



# RESEARCH NEWS

No 1 / May 2015

Dear Readers,

Against the background of European integration and globalisation, regional statistical maps, data and information on spatial development on various territorial levels become more and more important in order to analyse e.g. regional living conditions, to create benchmarks of cities and regions or to make location decisions. With two new products, the BBSR has recently set the pattern in this context.

With thematic maps and regional statistics presented in the new INKAR online atlas of the BBSR, interested persons can see how the living and location conditions in Germany vary according to each region. Maps of all counties in Germany on nearly all social topics can be produced in a few steps. We are particularly proud that the information can be provided free of charge. In this way, we act in line with the German Federal Government and the EU Commission according to which so far inaccessible data and information of authorities shall be available in the most convenient way to everybody.

The ESPON Atlas demonstrates by maps, infographics and explanations how the regions in Europe develop. For the Atlas, data referring to many topics and, for the first time, to all regions of the countries involved were collected in the context of the European Spatial Observation Network ESPON. The results of these regional analyses were summarised by the BBSR as the lead partner of an international ESPON project within the Atlas. The Atlas really benefitted from this European cooperation. We are therefore very happy that the ESPON Programme will be continued.

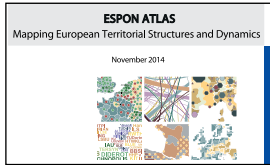
You are invited to test our new offers. We would appreciate it!

The editors

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# Spatial Development

## Europe – a territory full of differences



The Atlas can be downloaded from the website of the ESPON Programme at <http://www.espon.eu> (Publications/ESPON ATLAS 2013).

Printed versions of the ESPON Atlas can be ordered at the ESPON Coordination Unit [michaela.gensheimer@espon.eu](mailto:michaela.gensheimer@espon.eu).

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How many people in Europe live in cities? How do city regions contribute to the economic performance? How does the population distribution change? What were the regional impacts of the economic and financial crisis? How do regions develop in the context of the EU 2020 Strategy?

Answers to these and other questions concerning spatial structures and trends in Europe can be found in the ESPON Atlas published at the end of 2014. With about 180 maps and infographics as well as short explanations, it provides a synopsis of the living conditions in European regions, how they develop, what are their strengths and common grounds, where they reveal disparities and where these disparities threaten to increase. The Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development as the lead partner of an international project groups has drawn up and produced the Atlas in cooperation with the ESPON Coordination Unit.

The Atlas starts with a description of cities and rural regions and their significance for spatial development. It then presents other key issues being of special importance for the growing together of regions in Europe: society and integration, labour and economy, environment

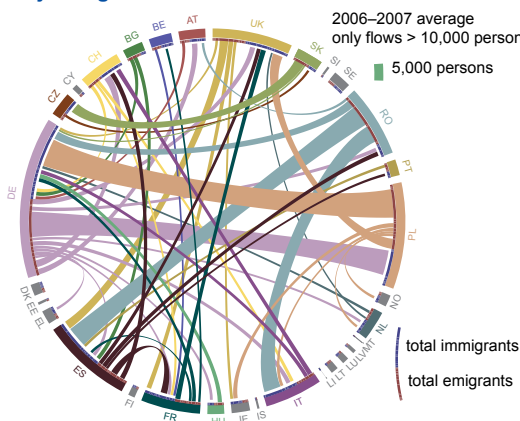
and climate and infrastructure. The Atlas also includes analyses of the regional aspects of the EU 2020 Strategy, the territorial dimension of the EU policy and transnational cooperation in the context of Interreg.

For those who do not know it: The aim of the European Spatial Planning Observation Network ESPON is to improve the knowledge and information bases for the European spatial development policy. Analyses and tools on regional and urban trends promote the further development of EU and national funding policies. The ESPON Programme involves 28 EU member states, Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Iceland as well as the European Commission.

The Atlas summarises research findings of about 70 ESPON projects. It addresses administrative and political decision-makers, seeking to learn about the development perspectives of their regions, as well as scientists and students. Teachers may use the maps for their lessons.

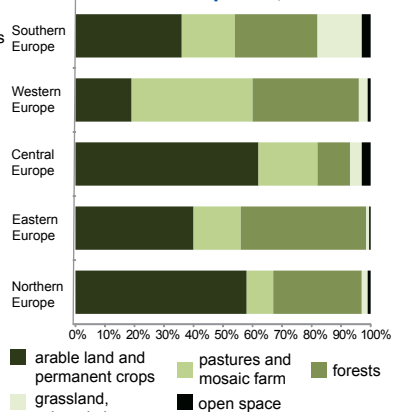
Furthermore, the Atlas is provided as an interactive online version, in which maps and figures can be zoomed. It is also possible to zoom in sections within maps. The Atlas online version can be found at <http://atlas.espon.eu>.

