

Berlin Brandenburg

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Regional Planning in Berlin and Brandenburg

The space we are living in cannot be arbitrarily extended and is therefore a scarce resource. The place where we live, work or go shopping, where we relax or want to protect nature, where we use roads, rail or pipes should be well organised.

These manifold utilization demands may cause conflicts that might be avoided or minimized by spatial planning at an early stage. And that's exact the task of regional planning: It harmonises social and economic needs regarding the space with ecological functions to secure permanently balanced usage and sustainable developments. This is done at an intensive, i.e. regional level, mainly through state and regional planning.

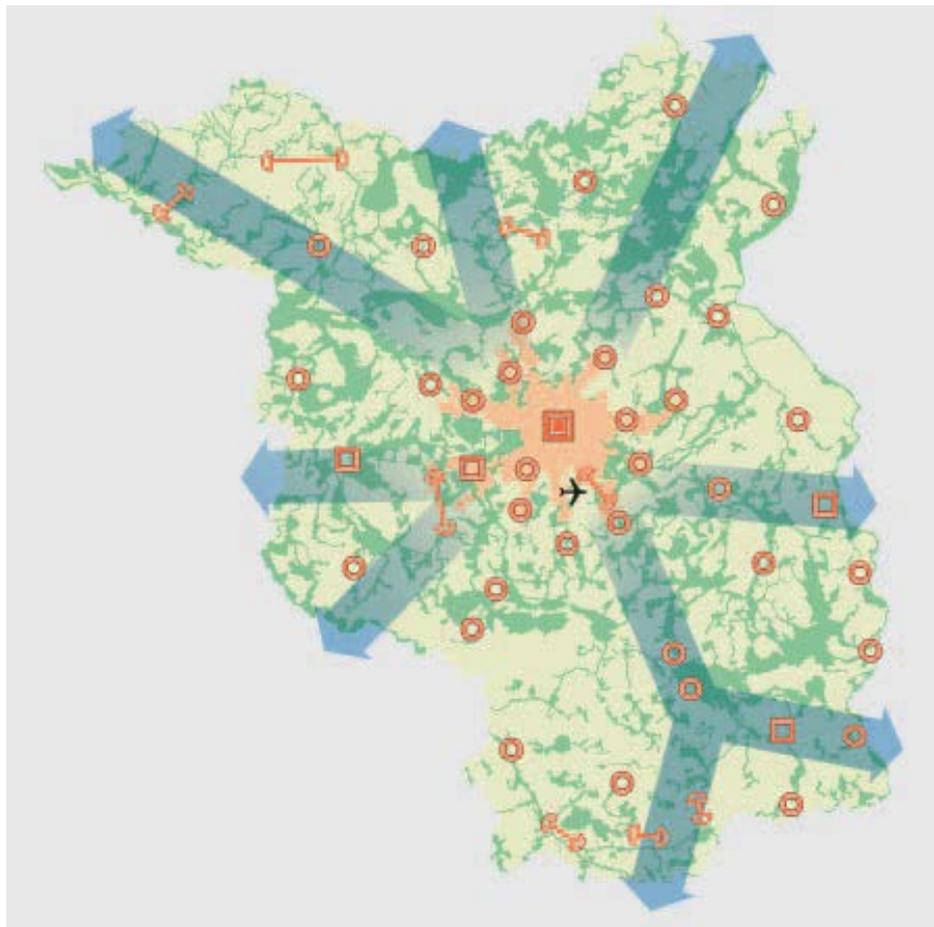
Since 1996 joint spatial planning has been realised by the Joint Spatial Planning Department

State Planning

State planning – that's the superior, supra-regional and interdisciplinary planning for the spatial development of a federal state. In Berlin and Brandenburg, these planning activities are performed with joint responsibility of two federal states.

Spatial development plans are being prepared in common for the entire region as well as for the partial spaces of the federal states (as spatial and functional partial plans). For this purpose, the Joint Spatial Planning Department of Berlin and Brandenburg was established, i.e. an authority being operated by both federal states.

In cooperation with the institutions of technical planning, the local authorities and the citizens, the joint spatial planning department prepares future-oriented framework conditions of regional planning for the development of the capital region. An informal overall concept for the "Capital Region of Berlin – Brandenburg" indicates the direction to be taken. The formal provisions in the State Development Program and the State Development Plans base on this overall concept.



In Berlin and Brandenburg, the following programs and plans are in force based on a state planning contract.

State Development Program 2007 (LEPro 2007),

State Development Plan Berlin-Brandenburg (LEP B-B)

State Development Plan on the Development of the Airport Location (LEP FS).

Apart from this, State Development Program of 2003 has been applicable as well. In Brandenburg the following is valid as well:

Brown coal and brown coal rehabilitation plans according to the law on regional planning and brown coal and rehabilitation planning.

