



Dear Readers,

The BBSR has started to set up its regional development competence centre in Cottbus, Germany. A total of 50 new skilled jobs will be created by the end of 2022. In the medium term, around 90 people will work in the competence centre and support Lusatia's lane change from a lignite to a sustainable energy and future region. The new facility will accompany the structural change in all regions affected by the coal phase-out with its scientific expertise and actively support cities and municipalities.

Structural change requires all forces to be pooled. Through research and advice, the competence centre will support the coal regions in implementing good projects and ideas for sustainable regional development. This applies above all to areas that are particularly important for spatial planning – such as competitiveness, the energy transition, services of general interest, settlement and landscape design, climate change and digitisation.

So far, the BBSR has already funded projects in Lusatia with double-digit amounts in millions. This commitment is to be intensified in the future, because the BBSR has a central interface and mediation function from the Federal Government to the regional level. The focus is always on improving the living conditions of the local people.

How the regional living conditions differ will among other things be shown by demographic developments – a focus of this issue. We will also present the population and household forecast of the BBSR. I wish you a good read!



Dr Markus Eltges
Director of the Federal Institute for Research on Building,
Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR)

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New population forecast
for urban and rural counties
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Report "Small Towns
in Germany"
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17 pilot projects for resilient
urban development
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Equal living conditions: only with the support of small towns

At the end of 2019, 24.4 million people lived in small towns – almost as many as in the 80 largest German cities (26.6 million). The geographical location of small towns, central or peripheral, explains differences in local living conditions. Regardless of their location, small towns contribute significantly to equal living conditions – as places to live, but also as economic centres in the regions where many hidden global market leaders have their headquarters. The municipalities have to catch up, especially in providing fast Internet connections, as revealed by the report "Small Towns in Germany" published by the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR).

Most small towns situated in the areas surrounding large cities have recorded increases in population over the last ten years, whereas the population in municipalities outside the metropolitan areas continued to decline. Small towns in structurally strong rural regions in southern Germany, which gained population despite their peripheral location, are an exception. In eastern Germany, population growth is concentrated in the large cities, apart from the area around Berlin. Overall, the population in small towns increased by 1.2 percent or 291,000 inhabitants between 2009 and 2019.

Differences between central and peripheral municipalities are also evident in the age and social structure of the population: in centrally located small towns, the population is younger on average (44.6 years) than in peripheral ones (45.9 years) and in very peripheral ones (47.9 years). Small towns in the surrounding area of municipalities also have an above-average share of households with higher incomes. In most small towns, however, the income classes are evenly distributed. Especially in eastern Germany, there are numerous small towns with an above-average number of low-income households.

Small towns are not only places to live, but also very important for the region as business locations and job markets. Centrally located municipalities more frequently accommodate highly innovative companies and places of work for employees in knowledge-intensive sectors. As a result, the number of employees in knowledge-intensive occupations has risen there in recent years.

The significance of small towns as business locations is also evident in the 'Hidden Champions' – i. e. predominantly medium-sized companies that are very successful in

global markets. Of these 1,691 companies, 518 have their headquarters in small towns, 174 of them in peripheral locations. The companies are mainly located in Baden-Württemberg, North Rhine-Westphalia, Hesse and Bavaria. In peripheral locations they are mainly found in Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria. In East Germany, on the other hand, there are very few of these companies.

The study reveals deficits in the provision of fast Internet connections – an important locational factor: Of small-town households, 76 % were provided with a bandwidth of 100 Mbit/s in 2020, compared to 96 % in the major cities. In peripherally located small towns, the figure was almost 8 percentage points lower (71.5 %) than in centrally located ones (79.2 %). Only 35 % of small-town households had a bandwidth of 1,000 Mbit/s in 2020 (large cities: 82 %).

Staff shortages in city administrations limit design possibilities. Small towns are no exception. This applies not only to planning processes, but also to their implementation. The COVID 19 pandemic has also caused financial losses in small towns – with high pandemic-related expenditures at the same time. It is not yet clear how the pandemic will affect municipal finances in the medium to long term, posing an uncertainty that can lead to important investment projects being postponed or even cancelled.

The report indicates opportunities for action for small towns primarily in inter-municipal cooperation, city-wide development concepts and new forms of cooperation between urban society, local economy, politics and administration. In order for small towns to benefit from the increased use of digital solutions, broadband coverage must be expanded there as a top priority. The research paper also provides information on the federal government's urban development policy and the BBSR's research to support small towns. Concepts from large cities cannot be transferred automatically to small towns. The current pilot phase of the "Small Town Academy" (www.kleinstadtakademie.de) shows the need for permanent, institutionalised support for small town development.

Interested parties can order the report free of charge from the BBSR: gabriele.bohm@bbr.bund.de. A digital version is available at www.bbsr.bund.de.



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Nationwide spatial development plan for flood protection comes into force



Flooded river banks and industrial area at Rhine River and Main River

iStock.com/ollo

On 1 September 2021, the transnational spatial development plan for flood protection of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (German: BMI) came into force after detailed preliminary studies and extensive participation of the public and public bodies.

Dr Markus Kerber, State Secretary in the BMI: "The recent flood disaster in Rhineland-Palatinate and in North Rhine-Westphalia shows that flood protection should not only be about normal river flooding. We must now also take into account flood events caused by heavy rainfall. In future, these events will continue to increase due to climate change. Therefore, we must give water more space, and water must be able to seep into the ground as far as possible everywhere."

