

SAXON STATE MINISTRY FOR  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Freistaat  
**SACHSEN**

An aerial photograph of a town in Saxony, Germany, taken at sunset. The town is densely packed with buildings, mostly with red-tiled roofs. A river flows through the town, and a railway line runs along the bottom left. The sky is a warm orange color, and the trees are in autumn foliage. The text "FOR VIBRANT REGIONS OF TOMORROW" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font, with a horizontal line at the end.

**FOR VIBRANT  
REGIONS OF  
TOMORROW** —

FUNDING STRATEGY

STRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

REGIONAL PLANNING

LAND SURVEYING

CONSTRUCTION

INNOVATIONS

LIVING

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GEOPORTAL SAXONY

INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION

PRESERVATION OF  
HISTORIC MONUMENTS



## Ladies and gentlemen,

This is the first time since the establishment of the Free State of Saxony that a completely new portfolio has been created: the Saxon State Ministry for Regional Development (SMR). This new Ministry links up areas that were formerly assigned to other ministries: rural development and innovations, structural development, state development and surveying as well as urban development, construction and housing.

As the Saxon State Minister for Regional Development, my aim is to create "vital regions" throughout the Free State of Saxony that exploit the synergies of both urban and rural spaces, advance their respective strengths and make up deficits through targeted support.

Quality of life is not defined by immovable spaces and related standards. Quality of life can also be measured by the ability to play a part and get involved. This is why the SMR supports ways in which people can turn their own ideas into a reality, though also test new concepts, for example residential forms or new ways of working.

The SMR stands for an affinity for technology, for encouraging innovations and a close dialogue between our broadly-based university and research landscape, the Saxon economy and administration – assisted by our **simul\*** future initiative.



We are your first port of call for modern and innovative developments in towns and in the country, for new perspectives in the Lusatian and Central German brown coal regions, for modern building, for the latest aerial photos and elevation images, for art and culture in the countryside, for safe and viable building standards, for spatial planning, for the protection and preservation of historic monuments, for digital topographic maps, for urban development funding, vibrant village centres and much more. Visit our website, take us up on our offers and get involved! We are looking forward to your contributions and your collaboration!

