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Voluntary Local Review 2024



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Voluntary Local Review 2024

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Published by

© City of Regensburg,
Human Resources and Administration Department,
Coordinator for Municipal Development Policy
Rathausplatz 1 | 93047 Regensburg

Responsible for the content

Michael Grein,
Coordinator for Municipal Development Policy

With support from

Municipalities for Global Sustainability (“Global Nachhaltige Kommune”)
Service Agency Communities in One World
Engagement Global gGmbH
gnk@engagement-global.de

Supported by



with its



with funding from the



Consulting and Support

corsus – corporate sustainability GmbH, Hamburg
Dr. Anke Butscher & Nynke Hack

Design

yella park, Aachen
www.yellapark.de

Image Credit

Photo documentation, City of Regensburg
(unless otherwise specified)

Printing

bonitasprint gmbh, Würzburg



Gefördert durch:



aufgrund eines Beschlusses
des Deutschen Bundestages



Foreword by Mayor

Dear Readers,

The goal is for Regensburg to become greener, fairer and more productive, making it a better place to live for everyone. The path to creating a “grandchild-friendly” city is outlined in the *Regensburg Plan 2040*. This was developed, together with the citizens of Regensburg, in line with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. The task is now to breathe life into this plan together. Regensburg stands at the threshold of a huge transformation: just some of the challenges facing Regensburg over the coming decades include the provision of affordable housing in the face of strong population growth, the reorganisation of mobility, the decarbonisation of the economy and of the property portfolio, the increasing shortage of land and adapting the city to the consequences of climate change.

But where does Regensburg stand currently, for example in terms of the Green Deal? How many flats are being completed each year? How is the renewable energy expansion going in the urban area? And how is the energy and heating transition progressing? In order to provide in-depth answers to these questions and to provide a basis for requirements planning and political decision-making, the City of Regensburg has, in recent times, been consistently focussed on developing its sustainability reporting and therefore its transparency. In 2023, the development of the “Future Barometer Regensburg” provided an interactive online platform bringing together all municipal measures and activities relating to sustainable development and providing information about their background. This enables all developments over recent decades to be tracked based on objective key figures and by using interactive slider bars. The City of Regensburg has now achieved a further milestone with the publication of the first Voluntary Local Review (VLR). In addition to the Future Barometer, this report presents further qualitative and quantitative

evaluations of the progress made by Regensburg in implementing the 17 SDGs.

The aim of the report is to provide a sound basis for decision-making that will determine the future course on the path to a more sustainable future. The effectiveness of measures, their progress and also their successes can be verified against specific data. The VLR and the Future Barometer are objective and transparent analytical tools. Their purpose is therefore to make the strengths, but also the weaknesses of Regensburg visible and measurable and, in this way, to assist in the implementation of the sustainability goals. The development of an independent, digital and interactive sustainability platform and publication of the Voluntary Local Review make Regensburg is one of the trailblazers in this regard in Germany.

Besides policy-makers and the city’s citizens, the aim is for further stakeholders to also benefit from the sustainability reporting. This promotes transparency and trust in the capability of both policy-makers and the administration to act and in their integrity. However, the aim of the Voluntary Local Review and the Future Barometer is not solely to provide information and raise awareness. Its purpose is also to motivate and inspire. This is because every one of us can and must contribute to sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda. Together, let’s face up to the challenges of our time with optimism and with responsibility for one another, and let’s tackle them with determination. This report provides the basis for this.

Gertrud Maltz-Schwarzfischer
Mayor

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Foreword by Head of HR and Administration

Dear Readers,

Municipalities have a key role to play in implementing the sustainability goals of the 2030 Agenda. Virtually all aspects of sustainable development converge in the places where people live and work. The success of the transformation into a more sustainable society will therefore be determined in particular in the municipalities.

The City of Regensburg is aware of this responsibility. With its approximately 4,400 employees, the city administration is therefore taking an active role in implementing the United Nations' sustainability goals. In line with the 2030 Agenda, sustainability is already well established as a cross-cutting responsibility within the administration. Just some of the areas worth noting in this respect include the municipal development policy coordination office, the Smart City staff unit, the Climate Protection and Climate Resilience staff unit, the Department for Inclusion and Civil Engagement, the Equal Opportunities office, the “Demokratie leben!” [Embrace democracy] coordination office, the local mobility coordinator and the Education coordination office.