Accordingly, in addition to regulations on flood risk management, especially with regard to residential development and critical infrastructure, the spatial development plan also makes regulations on obtaining and keeping clear retention areas and on maintaining and improving the water seepage and retention capacity of the soil.

The spatial development plan was developed by the BMI in cooperation with the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR). It is intended to support the water legislation, which primarily governs flood protection, but also the different flood prevention measures in the spatial development plans of the individual federal states.

Dr Markus Eltges, Director of the BBSR: "Floods do not stop at state borders, so protective measures must cover the river basins as a whole. With the help of the federal spatial development plan, we are setting the first uniform nationwide standards for spatial planning in flood prevention. It is important that the regulations of the spatial development plan are now taken up as quickly as possible in the federal states and locally and that they are backed up by the water management sector."



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BBSR presents new population forecast for urban and rural counties

According to the ninth BBSR population forecast, the population of Germany will decline only slightly to 81.9 million by 2040. This means that, compared to 2020, there will be about 1.3 million fewer people living in Germany – a significantly smaller decline than previously expected. However, the picture of stability at the national level masks large regional differences. While economically strong cities and their surrounding areas continue to grow along with some rural regions, the population continues to decline in structurally weak areas away from the metropolises.

Most of the urban and rural counties with increasing populations are to be found in the old federal states. The researchers forecast the largest population growth – over 14 % by 2040 – for the surrounding counties of Munich: Dachau, Erding and Ebersberg as well as for the urban counties of Landshut and Leipzig. Particularly in the old federal states, there are many urban counties in which the number of children and teenagers will increase by more than a fifth by 2040 – for example in Regensburg, Munich and Freiburg. This is because the populations in these areas are already very young and an above-average number of children are being born. Of all the urban and rural counties in the new federal states, Leipzig could register a particularly sharp increase in the number of children and teenagers (+25 %). Berlin, Potsdam, Dresden, Erfurt, Rostock, Jena and Chemnitz can expect growths of at least 5 %.

In contrast, numerous structurally weak rural counties away from the metropolises are seeing a decline in population. According to the BBSR forecast, the rural counties of Salzlandkreis, Greiz, Elbe-Elster, Altenburger Land and Mansfeld-Südharz will lose about a fifth of their population by 2040. In regions with sharply declining population figures, the forecast expects an above-average increase in the average age of the inhabitants. In 2040 the average age of people in the rural counties of Elbe-Elster, Spree-Neiße, Greiz and Altenburger Land is expected to be about 52. At the other end of the scale there are university cities like Mainz, Münster, Freiburg, Heidelberg and Jena. By 2040 the average

age in these urban counties is expected to be about 42. The BBSR calculates that the average age for Germany as a whole will increase from 44.3 years (2017) to 45.9 in 2040.

The number of people of pensionable age will increase nationwide by 4.1 million (+23 %) by 2040, according to the BBSR forecast. Correspondingly, their proportion of the total population will increase to 26.6 %. In 2017 the figure had been 21.4 %. Many counties in Bavaria are expected to record particularly strong growth in this respect. This is explained by the fact that an above-average number of people already live in these regions surrounding Nuremberg and Munich, who will reach retirement age in the next few years. In the new federal states however, the proportion is hardly growing or even declining. Here the cause is the high proportion of people already in this age group.

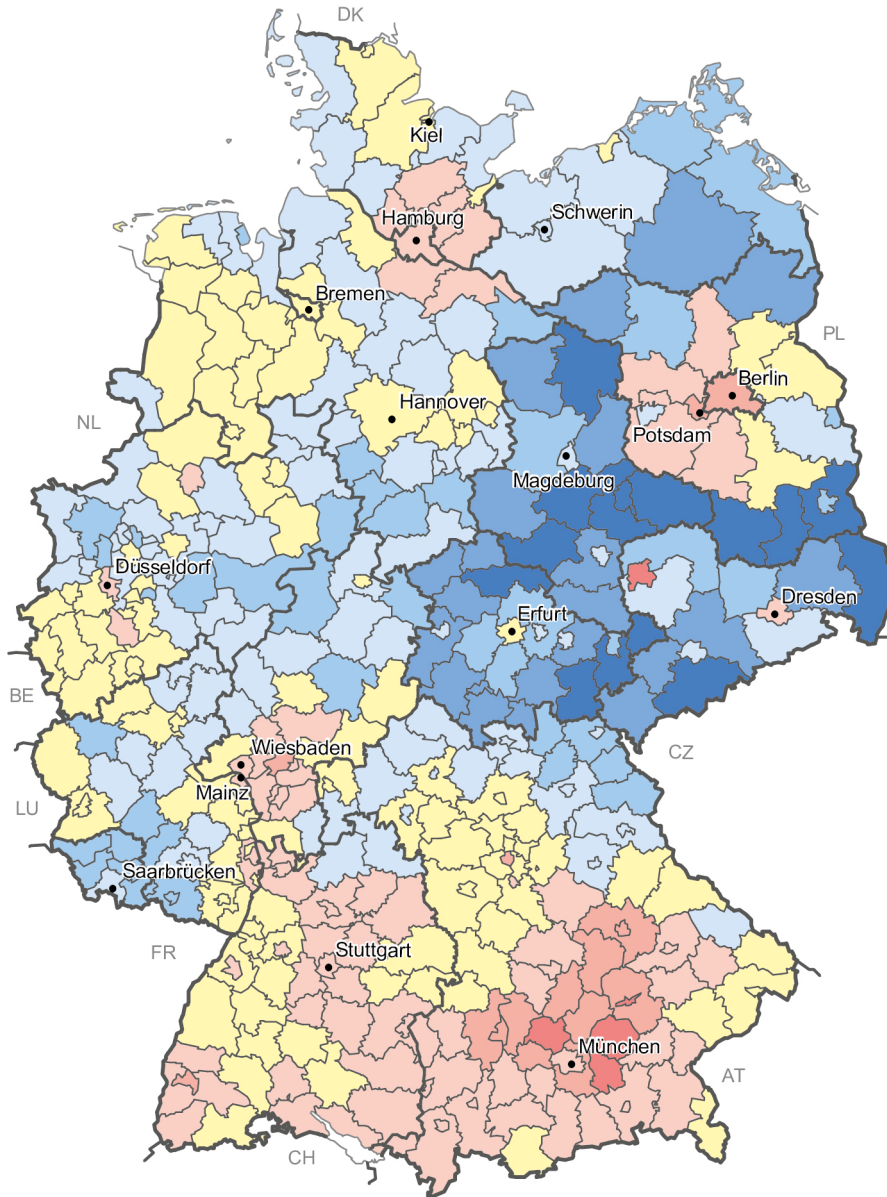
"Our population forecast is an important basis of information for policies that promotes equal living conditions in all parts of Germany. This look into the future shows that the structurally weak regions are facing considerable challenges. To meet these challenges, there is a continued need for an active structural policy", says Dr Markus Eltges, Director of the BBSR.

