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Abstract:

The austerity politics of the last decades have produced a new line of financial and social division in Europe. Except for few (Northern) countries in the Euro zone like Germany, the impact of the austerity orientation has left the Southern European countries overburdened with social, political and economic difficulties (cfr. Eckardt and Sanchéz, 2014).

Nevertheless, the austerity politics have produced a rather unnoticed financial crisis in many German cities as well. In this article, four cities will be compared with regard to their political reaction on their debt crisis. The article will show that these cities represent four different coping mechanism which only loosely are related to political orientations but has to be seen as a product of long lasting local political and economic path dependencies.

The article is part of the "Planum Scientific Committee" Special Issue (no.30, vol.II/2017) which presents the magazine's Scientific Committee via a selection of texts representing the cultural profile and research activities of its members. The texts, chosen for their meaningfulness and representativeness, present independent paths of critical reflection regarding important themes of contemporary urban and planning research practices.