

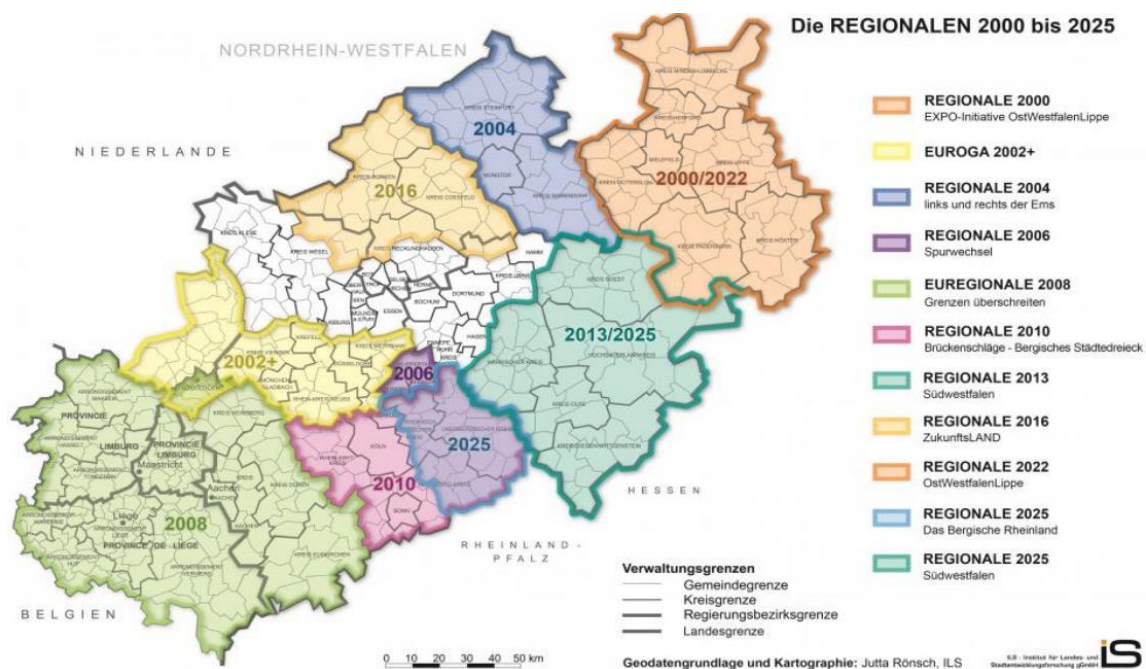
## Fact sheet for planning levels

Planning level		Type of plan		
				<p>The REGIONALE 2010 started in 2002 and ended in 2011. It covered various themes, i.e. cultural heritage and cultural landscapes, regional resource management, local and regional development, city and waterfront development (the River Rhine) and changing urban and rural landscapes. As a result, a spatial vision called Masterplan Grün (masterplan green) was set up for the whole region. The 'Agglomeration Strategy' (Agglomerationskonzept) for the whole region is a current example of a plan-led process established after the REGIONALE 2010 (see below).</p>

## Facts: Guiding principles for spatial development

### Legal basis

The REGIONALEN as a policy and planning approach aim at horizontal (public, private and civil society) and vertical (multi-scale) cooperation at the regional level. They are a unique instrument to enhance the basic spatial situation and to improve the (economic) performance of regions. Since 1999, the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia has encouraged regions to define themes of regional interest and to work together in flexible intermunicipal partnerships. They are a good example of coordination and integration across sectors, planning levels and policy areas. Eleven REGIONALEN have been implemented, three of which are currently running until 2022/2025.



**Detail 1: Die REGIONALEN in NRW** Source: ILS, ©ILS/Jutta Rönsch

### Competences

The approach is project-driven and has a fixed time frame (every REGIONALE presents its core projects during a final event), and projects of regional relevance are funded with priority by the federal state level (albeit there is no special funding programme; the funding is guaranteed via existing funding programmes).

### Binding force

The REGIONALEN are meant to operate within the established legal formal planning system, realising their aims via the well-established formal planning instruments on all spatial scales. Complementing the formal system of planning instruments, the REGIONALEN often use informal instruments, i.e. spatial visions or masterplans. The REGIONALE 2010 produced the 'Masterplan Grün' as an informal instrument guiding the future vision of the cultural landscape on a regional scale, identifying spatial potentials and pitfalls. The masterplan was intended to function as an instrument for dialogue, steering regional coordination. Ultimately, the debates on the masterplan – which was updated regularly – actually influenced formal spatial planning.

### Tasks and content

The REGIONALEN in North Rhine-Westphalia define themes for 'bottom-up' regional cooperation. Regions as well as projects are chosen on a competitive basis. The broad thematic spectrum ranges from environmental, cultural and landscape issues to economic and urban design issues. They depend on the specific regional challenges and potentials for cooperative development.