**Major migration flows between ESPON countries**



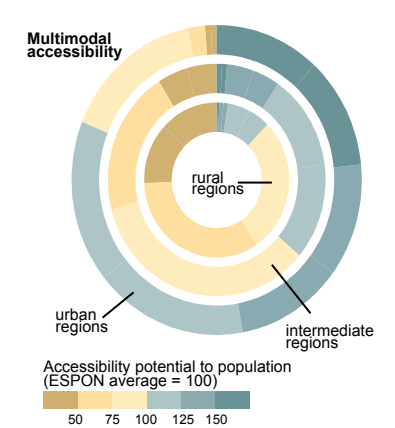
Source: MIMOSA, 2009

**Natural and agricultural land lost due to urban development, 2000–2006**



Source: ESPON EU-LUPA, 2012

**Accessibility potential travel, multimodal, by urban-rural typology**



Source: ESPON TRACC, 2013  
 Origin of data: S&W 2013

## Nineteen ESPON Contact Points jointly brought territorial evidence closer for decision-making

Analytic evidence on territorial development is produced on the national and European level in order to support decision-making. However, the way how the information on territorial development is actually utilised and how the use of territorial evidence can be enhanced, is a challenge faced by the national Contact Points of the ESPON programme (ECPs). In their role to capitalise ESPON results, 19 ECPs joined their experience and resources to carry out a Transnational Networking Activity of the ESPON 2013 Programme to bring ESPON evidence closer for decision-making. The BBSR coordinated the ESPONontheRoad project as a Lead Partner.

During the relatively short project lifetime of one year, the participating ECPs in 2014 brought ESPON closer to the local and regional level and in physical and virtual forms to citizens. The project built a bridge between issues on the local level and scientific evidence on EU territorial development policy themes.

Already in the preparation phase of the project, it turned out that there is a wide range of policy and political issues with high actuality not only on the European, but also on the national or regional level. After taking stock of the most recent policy issues in each national context, ECPs formed transnational working groups to have a common understanding of the messages coming from ESPON results. In this way, ESPON results were put into the macroregional context of West, South, North and Central-Eastern areas, and both the content-related and the organisational tasks were organised in a balanced way.

To facilitate the use of ESPON results, European territorial development trends were interpreted with the specificities for the macroregion and the consequences for the local-regional level in brief information materials, which help users even in national languages.

33 events throughout Europe mostly targeted stakeholders at the local-regional level and served as a meeting place for scientific evidence on European territorial development and the perception of territorial development at local level. Altogether 1800 people participated in 22 national events for stakeholders. In addition, five transnational events focussed

on the specificities of a macroregion. The wider public, citizens, families, youth could get to know Europe through ESPON in various public events. In Germany, stakeholders matched ESPON results with their practical experience at a workshop in Bonn organised in cooperation with the Cologne-Bonn region (Region Köln/Bonn e.V.). Citizens learned about Europe through ESPON during the Open Days of the Federal Government at the stand of the BBSR in Berlin and a wide audience at the eureka fair on regional development in Leipzig could get familiar with topics like the regional impact of the economic crisis or territorial scenarios for Europe.

Journalistic activities supplemented the work of some ECPs and supported communication in some countries with a high media presence in national newspapers, TV, radio or blogs. However, as a main information source, the project website, where all information about the activities was made available and the e-library developed by previous projects was integrated, served the audience. The project also benefitted from the use of social media. Short, quick information post with maps, diagrammes, videos related to recent issues of policy, politics or events within ESPON reached more than 300 people on Facebook and more than 200 on Twitter regularly.

Based on the experiences within the project and previous projects, the ECPs involved formulated recommendations for the ESPON 2020 Programme to enhance the use of ESPON evidence in the future. The results of the project are available at [www.esponontheroad.eu](http://www.esponontheroad.eu).



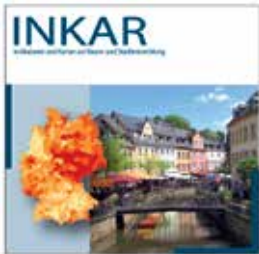
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## Spatial Development

### INKAR – indicators and maps on spatial and urban development in Germany and Europe – now online free of charge



In which regions do people earn the most? Where do they live the longest? Which municipalities have the highest debts? The BBSR's new web application provides detailed information about the living conditions in Germany and Europe. More than 600 indicators enable comparisons of urban and rural regions as well as analyses over time.

INKAR offers regional statistical information concerning themes of social importance such as education, social affairs, demography, economy, housing and environment. The indicators depict the related current state of spatial development. They are primarily based on official statistical data of the Federal Government and the federal states. Both administrative and non-administrative units serve as territorial reference units. Most of the statistics used go back to 1995 thus enabling to compare trends easily.