However, with the targeted professional development and skills development of staff in the area of sustainable development, the city administration is also contributing to firmly establishing sustainability within the City of Regensburg’s business culture. In line with the 2030 Agenda, sustainable development issues are being given increasingly greater priority within the municipal professional development programme. The range extends from sustainable and fair procurement, to inclusion, equal treatment, combating racism, developing foreign language skills, corruption prevention and health promotion programmes. Sustainability has also formed an established part of management meetings within the City of Regensburg over recent years.

At the very least, the city administration intends to lead the way in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by setting a good example. The percentage of women as a proportion of the overall workforce reached a new high in 2023 at 54.8 percent. The proportion of staff with severe disabilities has remained constant at around 8 percent for many years and, currently, 309 people with severe disabilities are employed in the city administration. Huge progress has also been made in recent years in the area of digitalisation. In 2024, 326 city administration services could be accessed digitally. This puts Regensburg second in the ranking from the Bavarian State Ministry for Digital Affairs of all cities constituting districts in their own right [kreisfreie Städte] and rural districts. Successes in the area of sustainable procurement are also worth noting. The proportion of recycled paper used within the city administration was recently just under 98 percent. Municipal employees working in the circular economy, municipal cleaning and fleet management departments and in the parks and civil engineering departments procure their work clothing from certified fair production. And, from 2025, the professional fire service is committed to using proven fair production and fair trade sources for their fireproof protective clothing. In 2024, the City of Regensburg was once again certified as a “Fairtrade-Town” for its commitment to fair procurement. These successes show that change is possible.

Dr. Patrick Veit
Head of HR and Administration

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2030 Agenda

In September 2015, 193 member states of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development at the UN Summit in New York. The Agenda lays the foundation for shaping economic progress in line with social fairness and within the earth's ecological limits. It is intended to initiate change in policy-making and society and to help solve global challenges together, enabling all people worldwide to live in dignity.

At the heart of the Agenda are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These give equal consideration to all three dimensions of sustainability – economic development, environmental protection and social development. The focus is on human dignity, the protection of our planet, prosperity for all, peace and global partnership.





Integration of 2030 Agenda

in the “Regensburg Plan 2040”
city development concept

August 2022

Signing of the
specimen resolution

“2030 Agenda for sustainable development”

June 2021



The 2030 Agenda is unprecedented in its scope and significance. Its goals and targets are universal and apply to all countries in the world. Industrial nations and emerging nations as well as countries of the Global South are all required to contribute to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Policy-makers, business, science and civil society are jointly responsible for global sustainable development.

The signing of the specimen resolution “2030 Agenda for sustainable development: building sustainability at the local level” of the Association of German Cities (“Deutscher Städtetag”) and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) on 28.07.2021 by Mayor Gertrud Maltz-Schwarzfischer means the City of Regensburg is committed to implementing the sustainability goals of the 2030 Agenda at a local level. This was preceded by the Regensburg city council's commitment to the 2030 Agenda. Regensburg is the 189th German municipality to have committed itself to implementing the 2030 Agenda at a local level.

Sustainable development is an ongoing process. Regular and transparent reporting on the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda is intended to support Regensburg in this process, to make progress visible and measurable, and to highlight strengths and weaknesses. The report provides a sound basis for decision-making that will determine the future course on the path to a more sustainable future.

Voluntary Local Review

Regensburg has taken the decision to prepare a Voluntary Local Review (VLR). This is a sustainability report on the local implementation of the 17 SDGs and is based on the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). These are used for reporting at the national level to the United Nations on the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Selected reports are presented annually to the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York. Regensburg is one of the first German municipalities to publish a VLR.

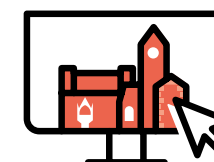
Each chapter of the VLR begins with background information on the relevance and development of the respective sustainability goal at the global, national and, finally, local level. This is followed by five municipal projects and measures (Our engagement) through which Regensburg is seeking to implement the goals at a local level. The content is supplemented by around 120 indicators and more than 70 graphs (Development at local level), the purpose of which is to make the trends in terms of achieving sustainability goals visible and also to enable a comparison over time. Each chapter concludes with a focus on the opportunities and challenges locally.

