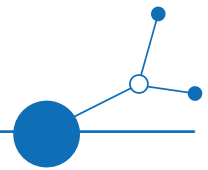


ACTION PLAN

on governance in the Capital Region
Berlin-Brandenburg

by

Joint Spatial Planning Department
Berlin-Brandenburg



Version 1
02 2026



Executive Summary

This action plan was developed by Joint Spatial Planning Department Berlin-Brandenburg as a result of the MECOG-CE-project.

The Action Plan serves the Berlin-Brandenburg Capital Region in the further development of strategically important instruments and topics. It therefore focuses on regional planning and regional development procedures on the one hand, and on content on the other. Both relate to the most important formal instrument in state planning and, above all, to informal approaches. These only work through successful participation. Here, the action plan aims to broaden the scope of planning and thus anchor it more firmly in the metropolitan area.

The effects of the action plan will unfold in the medium to long term. Updating the State Development Plan alone will take several years, after which it will remain valid for at least a further ten years.

The document outlines four actions:

1. Review of funding opportunities for metropolitan cooperation in the next EU funding period
2. Preparation of the next State Development Plan Capital Region Berlin-Brandenburg
3. Consolidation and deepening of the regional development strategy
4. Implementation of the guiding principle of the Municipal Neighbourhood Forum

The key areas of the action plan are primarily “Metropolitan Vision and Strategic Objectives”, because the actions set out both concrete spatial planning goals and models for future development. Furthermore, “Governance Systems” and “Stakeholder involvement” are key areas since goals and models are linked to specific groups of actors or participation procedures.

The action plan takes into account both the latest data on regional development in the Capital Region and the experience gained from formal and informal work in recent years.

The **first action**, “Review of funding opportunities for metropolitan cooperation in the next EU funding period”, is also based on the study visit to Warsaw and the insights gained there on the application of EU funding procedures. The process of reviewing the application of funding instruments aims to improve procedures and projects, i.e., funding opportunities. ITI can be used to activate and intensify cross-regional cooperation between stakeholders, thereby also strengthening cohesion in the region.

The **second action**, “Preparation of the next State Development Plan Capital Region Berlin-Brandenburg”, aims to innovatively update the most important formal instrument of joint regional development in Berlin and Brandenburg, the State Development Plan Capital Region. This means using new participation formats to better reach and involve the relevant target groups than before (from the perspective of the State Chancellery of Brandenburg), but also to identify and introduce new relevant topics.

The **third action**, “Consolidation and deepening of the regional development strategy”, aims to improve Brandenburg's most important informal regional planning instrument, the regional development strategy, and to anchor it more firmly in the metropolitan region by involving relevant stakeholders. In future, greater attention will be paid to neighbouring regions and interdependencies; the axis development model stands for joint connections between Berlin and Brandenburg as well as between Brandenburg and its neighbouring regions.

Finally, the **fourth action**, “Implementation of the guiding principle of the Municipal Neighbourhood Forum”, focuses on the closer interdependence between Berlin and Brandenburg. The aim here is to involve unequal partners like smaller cities in Brandenburg and bigger districts in Berlin in jointly solving shared problems. The action aims to intensify cooperation between municipalities in the interests of a regional perspective. A new mission statement identifies measures and instruments that need to be implemented or applied.

The spatial dimension of actions:

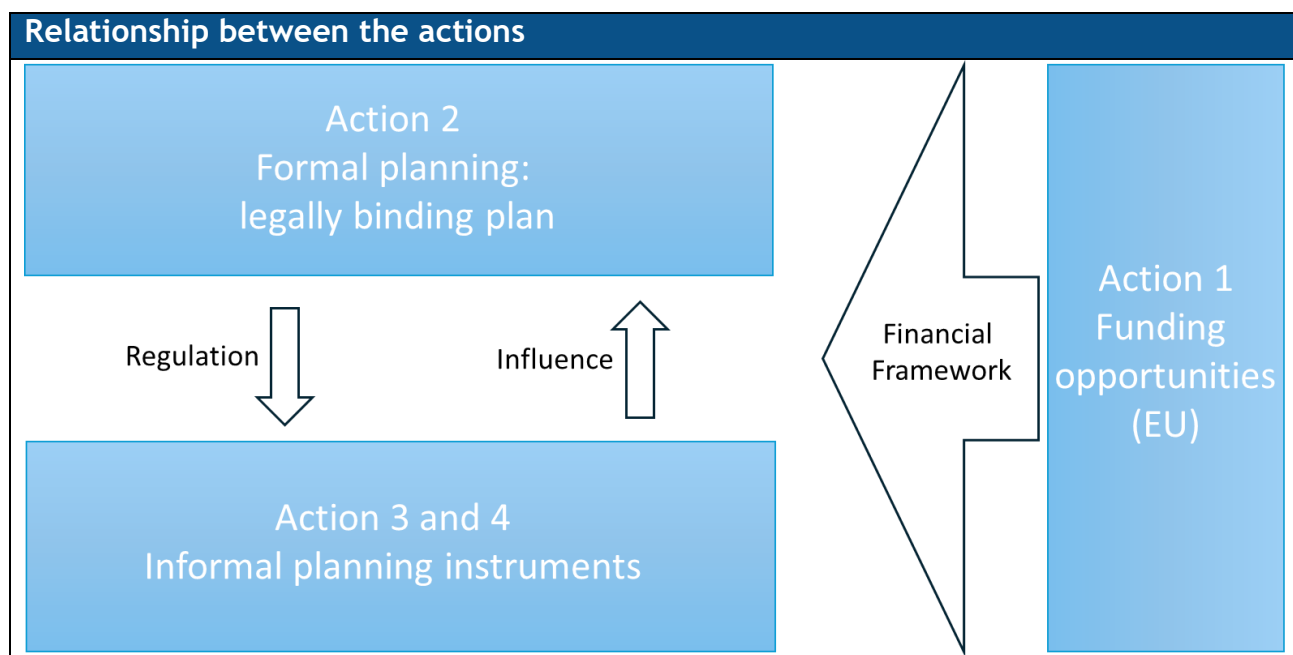
Spatial dimension of actions			
Action	Berlin		Brandenburg
1. Funding opportunities (EU)			
2. Spatial Development Plan			
3. Regional Development Strategy (/Axis development)			

4 Municipal Neighbourhood Forum				
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Interdependencies and mutual reinforcement

Each action works independently. However, there are interrelationships that have a supportive effect, for example: Action 1, for example, evaluates financing opportunities for projects in action 3 or even action 4. Work of MNF in action 4 should be regarded as preparatory work or groundwork for action 2. Conversely, action 2 can take into account and define in its plan which requirements have been formulated in the work of action 4. Action 3 consists mainly of informal planning; however, it is connected to action 2, the formal framework for planning and development in the Capital Region (e.g. axis development, also action 4 dealing with).

The basic correlation between the four actions:



From a spatial perspective, the four actions consider regional interdependencies and disparities within the Capital Region. They link future-oriented topics with appropriate governance and financing. The action plan takes existing procedures and strategies as a basis and develops them further in a way that is appropriate to the region and stakeholders. In addition, it examines options for a different organization of EU funding that would benefit the objectives in terms of organization (in the sense of cooperation and governance) and content.

A. Action 1:

Review of funding opportunities for metropolitan cooperation in the next EU funding period

The process of reviewing the application of funding instruments aims to improve procedures and projects, i.e., funding opportunities. Funding schemes like ITI can be used to activate and intensify cross-regional cooperation between stakeholders, thereby also strengthening cohesion in the region.

Needs assessment for Action 1

Structural fund support is particularly important for the state of Berlin. In the current funding period 2021-2027 alone, the state of Berlin will receive around €829 million from the EU Structural Funds. Without this support, the structural transformation of the former walled city into an innovative metropolis and the city with the most start-ups in Germany would not have been as successful.

And Brandenburg will receive around €3 billion in funding during the 2021-2027 funding period, which underlines the importance of EU-funding for the Capital Region.

Both for Berlin and Brandenburg it is important to build on these successes in the new EU funding period starting in 2028 and to overcome existing challenges, such as the digital and green transformation and the recruitment of skilled workers, with the help of EU structural funds.

