



Country Fiche on Terrestrial Spatial Planning

GERMANY

Updated January 2019

1. Current situation and main challenges

After an extensive consultation procedure the Standing Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Development in Germany adopted in March 2016 the „Concepts and Strategies for Spatial Development in Germany“.

It sees in the four strategic concepts:

- a) „Enhancing competitiveness“,
- b) „Ensuring the provision of public services“,
- c) „Controlling and sustainably developing land uses“,
- d) „Shaping climate change and the transformation of the energy system“

its common orientation which does justice to the principle of sustainability and spatial cohesion at the same time.

The Concepts and Strategies for Spatial Development in Germany (in the following: Concepts) show the spatial development strategies pursued by the Federal Government and the federal states.

The Concepts contribute to preserve and strengthen the variety of regions, their cohesion as well as their sustainability; they relate to all types of area, from the predominantly rural areas to metropolitan regions.

The Concepts form the framework for the spatial policy objectives, the specifications in spatial plans as well as for the concrete implementation measures. This includes the spatial planning instruments such as spatial plans and spatial impact assessment procedures but also the spatial planning cooperation with sectoral policies with a spatial impact (e.g. the planning of transport or energy networks, the development of rural areas) and with the local stakeholders such as municipalities, associations, enterprises and individuals (e.g. regional management concepts to ensure the provision of public services).

Therefore, the Concepts are chiefly aimed at decision-makers in the field of spatial planning at the federal and federal state levels including regional planning authorities, local authorities and local authority associations; they are, thus, the guideline for common action. At the same time, they are intended for the decision-makers of sectoral policies with a spatial impact such as transport, environment, energy and the economy who are responsible for the implementation of spatial planning objectives by including them in their sectoral planning and measures. In addition, they offer the private sector guidance to help businesses make decisions on investment in the future. They support the dialogue on spatial development in Germany with the stakeholders from society, the neighbouring states and regions as well as with the European institutions.

Main areas for action are:

1) Enhance competitiveness

- 1.1 Evolve metropolitan regions
- 1.2 Strengthen cooperation and the interlinking of areas
- 1.3 Support areas with a special structural need for action
- 1.4 Ensure infrastructural links and mobility

2) Ensure the provision of public services

- 2.1 Consistently apply the central places system
- 2.2 Develop cooperative systems
- 2.3 Ensure the supply of sparsely populated rural areas
- 2.4 Ensure accessibility

- 3) Control and sustainably develop land uses
 - 3.1 Minimize spatial conflicts of use
 - 3.2 Create large-scale open space networks
 - 3.3 Shaping cultural landscapes
 - 3.4 Reduce new land take
 - 3.5 Sustainably control the use of mineral resources and other subterranean uses
 - 3.6 Sustainably use coasts and seas
- 4) Shape climate change and the transformation of the energy system
 - 4.1 Adapt spatial structures to climate change
 - Flood control
 - Coastal protection
 - Protection in mountainous regions
 - Protection against the effects of heat
 - Handling water shortages
 - Maintain and improve the natural carbon sequestration potentials
 - Climate-induced changes in tourist regions
 - Climate-induced changes in the habitat for fauna and flora
 - Energy-saving and traffic-reducing settlement patterns
 - 4.2 Control the development of renewable energy and of networks
 - development of renewable energy
 - power transmission and distribution networks
 - decentralized supply systems
 - regional climate and energy strategies

For the complete English text and maps, please see "[Leitbildbroschüre 2016 \(Englisch\)](#)" (Concepts and Strategies for Spatial Development in Germany).

2. Contacts

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General information and spatial planning system

- Synoptic Overview of Spatial Planning in Germany:
<http://journals.lepenseur.it/index.php/cse/article/download/69/42>
- The Planning System and Planning Terms in Germany:
http://shop.arl-net.de/media/direct/pdf/ssd_7.pdf