The regionally differentiated forecast of the BBSR makes its assumptions on the basis of long-term demographic developments. These include external and internal migration as well as births and deaths. The forecast assumes these trends will remain stable in the future. Accordingly, it cannot reflect future policies and crises that suddenly occur and which have lasting effects.

Interested parties can download the population forecast and a dashboard with data and visualisations for all urban and rural counties (in German): www.bbsr.bund.de.

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Overall population development

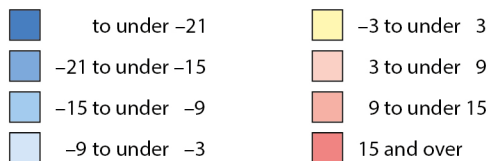


100 km

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Projected population development for the period 2017–2040 in %



Processing: J. Hoymann, G. Lackmann
 Source of data: BBSR-Bevölkerungsprognose 2040/ROP
 Geometric Basis: Counties (generalised),
 31.12.2018 © GeoBasis-DE/BKG

Number of single households will continue to rise until 2040

While the population of Germany is expected to decline slightly by 2040, the number of households continues to rise – particularly single households. However, regional differences are evident in the patterns of development. In the conurbations, but also in many rural areas of southern Germany, the number of households will increase slightly. On the other hand, in regions with declining populations, the number of households will decrease. These are the conclusions presented by the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) in its Household Forecast 2040.

The number of smaller one- or two-person households in Germany will increase by 3.8 % to 33 million by 2040. In contrast, the number of larger households with three or more persons will decrease by 6.4 % to 9.6 million.

The single-person household is already by far the most common form of household in Germany. According to the Federal Statistical Office, in 2019 one-person households accounted for about 42 % (17.6 million) of all households. According to BBSR calculations, that proportion will increase to about 44 % in 2040. In the city states (Berlin, Hamburg and Bremen), more than every second household (52 %) will then be inhabited by people living alone.

Commenting on this trend, Dr Markus Eltges, Director of the BBSR, said: "The increase in the number of smaller households is changing the supply and demand for housing. We need many more smaller homes for one and two persons. In addition, more and more older people are living alone. The demand for barrier-free homes, both new builds and existing properties will increase, as will the demand for local care and health services. At the same time, there is a need for more social facilities and stronger networks at neighbourhood level, so that we can provide people living alone with measures to combat loneliness – in towns and rural areas."

The Household Forecast is part of the Regional Planning Forecast 2040. This

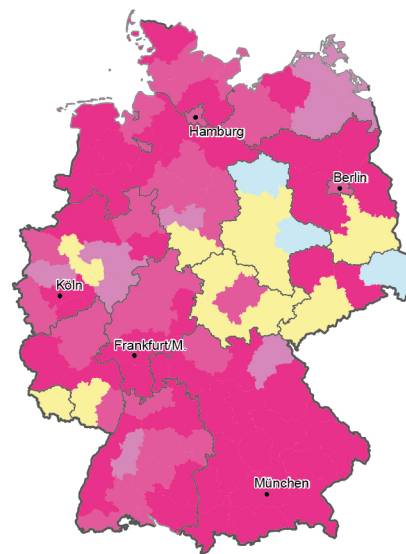
shows how population, household and labour force figures will change nationwide and regionally in Germany by 2040, if past trends remain stable in the future. The Regional Planning Forecast also provides information about structural changes. The regionally differentiated forecast makes its assumptions on the basis of long-term demographic developments. Accordingly, the forecasts cannot reflect future policies and crises that suddenly occur and which have lasting effects.

The Household Forecast 2040 can be downloaded: www.bbsr.bund.de. Printed copies can be ordered free of charge from the BBSR (rs1@bbr.bund.de).

