



Federal Institute for
Research on Building,
Urban Affairs and
Spatial Development

within the Federal Office for
Building and Regional Planning



Photo: Marcus Fehse – Aeronauten, Berlin

Competence Centre for Regional Development, Cottbus

Scientific expertise for the
transformation of lignite mining regions

Competence Centre for Regional Development

Based under the provisions of the Structural Reinforcement Act for Lignite Mining Regions, the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) is establishing the Competence Centre for Regional Development in Cottbus with the aim of supporting structural change in the regions of Lusatia, Rhineland and Central Germany.

The Competence Centre supports the regions affected by the phasing-out of coal with academic expertise and actively assists local communities in creating an exemplary transformation process towards more climate protection and a modern economic structure. The focus is on the creation of positive future prospects for the local population.

The tasks of the Competence Centre include: the analysis of transformation dynamics through applied research; the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of regional and model projects; comparisons of similar processes of structural change in Germany and abroad. Equally important are the communication and knowledge transfer, while at the same time advising the Federal Government and the affected federal states and regions.



Questions and answers

What we do:

The Competence Centre supports the transformation of lignite mining regions by establishing new collaborations with academia, administrative bodies, business and civil society, jointly developing solutions, conducting research and model projects, and implementing formats that support mutual learning. This is what the “Research through funding” approach stands for. Regional players can contact the Competence Centre with their ideas.

Our aims:

The Competence Centre primarily aims to address the needs of local actors affected by structural change: Cities and villages, stakeholders of civil society such as organisations, associations and foundations, enterprises and their interest groups, as well as universities and research institutes. The transfer of research results and, in particular, the communication of proven, innovative solutions from pilot and model projects (good practice) are of great importance. Policy guidelines are intended to support municipalities and regions in coping with their challenges. The Competence Centre regularly engages with the scientific community and ensures the quality of its work through continuous exchange. The findings ultimately serve to advise the Federal Government.

Who we are:

The employees of the Competence Centre come from various specialist fields, including urban and regional planning, geography, sociology, economics and political science. They all have a common interest in the transformation of lignite mining regions and a focus on spatial development research. The spatial development policy derived from this research is a key focus of attention when it comes to promoting equal living conditions in the regions of structural change.

Structure

The BBSR Competence Centre for Regional Development in Cottbus will consist of five departments:

- Transformation
- Regional and Structural Policy
- People and Regions Undergoing Change – Subjective and Objective Indicators
- Information and Communication
- Research Data Centre

The first stage of establishing the Competence Centre with 55 employees is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.



The BBSR

Construction, housing, urban and spatial planning as well as spatial development policy are fundamental elements of sustainable and stable communities. All of these policies have a direct impact on people's spheres of living and therefore on the quality of life in their villages, urban districts, towns, cities and regions. Creative and intelligent policy-making depends on academically substantiated advice.

The Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) is part of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR). With offices in Bonn, Berlin and Cottbus, it is the departmental research institution of the Federal Ministry of Housing, Urban Development and Building (BMWSB). It supports the ministry and other departments through research and development services in the fields of construction, housing, urban and spatial planning as well as development policy. The BBSR will further strengthen its commitment in functioning as an interface between federal and regional levels in the future.



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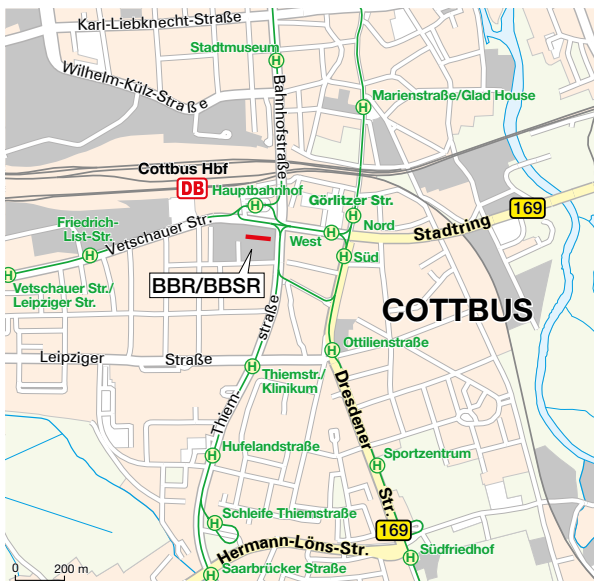
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