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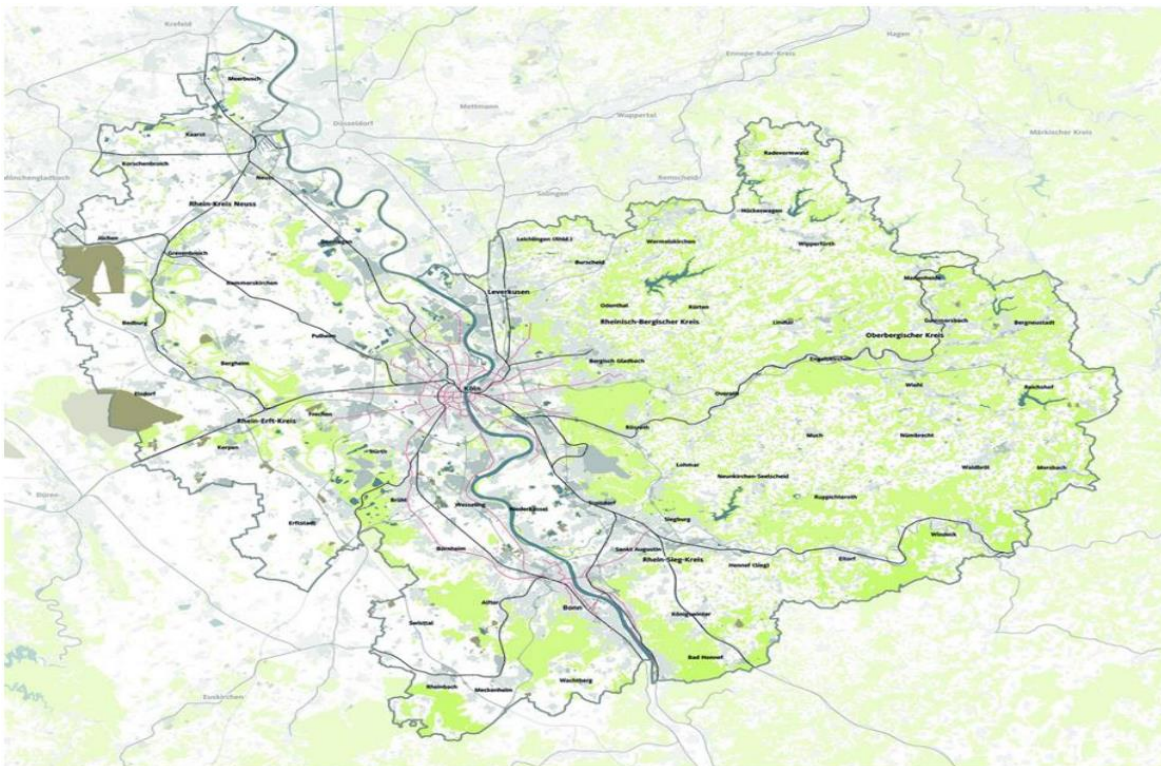
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**Process, duration, participation**

The REGIONALE 2010 ended in 2011, but some of its main objectives and strategic goalposts are still valid and have been implemented on a regional scale within the Cologne/Bonn region. The regional agency, which was set up on a fixed-term basis, was one of the most important factors of this success. As an outcome of the activities of the past years, the region has successfully established a new spatial vision called the 'Agglomeration Strategy'. Its aim is to develop an integrated structural vision for the spatial development of the Cologne/Bonn region in a cooperative regional dialogue. The Agglomeration Strategy encompasses perspectives for further integrated settlement, mobility and open space development across municipal and district boundaries and was introduced into current formal regional planning processes.

**Duration of validity**

see above

**Details of the plan (Agglomeration Strategy)**

**Detail 2:** Raumstrukturkarte der Region Köln/Bonn

Source: Region Köln/Bonn

## Characteristics

### Location of the area

The Cologne/Bonn region comprises the areas of the independent cities of Cologne, Bonn and Leverkusen as well as the five surrounding districts of Rheinisch-Bergischer Kreis, Oberbergischer Kreis, Rhein-Sieg-Kreis, Rhein-Erft-Kreis and Rhein-Kreis Neuss. Close spatial interdependencies exist in the south with the Ahrweiler and Neuwied districts in Rhineland-Palatinate, in the west with the Euskirchen and Düren districts, in the north with the city of Düsseldorf and the Mettmann district as well as the Bergisch city triangle and towards the Lower Rhine. With a total area of approx. 4,400 km<sup>2</sup>, the core area of the Cologne/Bonn region has a dense polycentric settlement structure with diverse and valuable cultural landscapes and open spaces.

### Initial situation

The aim of the Agglomeration Strategy is to guide the spatial transformation of the polycentric agglomeration in such a way that sustainable spatial structures are secured in the long term or new ones are created, taking into account the specific challenges and potentials as well as future issues of the region. Furthermore, it is about maintaining and strengthening the competitiveness of the Cologne/Bonn region for North Rhine-Westphalia within the (inter)national competition of regions. Through differentiated consideration, analysis and evaluation of the various sub-regional characteristics and profiles, the Agglomeration Strategy presents opportunities for intermunicipal cooperation and related projects of strategic importance, the latter being embedded in a strong regional spatial vision with a perspective up through 2040+. It provides basic guidelines and options for municipalities and their medium to long-term development in the overall regional structure. In addition, findings from the Agglomeration Strategy were incorporated into the formal regional planning process.

### Particularities of the procedure and/or contents

The Agglomeration Strategy was developed in a broad and open participatory process, comprising three phases starting from the beginning of 2016. In the first phase, the main challenges as well as potentials for spatial development were identified, followed by a discussion on possible future development paths in different sub-regional areas. In the second phase, conceptual approaches and strategic visions for the region as a whole and its sub-areas were developed in close cooperation with experts (architects, planners, experts from other fields, i.e. mobility, green infrastructure, etc.). In phase three, all inputs were discussed and resulted in an integrated structural vision (Vision 2040+).

## Notes and links

<https://www.agglomerationskonzept.de/>