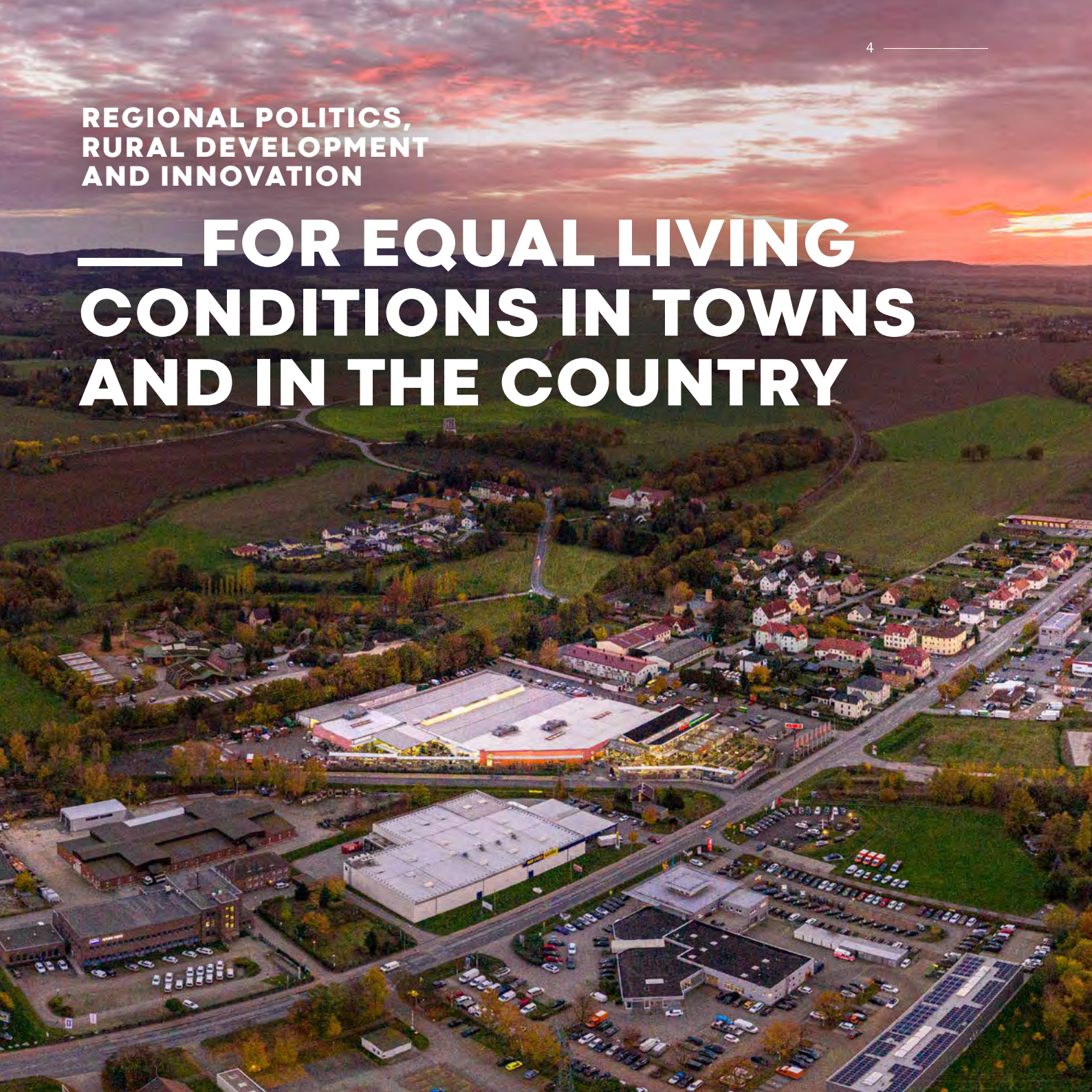
**Thomas Schmidt**

Saxon State Minister for Regional Development



REGIONAL POLITICS,  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND INNOVATION

# — FOR EQUAL LIVING CONDITIONS IN TOWNS AND IN THE COUNTRY







Industrial Estate West,  
Bautzen



## RURAL RESTRUCTURING:

Currently **250** ongoing land consolidation procedures

With a total area of approx. **195,000** ha

## FUNDED IN SAXONY DURING THE EU FUNDING PERIOD 2014-2020:

Through the LEADER program:  
**5,800** projects in 30 LEADER areas with EUR 447 million

Through the Interreg cooperation program Saxony-Czech Republic:  
**141** projects with EUR 147.8 million (ERDF funds)

Through the Interreg cooperation program Saxony-Poland: **61** projects with EUR 63.85 million

## RURAL SPACE:

**2** million people live in 3,000 villages and over 150 towns

**83** percent of the surface area of Saxony

Village square in the Schlösschen part of Amtsberg



We help communities create an attractive environment for living and working, adapt to the challenges of structural change and break down barriers to development.

We do all of this in close cooperation with local stakeholders, with the programs for rural development and with the LEADER initiative. What is important here is that all of the regions in Saxony profit from this financial aid provided by Brussels, Berlin or the state budget. The instruments of funding have to be synchronised and made compatible with each other so that the funds can be put to efficient use.

There is a particular focus on international cooperation with our neighbours in Poland and the Czech Republic as well as the elaboration of development strategies for the cross-border collaboration. This is where we use existing funding programs – such as Interreg. We lend Saxony an important voice in the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) in Brussels as a region in the heart of Europe. Our membership in the CoR allows us to air the concerns of Saxony on a European stage and to keep up with ongoing European negotiations and resolutions at an early stage.



Rural cinema in the old parsonage in Arnsdorf

International collaboration and the expansion of contacts for our executives, welcoming foreign delegations as well as cooperating in international committees are also conducive to an exchange of experiences, repeatedly bring examples of best practice to Saxony and give us an opportunity to promote Saxony abroad.

In the field of rural restructuring, we ensure well-ordered land markets by enabling the restructuring of land and property, and thus investments, for example in former open-cast brown coal mines, by means of procedures under the law on land consolidation and the law on agricultural adjustment.



Lusatian Lakeland,  
Lake Partwitz  
in the foreground

**STRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

# **\_\_\_ FOR NEW PROSPECTS IN THE CENTRAL GERMAN AND LUSATIAN COAL FIELDS**









Hands-on exhibition  
"Energy" (Zukunft MINT  
award-winner)

The German federal government will be giving the states a total of EUR **40** billion up to 2038 for structural development work

EUR **2.4** billion of this are earmarked for the Saxon part of the Lusatian coal regions (EUR 120 million p.a.)

EUR **14** billion of this for mainly investment-related projects of the states and communities

And EUR **1.08** billion for the Saxon part of the Central German coal regions (EUR 56 million p.a.)