When preparing the Voluntary Local Review, Regensburg was supported by Engagement Global's Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Launch of the
online platform

“Future Barometer Regensburg”

June 2023



Publication of the 1st Voluntary Local Review

March 2025

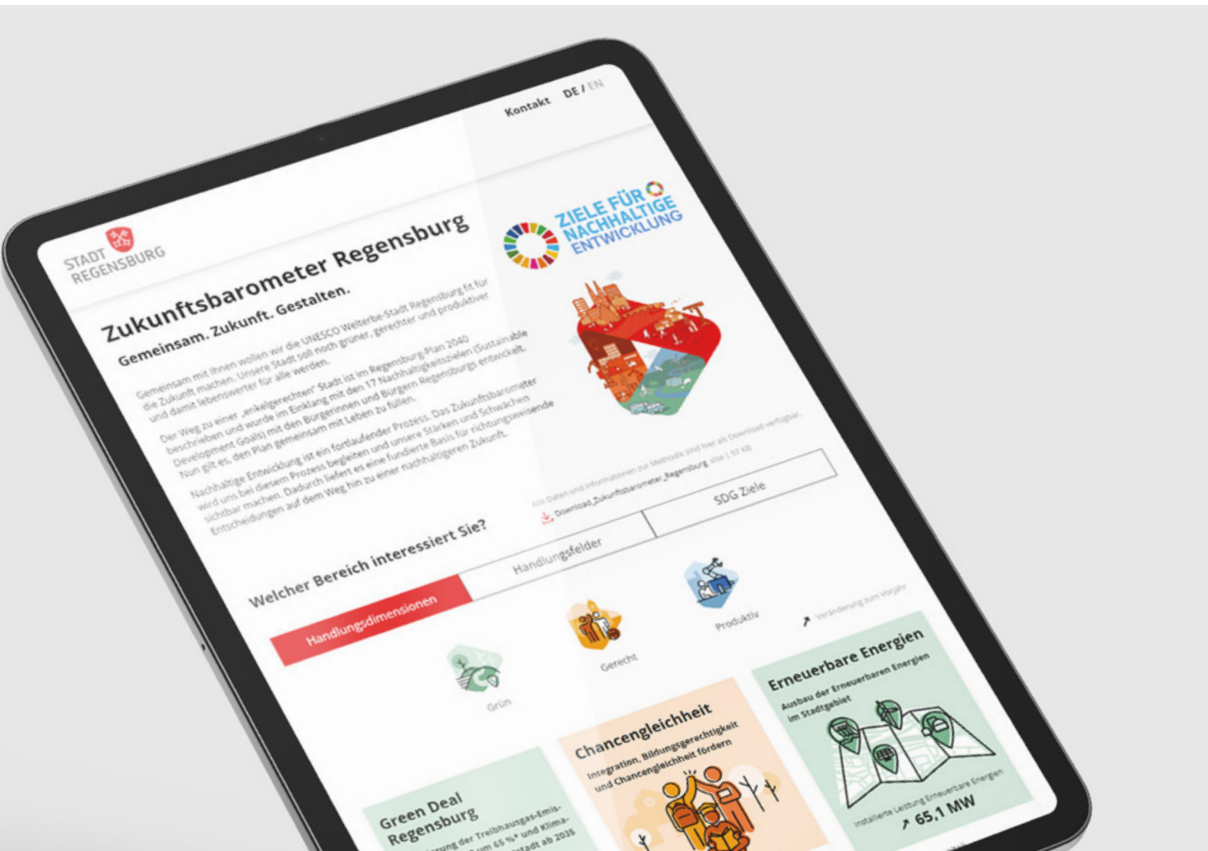


The Future Barometer Regensburg

In addition to the VLR, the City of Regensburg provides a digital, interactive sustainability portal: the Future Barometer Regensburg. On this online platform, interactive slider bars can be used to track and identify many of the developments – which are also described here in the VLR – over past years and right up to their current status. The Future Barometer is supplemented by background information on a large number of current municipal measures and projects. Both the figures as well as the qualitative content of the Future Barometer are updated on multiple occasions during the year. The values presented can be individually filtered and relate to the following fields of action: climate protection and energy, mobility

and infrastructure, environment and resource protection, living and housing, participation and involvement, work and business, academia and digitalisation. It is also possible to filter by the 17 SDGs and by making selections according to the action dimensions of “The green city”, “The just city” and “The productive city”, which follow the logic of the new Leipzig charter.