The State of Brandenburg recently published a “Position of the Brandenburg State Government on the European Commission’s Proposal to Create a National and Regional Partnership Plan (NRPP)”. The basis of the argumentation lies in the structure of the Capital Region: Its metropolitan core, the surrounding areas and the wider metropolitan areas that benefit less or not at all from their proximity to Berlin: “These regional characteristics are an advantage and should not become a disadvantage. A future EU funding policy requires consideration of regional solutions and not a national approach. It requires rather innovation and economic development based on the potential of the regions.”

Both Berlin and Brandenburg vote for a structural policy which strengthens the regional level compared to the national level to develop solutions tailored to requirements.

The final position of the state of Brandenburg: “The state government will develop, state policy priorities for EU funding in a partnership-based process, taking into account socio-economic challenges and specific funding needs.”

The ITI instrument has the potential to fulfil specific needs of the Capital Region in future. Financing can be simplified by coordinating and pooling funding for specific topics. So far in Germany, ITI has only been used sporadically in Lower Saxony (“regions of the future”). 83% of ERDF funds in Germany were allocated without a territorial focus, otherwise mostly in the category “other territorial instruments.”

Action 1 is aimed at continuing to pursue and shape the discussion on the (reorientation of) EU structural policy at federal and state level. This is subject to achieving the best possible outcome for the region.

Stakeholder Engagement and Governance for Action 1

The responsibility lies with the management authorities ERDF, in Berlin part of Senate department for economics, energy and enterprises and in Brandenburg part of Ministry for Economic Affairs, Labour, Energy and Climate Action. An interministerial working group is operating in Brandenburg. First, each federal state must establish its own position on the instrument.

Input on this topic is also provided by the permanent representatives of both federal states in Brussels, who report regularly. This information is shared in particular in EU policy officer meetings.

Next steps:

Ministry for Economic Affairs, Labour, Energy and Climate Action and Ministry of Finance and Europe of Brandenburg will hold an external cabinet meeting in Brussels.

The German Federal Spatial Development Conference will be looking at the EU's proposals for revamping cohesion and funding policy by the end of the year.

This will be followed by federal-state negotiations and an interministerial working group on the design of the instruments for the next funding period.

It is important to be aware of the reform needs of local and regional stakeholders. Whether a new coordination body would be useful in this regard is currently being examined.

The specific form of cooperation between Berlin and Brandenburg is still open at present.

Implementation of Action 1

As a starting point, both states have set out their position on EU cohesion policy in a paper by September 2025.



Yet the action focuses on the state of Brandenburg first, because it is a major challenge to organize funding across state borders. In addition, due to its intra-regional disparities, BB has a territorial structure that makes the use of funds appear justified.

The prerequisite/basis for funding opportunities is the existence of an integrated development concept in which visions for the future are formulated in an interdisciplinary manner. This is done based on a wide variety of participatory procedures, as the development concept should be supported by the entire urban community.

In Brandenburg, more than 80 cities have already drawn up such an integrated concept. The MIL has created a working aid to support this process, which serves as a reference work for recommendations for all phases of the plan's creation. The target group is primarily the administration and politicians.

- Regarding ITI, greater attention will need to be paid in future to combining traditional infrastructure investments with intangible investments (such as employment/education policy). This is considered particularly beneficial for the structurally weaker areas of the federal state.
- Greater efforts should be made to ensure that business and science are involved.

- The extent to which thematic priorities should be set, e.g., water supply and disposal, should be examined. (This point is the result of the debriefing of the study visit to Warsaw on the topic of ITI.)
- In line with the objective of European territorial cooperation, cross-border cooperation should be pursued. Great potential is seen, for example, for the twin cities of Frankfurt/Oder and Stübice. The German-polish interlinkage area and its Joint Vision for the Future is explicitly mentioned in the Territorial Agenda 2030 at “Region-focused Territorial Impact Assessment”. Here, projects have so far been organized primarily through INTERREG. The possibilities for expanding the range of funding should be explored.

Next steps:

- Ministry for Economic Affairs, Labour, Energy and Climate Action and Ministry of Finance and Europe of Brandenburg hold an external cabinet meeting in Brussels in September 2025.
- The German Federal Spatial Development Conference (RMK) has passed a resolution in reaction to the EU commission proposals for revamping cohesion and funding policy on 27 November 2025: The RMK supports a central role for the states in the development and implementation of the programs from 2028 onwards. It takes the view that the integrated territorial approach should be considered to a greater extent in the Structural Funds and in Interreg alongside sectoral support.
- Starting in 2026: Informal and formal federal-state negotiations and an interministerial working group on the design of the instruments for the next funding period.
- It is important to be aware of the reform needs of local and regional stakeholders. Whether a new coordination body would be useful in this regard is currently being examined (presumably until Q3/26).

Funding & Resource Mobilization for Action 1

Shaping new funding programs is an administrative task which uses staff already employed.

Monitoring and Evaluation for Action 1

The responsibility lies with the management authorities ERDF. Institutions responsible for regional development have the task of keeping the issue on the agenda (State Chancellery of Brandenburg, partly Joint spatial Planning Department).

Challenges & Risk Mitigation for Action 1

- Subregional funding questionable from the perspective of the state (and subregions). It may promote competition.
- Functional area designation (independent of administrative boundaries) is both a strength and a weakness. Risk minimization is possible through moderation on the part of the state, in coordination with the five regional planning associations of Brandenburg.
- Germany's federal organization as an obstacle to establishing ITI ("program within a program"). The task must be to promote the program at the federal level.
- Long strategic lead time is resource-intensive, as well as administration of new instruments like ITI. Risk mitigation through adequate job allocation and resource provision. Political support is important, as the budget situation is fundamentally tight.
- "The combination of different funds (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD) in a single funding approach proved particularly challenging, especially regarding indicators and different project durations. This necessitated increased consulting efforts." (ERDF evaluation report)
- JTF as a new territorial approach (competition/replacement).

B. Action 2: Preparation of the next regional spatial development plan for the Berlin-Brandenburg metropolitan region

The action aims to innovatively update the most important formal instrument of joint regional development in Berlin and Brandenburg, the State Development Plan Capital Region. This means using new participation formats to better reach and involve the relevant target groups than before, but also to identify and introduce new relevant topics.

Needs assessment for Action 2

The Berlin-Brandenburg Capital Region State Development Plan (LEP HR 2019) is a legally prescribed instrument for joint state spatial planning of Berlin and Brandenburg. It should be evaluated latest every ten years.

It guides mainly joint settlement development to prevent urban sprawl, reduce land consumption, secure agricultural and forestry use, direct traffic flows, and reduce CO2 emissions.

In sum, the State Development Plan (LEP HR) provides an overarching strategic framework for the sustainable spatial development of Berlin and the whole of Brandenburg.

According to the current LEP HR, this will be achieved by

- joint management of urban development in the core area through coordinated development along the rail lines running radially from Berlin into the surrounding region (settlement star),
- opening opportunities for cities in the so-called second row that are easily accessible by rail, also to relieve the core of the Capital Region,
- carrying the growth of the metropolis and the dynamism of the surrounding area into the whole of Brandenburg along the radial transport (rail)infrastructure,
- development and stabilization of centres as anchors for future-proof public services, especially in rural areas,
- the strengthening of core areas for basic functionality
- .

The LEP HR takes development trends into account and aims to regulate them spatially, while ensuring that the interests of all sub-regions are balanced.

The plan contents and control elements of the LEP HR relate to the following core spatial planning topics:

- The Capital Region,
- Economic development, commerce and large-scale retail,
- Cultural landscapes and rural areas,
- Settlement development,
- Open space development,
- Transport and infrastructure development,
- Climate, flooding, and energy.

New topics emerge like Water scarcity, climate adaptation, unequal living conditions (shrinking versus growth).

Need for revision in the years to come is assumed.

Stakeholder Engagement and Governance for Action 2

The Joint State Development Plans are drawn up by the Joint State Planning Department including a complex formal participation process publishing a draft, collecting and weighing up hundreds of written statements of stakeholders. The Plans are issued as statutory instruments by the governments of the contracting states of Berlin and Brandenburg, and forwarded to the state parliaments for information after the statute has been passed.

Close coordination between the states takes place in advance. During the development phase of the State Development Plan, the planning process is continuously monitored by the parliaments in both states.

