools** outside of school hours (see chapter 4).

11. Masterplan Patrick-Henry-Village

As the last conversion site available for large-scale residential construction in Heidelberg, the Patrick-Henry-Village (PHV for short) area offers the opportunity to create a district of the future - a district that will set an example throughout Europe in the areas of sustainability, culture, affordable housing, social mix and much more. The early involvement of many initiatives and population groups in the realisation of the urban plans is crucial to the success of this project.

The Baden-Württemberg state arrival centre for refugees is already located on the site. In order to improve conditions for the people arriving and the employees, we are calling for:

- **Additional local transport** connections
- **Shopping facilities** and a canteen
- Expansion of **childcare**, playgrounds and sports facilities
- An expansion of care services for adults in the form of a **women's refuge** and more staff for **counselling**
- Suitable **office buildings** on the site for employees of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)

The period until the opening of the new district could be many years; until then, the site should be put to good use.

- Volt Heidelberg is in favour of a **cost-effective interim use** of the PHV with **dormitories for students and trainees**.
- As a favourable, short-term mobility solution, we are calling for **direct bus connections** to the most important transport hubs and the largest university sites.
- In addition, the **early establishment of shopping facilities** must be promoted.
- Our goal for the future of the PHV is to create an almost car-free neighbourhood. As experience from the construction of Bahnstadt clearly shows, **bus and rail connections** as well as **cycle infrastructure** must be in place before the first residents move in. This is why a **comprehensive mobility concept** is needed first (see Chapter 1).
- To prevent a one-sided development of the new district into a "rich" or "poor" neighbourhood, the proportion of **subsidised flats or dormitories** should be at least 30% and these should be evenly distributed across the district. In order to utilise the available space as effectively as possible, a significant **densification** of the area is essential. Attention must also be paid to **sustainability** in construction (see chapter 2).
- In order to tackle not only the climate crisis but also the biodiversity crisis, extensive **greening** and the creation of small **biotopes** are needed (see Chapter 3).

12. Heidelberg & Europe

Good cooperation in Europe is essential in many respects: be it in the promotion of urban projects, cultural exchange or to support our companies with the influx of qualified labour. Right now, populist voices that reject this beneficial cooperation are gaining attention. The city must therefore also ensure that the benefits of the EU and the EU itself become more visible and proactively promote them.

- Therefore we are calling for **active communication** about the EU within Heidelberg
 - with positive content such as
 - the EU grants called upon for municipal support
 - the EU as a peace project
 - economic effects
 - knowledge exchange with important institutions and bodies
 - EU parliamentarians from the region as contact persons and
 - legal options such as free choice of place of work and residence, etc.
- We also call for **transparent reporting** of the city's activities at **EU network meetings**.
- Volt Heidelberg is committed to creating a "**best practice catalogue**" that documents how European cities have already solved specific problems.
- By focussing the city administration and the municipal council on European networking and exchange, we want to strengthen the European sense of community.
- Volt Heidelberg is in favour of entering into more **city partnerships** with European cities.
- Town twinning should be a tangible opportunity for peaceful and value-based dialogue for all citizens. This includes, for example, the **promotion of cultural exchange** between Heidelberg associations and organisations, the promotion of **international exchange programmes** and cooperation in adult education. We also advocate and support the creation of digital community projects.