The Future Barometer can be found at the following link: <https://zukunft.regensburg.de/>



Digital and interactive: The Future Barometer Regensburg.



Sustainable development goals in front of the Old Town Hall.

Methodology used for developing indicators

The indicators providing the framework for both this Voluntary Local Review and the Regensburg Future Barometer are based on the content of the 2030 Agenda and on the targets and findings of the Regensburg urban development concept – the *Regensburg Plan 2040*. This was adopted by the Committee for Urban Planning, Transport and Housing Matters on 27 July 2022 and serves as a basis for the future development of the City of Regensburg. The goals of the 2030 Agenda were integrated into the Regensburg urban development concept for the first time in the *Regensburg Plan 2040*.

The aim of the indicator set is to encompass all content of the 2030 Agenda which is relevant to the municipality, as well as the development goals of the *Regensburg Plan 2040*. The indicator catalogue is intended to be as comprehensive as possible but still easy to manage. The data for the indicators selected should also be up to date, the quality of the data should be high and it should be collected in a standardised way. The indicator set should have a high degree of acceptance within the city administration as well as among citizens and

should be stable over the long term. It should enable comparisons over time and comparisons with other municipalities. The indicator set also refers in part to already established indicator catalogues such as the European Energy Award or the SDG Indicators for Municipalities developed, among others by The German Institute of Urban Affairs (DiFu) and the Bertelsmann Foundation.

This final indicator set has been agreed by the Regensburg city administration with the involvement of researchers, Regensburg initiatives and associations as well as interested citizens. The database comprises statistics collected in-house and also by third parties, for example the Bavarian State Office for Statistics, the employment office and the Federal Network Agency.

A complete listing of the indicator catalogue, the data sources and the calculation of the respective indicators can be downloaded in the Future Barometer from the following link: <https://zukunft.regensburg.de/>



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Regensburg: facts & figures



177,123

residents

from 150 nations

26 %

share of
bicycle traffic



broadband coverage
for private households with
bandwidth $\geq 1,000$ Mbit/s

95.42 %



37.27 m²

local recreation area
per inhabitant



31,733

students

8,070 ha

total area

of the urban area



81.2 MW

**installed capacity of
renewable energies**

in the urban area



1,289

completed flats

in the past year



90,529 €

gross domestic product
per inhabitant



**reduction of
GHG emissions**

compared to 1990

**UNESCO
World
Heritage Site**

since 2006



**Fairtrade
City**

since 2012



**second highest
job density**

among all major German cities
(commuters 81,725)

746

charging points
in the urban area



38 %

**proportion of women
in the city council**

1 NO POVERTY

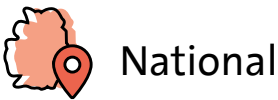


End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Background



According to World Bank estimates, over 3.4 billion people, or almost half of the world's population, live below the poverty line. Anyone with less than 2.15 US dollars per day to live on, equivalent to around two euros, is considered extremely poor. In 2022, this applied to nine percent of the global population, or approximately 720 million people.¹



According to the Federal Statistical Office, the at-risk-of-poverty rate in Germany in 2023 was 14.3 percent, equivalent to one in seven people. Those regarded as at risk of poverty have less than 60 percent of the median income of the overall population. In 2023, this was equivalent to a monthly net income of less than 1,310 euro for a single person household.²

Children and young people of parents with lower levels of education in particular are at a high risk of poverty. Approximately 2.1 million children and young people were at risk of poverty in Germany in 2023.³ The risk of people over the age of 65 suffering from poverty is above average. Single mothers, large families, people with disabilities, migrants and unemployed people are also at a high risk of poverty.