The German federal government has promised a total of EUR **26** billion for infrastructure projects in the three Eastern German brown coal regions



The coal regions are facing an upheaval. But Saxony is also seizing the opportunity to take a step into the future and to create some new prospects for its people.

We will help make the structural changes in Saxony's brown coal regions a success and the regions in question ready for the future. The losses in added value caused by the end of brown coal mining and its conversion into electricity will be compensated. The money provided under the German federal government's Structural Reinforcement Act, from state funds and the EU Just Transition Funds (JTF) will be called up purposefully, synchronised with the gradual phase-out of coal-fired power plants and put to good use in the Lusatian and Central German coal regions.

To this end, the programmatic objectives will be implemented and updated with regard to structural change in the Saxon coal regions. Nonetheless, these are based on the strategic guidelines for the Lusatian and Central German coal regions. The main task of structural development is to develop a framework that allows high-quality, sustainable and fairly-paid jobs to be created and safeguarded.



Saint Gobain Glass,  
Flachglas Torgau GmbH

The Free State supports entrepreneurs who are already active as well as the settlement of new companies along with research, educational and administrative institutions. One further task is to realise a modern and efficient infrastructure as the basis for better accessibility and economic development. What is important here is that the links to the EU coal platform be exploited on a European level to address Saxony's special needs during the structural change.

Mildenstein Castle,  
Leisnig





An aerial photograph of a town in Saxony, Germany, featuring a prominent church spire and dense autumn foliage. The town is nestled in a valley, surrounded by rolling hills and forests. The architecture is a mix of traditional European styles, with many buildings having red-tiled roofs. A river or stream is visible on the left side of the image.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT  
AND SURVEYING**

**— FOR A  
SUSTAINABLE  
IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE PLANNING  
OBJECTIVES AND  
NETWORKING  
OF THE REGIONS  
IN SAXONY**



**THE FOLLOWING HAVE RECEIVED  
FUNDING UNDER THE “FR-REGIO”  
FUNDING GUIDELINE:**

Since 1997, approx. **600** non-investment-related, inter-communal projects with approx. EUR 28 million

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Since 2013, approx. **24** investment-related, inter-communal projects with approx. EUR 11.3 million

Energy Factory Knappenrode

**THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN  
FUNDED IN THE FIELD OF  
TRANSNATIONAL COLLABORATION:**

Saxony received EUR 13.5 million of the EUR **37** million of the German share of the Interreg B Central Europe Program

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This was used to realise **37** projects with 46 project partners

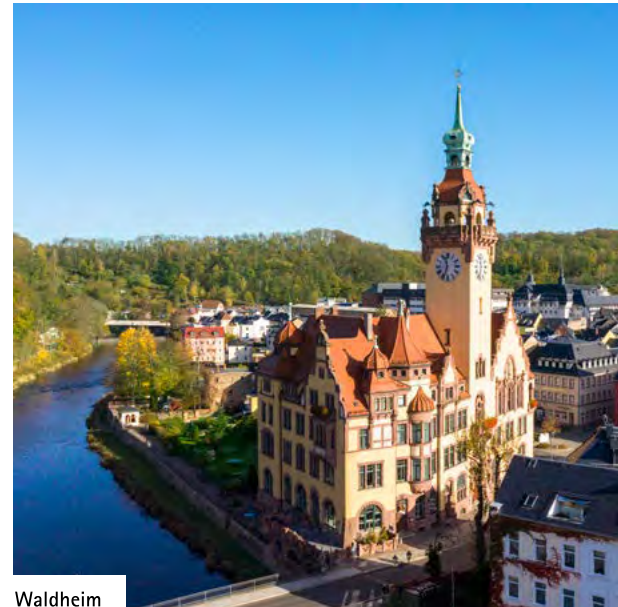




## The SMR is the highest spatial and state planning authority in the Free State of Saxony.

The core task of the business unit is to draw up interdisciplinary, medium-term spatial development and land-use plans. We are also responsible for the legal supervision of the four regional planning associations during regional planning and of the municipalities when planning land use. In the course of this work, we face up to new questions about the future and challenges and pursue the goal of stabilising Saxony's development into an attractive place to live, cultural space and economic area. We support the regional planning associations and the municipalities, for instance, by providing the participation portal for Saxony, where they can publicise their plans for all to see.