INKAR can be intuitively used. Tables or thematic maps of all counties and regions or similar in Germany and Europe can be produced in a few steps.

The BBSR and INKAR address many groups of users:

- Cities, towns and municipalities may use these local data as a basis for planning activities and political decisions.
- For scientists, teachers and market researchers, INKAR is a user-friendly instrument and large investigation pool helping to create regional benchmarks, subject materials or potential analyses.
- Journalists are able to underpin their reports statistically with their investigation results and to illustrate them graphically.
- Companies and associations use the detailed, small territorial unit-based information for geographical profiles and market analyses.

INKAR has proved to be a useful instrument for city/town and county administrations, for regional and federal state planners, for associations, universities offering spatial science-related study courses but also in geography lessons at high/grammar schools. INKAR is furthermore used by Federal Government bodies such as the German Bundestag, the Federal Press Office and by the scientific service of the Office of the Federal President.

#### Special features

- INKAR offers the largest and most detailed regional statistical information basis currently available based on various official and non-official including own statistical sources. Information is available for the whole German territory and the regions of the European Union.
- In Germany, the indicators do not only refer to administrative units such as municipalities, counties, federal states but also to related comparative categories (e.g. urban-rural relations, east-west, types of settlements) and other types of regions.
- The statistical parameters mainly refer to time series (18 years and more) and enable unlimited comparisons over space and time.
- Flexible access to the information basis allows to collect the information according to theme, territorial reference unit and time and to export it into current formats.
- The whole INKAR information basis is available free of charge.

This free availability meets with the open government idea of the German Federal Government and the EU Commission. The idea is practised via various projects as well as through laws and regulations, that have already come into force. Open government means that German federal authorities shall provide their geodata as completely as possible and free of charge for every purpose.

The principle is: What is financed by taxes, is free to everyone. This is also the opinion held by our Minister, Dr Barbara Hendricks.

#### Further information:

[www.inkar.de](http://www.inkar.de)

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## Transnational Perspectives for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

How does transnational cooperation support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)? This question forms the main subject of the publication “Transnational Perspectives for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises”, in which the results of a theme-related evaluation of 15 Interreg IV B projects with German participation will be presented.

Small and medium-sized enterprises form the backbone of the European economy. This category accounts for more than 98 per cent of all enterprises and makes up two thirds of all jobs in the private sector. The term “SME” encompasses quite different enterprises: micro-enterprises with few employees as well as “seasoned” small- and medium-sized enterprises, craft businesses rooted in a specific locality but also internationally oriented world market leaders, so-called “hidden champions”. In times of economic crisis, small and medium-sized enterprises have proved to be an important stabilizing factor in the economic structure of many regions in Europe.

If we want to maintain our competitiveness and promote intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth in line with the objectives of the “Europe 2020” strategy, it is therefore particularly important to support SMEs. Accordingly, there is a large number of programmes, initiatives and projects both on the European and German level addressing SME and offering attractive overall conditions for SMEs. Strategic approaches such as the European Small Business Act (SBA) or the national initiative to support small and medium-sized enterprises show that a policy oriented towards SMEs encompasses several fields of action. Transnational cooperation (better known under the name of Interreg B) can play an important role here. The project examples presented in this brochure demonstrate how transnational projects could help to promote these fields of action (see figure).

Although Interreg is a relatively small support programme, the examples presented nevertheless show how it is possible to successfully implement a large spectrum of measures with Interreg B which serve to promote and support SMEs. They range from the joint development of seals of quality,

measures dealing with age management in enterprises to tapping bigger markets in very different areas. In all these cases, the projects benefit from the transnational dimension. In contrast to other EU funding programmes, Interreg offers the possibility to launch innovations and to advance creative pilot approaches. What is more, Interreg projects make it possible to unite strategy and actual implementation in situ and to promote joint transnational awareness.

Until recently, SMEs have less formally been involved as project partners in transnational cooperation, but were mainly target group and beneficiaries of project activities and their achievements. There is a greater focus on SMEs in the new programming period 2014–2020 and its alignment with the Europe 2020 strategy: Although SME promotion is not a priority of the transnational Interreg programmes in the new programming period either – the promotion of SMEs is assured through a cross-sectoral approach – the involvement of for-profit companies is now explicitly encouraged in all six Interreg programme areas with German participation.

We therefore seek with this brochure to show project stakeholders such as towns, cities and regions, but also SMEs themselves, the added value that this transnational cooperation may offer to small and medium-sized enterprises.