Regional Planning

For Brandenburg, five regional planning zones exist extending in sectoral terms from Berlin to the state border

- Havelland-Fläming
- Prignitz-Oberhavel
- Uckermark-Barnim
- Oderland-Spree
- Lausitz-Spreewald

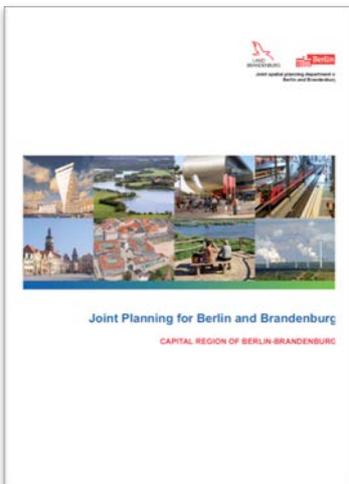
The regional planning associations have been the responsible body for regional planning. It is their main duty to prepare, modify and update regional plans.

Regional plans put the high-level specifications of state planning in concrete terms and include differentiated regulations for the respective planning space in terms of developing the settlement and open space structures, as well as the infrastructure.



Target groups

With the coming into force of the LEP B-B as legal provision of the two state governments (15 May 2009) being applicable to the respective state area the stipulations shall be binding both for the subordinated levels of spatial planning as well as for technical planning.



Target groups of state planning

- Cities/towns and municipalities and the local authority associations,
- Regional planning
- Technical planning
- Other public authorities
- People of private law according to the Regional Planning Act

Framework Conditions and Cornerstones for the Spatial Development of the Capital Region of Berlin-Brandenburg

Regional planning makes reliable specifications that have to be, however, adjusted to changing conditions from time to time. Thus, changed framework conditions and the spatial development in the capital region required some adaptation of previous state planning guidelines in the past few years. In this respect, it has been especially the demographic change leading to new focal points of state planning.

This has, among other things, become obvious by the adjustment of the overall concept of the “Decentralised Concentration” that was further developed to get the new overall concept of “Strengthening Strengths”.

The LEPro 2007 focuses on this new overall concept providing programmatic cornerstones for spatial basic orientation. LEPro 2007 and, in addition the LEP B-B, make decisions for core issues being essential in terms of state planning to achieve a balanced development of the entire space. They also grant some leeway for subsequent planning measures, e.g. of the municipalities. Other issues, such as brown coal planning or the implementation of brown coal rehabilitation are not part of these common regional development plans.

Creating new spatial partnerships within the European context

Any instrument, program or plan of regional Planning requires application and implementation on the part of the stakeholders in both federal states, in the regions and at municipal level.

In the capital region of Berlin-Brandenburg, the spatial prerequisites for strengthening international and national competitiveness shall be improved within a Europe of the regions. For this purpose, the capital region has to make use of the interplay of all metropolitan and regional potentials and to further develop its attractiveness.

Cooperation and networking in the North-East

Activating spatial responsibility-communities is an important instrument on this way. They focus on the creation of prerequisites for future spatial and economic developments. By means of the spatial responsibility communities, Berlin and Brandenburg will improve their chances together. Recognising and using the specific geopolitical situation are of importance as well.

Extensive responsibility communities and border-crossing regions of cooperation with the Polish neighbours, with neighbouring federal states such as Mecklenburg Western-Pomerania, Saxony-Anhalt or Saxony, as well as the cooperation between the capital region and other metropolitan regions are essential development fundamentals on international scale. Sectoral and infrastructural networking contributes to improve the chances of economic development. This offer for cooperation mainly applies also to those regions being outside the economic core region of the EU



Integration in European Spatial Development

The capital region of Berlin-Brandenburg is integrated in the recommendations and initiatives of the European Regional Development.

The territorial agenda of the EU of 2007 indicated the need for action in the next years in order to implement together objectives stipulated in the European Regional Development Concept already in 1999.

In order to support this process, the European ministers for regional development agreed on subvention programs. They strengthen the accessibility of the regions, further innovations, the improvement of competitiveness of the cities/towns and regions and the environmental risk management. The capital region uses the opportunities of cooperation within the framework of promoting the EU and it supports numerous transnational projects of regional development. The co-operation within the Baltic-Adriatic-Development Corridor is of utmost importance.

The transnational cooperation at various levels mainly serves the following objectives.

- Improving the economic attractiveness of the capital region,
- Developing and marketing its spatial main issues more purposefully
- Including its infrastructural requirements in the European formation process, in particular regarding the revision of the trans-European networks.

Alliances have to be formed across regional and state borders and they have to be further strengthened to receive concrete investments serving the involvement of the capital region in the European infra- and economic structure.

Baltic-Adriatic-Development Corridor as a developmental task