Implementation of Action 2

The upcoming evaluation and analysis of state planning could follow the following structure:

1. Spatial development trends

For all subject areas of the current LEP, the current spatial development trends are presented according to the main topics. Any interdependencies between the trends must also be considered.

2. Identification of land use requirements

The land use requirements of various stakeholder and interest groups must be addressed in a thematically differentiated manner to obtain a comprehensive picture of the current situation.

3. Identification of land use conflicts

The conflicting objectives resulting from the various land use requirements must be addressed.

4. Justification of the possibilities for state planning intervention

The extent to which state planning is suitable for contributing to the clarification/resolution of the identified conflicts over land use or for securing land use requirements with the interventions/instruments at its disposal must be assessed and presented.

5. Assessment of the current set of spatial planning instruments

It is necessary to determine where issues are addressed

- with little need for conflict resolution but strong regulation (overregulation),
- with a high need for conflict resolution but insufficient spatial planning instruments (underregulation),
- that cannot be resolved by means of spatial planning (limits of spatial planning).

6. Conclusion

The goal is to begin the process of evaluating the LEP HR in 2027, if possible, so that work on drafting a new plan can begin no earlier than 2030 ff (about ten years after the publication of the current plan).

The next steps will be to conduct planning studies on specific topics, such as preventive flood protection and climate adaptation - steps which must be carried out by departments that are not part of the JSPD. In particular, the designation of retention areas and the relocation of dikes require intensive assessment and discussion with the municipalities concerned. The results will then be incorporated into the draft of the new plan.

Especially, results of two model projects on spatial planning will be incorporated into the new State Development Plan:

1. Model project "ROBau - Rethinking spatial planning instruments for more housing construction"

Research project on the possibilities of spatial planning and inter-municipal cooperation for the creation of new housing construction in line with demand in tight housing markets will run until mid-2026.

The research is guided by the question of how state and regional planning can contribute to activating new housing construction. The aim is to examine existing formal planning and develop innovative, informal approaches.

Objectives:

- Development and testing of new instruments

- Recommendations for the targeted implementation of existing instruments and the possible establishment of more forward-thinking spatial planning instruments
- Guidelines, handouts, or working aids for the municipal level.

Participants:

- Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Planning (MIL) of the State of Brandenburg
- Berlin Senate Department for Urban Development, Construction, and Housing (SenStadt),
- the regional planning associations Havelland-Fläming and Oderland-Spree,
- the cities of Ludwigsfelde and Frankfurt (Oder),
- the Association of Berlin-Brandenburg Housing Companies (BBU),
- the State Office for Building and Transport (LBV).

2. MORO - “Cross-border synergies between spatial planning and water management in the Oder river basin”

The German-Polish model project for spatial planning (MORO) deals with the interfaces between spatial planning and water management in the Oder river basin. It relates to the field of action “Securing the foundations for a high quality of life” of the Joint Future Concept for the German-Polish Interdependent Area - Vision 2030 (GZK 2030). The project will end in June 2027.

Objectives:

- Cross-border exchange of knowledge and experience with Polish stakeholders on the topics of spatial planning and water management.
- Developing strategies to improve the landscape water balance and measures for preventive flood protection,
- Raising awareness among stakeholders of the challenges and options for action and developing new cooperation and implementation models for networking stakeholders,
- Identifying control options at the regional planning level to improve the landscape water balance.

The model projects and their incorporation will significantly strengthen informal approaches to preparing the State Development Plan and ensure that the plan is technically capable of meeting current challenges.

From today's perspective and under the circumstances described it is foreseen to start with an elaboration of a spatial vision in 2027 in a collaborative process. Further preparation studies / activities will be shaped.

Relations to neighbouring metropolitan region need to be considered, like:

- Joint development with neighbouring Polish regions, such as the Szczecin metropolitan region, should also be intensified in the future. Strategic Development of Szczecin-Axis (conference in November 2025),
- The Hamburg metropolitan region recently commissioned an analysis of its links with the surrounding area and neighbouring regions. Hamburg and Berlin-Brandenburg are already discussing their connections (Prignitz axis).

Expert exchange with other Metropolitan Regions on spatial developments and challenges, like:

- Exchange with association of German Metropolitan Regions (IKM), November 2025 in Chemnitz, February 2026 in Nürnberg, October 2026 in Berlin
- METREX exchange in spring and autumn conferences as well as participation in the Nordic-Baltic working group
- International Conference in summer 2026 in Berlin focussing on current challenges for metropolitan regions and solution strategies: JSPD invites representatives from European metropolitan regions to learn and discuss implementation options.

Funding & Resource Mobilization for Action

The preparation is financed from general budgetary resources. The model projects are funded by federal funds.

Monitoring and Evaluation for Action 2

The Capital Region continuously monitors key spatial development trends. In addition, trends in spatial development for selected topics are monitored, such as climate and energy, as well as developments in flood-affected areas. These, together with other reports such as the Spatial Planning Report (most recently in 2023, written by JSPD), forms the basis for every evaluation. The first evaluation focused on the topic of residential development, as mandated by the 2019 coalition agreement. It was published in 2022 along with a key points paper. Key questions were developed from this report, from which theses for future regional planning were derived.

- Are the underlying trends still accurate?
- Are the growth centres defined in the best possible way?
- Is the balance of interests between the specialist planning departments on the one hand and the regions on the other being maintained?

JSPD plans to establish a cross-departmental working group to further steer and shape the renewal process. The launch could take place in the fall of 2026.

Challenges & Risk Mitigation for Action 2

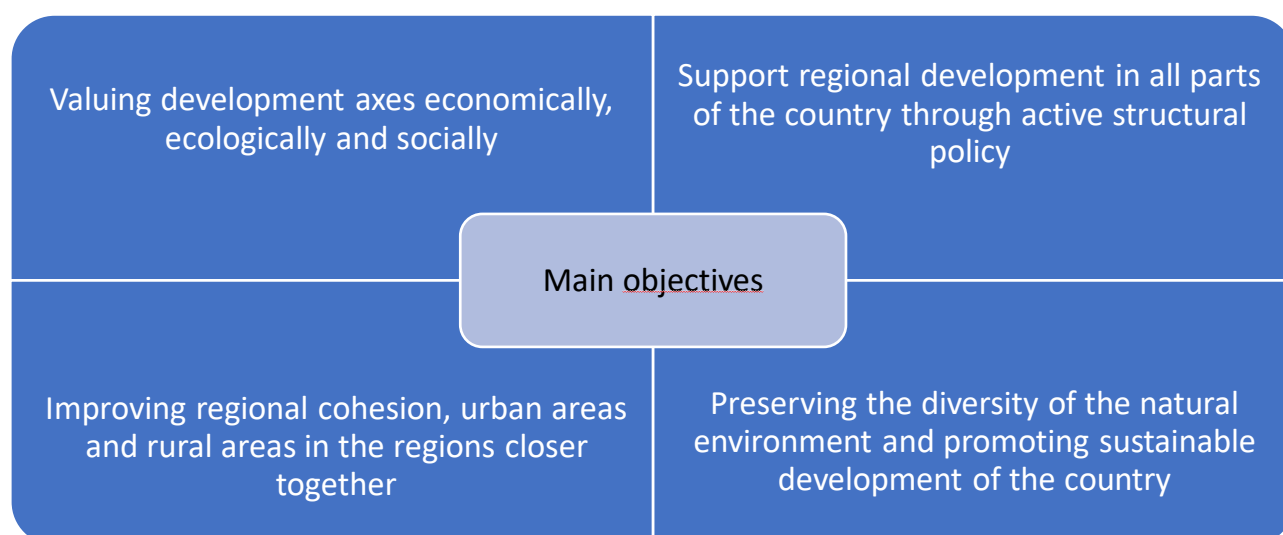
- With a plan evaluation every ten years, there is a risk that the underlying economic and demographic trends will be less valid. Ongoing spatial observation of State office for Construction and Transportation (LBV Brandenburg on behalf of JSPD) and less focussing on trends but principles generally recognized as correct and viable improves the data-driven basis for planning.
- Settlement development is linked to the infrastructure of public transport. If this stagnates or even needs to be reduced (due to a lack of funding), it can have negative effects on housing construction and thus on overall urban development. Delays in the implementation of rail projects are an early warning indicator. Supporting the topic is the MNF, which has chosen Housing settlement as annual theme for 2026 and 2027 in November 2025.
- It is not yet clear whether improved participation will actually lead to a decline in the critical stance of some stakeholders. Critics tend to view the plan as an obstacle rather than a tool for creation. Observation and evaluation of the participation process at short intervals is necessary (e.g. twice a year), in ideal circumstances conducted by an external, neutral stakeholder.
- The described need for residential and commercial space puts pressure on open, green spaces, particularly the areas between the main development axes, which are already protected. Public interest groups must be involved, e.g in changes to the land use plan, including environmental organizations. Planners are called upon to find fundamentally different solutions for housing development that do not involve significant consumption of green spaces and open spaces.
- Berlin is growing, Brandenburg has the space (especially in the outer metropolitan area, according to the latest LBV-Brandenburg trend-monitoring). How can this be resolved fairly? An early warning indicator is the political debate. The overarching theme here is spatial justice. A mitigation strategy should generally not only focus on distributive justice but also on procedural justice: Ensure that all participants are treated equally and that their votes have equal value.
- The German Federal Spatial Development Conference (RMK) has passed a resolution in November 2025 to supplement the 2016 “Guiding Principles and Action Strategies for Spatial Development in Germany” with a new guiding principle: “Shaping land requirements and land competition”. Even if this is informal, it provides a further foundation for the future direction of the LEP.