The issues of poverty must also be taken seriously in a prosperous city such as Regensburg. In 2022, 10.5 percent of those under 15 were at risk of poverty, the equivalent figure for 15-to-17-year-olds was 9.4 percent, and 6.7 percent of over-65s living in Regensburg were impacted by old age poverty. In 2022, the proportion of Regensburg residents in receipt of benefits under SGB II [Book two of the Social Code] was 5.6 percent. In Regensburg, there was a recent slight increase in the risk of poverty across all age groups and this is above the average for the state of Bavaria.

While municipalities are unable to fully address the causes of poverty within their areas of responsibilities, they are confronted by the consequences of poverty and can influence the everyday realities for people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. To help tackle the risk of poverty, social exclusion and a lack of participation, the City of Regensburg offers a range of help and support. The help provided includes an early years network, outreach work for young people, advice for families, meeting places and support for the elderly, and specific offers for people in particular situations such as the homeless and refugees.



Vibrant Life and Medieval Charm in Regensburg.

Our engagement

Relevant subgoals under SDG 1 for German municipalities include the implementation of social protection measures, ensuring substantial coverage of the poor and building the resilience in vulnerable situations. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

Small-scale social and demographic monitoring

To ensure that all people in Regensburg enjoy good and, above all, equitable living conditions, the city administration is implementing small-scale social and demographic monitoring. This allows changes in social structure and demography to be quickly identified and enables targeted responses to social imbalances. The social and demographic monitoring provides a clear representation of the social, demographic and structural features at the micro levels of the existing 71 monitoring areas. Besides representation in thematic maps, the social environment dynamics are documented and the Regensburg social index is calculated.

Regensburg is a
“child-friendly municipality”

Regensburg is the first municipality in Bavaria to be awarded the seal of “child-friendly municipality”. All children and young people must be supported in their development and must be actively protected from threats to their physical, mental and spiritual well-being as well as from other damaging influences. The limitations faced by disadvantaged young people and their families should be reduced and fair opportunities and participation for all must be made possible. A network of measures and assistance supports disadvantaged families. This is provided, if necessary, from the pregnancy phase and throughout the entire period of childhood and adolescence. As part of this, a prominent role is played by prevention. This involves child and youth protection focussed on education, parenting support in the family and family education.

General
social service

The general social service is free-of-charge provision from the city administration providing support and advice to adult citizens on personal issues, health matters, rent and electricity bill arrears and help for those at risk of homelessness. The offer to accompany people to important meetings with the authorities is also provided. In order to help meet the specific assistance requirements of the elderly, an additional differentiated general social service was set up in 2019 for people over the age of 65. It offers help in challenging life situations or current crises such as social hardship, in matters concerning health and care or in economic crisis situations.



Pure refreshment: Children enjoy the water feature at Neupfarrplatz.



Design of the “Chancen-Haus” for homeless families and single parents with children. © Diezinger Architects

