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Dear readers,

FrankfurtRheinMain is located right in the heart of Europe and is one of its most important metropolitan regions in terms of economy. To ensure that things remain this way, we cannot stand still and must continuously develop. The Regional Authority FrankfurtRheinMain considers itself to be a driving force, moderator and motor in this respect: the Authority area, with its 75 member municipalities, is located in the core of the metropolitan region.

The Regional Authority does not just bring the major players together at the table – its main objectives are drawing up and updating the regional preparatory land use plan and the landscape plan. The Regional Authority operates an extensive monitoring system in order to detect regional developments in good time. Its work also includes consultation with the member municipalities, for example by drawing up individual development concepts. In addition to these services, other important regional association offices and branch offices are located throughout the region – since 2018, it has been operating the welcome office for specialists throughout the world. This brochure is intended to inform you about further important services provided by our institution.

We welcome all forms of ideas and suggestions concerning how the Regional Authority can improve further as a service provider to the member municipalities and as an administrative office for the metropolitan region. Please feel free to contact us!

Thomas Horn
Regional Authority Director

Rouven Kötter
First Deputy Director
The Frankfurt/Rhine-Main region of Germany, which is known all over the world for its skyscraper skyline, is one of Europe’s most important metropolitan regions in economic terms and is often mentioned in the same breath as major metropolitan areas such as London, Paris or Milan. The region not only offers a large number of attractive jobs but is also an international hub for goods, services, financial activities and information flows and therefore boasts excellent momentum and a high level of economic strength.

In fact, when it comes to the metropolitan region’s economic power, the numbers speak for themselves, with the region boasting a gross national product per capita of around 37,600 euros compared to the German average of 30,500 euros.

Frankfurt/Rhine-Main is also an important location for trade fairs and exhibitions and a significant base for academic, scientific and research activity. The people who live and work in this metropolitan region are internationally oriented, open and inquisitive and help to give it its unique qualities as a location that is dynamic and diverse and home to a multitude of niches and contradictions.

The region benefits from the fact that it is situated right in the heart of Europe. The city of Frankfurt already had a high standing as a coronation city in the German Empire and is now a major intersection for all international transport routes. A road and railway network connects the region to major European cities; the Rhine and Main rivers provide access to inland navigation within Europe; and Frankfurt Airport is the hub of international air transport in Europe: our gateway to the world.

On top of all this, the Frankfurt/Rhine-Main region also offers an excellent quality of life, providing a concentrated mixture of urban spaces, culture and recreation areas. It additionally features an impressively diverse range of towns, cities and communities, as well as a multitude of different types of landscape. Easy access to ‘green areas’, an abundance of destinations for excursions, hikes and walks and the green ribbon of the Rhine/Main Regional Park all underline Frankfurt/Rhine-Main’s right to bear the title of the »Green Region« among Europe’s metropolitan regions.

Leisure, culture and quality of life are important lifestyle factors today. Our region counts more than 25 bathing lakes and over 60 open-air and recreational swimming pools. It boasts over 200 museums, two large zoos, three cathedrals, and more than 200 galleries. It has some of the country’s hippest restaurants, clubs and bars, well over 100 cinemas, and more than 100 theatres, playhouses, opera houses and cabaret venues. These are just a few examples of what this exciting region has to offer.
The Frankfurt/Rhine-Main region can be roughly divided into two areas: the Regional Authority’s area and the Frankfurt/Rhine-Main metropolitan region.

The **Regional Authority’s area** consists of its legally appointed 75 member municipalities, and spans an area of almost 2,500 sq. km. It has a population of 2.2 million.

The **Frankfurt/Rhine-Main metropolitan region** is one of 11 metropolitan regions in Germany to be recognised by the Conference of State Ministers for Internal Affairs. It is much larger, and reflects the region’s commuter situation. It covers three German states (Hesse, Bavaria and Rhineland-Palatinate), and spans an area of 14,800 sq. km. More than 5.5 million people live in a total of 468 municipalities within this metropolitan region.
The Regional Authority FrankfurtRheinMain was established according to the law governing the Frankfurt/Rhine-Main metropolitan region, which was passed by the Hessian State Parliament and enacted 1 April, 2011. We are a constituted body that controls and co-ordinates regional development. We also act as the platform for the strategic focuses and objectives of regional companies and are responsible for formulating the region’s collective image. Our other tasks include developing and updating the regional preparatory land use plan and the landscape plan, conducting intense regional monitoring, preparing specific geoinformation data, and providing extensive services to our member municipalities.