C.Action 3: Consolidation and deepening of the regional development strategy

The action aims to improve Brandenburg's most important informal regional planning instrument, the regional development strategy, and to anchor it more firmly in the metropolitan region by involving relevant stakeholders. In future, greater attention will be paid to neighbouring regions and interdependencies; the axis development model stands for joint connections between Berlin and Brandenburg as well as between Brandenburg and its neighbouring regions.

Needs assessment for Action 3

With the regional development strategy “Combining Strengths” for the state of Brandenburg, which was adopted by the cabinet in 2021, following up the process of “regional growth cores” from 2005, two new core elements were introduced that are intended to help ensure that the implementation of the strategy has an impact throughout the state: an expanded circle of key players, as well as strategic guidelines for key projects that benefit cities and rural regions alike. The development strategy considers existing regulations and strategies in formulation of strategic crash-barriers.



The strategy was developed cross-departmental, with State Chancellery of Brandenburg as leading and coordinating actor. This was followed by an interministerial working group of both state governments of Berlin and Brandenburg on cooperation projects along development axes. Altogether eleven departments had been involved.

The development strategy addresses the entire state of Brandenburg, including connections to Berlin. The core of the work is the expansion and networking of ongoing funding programs.

Stakeholder Engagement and Governance for Action 3

The strategy process was led by Brandenburg State Chancellery, providing the framework for action by defining key points and strategic guidelines. In doing so, the state government has defined the overarching goals for the development of the state of Brandenburg and formulated the framework for cooperation in the regions.

The translation into action must be done on the level of the planning regions of Brandenburg. They independently and according to the bottom-up principle set their goals and implement their key projects in dialogue with each other. This is referred to as the countercurrent principle between the state government and the regions.

Supported by an external project management the regions defined their key projects in a long and differentiated process: Starting with general regional talks and a wide range of stakeholder, followed by workshops with a smaller group of participants, then focussing on the actual players. These were the counties, LEADER groups, the regional planning associations.

State chancellery provided support, including coordinated expert input for assistance and exchange. For example, in 2023 and 2024 twelve subject-specific impulses were given, with subjects like co-working, landscape management, hydrogen or EU-funding possibilities.

The exchange strengthens cohesion and the shared focus on the strategies goals.

Key projects are voted on once a year. Project outlines from the regions are developed in consultation with the relevant ministries; this also includes examining funding opportunities. New projects are voted on in the cabinet.

Implementation of Action 3

With the regional development strategy two new core elements were introduced that are designed to help ensure that the implementation of the strategy has an impact throughout the state: an expanded circle of key players, as well as strategic guidelines for key projects that benefit cities and rural regions alike.

The key players and stakeholders were shortly mentioned above already. However, it is worth to mention here that cross-district and cross-sector cooperation between economically strong locations and municipalities and cities in all sub-regions ensures that different perspectives are incorporated into regional development – both in terms of spatial needs and in terms of fields of action. Brandenburg's key players are divided into five regions in the north-west, north-east, east and south-west of the country, while the south is special: In Lusatia the end of coal mining requires a special programme, massive sponsored by a federal state programme.

In each region the key players practise informal exchange, finding their own and specific way for effective cooperation, based on their special needs. The dialogue and work process of the key regional players is referred to as REGIONALE.

The strategic guidelines can be defined as sub-actions of the regional development strategy:

1. Axis development

- Along rail transport axes and in their vicinity (development axes), value creation and a vibrant community are strengthened, and regionally effective services for public welfare and housing are bundled in central locations and in areas with basic functional priorities.

2. Development of the environment of business and economic locations

- The appeal of business locations and settlements will be harnessed and utilized for further development.

3. Appeal of science and research locations

- The anchoring of science and research locations in the regional living and economic environment will be supported.

4. Participation of the regions

- Cooperation and competencies of regional actors in structural change will be strengthened.

5. Strengthening local structures in rural areas

- Based on regional concepts and (supra)regional structures, local services of general interest and supply are further developed in line with specific needs.

6. Cross-border and interregional cooperation

- Jointly designing development projects, taking into account mutual regional potential and points of contact.

7. Expansion of regional value chains

- Regional value chains will be developed, continued, and linked.

8. Digitalization connects potential and bridges distances

- Digital processes and skills within and outside the region are used for its own development and contribute to the further development of digitalization in the state.

9. Strengthening regional and local identity

- Cultural, educational, and community offerings are developed that strengthen regional or local identity.

10. Places for cooperation and knowledge transfer

- Local knowledge exchange between different sectors of society contributes to community, creative solutions, and social cohesion.

Sub-actions overview and brief description: Defined “Strategic Guidelines”

For each sub-action the REGIONALE has to identify regional key activities through combining ongoing projects and developing new ones. The key players pool their various skills and resources to develop sustainable solutions in the state of Brandenburg. Throughout the years the projects enhance their quality by establishing cooperations with new locations and integrating additional stakeholders from science, economy or civil society. Not all key regional players are involved in every project, but there is

consensus that these projects contain sustainable development approaches for the region that will benefit everyone.

The action, especially the REGIONALE, follows the principles of good urban development policy as formulated in the New Leipzig Charter (2020) and supports its goal of strengthening municipal capacity for action. It provides a governance-approach focussing on bottom-up initiatives, regional cooperation and participation, but always in close coordination with the higher level. This also supports the “Territorial Agenda 2030” (2020) goal of functional regions and a convergent regional development.

Especially the REGIONALE is regarded as highly transferable because its dialogue-oriented approach fostering and strengthening regional cooperation, embedded in a statewide strategy.

Funding & Resource Mobilization for Action 3

Smaller projects and measures can often still be financed from operating activities, but larger ones cannot. Almost always, a combination of several financing methods is used within a cooperation. These include, among others:

- Contribution of human resources from public authorities and/or other civil society institutions and the business sector,
- Financing of external services by the parties involved, including individual services by the state or federal government, if applicable,
- Monetary and non-monetary compensation mechanisms for specific projects,
- Later, if applicable, institutionalized financing through allocations or subsidies from the states.

Funding is based on a variety of subsidies (EU, national and state). All eligible measures, such as regional management, implementation of non-investment or investment measures, and cooperation, are based on the regional development strategy. The current funding guideline for this is valid until June 2027.

Monitoring and Evaluation for Action 3

The status of key projects is (normally) discussed with the state government every six months.

Furthermore, regular evaluation of the entire state-wide regional development strategy by external experts is part of the process. The first evaluation report had been published in June 2024. It consisted of a five-point plan:

- Basic assessment - review of available data and concepts
- Qualitative interviews with key regional stakeholders and project managers
- One-on-one discussions/interviews with members of the state government
- Conducting a specialist workshop
- Developing conclusions and recommendations for action

This makes it clear that the evaluation draws on its knowledge in various ways and gathers both data and facts as well as opinions to gain a comprehensive impression. Therefore, it is possible to provide specific and differentiated recommendations for action to continue the regional development strategy.

