



# **Governance in Metropolitan Regions in Germany**

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## Overview:

- I. Challenges in Metropolitan Regions
- II. Metropolitan Regions in Germany: Bases, goals and overview
- III. Governance in German Metropolitan Regions



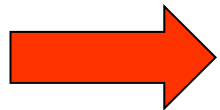
# I. Challenges and Solutions in German Metropolitan Regions





## Globalization - Regionalization - Metropolitan Regions

- Every Region has to compete in globalization
- Size makes a difference! Germany's Cities are small – none has more than 3,5 Million inhabitants (Berlin)
- Solution: Metropolitan Cities + surroundings = Metropolitan Regions:
  - one or more urban core(s) and surrounding region
  - one united economic area, one labor market, commuters, the interconnectedness between culture and context of life
- But: the necessity of corporate action should not cover regional differences



**Think globally – act regionally!**







# Metropolitan Regions

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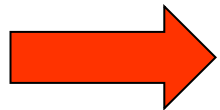
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## Rural – Urban: joint action

- Metropolitan Region building: join together “urban + urban/rural + rural” = one answer to globalisation
- In some areas, more can be achieved by cooperation than by oneself alone
- Political message: International competitiveness and internal regional cohesion can be combined on a rural – urban level



**Think rural/urban – act regionally!**





## Goals of German Metropolitan Regions:

### **1: Strengthen the cooperation within the region**

- Facilitate the work of companies, administrations, stakeholders and the civil society. Support the cooperation of the partners in the region.

### **2: Enhance the competitiveness to the outside**

- At the national and international level, Metropolitan Regions compete for companies and skilled professionals. They strive to become both economically active and liveable.





## Challenges of German Metropolitan Regions

- Traffic and transportation problems in urban area <-> Insufficient public transport in low density areas
- High pressure on housing market <-> depopulization of (mostly) rural areas
- Demographic change
- Attracting workforce
- Climate change



**-> more can be achieved when neighbours join forces**

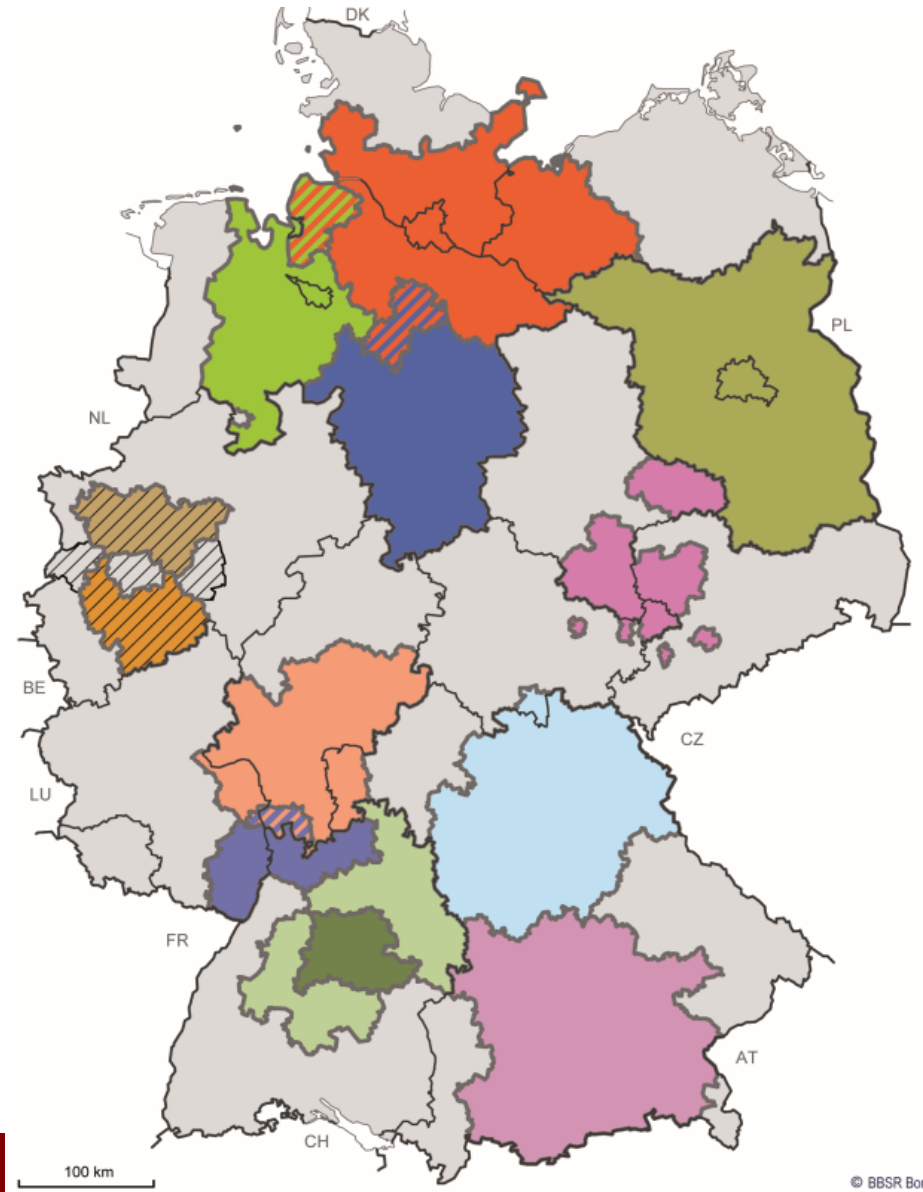
**-> working across existing administrative borders is necessary**