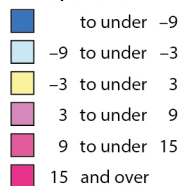
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Past and future changes in households

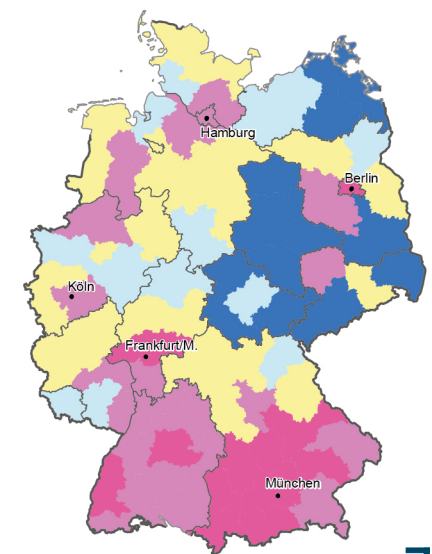
Past (1994–2017)



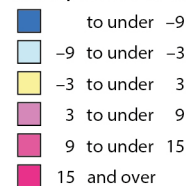
Change in the number of households in the period 1994–2017 in %



Future (2017–2040)



Change in the number of households in the period 2017–2040 in %



Source of data: BBSR Household Forecast 2017–2040/Regional Planning Forecast
Geometric Basis: Regional Planning regions, aggregated from: Counties (generalized), 31.12.2018 © BKG/GeoBasis-DE

Improving everyday life in rural regions in Europe

Securing services of general interest and creating equal living conditions is on the political agenda in Germany as in Europe. A new pilot action on services of general interest in rural and structurally weak areas is intended to reduce the further drifting apart of the regions. Under the title "A future for lagging regions", new solutions will be tested that improve people's everyday lives in these regions – for example in the areas of mobility, medical care and education. In this way, the pilot action links the issue of equal living conditions in Germany with the implementation and realignment of the Territorial Agenda 2030.

The new Territorial Agenda 2030 shall help to strengthen territorial cohesion in the European Union. The associated pilot action under German leadership is one of six projects, each of which focuses on different topics of the Territorial Agenda 2030. The ministers responsible for spatial planning decided on the Territorial Agenda 2030 on 1 December 2020 at an informal meeting during the German EU Council Presidency. Under the heading "A future for all places", the document formulates guidelines for the spatial development policy in the EU, which is based on equal social, economic and ecologically sustainable development of the regions in Europe.

This is to be achieved through six priorities: a balanced Europe, functional regions, integration beyond borders, a healthy environment, a place-based circular economy and sustainable connections. These goals may sound abstract, but they essentially affect everyone. It is about distributive justice, access opportunities, accessibility of local supply services. It's about living and working in an appealing environment, being able to meet daily needs without having to travel long distances, receiving family-friendly offers and being able to be mobile. The Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) is working on putting the Agenda into practice.

The pilot action under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community aims to strengthen the role of rural municipalities for a balanced spatial development and promote interdisciplinary planning processes. One focus is digitisation to secure local services of general interest in the future. The "DorfNews" (village news) app, for example, which citizens can use to find out more about local politics and local events, is to be introduced, a concept for securing



and strengthening family doctor care is to be drawn up and the development of an easy-to-use mobility platform as an alternative to motorised private transport is to be promoted by using the "FahrBar" mobility app and setting up a citizens' bus. The overriding questions are how the role of spatial planning can be strengthened in creating equal living conditions and how spatial planning strategies can be more closely linked to the objectives of different kinds of sector planning at all geographical levels. Based on evaluations and analyses of previous measures, various needs for adaptation are identified and transferred into regional and federal state planning activities. The pilot action contributes to a common understanding of how actions at all spatial levels can support the implementation of the objectives of the Territorial Agenda.

On the German side, the districts of Görlitz and Schleswig-Flensburg and the Planning Association Region Rostock are involved as model regions. In addition, rural regions in France (Grand Est), Portugal (Alentejo) and Austria (Walgau in Vorarlberg) are part of the partnership. In addition to the local or regional level, national authorities in the area of spatial development as well as the European Commission, GD REGIO and ESPON, the European research network for territorial development and cohesion, are involved. Thus, the pilot action takes up one of the core principles for a balanced spatial development by relying on a strong multi-level partnership.

In recent years, the socio-economic gap between rural and urban areas has increased in many regions. The challenges are similar, so it is only natural to develop ideas together – across borders.

Spatial planning across borders

On 27 May 2021 an online launch event was held for the model spatial planning project: "Integrated Planning in the German-Polish Cross-border Region".

The online conference was hosted by the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI) and the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR). Five regions are testing models of cross-border structures and integrated planning processes.

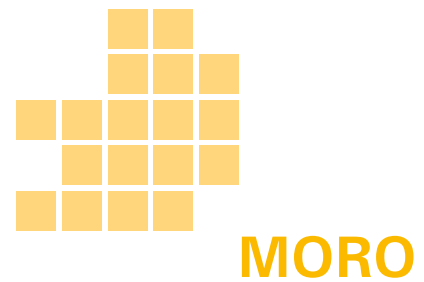
The approaches relate to the action areas of the Common Future Concept 2030, which stems from a 2016 decision by the German-Polish Intergovernmental Commission for Regional and Cross-Border Cooperation. According to this concept, the aim is to exploit the benefits of the polycentric settlement structure, improve transport links, invest in people, support sustainable growth and secure the foundations for a high quality of life in the cross-border region.

The model projects set out various areas of focus

Three countries – One future – Interconnections in the German-Polish-Czech Border Region: In this project, the county of Görlitz is collaborating with the county of Zgorzelec and the Institute for Territorial Development in Wrocław (IRT). The actors want to improve cross-border communication and cooperation in the Saxony-Lower Silesia-Czech border triangle. The partners are working together to address challenges such as demographic change, changes in economic structure, climate change and the consequences of the Covid pandemic.