Additional focus group: In future, it would also make sense to conduct a citizen survey to determine how the transformation measures are perceived. Deviations from the usual indicators, for example, may indicate a need for additional action.

The “3. Conference of Regions” took place on 10 November 2025. The conferences provide a central platform for the exchange of experiences and cooperation between local actors involved in regional development and the state government. In addition to the project reports, a workshop was also held: “From ideas to visions of the future: Shaping Brandenburg 2050 together”.

In general, monitoring must consider that, in addition to state measures, the Federal Structural Assistance Act provides substantial financial resources, but that regional development is also determined by factors beyond the influence of regional policy, making it difficult to assess the specific impact.

Challenges & Risk Mitigation for Action 3

Organisation and governance:

- The principle of countervailing influence must balance permanently between top-down and bottom-up approaches. Theoretically there is the danger of losing balance. All stakeholders must grow into their roles and make use of their creative freedom.
- Partners must be regarded as equal despite differences in size (cf. MNF).
- Sufficient financial resources must be made available to ensure the continuity of the process.
- Cooperation should not lose sight of the goal of connecting the weaker with the stronger.
- The counter flow principle relies on successful communication. It must be constant and clear.
- Good communication is the basis for trust and cooperation. The requirement applies to both horizontal and vertical communication. Finally, it is also a question of personnel continuity. This can be a major challenge in a voluntary process.
- Examine/enable technical involvement at the state level where municipal sphere of influence is exceeded.

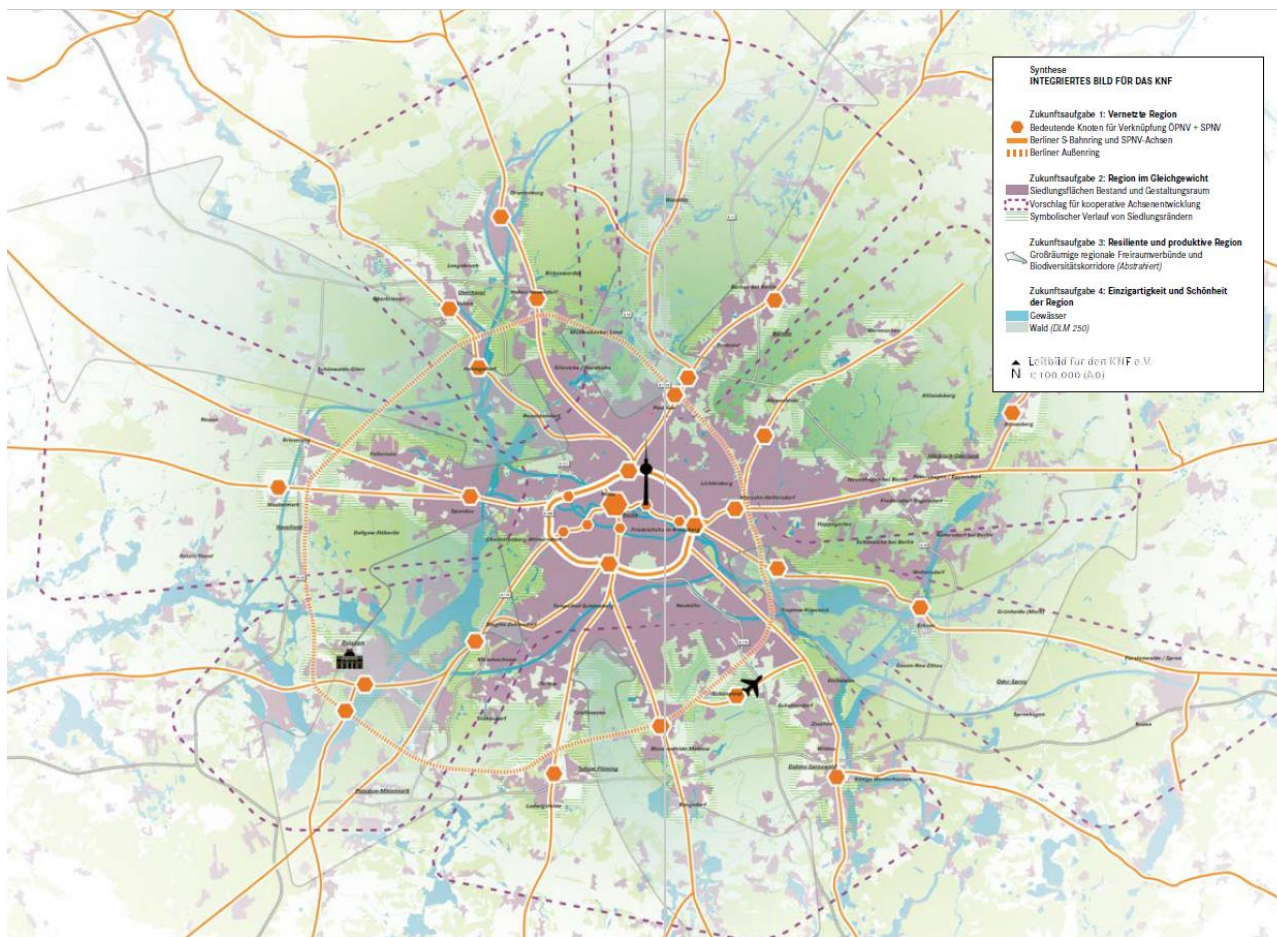
- External incentives and stimuli can have a reinforcing positive influence, for example by providing analytical, conceptual, or organizational foundations for consensus building.
- Election of the new state government after the collapse of the coalition (Q2/26). State Chancellery must take new political priorities into account where necessary, but no fundamental changes are expected.

Cooperation within the metropolitan region Berlin-Brandenburg

- The regional development strategy is primarily a Brandenburg strategy. In the longer term, Berlin should be more closely involved than is currently the case, as should neighbouring regions and adjacent federal states. Transport routes, for example, also form axes that cross state borders. The Berlin-Brandenburg agreement on axes development along rail networks can lead to a deepening cooperation, e.g. in residential construction or free/green space planning.
- Q2/26: celebratory event on the occasion of 30th birthday of JSPD: opportunity for political reaffirmation of cooperation.

D. Action 4: Implementation of the guiding principle of the Municipal Neighbourhood Forum

The action focuses on the closer interdependence between Berlin and Brandenburg. The aim here is to involve the unequal partners in jointly solving shared problems (32 Brandenburg communities, 10 districts of Berlin plus the city of Berlin). The action aims to intensify cooperation between municipalities in the interests of a regional perspective by the implementation of a guiding principle. This mission statement published in 2025 identifies measures and instruments that need to be implemented or applied.



Integrated guiding principle of the MNF showing territory and future tasks

The transferability of the action is high for several reasons, assuming that the political will is present:

- informal cooperation is relatively easy to start,

- Current challenges are a good starting-point,
- Suitable for all kind of municipal topics.

Needs assessment for Action 4

The current situation in the Capital Region, focusing on the wider metropolitan area in which the MNF operates (source: LBV Regional Monitoring):

Between 2018 and 2022, Berlin saw a population increase of 3.9%, mainly due to immigration from abroad. The continued suburbanization of Berlin led to a significant migration deficit compared to the surrounding area and, increasingly, to the wider metropolitan area, which has obviously become more attractive. The spatial coexistence of population growth and decline continues at a reduced rate in the state of Brandenburg.

The interdependence between Berlin and Brandenburg has intensified further in the labour market, as evidenced by the approximately 330,000 employees subject to social insurance contributions who commuted across the joint state border in 2022. The transport accessibility of the Berlin metropolitan area played a major role in this.

The level of new construction in the state of Brandenburg is closely related to its proximity to and transport accessibility from Berlin. In terms of population, more than twice as many apartments were built in the Berlin suburbs as in the wider metropolitan area. However, the above-average increase in the number of building permits and construction completions in the wider metropolitan area suggests that the suburbanization of Berlin is increasingly affecting parts of the wider metropolitan area.

Berlin and the surrounding area have very low or low vacancy rates in the housing stock compared to the rest of Germany, which signals strong local tensions in the housing market.

Berlin has relatively little commercial space that can be activated at short notice. Brandenburg, on the other hand, has great potential, but this is unevenly distributed across the region.