## II. Metropolitan Regions in Germany



## Federal States vs. Metropolitan Regions





## Origin of German Metropolitan Regions:

- Basis: regional cooperation across administrative borders in many regions since the 1950s or earlier
    - Recognition of existing cooperations by the Federal State
- > Bottom-up process based on existing cooperation structures**



## Metropolitan Regions in Germany

Established 1995/97\*



**Berlin/  
Brandenburg**



**Frankfurt/  
Rhein-Main**



**Hamburg**



**München**



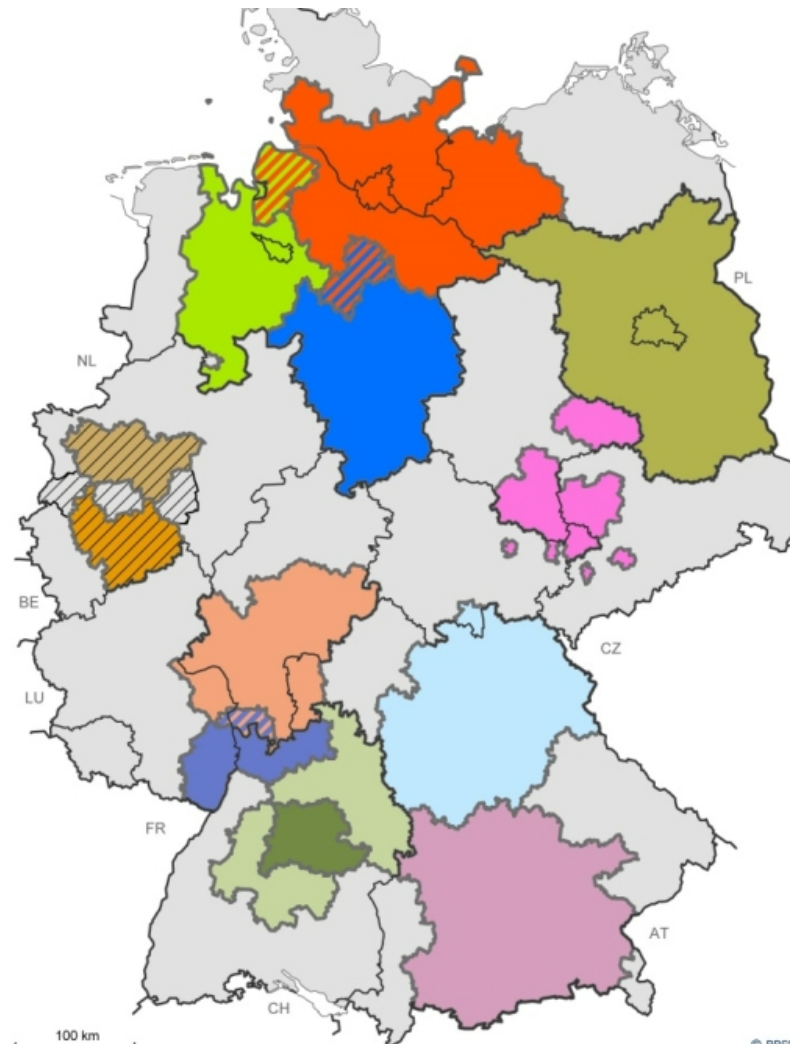
**Rhein-Ruhr**



**Mittel-  
deutschland**



**Stuttgart**



Established 2005\*



**Bremen-  
Oldenburg**



**Hannover  
Braunschweig  
Göttingen  
Wolfsburg**



**Nürnberg**

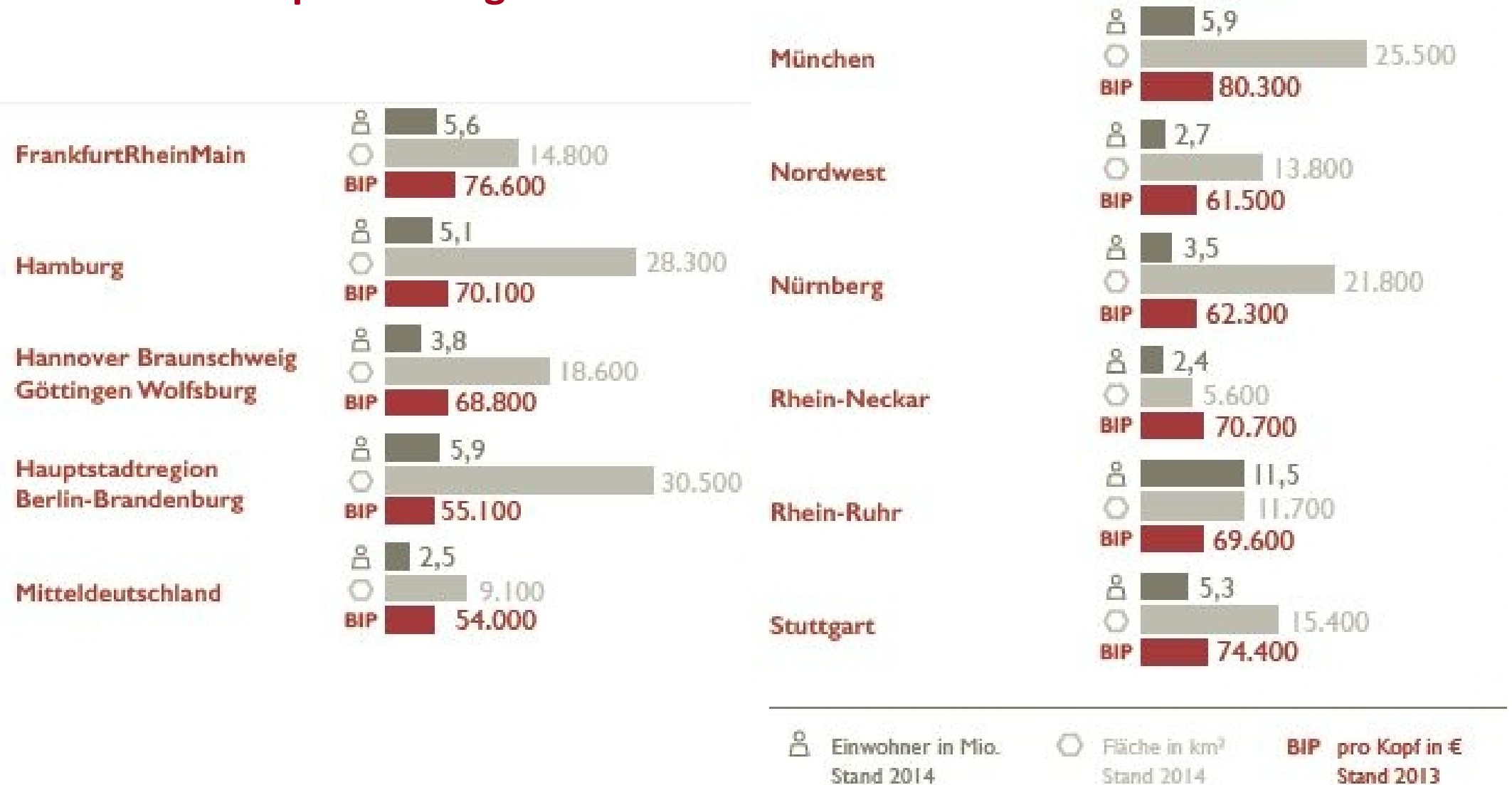


**Rhein-  
Neckar**

\*by the Standing Conference  
of Ministers responsible  
for Spatial Planning (MKRO)