Key elements of cross-border urban development in the European twin town Frankfurt (Oder) /Ślubice: In the project submitted by the Frankfurt-Ślubice Cooperation Centre, the town of Frankfurt (Oder) and the municipality of Ślubice are setting the course for integrated cross-border urban development in the period up to 2030.

ITF DE-PL – An attractive cross-border integrated transport timetable: The Upper Lusatia-Lower Silesia Transport Association (ZVON) together with the PRO BAHN e. V. passenger association and Stowarzyszenie Polsko-Niemiecka Kolej Pasażerska – the Polish partner association of the German-Polish Rail Passenger Transport Initiative (KolejDEPL), would like to find out how the rail transport passenger offer between Germany and Poland can be better



interlinked and coordinated. This is intended to reduce overall journey times in public transport, and not just across borders.

Two countries. Two towns. One future: The project applicant, the town of Seelow and its Polish partner, the town of Kostrzyn nad Odrą are two anchor towns in the Oder-Warthe Region. In both towns there is a concentration of essential public services. The town centres in particular also have local supply functions. Together with the acting town centre stakeholders, they want to develop steps and strands of action, determine transferability to both towns, and develop a joint strategy paper for town centre development. This will be accompanied by various forms of citizen participation and coordinated initiatives.

Borderline master plan – Koncepcja ramowa – Linia graniczna: In 2016 the municipality of the Baltic resort of Heringsdorf and its partner, the town of Świnoujście had already decided on a project for the joint development of the border strip between the Baltic Sea beach and the Usedomer Bäderbahn (UBB) railway stop on the Swinemünder Chaussee main road. The aim of the project is to ensure sustainable development by linking the potential of the natural environment and the cultural space with the potential for tourism.

Each of the five model projects selected from the call for projects will receive a grant of 50,000 euros for the development of cross-border integrated planning structures and processes. The BBSR will be providing technical support for the model projects.

The German-Polish cross-border region comprises Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Brandenburg, Berlin and Saxony on the German side and the voivodeships of Lower Silesia, Lubusz, Western Pomerania and Greater Poland on the Polish side.

National Progress Report on implementing the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations

Commissioned by the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, BBSR co-authored the first National Progress Report on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations with the German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu). The report is the first of its kind in analysing urban structures and urban trends in an evidence-based and multi-level approach. In writing the report, the authors managed to take some cities and municipalities in Germany on board, thus having written it in the context of an active partnership. The cities and municipalities had been selected on the basis of the BBSR's municipal typology. They are part of a larger group of more than 180 municipalities (as of July 2021) acting as signatories of the specimen resolution on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations.

The New Urban Agenda offers normative guidance for sustainable local development – as goals like climate protection and resilience, inclusion and affordable housing, mobility in cities and regions as well as digitisation and cohesion have to be achieved. The New Urban Agenda does not offer an own indicator system though. As the interlinkages between the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are evident, the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets served as indicator reference points for the National Progress Report. SDG 11 on inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities particularly provided the anchor point of the analysis. A multi-level indicator system prepared the path for evaluating and applying the respective data sources of municipalities, federal states and the Federal Government as well as the EU. This system had been developed in the framework of the former German interministerial working group on sustainable urban development (IMA Stadt) and in close cooperation with all associations of cities, municipalities and counties in Germany as well as other partner institutions. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a few data sets could be used in a limited number only. The evidence-based National Progress Report in 2021 includes the contribution of Germany to the Quadrennial Report on implementing the New Urban Agenda. UN HABITAT will develop this global report on the basis of data and national reports and present it to the General Assembly of the United Nations. The BBSR and the Data and Analytics Section of UN HABITAT staged an online workshop on the data



Sustainable development goals (SDGs)

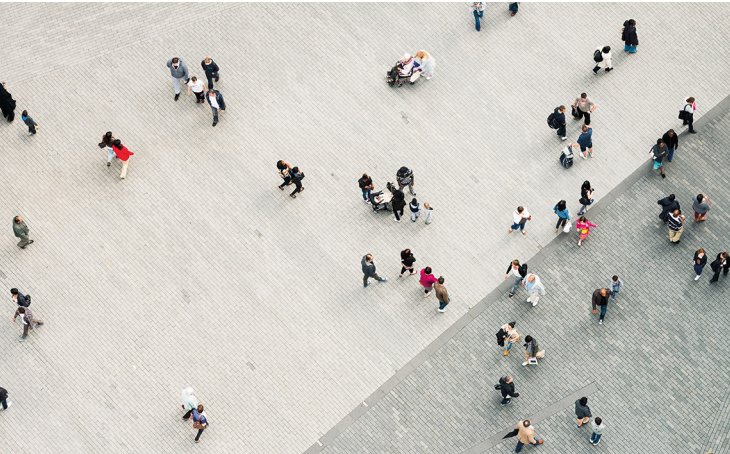
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relevant components of this multi-level analytical approach in August 2021.

The National Progress Report is primarily composed of analyses on climate protection, mobility in an urban-regional context and digitisation. The report and its underlying SDG indicators are compatible with Germany's Sustainable Development Strategy and the respective taxonomies of the German Federal Statistical Office and EUROSTAT. BBSR has meanwhile updated its INKAR tool and made it compatible with the SDGs.

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Post-Corona-Stadt: 17 pilot projects for resilient urban development



Urban crowd from above

istock.com/georgeclerk

In the next three years, the BBSR will support 17 pilot projects on their way to implementing ideas and concepts for achieving a resilient urban development. In the context of the 8th call for project applications under the National Urban Development Policy programme with the title "Post-Corona-Stadt" (post-corona city), projects are funded in three categories:

- 1 Community and local economy in the urban neighbourhood;
- 2 Public space, mobility and urban structure;
- 3 Integrated urban development strategies taking resilience aspects into account.