The Municipal Neighbourhood Forum (MNF) and its work for the metropolitan region

The MNF is an association of Berlin districts and Brandenburg municipalities, organized as a non-profit organization since 2020. It is considered a successful model of cross-border informal planning. To remain so in the future, it has considered both content-related and organizational issues. Two important measures have been implemented that provide spatial, organizational, and strategic solutions and recommendations: the outer ring study and the mission statement process.

The outer ring study explores possibilities for linking railway requirements and settlement development, particularly at the interfaces with the settlement star. It takes up the LEP HR's call for priority development along the radial axes and links this with an existing tangential connection. Development potential at the junctions of the transport routes was identified and evaluated, and recommendations for action were formulated. This has created the basis for further communication with stakeholders and decision-makers in Berlin and Brandenburg.

The mission statement process was carried out from fall 2024 to summer 2025. The focus was on key questions: Who does the KNF want to address with its work? What values and goals does it stand for? How does it shape internal and external cooperation?

The result was not only a clear and jointly supported self-image, but also a strategic orientation framework that will serve as the basis for the future direction and further development of the MNF's work.

The objective of action 1 is to achieve implementation of the mission statement/guiding principle and that it will serve as a guide for stakeholders by

- a) defining the KNF's self-image as a regional player,
- b) defining future tasks that are to be addressed as a priority, with several positions assigned to each task, and
- c) identifying recommendations for action and measures derived from this.

Stakeholder Engagement and Governance for Action 4

The mission statement process:

The involvement of full members and associate members was central to the development of the mission statement, to develop it based on the needs of the KNF. Feedback on the interim results to the MNF office and executive board was equally important.

To this end, coordinated meetings and workshops were held at the KNF level as well as in the four working groups. Support was provided by an external planning office, which also took on the analysis, moderation, and documentation. After the kick-off workshop in July 2024 with stakeholders and partners, a first draft was created, which was presented to over 100 participants for the first time at the annual conference in September. Based on this and further input from members, the tasks and positions were supplemented and refined. The next step consisted of written feedback from full and associate members (including a questionnaire). This was followed in spring 2025 by workshops within the working groups to further specify the recommendations for action. The interim results were discussed with the office and the board. In July 2025, the mission statement was then adopted at the KNF general

meeting. The mission statement was thus developed in an intensive and multi-layered communication process.

Structure of the MNF:

The MNF currently has 43 members, who are represented by their political representatives, as well as 14 associated partners, including the Joint Regional Planning Department Berlin-Brandenburg and the Chambers of Industry and Commerce. Depending on their regional affiliation, the stakeholders operate in sub-regional working groups: AG North, AG East, AG South, and AG West. There are also interest groups organized around specific topics. The Mission Statement interest group has been newly established to ensure continuity in implementation.

The stakeholders in the MNF act according to the following guiding principles:

- The MNF acts in the interests of the Berlin districts, the Brandenburg cities and municipalities, and the counties in the core area of the Capital Region.
- The MNF is a platform for exchange and balancing interests.
- The MNF provides its own professional impetus.

Implementation of Action 4

The Guiding principle is a general document providing strategies, actions and priorities, addressing different stakeholders within the region. It is divided into four sub-actions, called „future tasks“:

The four future tasks:

1. Connected Region,
2. Region in Balance,
3. Resilient and productive Region,
4. Uniqueness and beauty of the region

One basic assumption is that specialist planning will not lead to best solutions any more. Only an integrated approach will adequately address the problems.

The new mission statement document identifies four so-called future tasks. These summarize the necessary actions and levels of work as cross-cutting tasks with which the KNF can position itself uniformly. They are the result of weighing up concreteness and openness to future requirements, both in terms of subject areas and coordination formats or ways of cooperation.

First, the future tasks are described, followed by the recommendations for action and implementation measures derived from them.

Sub-action 1: Future task “Connected Region”

The MNF area, comprising Berlin's districts and its immediate surroundings, is highly functional in terms of its networks and infrastructure. Mobility of all kinds is crucial for the region: passenger mobility for work and leisure, as well as freight mobility.

In the interests of sustainable transport development, these networks need to be further expanded, both in terms of scope (network) and service frequency (intervals). This will also strengthen the existing transport axes connecting Berlin and its surrounding areas as development corridors. This is because stations and stops are hubs that are particularly important in terms of accessibility and multimodality and thus the further development of the area.

Sub-action 2: Future Task „Region in Balance“

As an area closely linked to Berlin, the MNF region is subject to considerable development pressure, as reflected, for example, in high levels of residential suburbanization, demand for commercial space, and commuter traffic. This pressure necessitates the adaptation of a wide range of infrastructure. However, these developments vary in intensity within the region, resulting in a coexistence of growing, stable, and shrinking areas. This makes regional control, which aims at equitable and sustainable development, even more important. The model of the settlement star is an important control instrument here, but municipalities outside the star must also be given development opportunities. Potential for this is seen in the further development of the outer ring.

Inter-municipal exchange and cooperation are fundamental to achieving the best possible development for the entire region. The sustainable development of a region in balance must therefore be understood in both spatial and thematic terms in the sense of integrated spatial development.

Sub-action 3: Future task „Resilient and Productive Region“

The MNF area is scenically diverse. This diversity must be preserved and utilized in equal measure: for agriculture, environmental protection, nature conservation, and energy production. This includes the management of soil and water resources, the preservation and further development of natural and cultural areas for a region adapted to climate change for the benefit of people, flora, and fauna.

Sub-action 4: Future task „Uniqueness and beauty of the region“

The MNF area is a diverse landscape: urban and rural areas alternate, and the region is rich in forests and waterways due to its geological history. This natural environment is considered unique and worthy of protection.

This applies no less to the cultural heritage, as expressed, for example, in the settlement structures, town centres, and monuments. The transition zone between settlement and landscape deserves the same attention as a connecting link, as it is under particular pressure.

Toolbox

The toolbox describes the MNF's scope for action. This is derived from the association's self-image and its fields of activity. The toolbox contains proven measures and activities as well as suggestions for new instruments. In the future, the KNF would like to become more involved in planning processes by offering help and communication and focusing on successful implementations.

Field of action	Existing activity	Newly proposed
Representation of interest	Formulation of common positions Support for working groups, axes, and members in representing their interests	
Services for members, technical and organizational	Working aids and guidelines Data collection and processing Consulting and technical support Potential analyses and studies	Planning and support services for members Best practice exchange of practical implementation
Public perception/ communication		Awards and prizes for good examples

Toolbox describing scope for action with existing and proposed activities

On the 6. general meeting of the MNF on 24 November 2025 housing was chosen the annual topic for the next two years. Thereby the topic of housing should be considered primarily with regard to the different demand groups and their housing needs (until Q4/27).

Funding & Resource Mobilization for Action 4

The existing capitation fee results in an annual budget of approximately €480,000. This is used for the administrative office and day-to-day business.

Personnel costs will rise if the range of tasks expands. Financial compensation would have to be provided for taking on tasks for local authorities. The amount of future financial requirements cannot be quantified at present; it depends on the speed and intensity of implementation of the proposed measures.

Additional external sources of financing (e.g. EU) will be necessary on a project-by-project basis.

Monitoring and Evaluation for Action 4

- Feedback loops during formation of guiding principle: Regular and associated partners give feedback,
- Yearly conference and concerns groups for feedback and control,
- Guiding principle to be monitored regularly. Progress on the recommended actions is measured according to implementation priority and positions.
- Working group within the MNF to ensure targeted internal and external communication and to make considerations on how the recommendations for action defined in the mission statement can be implemented.

Challenges & Risk Mitigation for Action 4

There are legal limitations to informal approaches. The KNF works successful within these limitations. One potential barrier is the increase of members: Membership is on voluntary basis, and nothing should be changed about that. It is not clear why municipalities should join now if they have not sought to do so in the past. Increase of engagement of the KNF depends on increase of funding. Fee alone will most likely not be enough, external funding is necessary.

Implementation of guiding principle depends on people, on personnel involving. Committed people are the driving force. First, you must find them, second, as political representatives of their municipalities, they require a political mandate for their involvement in the Forum.

In the mid- and long-term, when KNF has managed to expand its area of responsibility, the risk of competition and overlapping responsibilities is increasing. It is unclear at the moment if and how the KNF can establish as an additional player on the field of regional planning in the Capital Region. Further development can therefore only take place with the consent of the states and the JSPD; the process must be closely monitored. As a permanent guest at the MNF meetings, JSPD is in a position to do this.

