National Urban Development Policy in Germany

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The Planning System and Planning Terms in Germany

**Federal Spatial Planning**
- principles of spatial planning, guidelines
- Mutual Feedback Principle

**State Spatial Planning**
- state spatial planning act, structure plan
- Mutual Feedback Principle

**Regional Planning**
- regional plan
- Mutual Feedback Principle

**Municipality, Local Authority Planning**
- preparatory land-use plan, binding land-use plan

Sectoral Planning

Special departments
Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities 2007

Strategy 1:
Integrated urban development

Strategy 2:
Deprived urban neighbourhoods

Target:
Strengthening European cities and their regions – promoting competitiveness, social and territorial cohesion in Europe, its cities and regions.
Initiative on National Urban Development Policy

Claim of the Leipzig Charter:

Implementation of the integrated urban development policy in the Member States

Summer 2007:

Launching of the Initiative on National Urban Development Policy in cooperation with the Federal Laender and the City Associations
National Urban Development Policy

- Representing national positions in Europe
- Optimization / enhancement of the national funding programmes
- Strengthening of integrated, cross sectoral urban development
- Promoting the place based approach
- Gaining new partners beyond public administrations
- Raising public awareness concerning urban development

Strengthening the European city: compact, mixed, diverse

City of short distances with environmentally and socially acceptable mobility

Good quality of public spaces
Partner of the National Urban Development Policy

- Federal Government
  - Departmental cooperation
- State Governments/Länder
  - Cooperation between the Federal Länder
- Local Government
  - Transport
  - Economy
  - Social Affairs
  - Education
  - Ecology
  - Environment
  - Building
Three pillars of the National Urban Development Policy:

- **Good practice**: Improving the existing national support programmes and the legislation
- **Campaign for City and Urbanity**: Support pilot projects for innovation, Exchange of best practices
- **Communication platform**: Annual federal congresses, seminars, workshops, awards, competitions
### Legislative competences in the federal system

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Federal level</th>
<th>Legislation on urban planning law (Federal Building Code, <em>Baugesetzbuch</em>).</th>
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| Länder level | (1) Federal legislation: participation in legislative process (Second Chamber, *Bundesrat*).  
(2) „Own“ legislation of the federal states: e. g. building regulations law.  
(3) Enforcement of law (e. g. building permits; by using authorities of the municipalities).  
(4) Spatial and regional planning. |
| Municipalities | (1) Urban land-use planning (matter of self-government).  
(2) Enforcement of law (on behalf of the federal states). |
Urban development grants - general information

- **German Constitution (Art. 104 b)** – legal basis for financial grants of federal government for particularly important investments at local level
- Support programmes since 1971 (-> 2016 17 bn €)
- Federal Government financing for
  - eliminating urban design/social deficiencies
  - constructing sustainable urban structures
  - enhancing inner cities areas and town centres
  - addressing economic structural changes
  - addressing demographic shifts
  - ensuring social cohesion
Urban development grants – funding principles

- **Main legal provisions:**
  - Federal Building Code
  - Executive agreement (Federal government, federal states)
  - Guidelines of the Federal states

- **Federal states and local authorities are responsible** for implementation of urban development grants

- **Jointly financed** by Federation, federal states and local authorities, each party finances a third (usually)

- **Duration of grants is limited**

- Investment grants are **always area-based**
  => no grants to individual projects (e.g. only one building)
Urban development grants
– programmes and funding 2017

Annual administrative agreement between federation and federal states

• **Social City** – to improve living conditions in disadvantaged neighborhoods and to strengthen neighborhoods

• **Protection of the urban architectural heritage** – for the preservation and revitalization of historic city centers

• **Urban restructuring East & West** – to tackle economic and structural change and to ensure social stability

• **Active city and district centres** – for functional strengthening of the centers and securing of lively inner cities

• **Smaller cities and municipalities** – for securing and creating anchor points of the public services

• **Future city green** – to improve the urban green infrastructure through urban development measures
Urban development grants
– programmes and funding 2017

Programme year 2017: 790 m. Euro federal funds (top level in history!)