In all three areas, the focus is on coping with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and sustainably strengthening the municipal crisis resilience. In doing so, innovative approaches are developed in which urban society discourses are held, strategic concepts and programmes of action are worked out cooperatively and implementation steps are jointly taken in the context of experimental laboratories.

For example, Wittenberge, Legden and Rendsburg are trying out new approaches to revitalising inner cities and dealing with vacancies by setting up creative workshops, meeting places and temporary use agencies. In Berlin, Aachen and Frankfurt, the revitalisation of the inner city is also

examined from a strategic perspective. In Berlin, for example, a curated ground floor management is being developed in selected centres, while an academy for collaborative urban development is being set up in Aachen. In Frankfurt, the focus is on developing new processes and networks of actors that shape the transformation of the inner city. The focus of the Weimar project is a new centre for a culture of participation. In Erlangen and Mannheim, urban neighbourhoods outside or on the outskirts of the city centre are examined in order to create new places to live and work together.

The increasing importance of open and green spaces is being examined both in Neuruppin and Munich. In Neuruppin, schoolchildren are developing ideas and concepts for redesigning the city park together with the city council, while in Munich the "park miles" are being upgraded and made better accessible. Projects in Ludwigsburg and Homberg are dedicated to upgrading public spaces and squares, inter alia with short-term "pop-up measures". Squares, parks and streets thus become multifunctional meeting places, places of sport, education, supply and culture.

The projects that are now starting cover both adaptations that can be quickly implemented and long-term strategies. Despite a wide range of approaches and concepts, some common grounds become apparent in the projects: city centres that have so far been primarily used for commercial purposes are becoming meeting places and places of change. This also includes digital offers, such as the establishment of open or flexible workplaces (makerspaces, co-working spaces), and the creation of digital platforms for networking. What all the projects have in common is that cities and neighbourhoods are further developed cooperatively and with a focus on public welfare through diverse constellations of actors.

The projects are accompanied by the BBSR and the Urban Catalyst agency as part of an intensive professional exchange. Transferable findings are prepared for the transfer of knowledge into planning practice.



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Strengthening competitiveness: New Spatial Planning Report

Regional competitiveness requires the permanent efforts of actors from the political, planning and economic sectors and from civil society. The different starting points, but also demographic development and economic structural change present urban and rural areas with very different challenges. This follows from the Spatial Planning Report 2021 of the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR). It primarily takes the spatial and regional planning options for action into account. The German Federal Cabinet took note of the report on 30 June and commented on it.

The economic development in Germany over the past decade has been very positive, although not all regions have equally benefited. The metropolitan regions in particular – and especially the large cities there – were very successful, for example in terms of productivity and digitisation. Likewise, around two thirds of all institutions funded through the EU research programme "Horizon 2020" are located in the large cities of the metropolitan regions. This makes them attractive for further in-migration. However, there are also structurally weak areas: They are characterised by higher unemployment rates, lower incomes, a higher proportion of school leavers without a qualification or a higher proportion of households without fast internet. It is therefore important to qualify the development cores in such a way that their economic radiance can also have an impact on the surrounding area.

Germany will continue to face three major challenges in the future: demographic change combined with a decline in the labour force, increasing globalisation together with the country's high dependency on exports and the change in the world of work due to increasing digitisation. The effects on the regions will be very different depending on the starting point. Often, hardly industrialised regions with a few medium-sized companies are affected. In order for these subareas to be able to reposition themselves in the face of structural change, rapid expansion, in particular of the very powerful digital infrastructure, is required.

"Politics, all sector planning disciplines, the economy, social partners, civil society and science have to constantly review their previous actions in order to keep the German regions competitive", summarises BBSR Director Dr Markus Eltges.



**Spatial Planning
Report 2021**

Source: BBSR, Bonn

"Especially the informal and formal instruments of state and regional planning would have to support this. After all, it is not just about economic performance, but about equal living conditions, prospects of staying, especially in rural areas, and harmonious social coexistence."

The Spatial Planning Report focuses on the topic of "strengthening competitiveness" of the concepts and strategies for spatial development in Germany. It is based on the spatial monitoring system of the BBSR. Each chapter includes conclusions and strategic political recommendations. The report does not only address political decision-makers but provides all those interested in the subject with an understandable, clearly structured and concrete spatial representation of the living conditions in Germany.

Interested parties can download the publication (in German) from the following BBSR webpage: <https://www.bbsr.bund.de/BBSR/DE/veroeffentlichungen/sonderveroeffentlichungen/2021/rob-2021-dl.pdf>

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Interactive atlas presents living conditions in Germany