Annex

Sub Actions for implementation of the guiding principle of the Municipal Neighbourhood Forum

Sub-action 1: Future task “Connected Region”

This sub-action/future task can be summarized in five points:

1. Demand and support increases in capacity and quality in rail transport	
Explanation	Stakeholder
Public transport infrastructure keeping pace with population growth. More freight transport by rail. MNF: studies and concepts, representing the interests of the region and acting as a networking player.	- DB InfraGO AG,- Berlin-Brandenburg Transport Association (VBB), - Chambers of Industry and Commerce, - Senate Department for Mobility, Transport, Climate Protection, and Environment (SenMVKU) of the State of Berlin, - Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Planning (MIL) of the State of Brandenburg.

2. Exploit the potential of Berlin's outer ring at the intersections with the radial lines	
Explanation	Stakeholder
Check tangential connections, Settlement development, especially at intersections and crossroads, MNF is examining options for further refinement and implementation.	- DB InfraGO AG, - Berlin-Brandenburg Transport Association (VBB),- Chambers of Industry and Commerce, - Senate Department for Mobility, Transport, Climate Protection, and the Environment (SenMVKU) of the State of Berlin, - Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Planning (MIL) of the State of Brandenburg, - Senate Department for Urban Development, Construction, and Housing (SenStadt) of the State of Berlin, - Joint Regional Planning Department Berlin-Brandenburg, - Affected districts and counties, cities, and municipalities.

3. Supplement the regional rail network with efficient cross-state public transport	
Explanation	Stakeholder
Plan public transport across districts and states, create complementary services. MNF analyses demand and supports municipalities in their efforts to further expand public transport.	- Counties/independent cities, - Berlin-Brandenburg Transport Association (VBB), - Local transport companies.

4. Make mobility hubs more attractive and promote, expand, and improve the integration of mobility services	
Explanation	Stakeholder
Align multimodal transport hubs with the transfer needs and requirements of all modes of transport. The KNF supports local authorities in the conception and design of such hubs, facilitating the exchange and coordination of objectives and responsibilities.	- Districts, cities, and municipalities, - Berlin-Brandenburg Transport Association (VBB) – Competence Center for Railway Stations, - DB InfraGO AG – Competence Center for Station Forecourts, - Federal Foundation for Building Culture.

5. Developing cross-state cycling networks

Explanation	Stakeholder
Construction of fast cycle routes. The MNF analyses the current situation and draws up plans for expansion, networking and supporting inter-municipal coordination processes.	- Districts, cities, municipalities, and counties, - InfraVelo, Grün Berlin GmbH, - Regional parks and umbrella organization, - Tourism associations, - Senate Department for Mobility, Transport, Climate Protection, and Environment (SenMVKU) of the State of Berlin, - Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Planning (MIL) of the State of Brandenburg.

Recommended action	Category	Instruments	Priority
In-depth studies for investigation areas on Berlin's outer ring	Specialist follow-up projects	Potential analysis and studies	medium
Prospects for rail-based tangential transport in the eastern suburbs of Berlin	Specialist follow-up projects	Potential analysis and studies	medium
Advising members on the subject of funding	Services and Information	Consulting and technical support	high
Data and Information – service platform for members	Services and Information	Consulting and technical support	high
Advocacy with regard to mobility	Services and Information	Supporting working groups, axes, and members in representing their interests	high
Step-up external and internal communication	all	Supporting working groups, axes, and members in representing their interests	high
Announcement of annual MNF competitions on varying topics	all	Awards and prizes for good examples	medium

Sub-action 1: Future task „Connected Region”: Recommended actions and instruments

Sub-action 2: Future Task „Region in Balance“

This future task can be summarized in seven points:

1. Support strategic, compatible, qualitative, and cooperative axis development

Explanation	Stakeholder
The State Development Plan (LEP HR) concentrates settlement area development along well-developed axes. This means that development pressure is particularly high in these areas, making inter-municipal coordination on the development of land for residential, commercial, trade, and infrastructure purposes necessary. The MNF supports municipalities in drawing up development concepts and in inter-municipal exchange, and ensures the involvement of other regionally significant players.	- Cities, municipalities, and counties along the respective axes, - Regional planning associations, - Joint Spatial Planning Department Berlin-Brandenburg

2. Support internal development with compatible typologies at a density appropriate to the location

Explanation	Stakeholder
Limiting land consumption is an important goal of sustainable spatial development. Inner development is therefore of great importance. The challenge is to preserve the structural qualities of settlements and open spaces. The MNF supports municipalities in this endeavor by providing analyses and knowledge processing.	- Cities, districts, and municipalities, - Joint Spatial Planning Department Berlin-Brandenburg, - Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Planning (MIL) of the State of Brandenburg, - Senate Department for Urban Development, Construction, and Housing (SenStadt) of the State of Berlin.

3. Qualify open spaces close to settlements for local recreation and preserve unbroken open spaces

Explanation	Stakeholder
Internal densification makes it possible to preserve the spaces between axes and natural areas, which also fulfill an important climatic function. The MNF supports inter-municipal coordination.	- Regional parks, - Umbrella organization of regional parks in Brandenburg and Berlin e. V., - Joint Spatial Planning department Berlin-Brandenburg, - Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Environment, and Consumer Protection (MLEUV) of the State of Brandenburg, - Senate Department for Urban Development, Construction, and Housing (SenStadt) of the State of Berlin, - Senate Department for Mobility, Transport, Climate Protection, and Environment (SenMVKU) of the State of Berlin, - Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development (HNEE).

4. Provide expert support for the development of commercial and economic areas across state and municipal boundaries

Explanation	Stakeholder
The scarcity of land makes inter-municipal coordination increasingly important in the development of commercial land. The impact on commuter and freight traffic must be taken into account. The MNF supports municipalities by promoting cooperation and balance and offering assistance in the formation of location communities.	- Cities, districts, municipalities, and counties – e.g., urban planning and economic development, - Subregional cooperatives and development companies, - Chambers of industry and commerce, - Chambers of crafts, - Senate Department for Economics, Energy, and Public Enterprises (SenWiEnBe) of the State of Berlin, - Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labor, Energy, and Climate Protection (MWAEK) of the State of Brandenburg

5. Support the qualitative development and expansion of social infrastructure at the regional level

Explanation	Stakeholder
Inter-municipal coordination can ensure better and fairer utilization of heavily used social infrastructure. The MNF supports inter-municipal exchange and the expansion of social infrastructure in the region through mutual exchange, highlighting good examples, providing conceptual foundations, and offering political support.	- Cities, districts, municipalities, and counties, - Regional planning associations, - Educational institutions, social welfare organizations, associations, etc.

6. Support the cross-state management and implementation of compensation requirements

Explanation	Stakeholder
Land scarcity means competition for use. By establishing a transnational compensation management system, compensation requirements are to be coordinated and compensation measures used at regional level to actively develop open spaces. The MNF is striving for a cross-border compensation management system, and the feasibility study is now available. It can act as a mediating body between the region as a whole and its sub-regions.	- Umbrella organization of regional parks in Brandenburg and Berlin e. V., - Cities, districts, and municipalities via the regional parks, - Agencies for the implementation of compensation measures such as BADC GmbH, Berliner Stadtgüter GmbH, etc., - Senate Department for Urban Development, Construction, and Housing (SenStadt) of the State of Berlin, - Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Environment, and Consumer Protection (MLEUV).

7. Design settlement peripheries as intermunicipal areas of interconnection and compensation

Explanation	Stakeholder
The boundaries between the edge of settlements and open spaces are not always clear-cut. This makes it difficult to plan for this transition area, which is significant in terms of spatial structure. It should be strengthened as an area of interconnection, including by emphasizing its functions for leisure and the environment. The MNF can have a guidebook produced on how to deal with the edges of settlements.	- MNF, - Cities, districts, and municipalities, - Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Planning (MIL) of the State of Brandenburg, - Senate Department for Urban Development, Construction, and Housing (SenStadt) of the - State of Berlin.

