

Contributing cities

Aachen · Amberg · Aschaffenburg · Augsburg ·
Bad Homburg v.d. Höhe · Bargteheide · Bautzen · Berlin ·
Bielefeld · Bocholt · Bochum · Bonn · Braunschweig · Bremen ·
Celle · Cottbus · Cuxhaven · Darmstadt · Dortmund · Dresden ·
Düsseldorf · Eisenach · Emmendingen · Erfurt · Erlangen · Essen ·
Esslingen · Falkensee · Flensburg · Forchheim · Frankfurt am
Main · Freiburg i. Br. · Friedrichshafen · Gelsenkirchen · Gießen ·
Gotha · Göttingen · Hamburg · Hamm · Hanau · Hannover ·
Heidelberg · Hennigsdorf · Herne · Hildesheim · Iserlohn · Jena ·
Karlsruhe · Kassel · Kiel · Koblenz · Köln · Konstanz · Krefeld ·
Lahr · Lampertheim · Landau/Pfalz · Landshut · Langenhagen ·
Leipzig · Lingen · Ludwigsburg · Ludwigshafen · Lünen ·
Lutherstadt Wittenberg · Magdeburg · Mainz · Mannheim ·
Marburg · Minden · München · Münster · Neuss · Norderstedt ·
Nürnberg · Oberhausen · Offenbach · Offenburg · Oldenburg ·
Passau · Plauen · Potsdam · Regensburg · Reutlingen · Rheine ·
Rüsselsheim · Saarbrücken · Schwanevede · Schweinfurt ·
Spelle · Stadtroda · Stendal · Stuttgart · Sulzbach-Rosenberg ·
Trier · Tübingen · Ulm · Unna · Weimar · Wiesbaden · Wismar ·
Wolfsburg · Wuppertal

Österreichischer Städtebund · Region Hannover ·
Regionalverband Frankfurt Rhein/Main · Regionalverband
Großraum Braunschweig · Regionalverband Ruhr ·
Regionalverband Saarbrücken · Verband Region Stuttgart

Details on the work of the institute are accessible on the internet at www.difu.de. An annual programme provides information on Difu seminars and the institute magazine „Berichte“ is published quarterly. All of these materials are free of charge and can be obtained from the Press Office.

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Spectrum of subjects

Urban planning and development
Environment and sustainability
Economics and finance
Population and social affairs
Mobility, transport and infrastructure
Administration, law and politics

Targets and research focus

Following an initiative from German cities, the German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu) was founded in 1973 to facilitate problem solving in municipal government through sound academic research and further training and to forecast long-term prospects and possible strategies for urban development. The institute investigates municipal policy issues, conducts interdisciplinary research on fundamental problems for municipalities and devises methods, tools and concepts for implementation in municipal planning and administration. In these focus areas Difu provides assistance for individual cities in solving current problems typical to Germany today.

As a joint-venture establishment funded by more than 100 contributors, of which most are cities, municipal authorities and planning bodies, Difu has carefully designed its research programme to cater to the needs of cities and offers them a broad spectrum of services.

Research papers, studies, training seminars, and information and documentation materials facilitate knowledge transfer for practical applications, intermunicipal exchange of experience and the implementation of planning objectives in municipal administration.

Knowledge on municipal issues acquired by Difu is made available in seminars, through information and documentation services and in publication series.
www.difu.de/en/institute/objectives

Further training

Difu's educational and training events primarily target executives, senior staff from public administration, and elected members of local councils. They provide professional support on current issues of municipal policy. The „Berlin seminars“ comprise approximately 150 annual further training activities. Difu also holds short seminars locally in association with individual institute members, tailoring the agenda to the needs of the cities and regions concerned. Broader expert conferences and the public series of events „Difu-Dialogues“ on the future of cities complete Difu's further training programme.
www.difu.de/veranstaltungen

Information und documentation

The institute's information and documentation service supports intermunicipal exchange of experience and the transfer of research findings in municipal practice. Key components include databases maintained by Difu (ORLIS: reference pool on subjects of municipal interest; kommDEMOS: surveys from the municipalities), customized database research, and publication series on various topics.
www.difu.de/informationsdienste

Publications

Difu publishes material in a variety of series: „Edition Difu – Stadt Forschung Praxis“, „Difu-Impulse“, „Difu-Arbeitshilfen“, „Moderne Stadtgeschichte“, „Difu-Papers“ and the quarterly published magazine „Berichte“. Furthermore, different special publications are also issued within the context of various research projects.
www.difu.de/publikationen

Difu contributors and legal entity

Contributors to Difu must be direct or indirect members of the German Association of Cities (DST) or the German Association of Towns and Cities (DSTGB). Contributors profit from regular programmes at the institute, receive Difu publications free of charge, participate in seminars and other further training events at reduced rates, and receive access to the Difu Intranet. They also ensure that Difu's research and educational programmes reflect real issues and problems in the cities by furnishing the institute with current feedback.

Until December 31, 2007, the legal entity of the 1973 founded institute was the Association for Municipal Sciences (VfK), which in turn was established by the German Association of Cities (DST) and the State of Berlin in 1951. On January 1, 2008, Difu was transformed to a non-profit limited liability company. At this point, the VfK, whose members are appointed by the DST and the State of Berlin, became the sole shareholder of the limited company.
www.difu.de/en/institute/partners/contributors
www.difu.de/en/institute/advisory-board

Financing and staffing

Difu currently draws its funding from several sources: member contributions, the Association for Municipal Sciences, the Land of Berlin and the German federal government, grants for projects, income from seminars and publications. The institute currently employs approx. 200 people.
www.difu.de/en/institute/financing