

# Rhein-Neckar

<https://www.m-r-n.com/start/regionalplanung-und-entwicklung/institutionen/verband-region-rhein-neckar.html>

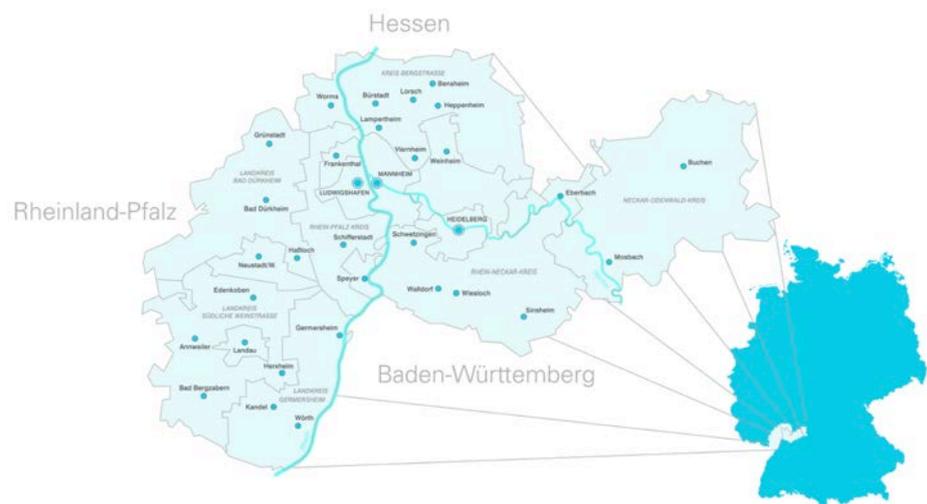
## Rhein-Neckar metropolitan cooperation

The Rhein-Neckar Metropolitan Region, accredited in Germany as a European Metropolitan Region on 28 April 2005, is situated at the interface of the three German federal states Baden-Wuerttemberg, Hesse and Rhineland-Palatinate. The Metropolitan Region with its main centres Mannheim, Heidelberg and Ludwigshafen and their wider urban and rural areas can look back at a long tradition of regional cooperation.

## Rhein-Neckar Metropolitan Region

Feeling that the demarcation in the course of restructuring the German federal states in 1949 poses an obstacle to previous coherence, the local actors have been cooperating across the existing administrative state borders since the 1950's. At that time, a regional working group has begun to coordinate common regional planning matters. When, in 1969, the three federal states signed the first "Rhein-Neckar treaty" and thus recognized the need for an institutionalization of an intraregional cooperation, a basis for further cooperation tasks and responsibilities was created.

After six decades of experience in handling regional challenges, the accreditation as European Metropolitan Region in April 2005 and the amendment of a renewed "Rhein-Neckar treaty" in July 2005 has set a milestone for the regional development in the Rhein-Neckar region.



## The joint regional development

The strength of the Rhein-Neckar Metropolitan Region is the close collaboration and networking of the important actors from politics, economy and science. The Metropolitan Region is characterised by a particular institutional model of regional governance with its focus on public private partnership. This model forms the statutory framework for a joint regional development which enables the region to face today's local and global challenges.

## Three regional institutions

The joint regional development is coordinated by three institutions.

- **The “Verband Region Rhein-Neckar”** (regional planning association) as a corporation under public law, democratically legitimated, being the forum of political decision-making, is charged with regional planning tasks, i.e. the preparation of a joint regional plan for the area of the Rhein-Neckar Metropolitan Region. The particular challenge is the differing planning law and planning philosophies of the involved federal states which requires a high degree of coordination. In addition to regional planning, as assigned in the Rhein-Neckar Treaty, the “Verband” is also responsible for regionally significant transport planning, landscape development, energy supply concepts, tourism marketing, economic promotion and regional marketing and European cooperation.

- **The „Zukunft Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar e.V.“** (registered association) with its over 750 members from economy, science and politics provides idealistic and financial support for regional initiatives and strengthens the regional cooperation. High-level representatives of companies, organizations and institutions have formed a management committee which ensures a continuous regional dialogue and provides ideas for future projects.

he “Verband Region Rhein-Neckar” and the “Zukunft Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar e.V.” set the strategies for the development activities. Together with the chambers of industry, commerce and crafts, they are company partners of,

- **The „Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar GmbH“** (limited company) which was established to implement specific projects. The company implements its own projects and fulfills as well coordinating functions for projects in charge of other institutions. Tailor-made project ideas and concepts help to find suitable project partners and sponsors.





With a focus on landscape, the regional plan faces challenges of climate change and of keeping natural resources in a sustainable balance. This is also due to secure agricultural and forestry use in the Rhein-Neckar-Region. With an overall amount of 39% of forestry and recreational spaces, the region will profit of a well-balanced relation of settlements, infrastructure and accessible open spaces. The planning approach of the regional plan Rhein-Neckar copes with European and national goals of biodiversity strategies and translates it into the regional level. Conservation and development are equal parts to fulfill ecological objectives for the future regional development.



By securing open spaces, the regional plan also contributes to soil-, groundwater- and flood protection, what especially along both rivers Rhine and Neckar is of particular importance.

In addition to that protection of natural resources, the plan serves to keep economic efficiency of open spaces: in the sense of general interest, it retains the availability of near-surface raw materials, such as sand or gravel or the preservation of future water supply potentials.