## How to keep hold of the land and siphon ground rents for common welfare

Dr. Ulrich Kriese



#### Overview

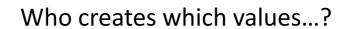
- What means property, location value and ground rent
- Selective rent capture or reduction through building lease
  - Edith Maryon Foundation
  - Basle Land Initiative
- General (full or partial) rent capture through land value tax
  - Campaign «Grundsteuer: Zeitgemäss!»

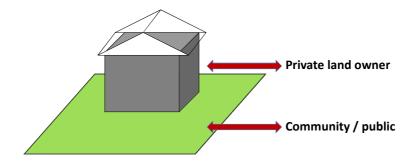


## Property?

Land	Building
Nature	Man
Community	Private
Ground rent	Capital rent

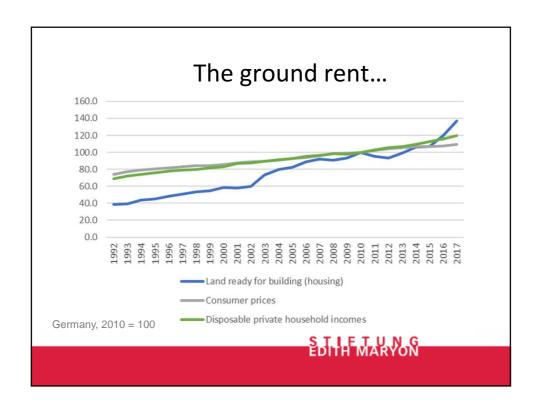
S T LE T U N G





...Who should siphon the ground rent?





#### **Ground rent**

Any payment to a land owner in excess of the costs needed to bring the land into production (a result of the exclusive ownership of title privilege to location).

Or: The **revenue difference** between two pieces of land of same size and equal input of labour and capital.



#### Ground rent

Unearned revenue: The community and public investments create the location value, not the private land owner

Financial crisis: Decreasing interest rates lead to higher land values

Land value = ground rent / interest rate

→ increasing rents, gentrification etc.

STIETUNG FDIH MARYON

Selective rent capture or reduction for common welfare:

Building lease / Emphyteusis

...if and where the land is owned by the community or a NPO

STIETUNG EDIH MARYON

### The building lease

- Temporary landed property
  - Access to land ex-equity
  - in return for interest on building rights (ground rent)
- Type of use / occupancy / purpose to be negotiated and agreed upon → leasehold contract
- After the expiration of the contract (if no prolongation agreed)
  - The property with all rights and duties, including the building, relapses to the land owner (against compensation)
  - The land owner keeps the freedom of scope



#### Benefit

- Helps to achieve urban planning objectives
  - → Under-utilisation costs!
- Demand for land suits market needs
  - → Unnecessary claims cost!
- Stimulates building investments
  - → Dereliction costs!
- Land speculation costs!



#### The Foundation

- Founded 1990, initial capital CHF 12'000
- Specialised in real estate: Housing, nonhousing, farms, mainly in Switzerland and Germany
- Board of Trustees (5), Advisory Council (20), staffed office (15)
- Transparency as a principle: published annual accounts and reports



#### Main objectives

- The Foundation keeps properties in perpetuity
- Reduction of the encumbrance of debt on the properties in order to enduringly secure socially responsible places of residence and work
- Rent/Lease reductions from case to case
- Preferably building lease arrangements
- Ca. 130 projects mainly in Switzerland and in Germany
- Ca. 900 ha farmland, ca. 20 ha urban land

















Why us, other foundations, CLT's etc...?

Because public authorities no longer or insufficiently assume their responsibilty for keeping hold of the land!

STIETUNG EDITH MARYON

#### The Basle «Land Initiative»

- Cantonal initiative in Basle City, started by two foundations and the housing cooperatives association
- General prohibition of sale of public land
- Building leases do not count as sales they are welcome and specifically authorised
- In the exceptional case of sale: compensation mechanism

STIETUNG EDITH MARYON



# General (full or partial) rent capture for common welfare: Land value tax

...for all privately owned land (the vast bulk...)





# Benefit of land value tax – in comparison to taxing buildings

- Stimulates urban inward development
  - → Less need for greenfield development
- Investments do not lead to a tax increase
  - → Good for thermal energy or age-based modernisation etc.
- Increase of supply and market forces curb property prices and rents
- Less administrative costs, transparency, comprehensibility

www.maryon.ch
www.gemeingutboden.ch
www.bodeninitiative-basel.ch
www.grundsteuerreform.net

Thank you very much for your attention!

STIETUNG EDIE MARYON