The Regional Authority employs around 120 people and operates on a budget of approx. 15 million euros. It is financed by an allowance paid by 75 member municipalities that currently costs an average 5.66 euros per capita. The aforementioned tasks demand close collaboration between all players. All 75 member municipalities are represented on the council. Together with its full-time directors and eight volunteer assistants, the regional executive board also includes the district administrators from Groß-Gerau, Hochtaunus, Main-Kinzig, Main-Taunus, Offenbach and Wetterau, as well as the Lord Mayors of Frankfurt and Offenbach. Representatives from entrepreneurial associations, trade unions and conservation organisations act as advisory members.

In order to include the metropolitan region in these tasks, representatives from the surrounding cities and districts are likewise invited as advisory guests. Because regional policy today no longer ends at the administrative borders, the strengths of the entire region must be pooled instead. It is our job to make sure that the region is able to keep up in the never-ending competition for brain-power, green ideas, investment and jobs for the future.
The Regional Authority FrankfurtRheinMain currently comprises 75 municipalities in the urbanised metropolitan area, whose membership was established by state law. Municipalities directly neighbouring the Regional Authority’s territory can also join as volunteers. Members can join at the start of each new election period, the next one starting April 1, 2016.

Membership must be decided by the municipal council or by the local authority’s meeting for city councillors following a member quorum and a two-thirds majority vote by the board. This must then be approved by the Hessian Ministry of Trade and Commerce. Dismissals are also possible. These must be confirmed in a written contract and require the consent of the Hessian Ministry of Trade and Commerce.

Joining the Regional Authority means acquiring all the rights and duties its legally appointed members are endowed with. The new municipality will thus have a right to vote on the council. The regional preparatory land use plan is also extended to include the new member.
Upon closer examination, we often find that the specific problems that municipalities face are not isolated cases at all, and that neighbouring communities find themselves in similar predicaments. It is our job to bring everyone together to find a common solution.

- Meeting for construction and planning office managers

The meeting is held five times a year and focuses on such topics as:
- Managing internal development
- Promoting urban development and village redevelopment
- Conducting regional land use planning procedures
- Managing the establishment of gaming halls
- Managing the regional retail trade scheme
- Managing the energy scheme
- Handling the Seveso II directive

- »The municipality – a source of power« dialogue on energy

The first event was focused on the issue of »Added value through renewable energies.« Further events are planned on such topics as »Energy efficiency in public buildings« and »Energy efficiency in the public sphere.«

- Improve education regarding public participation

All municipalities want to involve their citizens more in the planning process in order to promote acceptance and achieve sustainability goals. Participation methods and strategies are presented at various events.
Internal residential development

>Inside or outside. « This is a question more and more designers, municipal decision-makers and owners will be facing in the next few years. Even now, it has become clear to many cities and municipalities that buildings are left unoccupied, blocks of land in residential areas lie fallow for long periods of time, and plots in housing estates are not sold as easily as they were a few years ago – and not just in downtown areas. We show how internal development potential can be exploited effectively. We also build a database enabling municipalities to see their land use potential first hand.

Local supplies in rural areas

Small municipalities with scattered townships are faced with the challenge that everyday goods and services cannot be guaranteed within walking distance of any given population centre. We create innovative supply models and discuss these with our municipalities.

Internal development in existing industrial areas

Older industrial areas no longer meet present-day requirements. Buildings lie vacant and often fall into disrepair. We work with planning offices to devise revitalisation ideas. The main focus here is on involving users and owners in the planning process.
One of our main tasks is the systematic observation of important infrastructure data of our region, the metropolitan area and the individual municipalities.

**Small-scale monitoring**

Small-scale monitoring shows distributions according to age, sex, household size, migrant background and new residents based on a municipality’s population register. These structures are prepared using further data provided by the Authority (e.g. retail trade, traffic), as well as external data (e.g. doctors, trades) that permit us to provide our municipalities with personalised, small-scale analyses on urban development.

**Monitoring for the metropolitan region**

The Authority has also been publishing data on the Frankfurt/Rhine-Main metropolitan region since the early ‘90s. This covers 18 districts and seven self-governing cities, with a combined population of some 5.5 million people. The authority not only processes data, it also draws up comparisons with other German and European metropolitan regions – similar to regional monitoring.