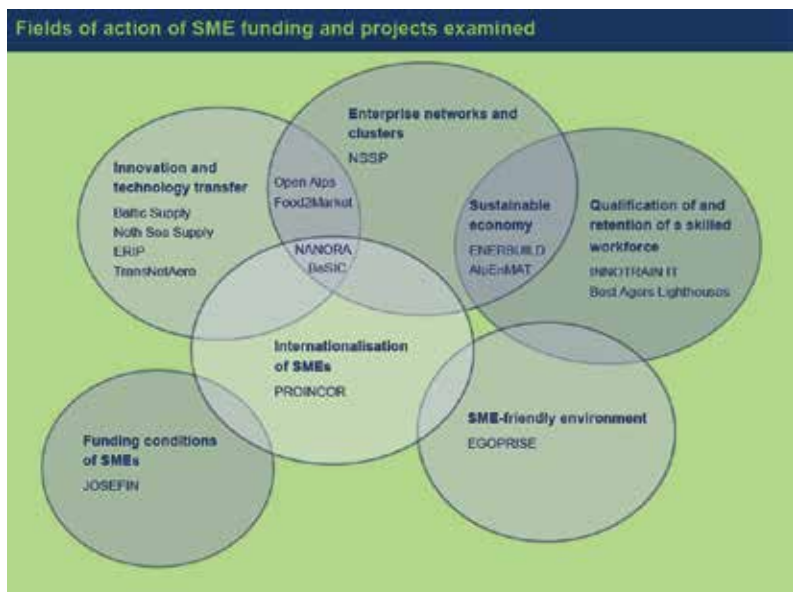
**Interreg<sub>B</sub>**  
Zusammenarbeit. Transnational.

The publication is available in English and German and can be ordered free of charge at [beatrix.thul@bbr.bund.de](mailto:beatrix.thul@bbr.bund.de), keyword: SME

For more information on the project see [www.bbsr.bund.de](http://www.bbsr.bund.de)  
> Programme > MORO > Studien  
> Thematische Auswertung der transnationalen Zusammenarbeit ...

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## The BBSR at the 7th International Conference on Applied Energy (ICEA)



The BBSR presented the results of a joint research project with the University of Naples at the 7th International Conference on Applied Energy (ICEA) in Abu Dhabi.

The editors of the international journal "Applied Energy" established this global conference in order to provide a framework for immediate exchange among the scientific community publishing in the journal as well as to promote the dialogue between scientists, young academics and public stakeholders from administrations and businesses. This is why, the conference gave a useful opportunity to get in contact with scientists from around the world and to extend the scientific network of the BBSR.

The topic of this year's conference was "Clean, Efficient and Affordable Energy for a Sustainable Future". The conference included plenary sessions, keynote lectures, and also

concurrent specified meetings on a variety of topics related to applied energy ranging from advanced energy systems to policy and economics through to energy efficiency. This year's host of the conference was the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology of Abu Dhabi supported by the Mälardalen University of Sweden.

The paper presented by the BBSR deals with the protection against summer overheating in non-residential buildings required by the German DIN 4108 standard. In this context, the DIN standard of 2003 and the current version of 2013 are compared. Additionally, passive methods aiming to enhance the thermal comfort in existing buildings during summertime are explored. It seems odd to discuss passive cooling methods in a place where air conditioning and mechanical cooling are already omnipresent. Nevertheless, many participants arrived from countries with climate conditions similar to those in Germany. Thus, preserving resources is one of the primary goals of sustainable energy usage and it is highly recommended to operate with passive methods to prevent summer overheating as often as possible.

About 90 sessions with ten parallel sessions took place over three days and about 500 papers on a wide range of topics were presented. Nevertheless, it was an inspiring experience to meet so many people who are eager to lead the world into a more sustainable future.

All conference papers will be published in the open access journal "Energy Procedia" by ELSEVIER (<http://www.journals.elsevier.com/energy-procedia/special-issues/>).

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## Final meeting of Concerted Action III of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010/31/EU)

The Concerted Action of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) is a network funded by the European Commission enabling European Union Member States experts involved in the implementation of the Directive to discuss common problems and to share experiences. The Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development within the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning is the appointed German contract partner for this network.

The final meeting of Concerted Action III EPBD took place in Tallinn, Estonia, from 2nd to 4th March 2015. In most sessions of this meeting, the discussion was dominated by two general topics.

One of them is "nearly-Zero Energy Buildings" (nZEB). From 2019, all new public buildings and, from 2021, new buildings in general in all Member States have to meet the nZEB standard. Preliminary to the obligation, the nZEB standard has to be defined. Some Member States have already introduced a definition, while others like Germany are still due to define the standard. During some of the sessions in Tallinn, the existing definitions of Member States were compared, the status and the obstacles of the implementation of the nZEB standard in all Member States were discussed, outstanding examples of best practices concerning the implementation were presented and prototypes of high performance buildings in various Member States were put forward. Estonian projects of multi-family buildings which were refurbished according to nZEB-standards were the subject of a study tour on 5th March 2015 subsequent to the meeting.