The state development plan we draw up settles the diverging claims on space utilisation in combination with the regional plans. Our key considerations are a sustainable spatial development and the creation of equal living conditions. Defining spatial planning goals and principles for the development of the Free State and its subspaces assumes a sound knowledge of the structures in these subspaces and current developments. This is based on ongoing monitoring of the spaces, which includes recording, analysing and documenting data and processes relevant for spatial development. The regular preparation and publication of the spatial development report is of particular importance here. Interactive maps are provided from the monitoring of spaces in the form of the administrative atlas for Saxony and the spatial planning expert information system.



Waldheim  
Town Hall

Together with other government departments, we help the regions and communities implement the state development plan and the regional plans.

We encourage regional cooperation and inter-communal collaboration so as to exploit and expand development potential. Projects involving transnational and cross-border collaboration with partners in Central Europe, in particular Poland and the Czech Republic, ensure their mutual and early involvement and agreement on future plans and actions that have consequences on both sides of the borders. Saxony is also networked with five regional centre towns and rural districts as well as ten further member communities from Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia for cooperation between German federal states in the "European Metropolitan Region of Central Germany".

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Vienna, showing a dense urban landscape. In the foreground, a large, ornate building with red and white striped facades and arched windows sits on a riverbank. To its left, several multi-story apartment buildings with red-tiled roofs are visible. In the background, a tall, dark church spire rises above the city skyline. A river flows along the right side of the image. The overall scene depicts a mix of historic architecture and modern urban development.

**URBAN DEVELOPMENT,  
CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING**

**— FOR A GOOD LIFE  
AND WORK ENVIRON-  
MENT IN OUR TOWNS  
AND MUNICIPALITIES**





Leipzig, Plagwitz,  
Weiße-Elster-  
Nonnenstraße



Since **1991**, Saxon towns and municipalities have received urban development funding to the tune of approx. EUR 6 million

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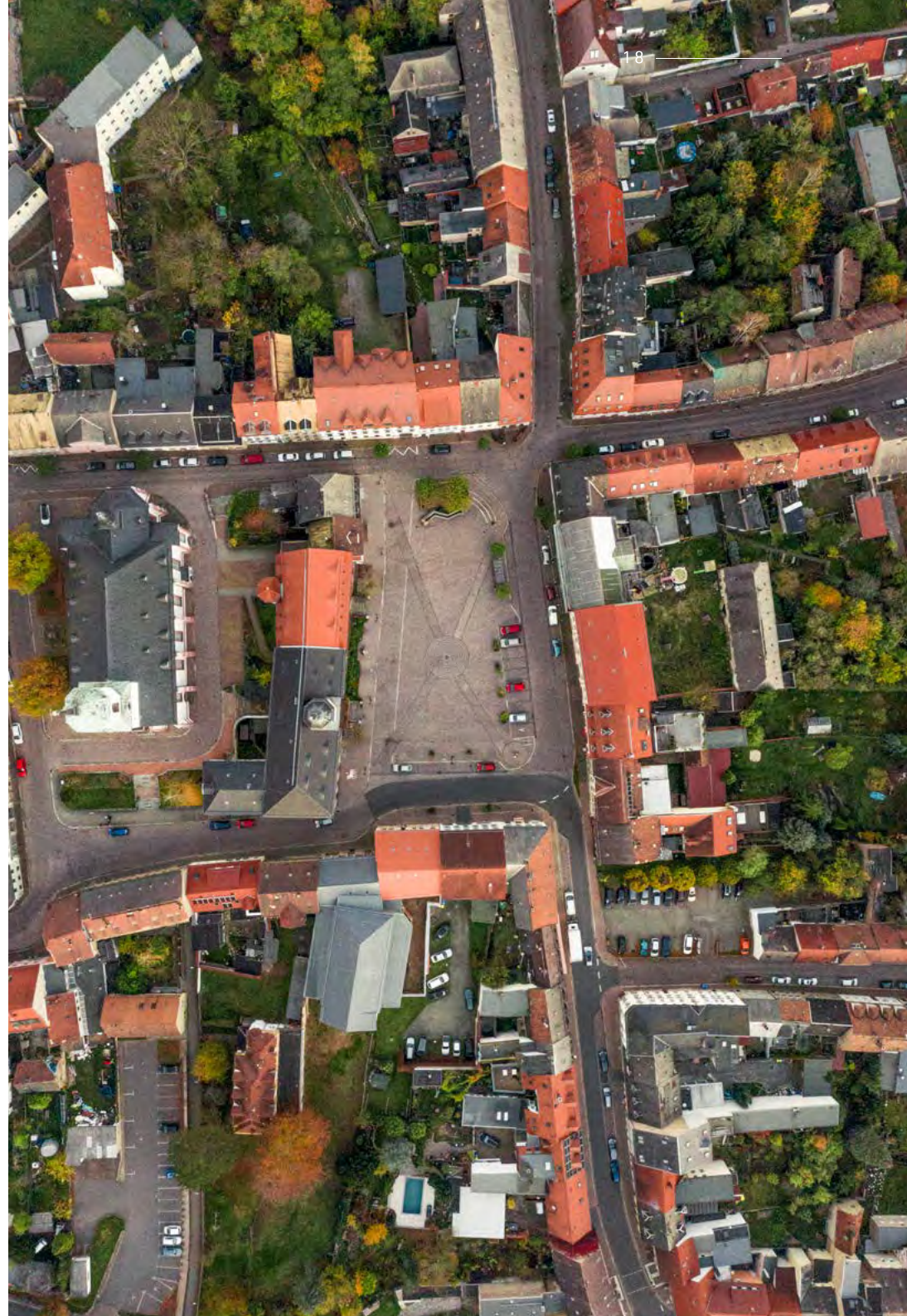
**800** families are granted a loan on favourable terms for their own home every year