**Monitoring for the Regional Authority**

Regional, regularly updated monitoring provides important information for all of the Authority’s member municipalities regarding the following areas:

- Population
- Employment
- Residential
- Traffic
- Public services
- Land use
- Finance
»Population and living« forecast model

We are currently compiling a municipal population estimate for 2013 for all our member municipalities. To do this, the Authority developed its »Population and living« forecast model. By using the area designations in our regional preparatory land use plan as well as information on our internal development potential, we can provide predictions on their relevance to the planning process.

Online monitoring

Our statistics went online in the spring of 2013! The Regional Authority compiled an online atlas containing data for the 75 cities and municipalities within its territory and the 25 districts and self-governing cities in the Frankfurt/Rhine-Main metropolitan region. This statistics portal lets users retrieve data and create maps and time sequences – generally dating back to 2000. This provides them with a wide range of information on key regional development issues. The municipalities can use our up-to-date database for all kinds of purposes.
Municipalities often contact us asking for help in creating schemes and concepts to further develop their city or community.

- **Structural analyses**

  Over the last 12 years, we have compiled around 60 structural analyses for our member municipalities. The results are clearly identified with the help of maps, graphs and tables.

- **Local transport schemes**

  The Regional Authority wants to help its municipalities with so-called local transport schemes, e.g. to optimise footpaths or cycling tracks to the train station. To do this, it has purchased a new information stand which can be used to market and assist municipal campaigns in a semi-public manner. Citizens can, for example, use it to express their ideas, suggestions and criticism of a transport connection. The stand can be hired by any member municipality, which can also add its own topics regarding mobility and transport.

- **Business development and retail trading schemes**

  Apart from creating structural analyses, the formulation of business development and retail trading schemes also includes creating a strengths and weaknesses profile based on company surveys and workshops with company representatives. This work is performed on-site in close cooperation with mayors and business promoters.
Energy and the environment

- Formulating the renewable energies component plan for the regional preparatory land use plan
- Formulating a regional energy scheme
- Conducting strategic environmental assessments
- Developing climate adaptation strategies and providing advice regarding these; documenting the climate energy projects within the Authority’s region – this information is available in German at www.klima-energie-frankfurtrheinmain.de.

Mobility

- Providing regional data (e.g. to examine the population’s transport behaviour); providing professional advice; arranging contacts
- bike + business. The goal of this project is to get as much of the workforce as possible to bike to work. Together with the ADFC Hessen, companies are advised on how this can best be achieved, e.g. by building showers. The project has been running since 2003 and now includes 21 companies and city councils.
- RADforum RheinMain. The association of local cycling officers, municipalities, and representatives of the district, ADFC, Hessenmobil, the Hessian state government, RMV, tourism associations and many others that generally promote cycling in the region.

Geoinformation data

This data is provided by our geoinformation system and is an important basis for the development of member municipalities. Key data and maps can be viewed in our website’s geoportal – even by the general public.

- Providing geobase data
- Providing the Regional Authority’s specialised geodata
- Formulating fallow land registers with automated GIS processes (basis for the municipal detailed inspection)
- Knowledge transfer and a network for using geodata and geodata infrastructures (INSPIRE)
The planning department is one of our biggest departments. Its tasks include formulating our regional preparatory land use plan, which has been in force since autumn 2011. We also offer the following services:

- Carrying out change processes for the South Hesse Regional Plan/Regional Preparatory Land Use Plan
- Informally co-ordinating and advising our member municipalities on current planning projects
- Co-ordinating planning projects with the senior state planning/regional planning divisions
- Formulating a sustainable settlement strategy, limiting redensification
- Establishing, assessing and updating the regional retail trading scheme for the Authority’s territory
- Formulating the landscape plan and updating it where necessary
- Updating ecologically important land use (linked biotope system)
- Formulating plans for open spaces, such as recreational areas
- Taking charge of nature reserves, such as »Natura 2000« or wildlife conservation
- Creating comprehensive landscape assessments and cultural landscape assessments
- Planning cycling and recreational tracks, devising routes for the regional park, and incorporating these into the regional preparatory land use plan
- Providing advice on water protection, securing drinking water supplies, cooperating with the Rhine-Main Water Supply Association
In order to keep up with other regions, the Regional Authority also focuses on strategic regional development. The following are the services that even our municipalities can benefit from:

**Promotion of the metropolitan region**

- Analysing relevant trends in economy, science and education using studies and reports
- Initiating and conducting regional projects, e.g. the FrankfurterRheinMain cluster study, which analyses the economic structure of 12 regionally significant clusters
- Creating statements and position papers on the metropolitan region’s development