A second focus was on the Energy Performance Certificates (EPC), which all Member States have introduced. The European Commission requires Member States to check the quality of the issued EPCs, therefore a representative percentage of them has to be controlled by an independent system. In Germany, this is a task of the federal states ("Bundesländer") which is the reason why the transposition still needs a great effort of coordination.



Refurbishment of a traditional Estonian wooden building

Furthermore, experts discussed in Tallinn how EPCs could be more user-friendly, how energy savings achievable by modernisation could be estimated more realistically in the certificates, how they could be useful for the monitoring of the renovation rate and which data can be used sufficiently.

Member State experts and the European Commission agree that there is still a need for networking in this field; the Concerted Action EPBD should continue after the Tallinn meeting. Especially the revision of the EPBD stipulated in Article 18 of the Directive should be a subject for further networking. The Member States decided to apply to the European Commission for another funding period (Concerted Action IV EPBD) and the Commission intends to support four more years. Once more, the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development will act as the German partner and looks forward to continuing the fruitful cooperation and collaboration with the other European Union Member States and Norway.

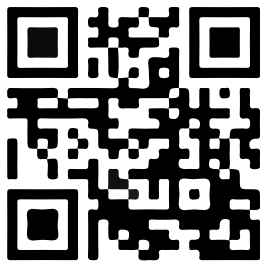
For more information of the BBSR concerning the Concerted Action EPBD, please see <http://www.bbsr-energieeinsparung.de/EnEVPortal/DE/Europa/Aktion/aktion.html>

For the official homepage of the Concerted Action EPBD, please see <http://www.epbd-ca.eu/>

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## Life cycle assessment of buildings Assessing the global ecological quality of a building with eLCA



<http://www.bauteileditor.de>

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Apart from the architectural and functional quality of a building, the ecological quality as well has become more important in the last few years. One reason are the global requirements set by the assessment systems for sustainable building. While in the usual planning process, the environmental effects of the energy requirements of a building are considered in line with the Energy Saving Ordinance, the integrated planning approach, which forms the basis of sustainable building, also takes the ecological quality of the building materials used into account. Environmental impacts resulting from the production and disposal of materials and from maintaining a building are thus to the same degree considered in the global assessment as the energy required during the use of a building. Based on this extended approach, the environmental effects of a building are assessed over its whole life cycle, from its construction to its demolition. The ecological assessment of buildings is based on the ÖKOBAUDAT database. ÖKOBAUDAT is an open source internet database of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety which can be found at [www.oekobaudat.de](http://www.oekobaudat.de). It provides various building material data sets and their global ecological qualities. The ÖKOBAUDAT data sets are based on strict quality criteria and are laid down as basic data

in the Assessment System for Sustainable Building (BNB).

The arithmetical assessment of the ecological quality of a building over its whole life cycle is provided by the so-called life cycle assessment (LCA) for a building.

### eLCA, an LCA tool for buildings

The BBSR has developed the eLCA tool, which is easy to use and which helps the user generate a BNB-based life cycle assessment for buildings. With eLCA, both new buildings and existing buildings, which have to be refurbished, can be assessed. In addition to the LCA for buildings, it is possible to assess the transports based on the building materials used.

The ÖKOBAUDAT data sets required for the assessments have already been fully integrated in eLCA. One important reason for developing eLCA was to depict all data and the assessments based on them in a comprehensible, transparent way. Especially eLCA's core component, the component editor, supports the user in entering the building components. A dynamic diagram depicts the modelled components and allows a visual control.

The calculations performed with eLCA can also be interpreted and understood by unexperienced users. Following an intensive test phase at universities, within research projects and in the context of assessing buildings according to the BNB, users now have a life cycle assessment tool for buildings at hand by which they are able to assess new and existing buildings according to the BNB. The tool was presented to the public during the BAU 2015 in Munich.