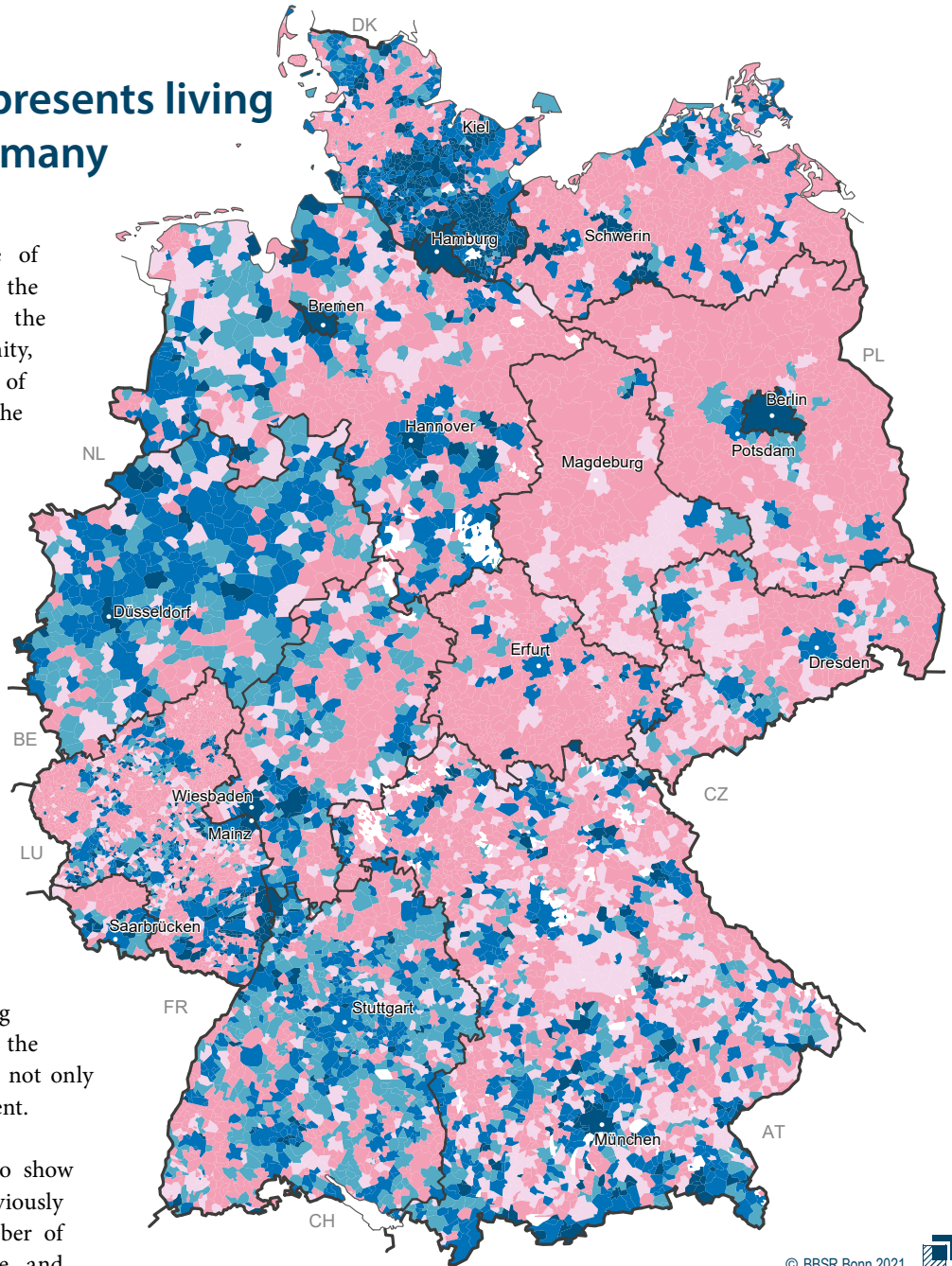
As part of the annual update of the interactive Germany Atlas, the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth have developed a total of twelve new maps. At the same time, the Atlas appears in a new format with improved menu navigation. Existing maps were updated if new data was available.

The Atlas now shows by a total of 68 maps how things are in important areas of life in urban and rural regions. The maps provide an overview of the different living and location conditions throughout Germany, thus creating an important knowledge base for the policy of equal living conditions, not only for the German Federal Government.

The newly added maps now also show socio-political issues that were previously not visualised, such as the number of completions of new flats, male and female employment and part-time rates or the share of fathers (on parental leave).

In addition, important details were added to existing maps. For example, the provision of day care for children of primary school age was expanded and the broadband network was extended by connections with at least 1,000 Mbit/s.

The Germany Atlas was first presented as a print version in July 2019 and was further developed into an interactive online version in July 2020. It enables interested people from the political and administrative sectors and civil society easy access to clearly presented data.



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In addition to the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR), the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy, the Federal Statistical Office and the Thünen Institute are participating in the project.

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Affordable and sustainable building and housing: demonstration projects selected

In tight housing markets, it is difficult for low and middle income groups to find affordable housing. At the same time, the stated climate and sustainability goals place additional demands on buildings and neighbourhoods. These are suspected of making building more expensive and thus negatively influencing the rent price formation and housing costs. What is needed are innovative and balanced solutions that limit construction and life cycle costs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create sustainable building quality and a robust foundation in the social structure and infrastructure at neighbourhood level in order to shape the market and residential value for the future.

Against this background, the research project "Bezahlbares und zukunftsfähiges Bauen und Wohnen – Rahmenbedingungen und Determinanten für die Vereinbarkeit bezahlbarer Mieten und nachhaltiger Qualitäten durch eine Begrenzung der Bau- und Lebenszykluskosten (BZBW)" Affordable and sustainable building and housing – framework conditions and determinants for combining affordable rents and sustainable quality by limiting construction and life cycle costs), initiated by the BBSR, has been ongoing since September 2020 as part of the Future Building innovation programme. On the basis of 41 demonstration projects and 7 candidates, the project coordinators evaluate framework conditions, strategies, procedures and instruments in the planning, construction and use phase that have proven to be beneficial to or that have inhibited the creation of affordable and sustainable housing space.