**The »FrankfurtRheinMain knowledge region« initiative**

- Creating a knowledge base and atlas. Comparing our knowledge region with 10 other German metropolitan regions and displaying its strengths and various facets
- Establishing »Think tank«, an active, open network for discussing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, risks and recommended actions relating to the geographic factor called »knowledge«
- Establishing the »Innovative« trade fair and the »Night of Innovation« event, as well as industry reports, which present important products, services and innovations from cities and municipalities
- Establishing the FrankfurterRheinMain knowledge portal, or gems from the »knowledge region« by presenting regionally important topics, dates, companies and research establishments from various municipalities

**Us in Europe**

- Representing regional interests in European networks, such as ARC, METREX, Purple, IKM, and Europainfo Hessen
- Promoting project development, management and execution with regional and (inter)national partners
- Requesting EU funding for regional projects
- Arranging project partners in Europe
Regional policy in the EU

New developments and challenges are particularly witnessed in metropolitan regions. Small and medium-sized businesses, good infrastructure, sustainable environmental and energy policies, urban development, education and research are all issues of tremendous importance to a region’s development. But they are also a key part of EU legislation and support programmes. Most EU regulations are implemented by local and regional players. Regional involvement in EU-policy discussions is thus essential.

Strengthening the role of the metropolitan region

Regional interests are not automatically on the legislative agenda in Brussels. Specific topics need to be constantly raised so as not to be forgotten. This is where the European Office exercises a region-related influence, taking part in the EU’s consultation processes or hearings. It is particularly important to take action here in the interests of the metropolitan region and position it within EU policies.

Our office

The European Office acts as the interface between the European players in Frankfurt/Rhine-Main, the Hessian state government, the European Commission and other players in Europe. It has a representative office in Brussels that is based in the Hessian state office, and a head office based in the Regional Authority FrankfurtRheinMain. It is sponsored by the City of Frankfurt am Main and the Regional Authority FrankfurtRheinMain.

- We publish our monthly »Europa Info« magazine for the region’s European officers and players.

- We organise specialist conferences on important EU policy topics.

- We provide free advice on European support programmes.

- We promote projects from Frankfurt/Rhine-Main to the EU application and contracting offices.

- We establish contacts with regional partners and institutions in Europe.

- We establish contacts with and access to EU bodies and advisory committees.
We’re constantly creating small exhibitions on interesting topics, which we then present to the municipalities. Our current exhibitions are:

**Climate needs energy**

Our »Climate needs energy« (»Klima braucht Energie«) exhibition features 15 boards presenting information on the causes and consequences of climate change, energy consumption, saving power, energy efficiency, and renewable energies, such as wind, sun, biomass and geothermal energy. Positive examples from within the Authority’s territory are also presented, as are possible options for municipal action. The exhibition can be booked by any municipality.

**Cultural historic landscape elements**

For several years, the Regional Authority has been working on the »Everyday activities make history« (»Alltag macht Geschichte«) exhibition series, which highlights cultural historic landscape elements. Short, municipal stories are prepared and presented in the form of an exhibition, in co-operation with (local) history associations. Around 20 exhibitions have now been launched, and the little show is open for bookings by any municipality.
### Facts and figures

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<th>Frankfurt/Rhine-Main metropolitan region</th>
<th>Regional Authority FrankfurtRheinMain</th>
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<tr>
<td>Municipalties</td>
<td></td>
<td>468</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area (in km²)</td>
<td></td>
<td>14,755</td>
<td>2,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Percentage settlement and traffic areas</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>27.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>5,515,444</td>
<td>2,221,910</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population density (people/km²)</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>904</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employees subject to social insurance</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2,103,105</td>
<td>1,029,931</td>
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<tr>
<td>- including the services sector</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,605,299</td>
<td>826,460</td>
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<td>Unemployed (annual average)</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>157,953</td>
<td>70,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Percentage</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>5.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP (in billions of euros)</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>108</td>
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<td>- per resident (in euros)</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>37,154</td>
<td>48,511</td>
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<td>Purchasing power index (Germany = 100)</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>112</td>
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*most recent statistical data
About 5.7 million people, over 460 cities and municipalities, three German Federal States, one region: FrankfurtRhineMain combines history with future, tradition with high-tech, culture and knowledge with maximum economic strength and a diverse landscape with great recreational value. Situated in the heart of Europe, perfectly connected to the entire world.

FrankfurtRhineMain – live well and work successfully.

www.region-frankfurt.de