### 1 Entering building components with the eLCA component editor

330 Exterior walls BUILDING - BUILDING CONSTRUCTIONS

Facade\_East [1835] ELEMENTS

**General**

Name \*  
Facade\_East

Attributes

U-value R-value

QZ

Description  
BNB 4.1.4

Demanting Separation Utilization

Installed capacity \* Reference value \*  
400 m<sup>2</sup>

Save Add new element

Linked building elements

Building element (opaque)	Installed capacity	DIN 276	
1. Gypsum plaster/paint	350 m <sup>2</sup>	336 Exterior wall claddings, interior	Edit   Remove   Delete
2. Bricks 24 cm	350 m <sup>2</sup>	331 Load-bearing exterior walls	Edit   Remove   Delete
3. ETICS	350 m <sup>2</sup>	335 Exterior wall claddings, exterior	Edit   Remove   Delete

Building element (non-opaque)

1. Windows_insulating glass	50 m <sup>2</sup>	334 Exterior doors and windows	Edit   Remove   Delete
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Add new building



## Harmonization of building material data sets and databases for LCA in Europe

Sustainability considerations in the construction sector are nowadays established in many European countries often using certification schemes to evaluate the sustainability of buildings. The life cycle assessment (LCA) of buildings is a central instrument to evaluate the ecological quality of a building, e.g. global warming, ozone depletion, photochemical ozone creation, acidification and eutrophication potential.

As part of the Sustainable Building programme in Germany, the Federal Government provides important infrastructure to choose suitable building products. The ÖKOBAUDAT online database provides the required building material data sets (generic data and data from environmental product declarations EPD) and the eLCA calculation tool for the LCA of buildings.

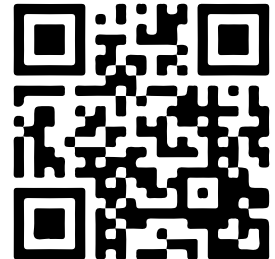
One of the milestones of ÖKOBAUDAT was to develop a data format which meets the EN 15804 standard, but also follows an extended International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) format. As an internet-aware data format, it was designed to explicitly allow data to be published and linked as resources via the internet. The advantage of this new approach is that existing software tools with built-in support for the ILCD format can be easily enabled to support the new EPD data set as well with only minor changes to its internal information structures. It should be emphasized that ÖKOBAUDAT is running on an open source software platform (soda4LCA), which allows the development of further modules by which new features can be used or added to procedures.

Nowadays, in many European countries a rising number of EPD conform to EN 15804 is produced by national EPD programme operators. Hence, it should be emphasized, that data from any national as well as European EPD programme operator can be easily imported into the online database. In Germany, for example, the "Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V. (IBU)" as an important EPD programme operator has equipped its own database application with tools to directly import its data online into ÖKOBAUDAT. As not all institutions, which are able to offer suitable

building materials-related data, will be able to generate data with a tool of their own, the open source LCA modelling tool "openLCA" was developed allowing to create suitable EPD data which subsequently can be imported into ÖKOBAUDAT.

The possibility to directly import data into an online database (this could be a European joint database) within a given harmonised data format which follows the generally accepted European standards is a great chance for a consistent and comparable LCA establishment within the context of the sustainability considerations in the field of construction. Some European countries are already highly interested in using the data format developed and in finding a way of integrating their data into the ÖKOBAUDAT or a joint data network. These developments of the new data format and organisation in an online data system are in the phase of initial application. There is a high potential for a harmonised and consistent way of using material- and product-relevant LCA or EPD data for the LCA of buildings within Europe.

On March 27th, 2015, a first meeting of several European member states (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Spain) was organized by the BBSR in Berlin to discuss joint activities concerning the harmonization of LCA data sets and databases in the construction sector in Europe. Further meetings and joint research projects are planned to be carried out.



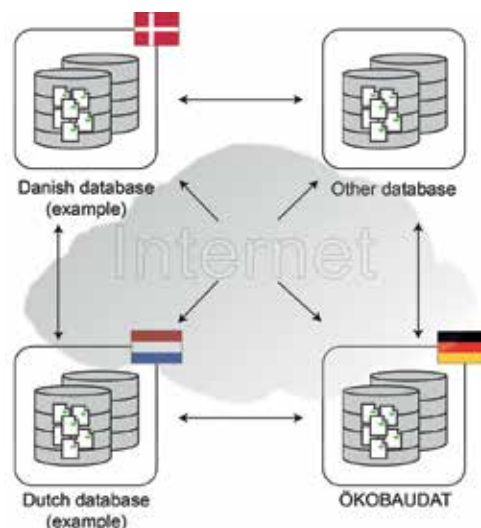
<http://www.oekobaudat.de>

### Links

[www.oekobaudat.de](http://www.oekobaudat.de)  
[www.nachhaltigesbauen.de](http://www.nachhaltigesbauen.de)  
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Idea of a European LCA data network for sustainable building (example)

## Latest Map

### EU 2020 indicators – latest data on poverty and social exclusion

#### More information

The results are part of a larger analysis presented by Tobias Panwinkler and Peter Schön at the EU2020 Special Session of the RSA Conference in Piacenza this year.

