

## Contributing cities

AACHEN AMBERG ASCHAFFENBURG AUGSBURG  
BAD HOMBURG V.D.HÖHE BAUTZEN BEELITZ  
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 GELSEN-  
KIRCHEN GIESSEN GOTHA GÖTTINGEN HAMBURG  
HAMM HANAU HANNOVER HEIDELBERG  
HENNIGSDORF HERNE HILDESHEIM ISERLOHN  
JENA KARLSRUHE KASSEL KIEL KOBLENZ KÖLN  
KONSTANZ LAHR LANDAU/PFALZ LANDSHUT  
LANGENHAGEN LEIPZIG LINGEN LUDWIGSBURG  
LUDWIGSHAFEN LÜNEN LUTHERSTADT WITTEN-  
BERG MAGDEBURG MAINZ MANNHEIM  
MARBURG MINDEN MÜLHEIM/RUHR MÜNCHEN  
MÜNSTER NEUSS NORDERSTEDT NÜRNBERG  
OFFENBACH OFFENBURG OLDENBURG PASSAU  
PLAUEN POTSDAM REGENSBURG REUTLINGEN  
RHEINE ROSENHEIM RÜSSELSHEIM SAARBRÜCKEN  
SCHWEINFURT STADTRODA STENDAL STUTTGART  
SULZBACH-ROSENBERG TRIER TÜBINGEN UNNA  
WEIMAR WIESBADEN WISMAR WOLFSBURG  
WUPPERTAL

ÖSTERREICHISCHER STÄDTEBUND REGION  
HANNOVER REGIONALVERBAND FRANKFURT  
RHEIN/MAIN REGIONALVERBAND RUHR  
REGIONALVERBAND SAARBRÜCKEN VERBAND  
REGION STUTTGART ZWECKVERBAND GROSS-  
RAUM BRAUNSCHWEIG

Details on the work of the institute are accessible on the internet under [www.difu.de](http://www.difu.de). An annual programme provides information on Difu seminars and the institute newsletter „Berichte“ is published quarterly. All of these materials are free of charge and can be obtained from the Press Office.

## Contact us

German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu)  
Zimmerstraße 13-15, 10969 Berlin

Phone: +49 30 39001-0  
Fax: +49 30 39001-100  
E-mail: [difu@difu.de](mailto:difu@difu.de)  
Internet: <http://www.difu.de>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/difu.de>

**Head of Institute:** Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Martin zur Nedden  
Phone: +49 30 39001-214/-215  
Fax: +49 30 39001-216  
E-mail: [zurnedden@difu.de](mailto:zurnedden@difu.de)

**Deputy Director:** Prof. Dr. Arno Bunzel  
Phone: +49 30 39001-238  
Fax: +49 30 39001-269  
E-mail: [bunzel@difu.de](mailto:bunzel@difu.de)

**Chief Financial Officer:** Dr. rer. pol. Busso Grabow  
Phone: +49 30 39001-248  
Fax: +49 30 39001-116  
E-mail: [grabow@difu.de](mailto:grabow@difu.de)

**Press Office:** Sybille Wenke-Thiem  
Phone: +49 30 39001-208/-209  
Fax: +49 30 39001-130  
E-mail: [presse@difu.de](mailto:presse@difu.de)

**Cologne Branch:** Auf dem Hunnenrücken 3, 50668 Köln  
Phone: +49 221 340308-15  
Fax: +49 221 340308-28  
E-mail: [ab-koeln@difu.de](mailto:ab-koeln@difu.de)

Update: January 2018

# German Institute of Urban Affairs

## Partner for managing municipal issues



## 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.

## 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 most of the more than 50 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 on „Difu-Dialogues“ on the future of cities (sowie die öffentliche Veranstaltungsserie der „Difu-Dialoge“ zur Zukunft der Städte) complete Difu's further training programme.

## Information and 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.

## Publications

Difu publishes material in a variety of series: „Edition Difu – Stadt Forschung Praxis“, „Difu-Impulse“, „Difu-Arbeits-hilfen“, „Informationen zur modernen Stadtgeschichte“, „Difu-Papers“ and the quarterly published newsletter „Berichte“. Furthermore, different special publications are also issued within the context of various research projects. (Darüber hinaus erscheinen im Rahmen verschiedener Forschungsprojekte diverse Sonderveröffentlichungen).

## 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.

## 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 177 people (Update: August 2017).