The following minimum criteria had to be met by the demonstration projects: They should show a proportion of

flats with a low and medium price level of 50 % and higher, the information on the rent prices excluding heating and other additional costs compared to the local housing market should be plausible, the German Energy Saving Ordinance-based energy requirement value related to the approval year should be undercut. Projects that had been approved from 2009 were completed by 2020 and have been inhabited for at least one year were also taken into account.

In addition, it was assessed in how far the respective concepts on identified social, ecological and economic areas can be sustainable: for example the concepts on social infrastructure and social mix, on special forms of housing and accessibility, on special energetic standards and the coverage rate of renewable energies, on green and blue infrastructure and new mobility offers, on the construction costs of the buildings (cost groups 300 and 400) as well as on the rent prices excluding heating and other additional costs and purchase prices of flats.

The final selection was supported by relevant experts in a jury meeting on 6 May 2021. All applicant projects were classified with a view to their social, ecological and economic approaches as well as the specific added value for inclusion as demonstration projects and research in the context of the BZBW. Altogether, the nationwide distribution of the demonstration projects is based on the distribution of the applications. All demonstration projects and candidates will be shortly presented on the BBSR website.



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Strengthening inner-city green spaces in growing cities

The Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI) and the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) have launched the model project "Green Urban Labs II". Six municipalities are testing innovative approaches to strengthen inner-city green spaces and develop their green and open areas. The BMI and the BBSR selected cities with population growth as model projects. These cities face particular challenges: More and more people are using the green lungs of the city, while at the same time, green and open spaces find themselves competing with other uses such as housing.



The municipalities are adopting various approaches:

- 1** In the project "Green GROWNership", the city of Karlsruhe seeks to involve owners of land and real estate in the development of urban green space with various legal, planning and incentivising instruments.
- 2** In Aachen, the municipality wants to jointly develop with its citizens the site of a former multi-storey car park in the city centre as a green and open space with consolidation of plot boundaries. The ideas envisaged include: a marketplace, a stage, meadow areas, green recreational areas and areas for urban gardening.
- 3** In the project "From Park Cemetery to Cemetery Park", the city of Dresden is transforming part of the New Annen Cemetery into a district park. Recreation, environmental

education and cross-generation exchange go hand in hand with the preservation of historical monuments and ecological upgrading.

- 4** In the project "Strategies for Urban Greenery in the Water-sensitive City: Digital – Specific – Smart", the city of Saarbrücken plans to store rainwater in the public street space and use it in a sensor-supported system to water the roadside trees.
- 5** The town of Fellbach is testing green innovations for the industrial estate of the future in the project "AGRICULTURE meets MANUFACTURING". For example, it aims to treat wastewater in industrial estates and use it locally for urban agriculture.
- 6** In Ingolstadt, landscape planning meets urban planning: In the project "Faunistic spatial resistance analysis as a basis for habitat network planning at city level", barriers for animals in the city are identified by means of "animal-aided design". Targeted planning interventions enable the improved networking of urban green and open spaces, green corridors and habitats.

The BMI and the BBSR are funding the model projects with a total of 300,000 euros. The model projects will run until the end of 2023.

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New urban districts create living space in growing cities

Municipalities are providing relief for fraught housing markets in urban centres by developing new urban districts. Most urban planning measures have been realised in large and medium-sized cities since 1990, mainly on inner-city conversion and brownfield sites. In the last ten years, residential areas on the edge of municipalities have grown in importance, especially in cities. This is the conclusion of a research paper commissioned by the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR).

The researchers investigated large urban projects across Germany which involved at least 500 residential units, more than 1,000 inhabitants or at least ten hectares of land. The study is based on the BBSR's "Neue Stadtquartiere" database ("New Urban Districts" – in German only). At the time data was collected, the database counted 751 districts in 260 German municipalities which had been realised from 1990 to the present day.

According to the study, the density of new urban districts has increased in recent years. On average, more apartments are put up on less land. Above all, districts in cities exhibit a variety of uses. In addition to commerce, educational and cultural institutions are to be found here and green and free

spaces also play an important role overall in the design of the quarters.

Privately financed apartment construction for tenants and also self-using owners is the most frequent form of apartment construction in new urban districts. Apartments in the middle and upper price segments dominate. However, subsidised apartment construction has gained in significance whilst the importance of the family home has diminished. In addition, numerous urban districts offer social forms of living for older people.

The realisation of urban districts requires more and more time. The main cause is the increasing planning requirements including participation and implementation. Today, the timeframe from the start of planning to completion is twice as long as in the 1990s. The time required for realisation increases with the size of the municipality.

The study entitled "Neue Stadtquartiere – Konzepte und gebaute Realität" ("New urban districts – concepts and constructed reality" – in German only) has appeared as a BBSR online publication.

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New urban district

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Future Building Congress 2021

18-19/11/2021 – hybrid

The Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development is pleased to invite to the "Zukunft Bau-Kongress 2021" (Future Building Congress 2021). The event is entitled "BAUWENDE: klimabewusst erhalten, erneuern, bauen" (Construction change: preserving, renewing, building in a climate-oriented manner) and will take place on the 18th and 19th November 2021 in lunch-to-lunch format.

Experts from the sectors of practice, research, business and politics will discuss the following questions: How can the construction world contribute to the challenges of climate

change? How must the change in the construction industry be shaped? Which course can the building policy determine? The purpose of the Congress is to highlight important questions and possible solutions for a climate and resource-saving future of building and to allow room for discussing them across disciplines.

The event will be held in hybrid form in the old plenary hall of the former Behnisch building of the German Bundestag in Bonn ("World Conference Center Bonn").

 www.zukunftbau.de (in German)

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