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Funds were provided to convert **2,000** apartments into low-barrier housing in 2019

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Over the past two years, around **40,000** households in Saxony received housing benefits amounting to an average of EUR 61.5 million p.a.





## Creating liveable towns and municipalities through integrated urban development and funding as well as preserving, maintaining and revitalising structures of heritage value.

Towns and municipalities are more than just the infrastructure that has been built. They are places in which the citizens live their lives, and they are the centre of social, cultural and economic life. Integrated urban development makes a fundamental contribution to enabling liveable towns and municipalities that are ecologically sound, socially acceptable and economically attractive, so that the citizens feel good in their surroundings. This is why we are all for strengthening integrated urban development concepts.

Urban development funding based on the Federal Building Code is an instrument with which we can support the communities through investments in their historic buildings, in designing their public spaces and green areas as well as refurbishing their communal facilities such as schools, swimming pools and child daycare centres. We also use means from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF) for this purpose.

We support the construction of subsidised housing in Dresden and Leipzig, the renovation of rental housing in rural areas, the construction or purchase of private homes for young families and the conversion of apartments into barrier-free units for many senior citizens and people with disabilities. We make sure that the same housing benefits are paid promptly throughout Saxony.



Schirgiswalde,  
half-timbered  
houses

As the highest building authority, our focus is on ensuring safe building work, consistent enforcement as well as updating the set of rules (building code). When the regulations are updated, it should be even easier to use wood as a building material. Moreover, the SMR is responsible for the enforcement regime to implement the federal government's Buildings Energy Act.

Cultural monuments dominate the historic town centres and the landscape. The Fürst-Pückler-Park Bad Muskau/Park Mużakowski and the Ore Mountains/Krušnohoří mining region are listed as outstanding sites in the UNESCO World Heritage list. The Free State of Saxony also supports owners of historic monuments – provided budget funds allow this – with grants to help them preserve these appropriately and protect them against risks. The annual children and young people's monument award honours the commitment behind adopting a historic monument and thus sends out a signal that voluntary work deserves even greater acknowledgement.



**SIMUL+ FUTURE INITIATIVE**

**— THE FUTURE  
NEEDS CHANGE.  
CHANGE NEEDS  
INNOVATIONS ...**







## INNOVATION-BASED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### INNOVATIVE BUILDING AND LIVING

#### THE PILLARS OF THE INITIATIVE

##### **simul<sup>+</sup>** **Knowledge Transfer**

The pillar Knowledge Transfer offers space for an exchange at the interface between experience and research. We address the latest challenges with interdisciplinary and innovative solutions.

Stakeholders who would probably never have dreamt that they could learn and profit from each other find common ground. We offer analogue, digital and hybrid events for this purpose, ranging from working meetings and workshops right through to large forums.

##### **simul<sup>+</sup>** **Participation Fund**

With the simul<sup>+</sup> Participation Fund, we encourage ideas for innovative projects in rural areas in cooperation with all of the regions. These aim to improve the quality of life and shape structural change with the widespread involvement of the local population. The competition is open to clubs, companies, private stakeholders, though also communities who want to make a difference in their region. The simul<sup>+</sup> Participation Fund continues the successful competitions "Saxon Participation Fund" and "Ideas for Rural Areas".

