

# Information on the Berlin Neighbourhood Management Programme



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## The Social City Programme

The urban development programme helps to stabilize economically and socially disadvantaged urban districts. Investment in public infrastructure, the public space and the living environment is designed to bring together and activate stakeholders in the neighbourhoods as a means of improving social cohesion.



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### Strategy and Goals of the Programme

Within the framework of the federal/federal state urban development programme “City Districts with Special Development Needs – the Social City”, the “Berlin Neighbourhood Management” programme was introduced in 1999 as an intervention strategy to support disadvantaged neighbourhoods, and since then has been developed on the ground. The goal is to stabilise neighbourhoods and strengthen their social cohesion. This is achieved through the activation and intense participation of residents and local stakeholders, combined with investment in the neighbourhood’s infrastructure. The intervention is of a limited duration and is designed to create structural changes which will continue to serve the urban community work after the end of the

Neighbourhood Management process. Thus for all the districts the principle of consolidation (the creation of self-supporting structures) should be applied from the start.

### Participation

The central factor in the success of the programme is cross-departmental coordination within the administration and a new participation culture.

***Berlin’s Neighbourhood Management programme pursues a partnership-based approach involving residents, social facilities, the local economy, housing associations, the administration and other stakeholders in combination with voluntary involvement.***

A local office and Neighbourhood Management Team serve as a contact point and communication centre in the neighbourhood. From the start, the activation and involvement of the residents is one of the most important components of the neighbourhood work. The neighbourhood councils represent the interests of the local residents, make decisions on the use of money from the neighbourhood fund, and together with other participants decide on the focus of the neighbourhood development work to be specified in the Integrated Action and Development Concept (IHEK).

### Assisted Areas

The basis for the determination of the assisted areas is the Berlin-wide Urban Social Development Monitoring. Urban Social Development Monitoring criteria include unemployment, long-term unemployment, social benefit payments and child poverty. A continual monitoring of the areas determines the regular adjustments to the selected neighbourhoods and the funding of the local neighbourhood management programmes. Currently 34 inner-city Wilhelminian period neighbourhoods and large-scale housing estates in the suburbs are supported with varying intensity.



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### Funding Guidelines

All the neighbourhoods of the Social City are faced with a range of challenges including social cohesion and a difficult economic environment. Together with the local partners and residents additional measures are initiated and implemented as an auxiliary to the municipal regulatory structures. Local resources and existing strengths are utilised as a means to promote better social cohesion.

The Integrated Action and Development Concept is the basis for the implementation of measures in various action fields within the neighbourhoods.

### Neighbourhood Funds

Four neighbourhood funds are available for the realisation of projects. Funds from the Social City programme serve as start-up financing for follow-up projects and facilitate the involvement of third parties through partnerships or co-financing. A set of programme guidelines with detailed information on the funding procedure is available. The programme is co-financed by funds from the federal urban development programme and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

### Neighbourhood Management Setting

- 34 ongoing assisted areas
- in 8 boroughs and 5 action areas
- 9 consolidation areas (31.12.2020)

### Population

- Ca. 423,000 residents

### Programme Goals

- The promotion of self-help and voluntary involvement
- Improving access to education
- Improving the public space
- Initiation/strengthening of local networks and co-operations
- Upgrading of social infrastructure

### Fields of Action

- Education, training, youth
- Employment and the economy
- Neighbourhood (culture, the local community, integration, health)
- Public space
- Participation, networking and the involvement of partners

### Funding

1999–2019:	€ 472 million
2019:	€ 26.5 million

Financing from the EU (ERDF)  
Federal government (urban development funding)  
and Land Berlin

### Funding Structure

- Action Fund (max. € 1,500 per project)
- Project Fund (min. € 5,000 per project)
- Building Fund (min. € 50,000 per project)
- Network Fund (min. € 50,000 € per project)

### Awards

RegioStars Award 2013  
Category “City Star”

**For more information on the Berlin Neighbourhood Management programme see:**

[www.quartiersmanagement-berlin.de](http://www.quartiersmanagement-berlin.de)  
[www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de](http://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de)