## German Metropolitan Regions in numbers:



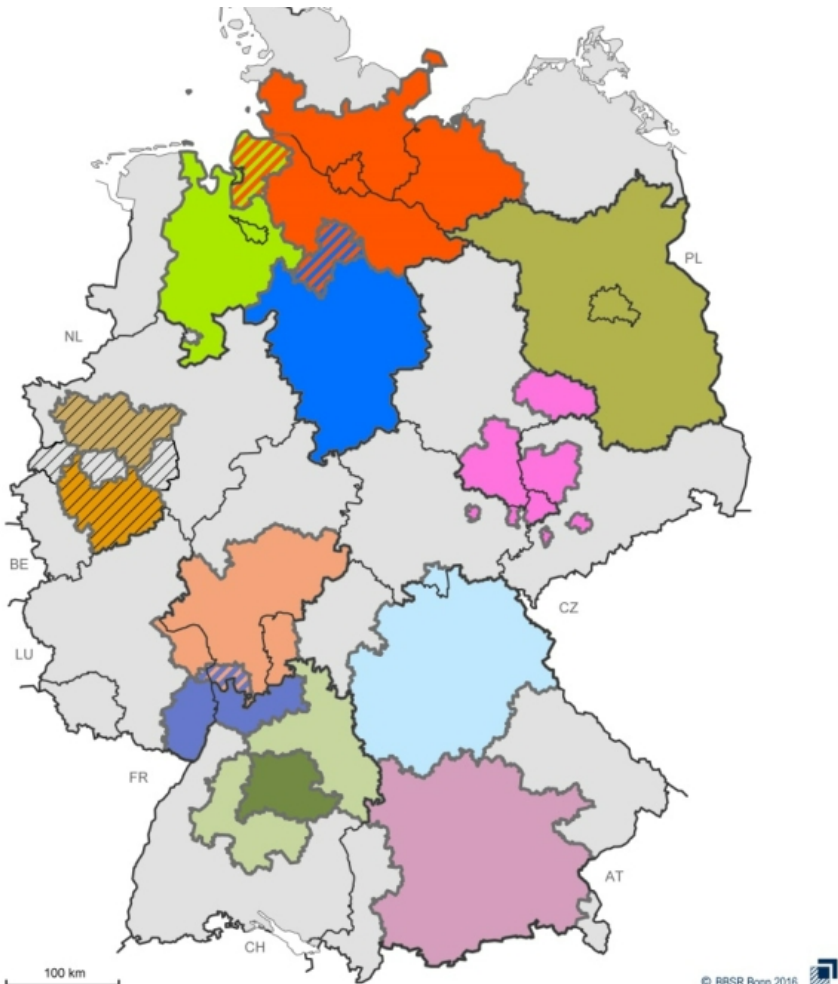




# **III. Governance in German Metropolitan Regions**



# Huge differences between German Metropolitan Regions



- Land area
  - Number of inhabitants and density
  - Economic structure
  - One or multiple federal states
  - Mono- or multicentric
  - Portion of rural/urban space
  - Areas of responsibility
- 
- **Result: different Governance Models**



## Governance in German Metropolitan Regions

- Governance structures are not imposed by Federal State
- Governance structures reflect the special conditions of every Metropolitan Region
- Each metropolitan area uses those administrative structures that are considered appropriate / necessary
- Metropolitan Regions do not constitute additional administrative units
- They are platforms for regional cooperation
- They determine their own borders





# Factors influencing choice of Governance Model

1. Nature of the regional stakeholders
2. Areas of responsibility:
  - “Hard”, sovereign tasks such as regional planning
  - “Soft”, informal tasks such as establishing cohesion between rural and urban areas



## Examples of Governance Models

1. Associations performing sovereign tasks such as planning, e.g. Stuttgart
2. Cooperations based on state treaties (between federal states, regional districts, core city/cities and/or chambers of industry) (e.g. Hamburg)
3. Associations under German law (e.g. Nuremberg)
4. Or a combination of 1-3 (e.g. Rhine-Neckar)





## Governance – summary I

- The governance models of the regions are completely different: No two models are the same!
- One region – Berlin-Brandenburg – has no gov. structure at all. But they have a joint spatial planning department
- Stuttgart Region: federal state parliament transferred certain responsibilities and competences to the metropolitan area
- Only five of the regions are responsible for spatial planning in their region – four of them only for parts of their region
- In one way or another, seven regions incorporate NGOs (like chambers of commerce) in their structure





## Governance – summary II

- Governance is based on commitment of all stakeholders
- Allow for different kinds of intensity of commitment of stakeholders, depending on topic
- Institutionalized platforms for exchange and projects



### Conclusion:

**The governance structure is important, but just as important is trust and reliability between the partners through joint projects and formalized networking (e.g. working groups)**



Thank you  
for your  
attention!



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