Recommended action	Category	Instruments	Priority
Housing demand analyses/ Housing supply concept	Specialist follow-up projects	Data collection and processing	medium
Potential analysis: partial spatial internal development concepts	Specialist follow-up projects	Potential analysis and studies	medium
In-depth studies for investigation areas on Berlin's outer ring	Specialist follow-up projects	Potential analysis and studies	medium
Study on settlement edge concepts and typologies	Specialist follow-up projects	Potential analysis and studies	medium
Formation and continuation of axis communities	Services and Information	Consulting and technical support	high
Advising members on the subject of funding	Services and Information	Consulting and technical support	high
Data and Information – service platform for members	Services and Information	Consulting and technical support	high
Working aid for urban development around public transport hubs	Services and Information	Best practice exchange of practical implementations	medium
Support for intermunicipal and cross-border commercial land development	Services and Information	Consulting and technical support	medium
Know-how transfer and consulting on intermunicipal division of labor in social infrastructure services	Services and Information	Consulting and technical support	medium
Promotion and institutionalization of regional parks	Communication	Supporting working groups, axes, and members in representing their interests	high
Step-up external and internal communication	all	Supporting working groups, axes, and members in representing their interests	high
Announcement of annual MNF competitions on varying topics	all	Awards and prizes for good examples	medium
Support for cross-border compensation management	Collaboration projects	Consulting and technical support	high

Sub-action 2: FUTURE TASK: REGION IN BALANCE: Recommended actions and instruments

Sub-action 3: Future task „Resilient and Productive Region“

This future task can be summarized in five points:

1. Promote climate protection and climate adaptation through cooperation	
Explanation	Stakeholder
The basis for this is the Climate 2.0 urban development plan of the State of Berlin and the climate adaptation strategy and climate plan of the State of Brandenburg (2023/24). The MNF essentially serves as a platform for exchange.	- Cities, districts, municipalities, counties, - Scientific actors, - Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labor, Energy, and Climate Protection (MWA EK) of the State of Brandenburg, - Senate Department for Mobility, Transport, Climate Protection, and Environment (SenMV KU) of the State of Berlin.
2. Develop energy and heating plans through cooperation, generate energy in a climate-neutral way, distribute it, and consume it locally	
Explanation	Stakeholder
Expanding production, grid, and storage capacity is essential for the success of the energy transition. Municipal heat planning can achieve synergy effects. The MNF mediates between stakeholders, presents new approaches, and ensures the transfer of know-how.	- Cities, districts, municipalities, and counties, - Energy suppliers and grid operators, - Regional Energy Management Brandenburg-Municipal Energy Efficiency Networks (KEEN), - Interest groups for the energy transition (e.g., Berlin-Brandenburg Energy Network e. V., Brandenburg Energy Agency), - Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Planning (MIL) of the State of Brandenburg, - Senate Department for Mobility, Transport, Climate Protection, and Environment (SenMV KU) of the State of Berlin, - Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labor, Energy, and Climate Protection (MWA EK) of the State of Brandenburg.
3. Restore the landscape water balance and develop buffer, sponge, and storage landscapes	
Explanation	Stakeholder
The Capital Region Water Strategy 2025 is currently being developed as a conceptual basis. The landscape must become more resilient, store carbon, and have good water absorption capacity, as well as provide floodplains. The MNF is assisting with the implementation of the water strategy at the municipal level. It can draw on experience in this area and promotes cooperation between municipalities.	- Cities, districts, municipalities, and counties, - Water management stakeholders such as water associations, waterway and shipping authorities, and utility companies, - Scientific stakeholders (e.g., Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Navigation (IGB), - Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Environment, and Consumer Protection (MLEUV), - Senate Department for Mobility, Transport, Climate Protection, and Environment (SenMV KU) of the State of Berlin.

4. Support the conversion of settlement areas into sponge cities	
Explanation	Stakeholder
The increase in extreme weather events caused by climate change requires adjustments to be made in urban areas. Converting these areas according to the sponge city principle is considered a suitable measure. The MNF facilitates exchange and provides best practices.	- Cities, districts, municipalities, and counties.

5. Demand and promote the circular economy at regional and supraregional level	
Explanation	Stakeholder
Natural resources should be conserved by promoting the circular economy and increasing the use of renewable raw materials. The MNF supports local authorities and promotes the issue.	- MNF, - Cities, districts, municipalities, and counties, - Scientific actors (e.g., Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS), - Actors in the circular economy, - Chambers of Industry and Commerce, - Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labor, Energy, and Climate Protection (MWAEL) of the State of Brandenburg, - Senate Department for Economics, Energy, and Public Enterprises (SenWiEnBe) of the State of Berlin.

Recommended action	Category	Instruments	Priority
Climate change prevention strategy for the core area of the metropolitan region Berlin-Brandenburg	Specialist follow-up projects	Potential analysis and studies	high
Identification of intermunicipal potential and areas for action in heat planning	Specialist follow-up projects	Potential analysis and studies	high
Small-scale or sub-regional in-depth studies of the water strategy 2050	Specialist follow-up projects	Potential analysis and studies	high
Potential study circular economy	Specialist follow-up projects	Potential analysis and studies	high
Collection of best practice examples for intermunicipal/cooperative climate protection and adaptation measures	Services and Information	Best practice exchange of practical implementations	high
Step-up external and internal communication	all	Supporting working groups, axes, and members in representing their interests	high
Advising members on the subject of funding	Services and Information	Consulting and technical support	high
Data and information – service platform for members	Services and Information	Consulting and technical support	
Announcement of annual MNF competitions on varying topics	all	Awards and prizes for good examples	medium
Landscape water supply and concepts of sponge landscape	Collaboration projects	Consulting and technical support	medium

Sub-action 3: FUTURE TASK: RESILIENT AND PRODUCTIVE REGION: Recommended actions and instruments

Sub-action 4: Future task „Uniqueness and beauty of the region”

This future task can be summarized in four points:

1. Further development of the natural wealth and identities of the sub-regions	
Explanation	Stakeholder
The unique characteristics of the sub-areas are to be identified and the diversity of the landscape protected. The MNF is a platform for exchange and collaboration.	- Cities, districts, and municipalities, - Umbrella organization of regional parks in Brandenburg and Berlin e. V., - Regional parks
2. Strengthen regional parks as an inter-municipal platform	
Explanation	Stakeholder
Regional parks play an important role in open space development. As intermunicipal actors, they can relieve the burden on local authorities. The MNF supports regional parks in their activities.	- Umbrella organization of regional parks in Brandenburg and Berlin e. V. , - Cities, districts, and municipalities via the regional parks, - Joint Spatial Planning Department Berlin-Brandenburg, - Senate Department for Mobility, Transport, Climate Protection, and Environment (SenMVKU) of the State of Berlin, - Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Environment, and Consumer Protection (MLEUV).
3. Preserve cultural heritage and settlement areas that create identity	
Explanation	Stakeholder
The area is heterogeneous, but has a specific (industrial) cultural heritage, identity-forming centers, and settlement structures. The MNF is the platform for exchange between the various stakeholders in order to achieve the objectives.	- Cities, districts, and municipalities, - Federal Foundation for Building Culture, - Working group of cities with historic city centers in the state of Brandenburg, - Working group of historic village centers in the state of Brandenburg.
4. Develop flagship projects for landscape development	
Explanation	Stakeholder
In order to develop the landscape in accordance with all requirements, flagship projects are to be initiated to manage the creation of compensation measures, nature conservation areas, and local recreation areas. The MNF is involved in the strategic development and spatial location of these projects.	- Regional parks, - Counties, - Agencies for the implementation of compensation measures.

Recommended action	Category	Instruments	Priority
Flagship projects in landscape development	Specialist follow-up projects	Potential analysis and studies	high
Support in the implementation and development of regional park concepts	Specialist follow-up projects	Supporting working groups, axes, and members in representing their interests	medium
Advising members on the subject of funding	Services and information	Consulting and technical support	high
Data and information – service platform for members	Services and information	Consulting and technical support	high
Promotion and institutionalization of regional parks	Communication	Supporting working groups, axes, and members in representing their interests	high
Support for cross-border compensation management	Collaboration projects	Consulting and technical support	high
Recognizing and protecting the natural wealth and (architectural) cultural identities of the sub-regions	Collaboration projects	Consulting and technical support	high

Sub-action 4: FUTURE TASK: UNIQUENESS AND BEAUTY OF THE REGION: Recommended actions and instruments