Funding allocation 2017 for urban development grant programmes:

- Social City: **190 Mio. €**
- Protection of the urban architectural heritage: **110 Mio. €**
- Active city and district centres: **110 Mio. €**
- Urban restructuring East: **120 Mio. €**
- Urban restructuring West: **140 Mio. €**
- Smaller cities and municipalities: **70 Mio. €**
- Future city green: **50 Mio. €**
The “Social City” programme

• Programme launched in 1999
• **Focus:** Stabilize and upgrade economically and socially deprived neighbourhoods
  => Improve living conditions
  => support social cohesion
  => integrate disadvantaged population groups

⇒ **Integrated approach** in the social area:
  – **Investments** in urban development in order to improve housing and living conditions, social infrastructure
  – **Interdisciplinary approach** and collaboration (Know-how, funding), together with other partners
  – **Encouragement and participation** of residents
  – Neighbourhood management
  – **Integrated development strategy** of neighbourhoods
„Social City“ programme – funding volume

- Federal funding 2017: 190 m. €

- Social City Areas in 2016:
  439 programme areas
  (783 areas in 441 cities and municipalities in all since 1999)
  Located in centres, near city centres and on the outskirts

- Federal funding 1999-2016:
  rd. 1,44 billion €
  (total volume incl. federal states and municipalities rd. 4,32 billion €)
Interministerial strategy „Social City“

Impulse on federal level (coalition agreement 2013)

→ Decision of the federal cabinet (in 2016):

Interministerial strategy
„Encouraging neighbourhoods“

- **Objective:**
  Bundle public funding and channel funding of other departments strategically to
eighbourhoods with particular challenges of integration

- **Joint agreement:**
  ✓ Improve interministerial cooperation
  ✓ Check existing/future funding programmes if space based funding is possible
  ✓ Improve information for municipalities / neighbourhood managers
  ✓ Name permanent contact persons
  ✓ Monitoring of the status quo once per election period
Three pillars of the National Urban Development Policy:

**National Urban Development Policy**

- **Good practice**
  - Improving the existing national support programmes and the legislation

- **Campaign for City and Urbanity**
  - Support pilot projects for innovation
  - Exchange of best practices

- **Communication platform**
  - Annual federal congresses, seminars, workshops, awards, competitions
Project Series for City Life and Urbanity


Over 700 expressions of interest

150 innovative projects are being implemented

Criterias are:

• Co-Operative
• Innovative
• Exemplary, Transferable
Call for Projects 2016
„Urban development and migration“

innovative - exemplary– cooperative

aspects to be considered:

1. Strategic consideration of the topic of integration in urban development
2. Overall urban perspective
3. Testing innovative formats
4. Joint conception and implementation with city-social partners

Co-Funding for 3 years
Three pillars of the National Urban Development Policy:

Good practice: Improving the existing national support programmes and the legislation.

Campaign for City and Urbanity: Support pilot projects for innovation, Exchange of best practices.

Communication platform: Annual federal congresses, seminars, workshops, awards, competitions.
Exchange and transfer of information

- Since its launch the National Urban Development Policy became the central forum for urban development issues
- Continuous process for exchange and transfer of knowledge into practice
- Generate new ideas
- Different formats, e.g.:
  - Federal Congresses
  - Website
  - Publications
  - Research Dialogue
  - Awards
Communication platform
Federal Congresses of National Urban Development Policy

- The annual Federal Congresses of the National Urban Development Policy facilitate the exchange of experience and information
- Always include a format for members of parliament
Formats and Partner of the National Urban Development Policy

Policy Board

Federal Congress

Conferences, Seminars

Standing Working Group

Political parties

Federal ministries

Federal states

Municipalities

Foundations

Civil associations (NGOs)

Trade Unions

Associations

Business

Chambers

Universities

Scientific Academies
Policy Board

- Annual meeting
- Chaired by the Minister
- 45 high ranking representatives from politics, science, business and civil society
- Decides on basic guidelines of the policy
- Members feed in their ideas into the National Urban Development Policy
- Contribute to widening the initiative in respective specialist fields of the members
Working Group

- Meeting: every 2 months
- 15 members
- Länder, City Associations, BBSR, BMUB
- Tasks: Day to day work
Characteristics of the National Urban Development Policy

• Joint initiative by the federal, state and local governments
• Involving cities of all sizes
• From hierarchy to voluntary collaboration: Informal cooperation
• Successful vertical integration
• Annual Federal Congress with over 1,000 participants as unique selling point
• Offers diverse opportunities for collaborative work on the future of our cities
• Limited resources (staff, funding) – lean and smart
• After ten years widely seen as success story
Thank you for your attention!