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The Europe 2020 strategy is the EU's agenda for growth and jobs for the current decade, succeeding the Lisbon strategy. It puts forward three mutually reinforcing key priorities: smart growth, sustainable growth and inclusive growth. Under those priorities, the EU adopted five headline targets. Those headline targets are monitored using a set of nine headline indicators and additional sub-indicators. In addition, the strategy has identified seven policy areas that serve as engines for growth and jobs. They are put forward through seven flagship initiatives.

Within the key priority 'Inclusive Growth', two headline targets are defined. One target on poverty and social exclusion and one target on employment. The target on poverty and social exclusion is defined by lifting at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty

or social exclusion by 2020. This target is monitored using the headline indicator 'percentage of the population at risk of poverty or social exclusion'. It is an aggregate of three sub-indicators: people living in households with very low work intensity; people at risk of poverty after social transfers; severely materially deprived people.

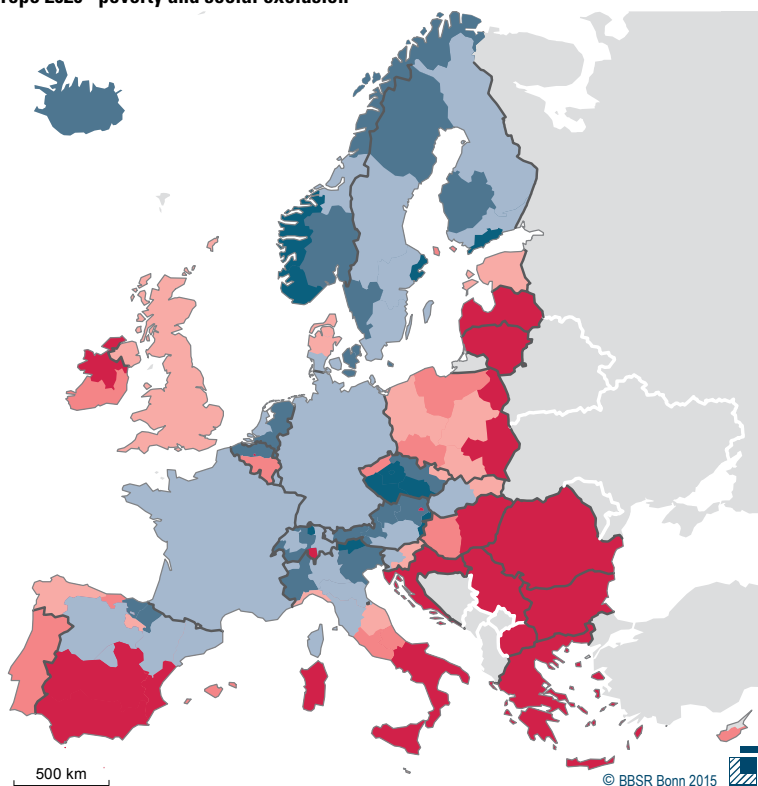
Due to data availability, the baseline year for the monitoring process is 2008. Within the next ten years, the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion must be reduced from 116.6 million to 96.6 million in order to reach the headline target of 20 million people lifted out of the risk.

Eurostat recently published the data for 2013 offering the possibility to monitor the progress at half-time. Assuming a linear decrease, the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion must be lowered by 10 million or to a total number of 106.6 million after five of ten years. This leads to a theoretical average of 21.2 % of the population in all regions.

The development within the last years – especially due to the impact of the economic and financial crisis – made it difficult to reach the target. Instead of decreasing, the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion even increased to almost 122.6 millions at its peak in 2012. At that time, even 26 million people would need to be lifted out of the risk in order to reach the original headline target. At present, it cannot be expected that the original headline target, , can still be reached.

The map shows the present situation of Europe's regions (or member states) with regard to their progress towards the poverty and social exclusion target. As there is no uniform and consistent system of national targets for this indicator, the national/regional situation is compared to the European target, i.e. nations/regions that are below the 21,2 % threshold are coloured in blue, those above in red. The map shows that many regions in Eastern Europe (except parts of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia) and some regions in Southern and Western Europe (bordering the Mediterranean Sea or the British Isles) are lagging behind in terms of combatting poverty and exclusion.

#### Europe 2020 –poverty and social exclusion



Headline indicator 'People at risk of poverty or social exclusion'  
Percentage of total population in 2013

9 to < 13	21,2 to < 25
13 to < 17	25 to < 29
17 to < 21,2	29 and more

Data basis: Spatial Monitoring System Europe, Eurostat REGIO [ilc\_peps11]  
All data 2013 except BE 2011, AT 2012  
Geometric basis:  
GfK GeoMarketing, NUTS 2 regions  
BE, EL, HR, HU, NL, PL: NUTS1  
DE, FR, PT, RS, UK: NUTS0  
Author: T. Panwinkler

no data

## Länderneugliederung in Deutschland Reorganisation of the federal states in Germany

Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR), Issue 5.2014, Ed.: BBSR, Bonn 2014

With the Solidarity Pact expiring in 2019 and the constitutionally established debt brake coming into force at the same time, some federal states are likely to reach the limits of their performance. Financial solidarity among the states also seems to come up against limiting factors as shown by the actions filed by the federal states of Bavaria and Hesse against the financial equalization scheme among the federal states.