##### **simul<sup>+</sup>** **Innovation Hub**

In the simul<sup>+</sup> Innovation Hub, we support regional projects in which the results of current research are translated into practical applications. Ideas become innovations, and innovations lead to value creation. More than 25 projects have received some kind of support up to now - from funding through to network partnerships. We hereby think in terms of the goals and not the responsibilities.

## CIRCULAR ECONOMY

### SMART REGIONS: SMART CITIES - SMART RURAL AREAS





The goal of the **simul<sup>+</sup>** future initiative is to help strengthen value creation and improve the quality of life in all of the regions in Saxony. So we are all **“Facing the future together.”**



Achieving more together

In line with the innovation strategy of the Free State of Saxony, the **simul<sup>+</sup>** future initiative sees itself as a platform for **innovation-based regional development**. The range of topics covers all aspects that are relevant for regional development such as value creation, mobility, living, work.

We support projects that increase the visibility and competitive edge of Saxon regions. These projects should not only have an effect on a small scale (in companies, home environment) but also help establish new, regional innovation priorities and further expand existing structures on a larger scale. They can be technical, though also non-technical approaches, or a combination of both.

Our concern is to see the challenges of our age – such as digitisation and sustainability – as opportunities. We believe that the key to achieving our goals lies in close local cooperation. We network and support stakeholders from the economy, science and administration so they can realise their ideas and projects. For us, international collaboration, above all with our immediate neighbours, though also worldwide, is a key cross-cutting theme.





Geomatics  
trainees  
in GeoSN







**SAXON STATE SPATIAL DATA AND  
LAND SURVEY CORPORATION (GEOSN)**

**— GET MORE OUT  
OF WORK AND FREE  
TIME WITH US ...**





Boundary marker on the national border with the Czech Republic in Kirnitzschtal

**150** billion laser points model the surface of the Free State of Saxony

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**6,573** boundary stones mark the border with the Czech Republic

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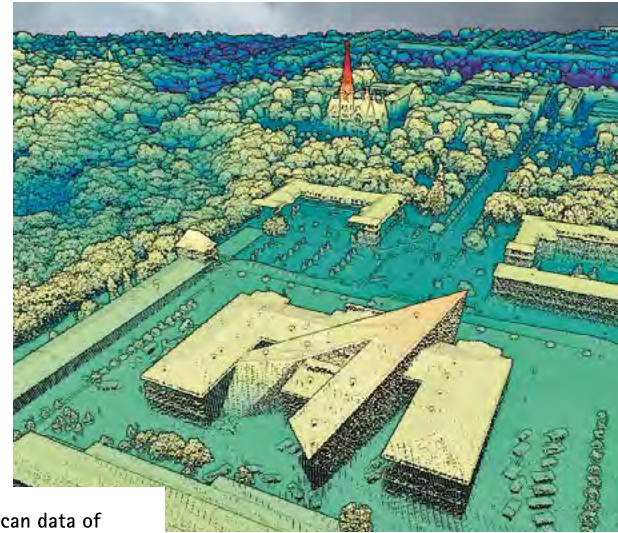
**2.1** million buildings are shown three-dimensionally in a 3D town model

**900,000** data retrievals from the "Open Spatial Data" portal every year

**760** map services and 560 download services are available from the Geoportal



The GeoSN is the competence centre for spatial data in Saxony - we supply the administration, the economy and citizens with up-to-date, official geospatial information.



Laser scan data of  
Dresden, Albertstadt

Our geospatial data is open data and can be downloaded free of charge around the clock: aerial photos, elevation models, 3D town models, digital topographic maps, land survey registers and much more. From any corner of Saxony.

