

# GEWOBA AWARD

## FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT BREMEN 2016

### THE HOUSING OF REFUGEES

Goals of the Award and Further  
Information 



# GEWOBA AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT BREMEN 2016

## GOALS OF THE AWARD

The GEWOBA Aktiengesellschaft Wohnen und Bauen in Bremen biennially offers an Award for Sustainable Urban Development to students of the social sciences for outstanding achievements. To find deserving awardees, a non-anonymous contest for ideas is called, which serves as the frame for attending to a given social science topic: Individual as well as team submissions (seminar papers, project reports, academic manuscripts, or theses) are equally welcome. In order to create space for diverse innovative ideas and new approaches to problem-solving and to generate novel insights and perspectives, modalities of how the topic of the contest is to be approached are deliberately not defined narrowly. Results of the contest are to contribute to the public urban development discourse by way of offering challenges and alternative input from a social science perspective.

### PROCEDURE

The contest is called by GEWOBA Aktiengesellschaft Wohnen und Bauen and conducted in cooperation with Universität Bremen and Jacobs University Bremen. At both universities an information meeting will be organized.

### CONTACT

Maike Koschorreck  
Bremen International Graduate School  
of Social Sciences (BIGSSS)  
Subject „The Housing of Refugees“  
Mary-Sommerville-Straße 9  
28359 Bremen  
gewobapreis@bigsss-bremen.de

**Eligible to participate** are students from all social science and adjacent study programs of all levels (individuals as well as groups), who are enrolled at a university or other institution of tertiary education at the time the call is issued.

The quality of the submitted contest contributions (student project reports, theses, publications) is evaluated by a jury consisting of representatives of the Bremen Senator of Social Affairs, Youth, Women, Integration, and Sports, of the social sciences at Universität Bremen and Jacobs University Bremen, and of GEWOBA. In light of the topic selected for a call in a given year, further experts are asked to serve as jury members.

### AWARDS AND HONORABLE MENTIONS

Altogether the award is endowed with funds of 5.000 Euro per call. Usually the partitioning is:

GEWOBA Award for Sustainable Urban Development	2.000 Euros
Honorable Mention (3)	1.000 Euros (each)

The jury reserves the right to partition the prize money differently, and to offer additional special awards.

### CONTEST TASK

For the 2016 contest contributions to the topic The Housing of Refugees are sought that offer analyses and new insights and perspectives with an explicit practical relevance. Further criteria are a clear reference to the study program of the submitting student as well as a discernable provision of transfer benefits. For further information see next page.

### REQUIREMENTS

Contributions are to be submitted in German. In exceptional cases, contributions in English are possible. They can take the form of written documents as well as other media. It is expected that together with the actual submission a letter of motivation and an Executive Summary (together not exceeding six A4 pages) are submitted. The jury will invite a short list of contestants to personally present their submission. The GEWOBA reserves the right to publish the contributions to the contest, including names of contributors. Submissions by the eventual awardees of the GEWOBA Award for Sustainable Urban Development become the property of GEWOBA. Intellectual property rights shall remain unaffected. Submissions of non-awardees will be returned to the submitters.

### DATES

**January 7, 2016**

Formal Publication of the Call

**January 20, 2016, 16:00/4pm**

Information Meeting at Jacobs University Bremen  
IRC Conference Room

**February 11, 2016, 16:00/4pm**

Information Meeting at Universität Bremen, UNICOM,  
Mary-Sommerville-Str. 7, BIGSSS Conference Room 73280 (3. Stock)

**September 30, 2016, 15:00/3pm:**

Deadline for the submission of contest contributions to  
Maike Koschorreck  
Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS)  
Subject „The Housing of Refugees“  
Mary-Sommerville-Str. 9  
28359 Bremen  
gewobapreis@bigsss-bremen.de

**October 27, 2016**

Jury deliberations including shortlisting for oral presentations

**November 10/11, 2016**

Oral presentations, jury decision, notification of awardees

**November 29, 2016**

Public Award Ceremony



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## FURTHER INFORMATION

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The GEWOBA Aktiengesellschaft Wohnen und Bauen is a housing and real estate enterprise. Its core business is the management of some 41,500 tenements – predominantly in the City State of Bremen. As the majority of its apartments are in spatially concentrated settlements, the company also assumes responsibility to support the quality of social cohesion in neighborhoods and living quarters. With signing the Charter of Diversity in 2013 GEWOBA committed to actively shaping the appreciative development of human diversity. Concrete measures and activities can be taken from its sustainability reports (<http://www.gewoba.de/unternehmen/corporate-social-responsibility/>).

For the 2016 contest the theme The Housing of Refugees was chosen in close consultation with GEWOBA's cooperation partners Universität Bremen and Jacobs University Bremen, a theme of high topical relevancy, associated with a high number of uncertainties. We know little about the people that flee to Germany; their future prospects and personal plans are virtually unknown. In light of this, our Call for Submissions is meant to encourage attention to the question which social science knowledge offers good pathways to integration in times of uncertainty.

- Which information media do refugees utilize to orient themselves in the new environment? Which topics are of interest to them? Which additional information would they appreciate? Are there technical solutions that might help?
- How do refugees experience residential life styles, neighborhoods, and the German implicit and explicit social rules connected to daily residential life?
- Are there particular requirements and needs of refugees that should be considered when planning new buildings or an improvement of the residential environment?

— **The term "housing" in the title of the current call is meant to refer to the time after preliminary accommodation in hostels, temporary, or emergency arrangements. However, the time in emergency accommodation can certainly be included as a preparatory phase for regular housing.** —

The questions enumerated above are meant as examples and should be understood as an incitement for an inspired development of pieces to be submitted to the contest. The contest is open for other creative contributions. We recommend attending one of the information meetings at the two Bremen universities to acquire further information and to receive answers to remaining questions.

## POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

- How do refugees find accommodation after the phase of preliminary housing?
- Regionally increasing housing vacancies vs. scarcity of affordable housing in densely populated urban areas – (how) can the housing of refugees create a balance?
- How can competition for affordable accommodation between refugees and the local population be avoided or attenuated?
- Which different strategies exist in the federal states and communities, to bring refugees into regular housing after the phase of preliminary housing upon arrival? How successful are these strategies?
- Which preparatory and concomitant measures exist to ease integration and how successful are they?
- Which information is needed to plan and evaluate such measures?
- Which knowledge exists about refugee and immigration waves in prior decades?
- Which consequences of the "refugee wave" can be expected for demographic change in Germany?
- In which domains do neighborly cooperation and togetherness of migrants and Germans work out well and where are there deficits?
- How does the interaction of different groups of migrants work out in neighborhoods?
- What do migrants suggest who have lived in Germany for at least a year? What would in hindsight have eased integration?
- How do the locals perceive their new neighbors? How can a positive climate be supported?