Against the background of the permanent discussion about the federal organisation in the Federal Republic of Germany, the Academy for Spatial Research and Planning founded a working group "Reorganising the German federal territory or promoting a cooperation of the federal states?" at the end of 2011. Within this group, experts deal with the territorial organisation of the federal states and analyse chances, opportunities and limits but also alternatives for reorganisation.

In this IzR issue, some working group members get a chance to present their opinions on the following key issues:

- Should tasks be performed homogeneously for the whole German federal territory or should distinctions between regions be admitted or even promoted?
- How can the specific German federalism be supported and further developed in a way that it does not represent the pure administrative reality of growing centralism?

## Zuwanderung, Armut, Verantwortung Immigration, Poverty, Responsibility

Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR), Issue 6.2014, Ed.: BBSR, Bonn 2014

Germany is the most popular country to immigrate to following the USA. Especially since the end of 2013, the immigration issue has been intensively discussed in Germany. The reason is the free movement of labour established for the EU countries Romania and Bulgaria. Since 1 January 2014, immigrants from these countries are permitted to work in Germany without any restriction and without professional qualification. In 2011 already, the free movement of labour had come into force in Poland. At that time as well, people feared large immigration flows, also to the social systems and that social peace would be endangered, which retrospectively proved to be unfounded. The argument of apparent "social tourism" in the context of immigration was disproved by current studies. Taxes and social security contributions paid by immigrants go beyond the sum of transfer payments so that the German social systems are even relieved. The existing shortage of skilled labour as well is being reduced.

This IzR issue deals with the various aspects of immigration and analyses how Germany might better meet its responsibility for the living and working conditions of immigrants.

The journal IzR is available in German language with English abstracts. Some issues contain articles in English language. The abstracts are available as free downloads ([www.bbsr.bund.de](http://www.bbsr.bund.de) > English > publications > Informationen zur Raumentwicklung).

The IzR can be obtained from the Franz Steiner Verlag ([service@steiner-verlag.de](mailto:service@steiner-verlag.de)) and from bookshops as single issue or by yearly subscription. The price for a subscription is 72 euros, a single issue costs 19 euros. All prices plus postage and packing.

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**News**

## Cooperation between the BBSR, the University of Naples Federico II and the University of Sannio

In December 2014, an agreement regarding the bilateral collaboration of the BBSR and the University of Naples Federico II was signed. This was the official starting point for the joint work of both institutions on projects aiming to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. The main goals of the cooperation will be the following:

- sharing research activities by coupling data measurements and simulation studies;
- joint publications and joint participation at national and international conferences ;
- short-term mobility of researchers;
- visiting lectures in the context of seminars, workshops, conferences or university courses;
- developing projects of common interest.

Meanwhile, a similar agreement was concluded with the University of Sannio in March 2015. Both Italian universities have already intensively collaborated in a lot of projects in the field of energy efficiency. This is why the agreement with the University of Sannio is a logical conclusion and reasonable advancement of the agreement with the University of Naples. In the context of both agreements, annual meetings of the project coordinators are foreseen. The main objectives of the meetings are to evaluate the projects realised and to arrange new projects but also to improve the exchange of knowledge and to give information to all parties involved about

actual activities. The first meeting took place from 20th to 24th April 2015 in Naples and Benevento (location of University of Sannio). From the BBSR, Dr. Kaltenbrunner (AL II) and Dr. Böttcher (RL II7) participated.

First results of the trilateral collaboration do already exist. During the visiting periods of Fabrizio Ascione in Berlin and Uta Krone in Naples, two scientific papers were developed and submitted at the International Conference on Applied Energy. Following a process of peer-review, both papers were accepted by the conference committee and were presented at the conference in Abu Dhabi (27th-31st April 2015). Furthermore, the papers will be published in the international journal "Energy Procedia", an open access publication by ELSEVIER.

During the meeting period, Dr. Böttcher was invited to give a lecture at the University of Sannio. The main focus of the lecture was on energetic aims in the German building sector in general and the special energetic target specifications for the buildings of the Federal Government. Especially the energy concepts of these buildings and the results of the monitoring were very inspiring for the students. The different technologies used, their practical implementation via the energy supply concept and the experiences from the operational phase of the buildings were lively discussed.

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