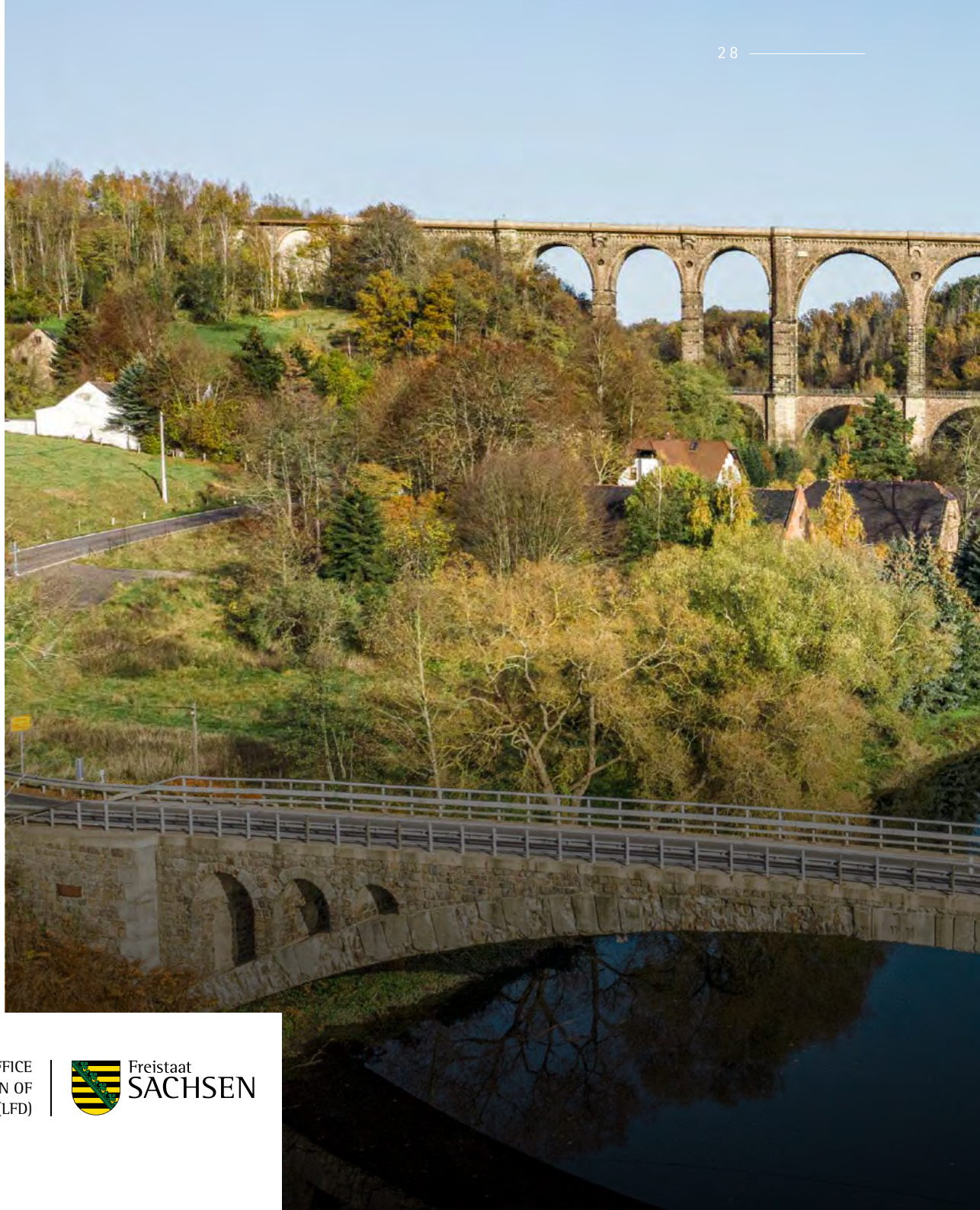
We also provide a wide variety of official spatial data in the "Geoportal Atlas of Saxony" from the Saxon administration relating to nature, the environment, transportation, history, tourism etc. The GeoSN assists the Saxon administration and communities in providing geospatial information under its e-government program.

Our satellite navigation system is accurate to within a centimetre, in real-time, 24/7, and free of charge. It is used to not only handle surveying work very efficiently but also to control construction and agricultural vehicles as well as ships exactly. The aerial photos of the overall territory of the Free State are updated by GeoSN every

two years and can be used for free as geospatial information. The GeoSN marks and documents our borders to the Republic of Poland, the Czech Republic as well as the neighbouring German federal states. The office of the upper committee of experts for property values provides supra-regional evaluations and analyses of the property market. Standard land values can be retrieved 24/7 on the Internet.

We are the only training authority for career training in the field of surveying and geospatial information. We are also active in vocational training. The job of our geomatics trainees is to model digital worlds themselves.

