



Press Release City of Homberg (Efze)

Future Session in Homberg (Efze): Citizen Participation Provides Impetus for Inner-City Development

With the "Future Session" on February 3, 2026, the City of Homberg (Efze) took another step in the participatory process for the development of Homberg's inner city. As part of the urban development funding program "Social Cohesion," committed citizens, experts, and city representatives came together to jointly develop guiding principles and development goals for the funding area. The event was characterized by a constructive working atmosphere and revealed initial trends for the further process of creating an Integrated Urban Development Concept (ISEK).

The central question of the Future Session was: "How do we want to live in Homberg in ten years?" Following a welcome address by Mr. Stötzer from the town of Homberg (Efze) and an introduction by ProjektStadt, the Kassel-based planning office commissioned to develop the concept, participants were informed about the "Social Cohesion" funding program and the designated development area. The presentation of the current inventory, covering everything from settlement structure and land use to renovation needs and vacant properties, formed the basis for an open exchange about the strengths, weaknesses, and potential of the funding area.

Participants particularly emphasized the attractive architecture of the old town, the good local amenities, and the easy walking access to educational institutions as strengths. At the same time, shortcomings such as a lack of inviting public spaces, vacant properties, a shortage of meeting places, and challenges related to traffic and urban green spaces were identified. Building on this, small groups developed guiding principles and objectives for the town center, reflecting both the dynamics of an ongoing transformation process and the aspiration for a livable, inclusive city.

Participants highlighted the attractive architecture of the old town, the good local amenities, and the accessibility of educational institutions as key strengths. The exchange revealed that the development of existing buildings, the enhancement of open spaces, the promotion of meeting places, and the improvement of mobility are key areas for action. Participants expressed a desire for a more attractive, pedestrian-friendly city center, more green spaces, additional programs for young people and families, and stronger connections between neighborhoods within the designated urban development area. The idea of revitalizing vacant properties through new residential

uses was well-received, as was the desire for more attractive public spaces and better connections between the old town and the Freiheit district.

This future-oriented session was part of a series of participatory opportunities that have been running since December 2025 and will continue until the end of March 2026. The results will be incorporated into the Integrated Urban Development Concept (ISEK), which forms the basis for project implementation and securing funding. The city of Homberg (Efze) is thus consistently committed to broad citizen participation, both in person and online. “I am impressed by the commitment and the diverse ideas that were contributed both online and in person as part of our participatory process. My thanks go to everyone who has participated so far. The positive working atmosphere during the Future Session, in particular, demonstrated the immense potential within our community,” emphasized Mayor Dr. Nico Ritz.

Those who were unable to attend the Future Session can still participate online: A digital participation map is available at www.homberg-innenstadt.de until March 8, 2026. Here, interested individuals can mark locations, leave suggestions, and contribute their own ideas for the area's development. To receive information and invitations to upcoming events, simply send a brief email to innenstadt@homberg-efze.de to be added to the project mailing list.

For questions, please contact Julian Stötzer (Department of Economic Development, Urban Planning, and Tourism of the City of Homberg (Efze), Tel.: +49 5681 994-292, Email: julian.stoetzer@homberg-efze.de) or Marvin Coker (ProjektStadt, Tel.: +49 561 1001-1376, Email: marvin.coker@projektstadt.de).

Background on the Urban Development Funding Program:

The "Social Cohesion" program supports cities and municipalities in linking construction and social measures to strengthen neighborhoods, promote participation, and increase the quality of life. The Integrated Urban Development Concept (ISEK) forms the basis for receiving funding and defines development goals for the next ten years. It identifies concrete measures to sustainably improve living, housing, and working conditions locally. By being included in the urban development program "Social Cohesion," Homberg (Efze) is specifically focusing on sustainable and community-oriented urban development.

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Photo: ProjektStadt 2026



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