

## Press Release from Biberach University of Applied Sciences

August 25, 2020

### *Sustainable urban development*

### **Mayor of Biberach supports the university's SDE-21 team: "We need people like you here in Biberach"**

What should our city look like in 20 years? How can we reconcile the need for housing and public buildings with the challenge of climate protection and sustainable urban development? For the Lord Mayor of Biberach, Norbert Zeidler, these questions are extremely important and unavoidable. Especially the topic of sustainable building and living in the city plays a major role for the mayor. A project team from the University of Applied Sciences Biberach (HBC) is also currently working intensively on solutions. They address questions such as how we can create cities that are worth living in and fit for the future together, offering sustainable, energy-efficient and socially acceptable buildings for living and working.

The interdisciplinary team, Extension for Sustainability (X4S) at HBC, is taking part in the international student competition "Solar Decathlon Europe 21" (sde21) and competes against 17 other teams from eleven countries. The HBC group is headed by Prof. Andreas Gerber, Professor of Climate-Responsible Building, and Lena Frühschütz, Master's student of Energy and Building Systems at HBC. All participants develop designs for innovative living and put them into practice in the form of fully functional, one- to two-story residential buildings. The team from Biberach University of Applied Sciences is planning a four-storey addition to an existing building in Wuppertal. Especially with regard to the development of our cities, this project idea can have an impact on a more sustainable future: "I think and hope that our project will have a major impact on the cities of the future. In order to achieve the climate protection plan's objectives in 2050, it is essential to shift the focus from new buildings to existing buildings," says Lena Frühschütz. With increasing urbanization, it will become more and more important to offer more living space in the city center. With its contribution, Team X4S wants to show that urban re-densification is an added value for all parties involved. Efficient and sustainable

building without gentrification, high living comfort through the use of ecological building materials, innovative neighborhood concepts and participation models are just some of the possible solutions

As in the Olympic decathlon, the SDE teams compete in ten disciplines. As a former decathlete, Lord Mayor Zeidler is familiar with this challenge: "In decathlon, being strong in just one or two disciplines is not enough for a victory or even a good performance. On the contrary, you have to be an all-rounder". For this demanding task, the head of the city wishes the X4S team every success via video message and is very proud of their participation in the competition: "We need brains like you here in Biberach. And, by the way, in the rest of the world as well."

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