Göhren viaduct







**SAXON STATE OFFICE FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF MONUMENTS (LFD)**

**— HELPING SAVE SAXONY'S  
RICH LANDSCAPE OF  
HISTORIC MONUMENTS ...**



**1917** Foundation  
of the Saxon State  
Office for the  
Protection of  
Monuments

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**101,000**  
cultural monuments  
in Saxony,  
including:  
800 palaces,  
stately homes  
and castles,  
7,000 technical  
monuments,  
1,800 churches  
and chapels,  
3,000 historic  
gardens,  
6,500 half-timbered  
houses

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EUR **3.6** billion have  
been invested in pro-  
tecting monuments  
since 1990

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Around EUR **2.1** billion  
of these as subsidies

Albrechtsburg  
Meißen





Saxony is full of historic monuments. Cultural monuments pervade our towns and landscapes, bearing witness to our history, our cultural roots and rich traditions.

Preserving historic monuments is a social task, and one to which many people can contribute with the goal of protecting monuments for future generations. The LfD (along with the State Office for Archaeology) then acts as an expert authority for everything related to the protection and preservation of historic monuments. Its work is based on the Saxon heritage protection law.

Our key tasks include recording and researching cultural monuments, the specialist supervision and documentation of work on cultural monuments, the upkeep and administration of their collections and the approval of funds.

We advise owners, developers, planners, tradesmen and other partners on site and help them find solutions that are compatible with the monument's status and cost-effective. Specialists for restorations, historic gardens, technical monuments, traditional building styles, urban development, organs and bells help us in this work. We are involved in the approval procedures in the lower historic monuments protection authorities with expert opinions. The LfD performs research and development work into the theory, methods and technology of the preservation of historic monuments and is engaged in education and training. An important cornerstone of this work are the LfD collections, such as a special library with

over 60,000 volumes, a collection of around 60,000 plans dating back to the 16th century, an image library and files that have been kept since 1894. These collections can also be used by the general public after registration.

One prerequisite for the successful preservation of cultural monuments is that the population understands the significance of protecting and preserving these monuments. This is why the results of our research are made public in publications, lectures, symposia, excursions and annual exhibitions.



Post windmill in  
Dörghenhausen









View of the  
Loschwitzer Höhen,  
Dresden

# THIS IS WHERE YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT ...

## **Structural development**

[www.strukturentwicklung.sachsen.de](http://www.strukturentwicklung.sachsen.de)

## **Future initiative**

[www.simulplus.sachsen.de](http://www.simulplus.sachsen.de)

## **State development**

[www.landesentwicklung.sachsen.de](http://www.landesentwicklung.sachsen.de)

## **Geospatial information and surveying**

[www.landesvermessung.sachsen.de](http://www.landesvermessung.sachsen.de)

## **Rural space**

[www.ländlicher-raum.sachsen.de](http://www.ländlicher-raum.sachsen.de)

## **Building and living**

[www.bauen-wohnen.sachsen.de](http://www.bauen-wohnen.sachsen.de)

## **Administrative atlas for Saxony**

[www.verwaltungsatlas.sachsen.de](http://www.verwaltungsatlas.sachsen.de)

## **Preservation of historic monuments in Saxony**

[www.denkmalpflege.sachsen.de](http://www.denkmalpflege.sachsen.de)



**Photos:**

Nilz Böhme (Titel, 4/5, 8/9,11,12/13,15,16/17,18, 19,28/29,32/33), Foto-Atelier Klemm (3), Sandy Rothe (6), Ingo Goschütz (7), INSPIRATA Zentrum für mathematisch-naturwissenschaftliche Bildung e.V. (10), Axel Heimken (14), [www.stock.adobe.com: panuwat](http://www.stock.adobe.com:panuwat) (20/21), [www.istockphoto.com: blackred](http://www.istockphoto.com:blackred) (22), [www.stock.adobe.com: Robert Kneschke](http://www.stock.adobe.com:Robert Kneschke) (23), GeosN (24/25, 26, 27), SMR (31)

**Graphics:**

geoSN (2)

**Published by:**

Saxon State Ministry for Regional Development (SMR)

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This measure has been co-financed using tax money on the basis of the budget adopted by the Saxon state parliament.

**Editorial staff:**

SMR, Office of the Minister | Public relations/Event management

**Layout and typesetting:**

genese Werbeagentur GmbH

**Printed by:**

Stoba-Druck GmbH

**Editorial deadline:**

25. Oktober 2021

**Print run:**

300 copies

**Source:**

This publication is available free of charge from:

Zentraler Broschürenversand der Sächsischen Staatsregierung,

Hammerweg 30, 01127 Dresden

Telephone: +49 351 2103-671

Facsimile: +49 351 2103-681

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[www.publikationen.sachsen.de](http://www.publikationen.sachsen.de)

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