THE STATE OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICY IN GERMANY

Name of national urban policy	*National Urban Development Policy – a joint initiative of the federal, state and local governments*
Date of national urban policy	2007
Explicit or partial	Explicit
Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.)	Administrative guidance/framework document
Previous/secondary policies	*Spatial Development Concept and Strategy* (2006)
Stage of development	Monitoring and evaluation
How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.)	Stakeholder participation, resolution of parliament, resolution of standing conference of ministers responsible for urban development
Implementing body	Ministry of the Environment and Building
Government system	Federal
Type of national urban agency	General urban development authority
Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination)	National Urban Development Board

Current national urban policy

In 2007, in response to the Leipzig-Charter on Sustainable European Cities adopted in 2007, Germany released the memorandum, *Towards a National Urban Development Policy in Germany*, which defines a national policy approach to urbanisation. It highlighted six key areas of work:

1. **civil society** – focusing on actively engaging with citizens in their city;

2. **social city** – creating opportunities and preserving cohesion;

3. **innovative city** – focusing on developing cities as drivers of economic development;

4. **climate protection and global responsibility**;

5. **building culture and improving urban design**; and

6. **regionalisation** – focusing on the region as a critical part of the city's future (UN-Habitat, 2015).

The memorandum resulted in the *Papenburg Declaration on National Urban Policy* (2007).

The Joint Initiative of the federal, the state and the local level, serves as both a framework and a communication platform, attempting to engage a wide variety of stakeholders in order to implement the general principles on integrated urban development laid down in the Leipzig-Charter (UN-Habitat, 2015). The creation of the National Urban Development Board opens planning to a wide range of stakeholders (Dodson et al., 2015). The

National Urban Development Policy Board includes representatives of all levels of government, professionals, tenants and property-owners, the construction industry and building trades, and civil society groups (including cultural, religious, environmental and social associations). The *National Urban Development Policy* serves as a platform of exchange and transfer on integrated urban development approaches. In particular, the annual federal congresses of the Joint Initiative offer a central forum for cities and local authorities in Germany. Monitoring and evaluation is the responsibility of specific offices, mainly those of the federal government (UN-Habitat, 2015). The various urban development promotion programmes are under current evaluation, like the programme *Aktive Stadt- und Ortsteilzentren* ("active quarters of cities and municipalities") and the programme *Soziale Stadt* ("social city") (OECD, 2015).

In early 2014, responsibility for the national urban policy framework was moved to the Ministry for the Environment. This shift has focused attention on access to green space in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, as well as the increase in urban housing prices and how cities can accommodate refugees (OECD, 2015).

Areas covered by current urban policy

Sector	Sectoral representation in *Towards a National Urban Development Policy in Germany*
Economic development	Extensive
Spatial structure	Moderate
Human development	Extensive
Environmental sustainability	Moderate
Climate resilience	Extensive

Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

Germany's National Urban Policy includes the following characteristics:

Criteria for national urban policies	Appears in the policy
Responds to population dynamics	X
Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages)	X
Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities	X
Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space)	X
Promotes urban land-use efficiency	X
Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change	X
Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment)	X
Promotes effective municipal finance systems	
Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors	X
Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.)	X
Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data	

Bibliography

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