Help for the homeless
and street work

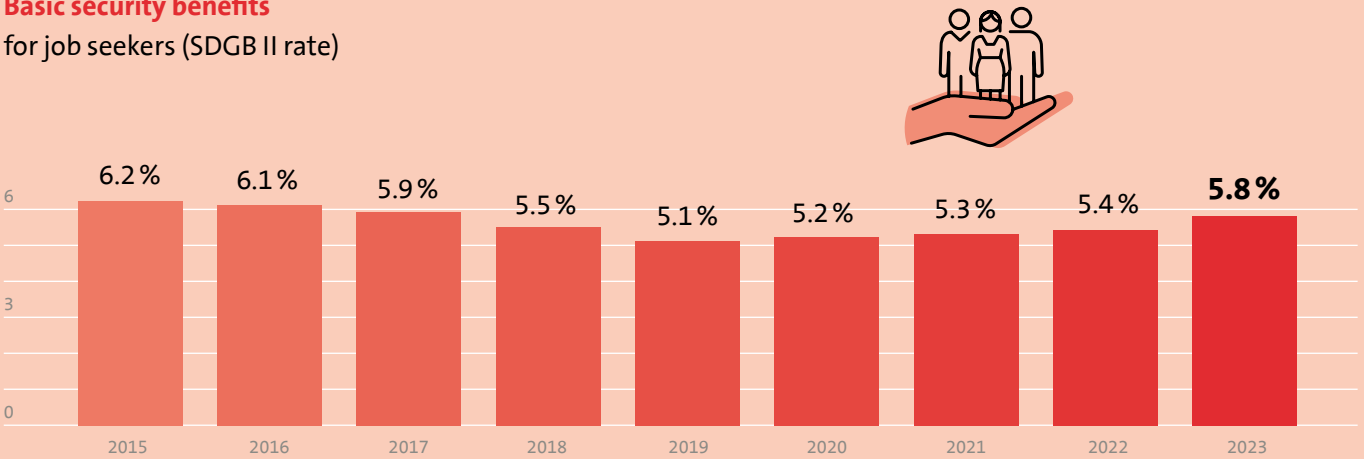
The help-for-the-homeless policy from 2022 focuses on decentralization and differentiation. It aims to implement new forms of accommodation and assistance for homeless people. From 2025, and in addition to the existing offers, there will also be an in-house facility for homeless families and separate accommodation for homeless women. In each case, the aim is for individuals to receive appropriate support to help them actively to return to the normal rental market. For the target group of homeless people and those suffering from addiction, there is an outpatient, easy-to-access offer provided as a public service – in particular also in the area of help with addiction. The purpose of this is to direct persons affected to existing assistance provision. The offer is implemented as part of street work in Regensburg, in particular in the city centre area around the station.

Regensburg
City Pass

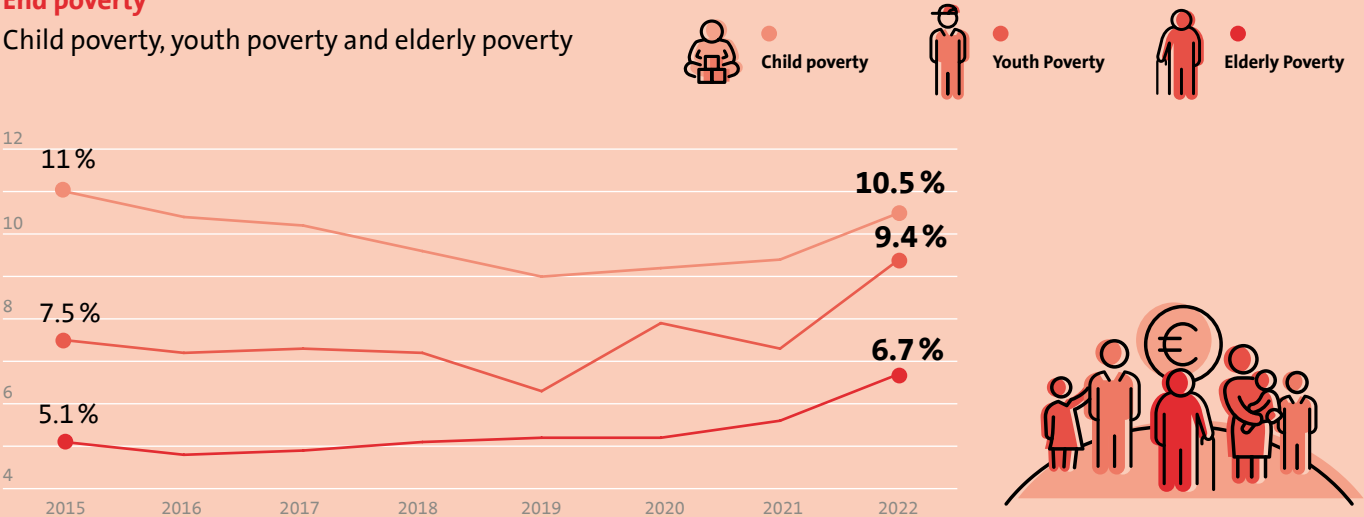
The city pass enables Regensburg residents on low income to receive a range of cost reductions, for example on local public transport or when visiting cultural venues. Of particular interest for city pass holders is the 50 percent reduction when purchasing tickets in the Regensburg transport system. The reduction for pupils and trainees is even greater at around 65 percent. There is also a 50 percent discount at the municipal cultural, educational and leisure facilities. Companies and institutions have also agreed to offer reductions of varying amounts.

Development at local level

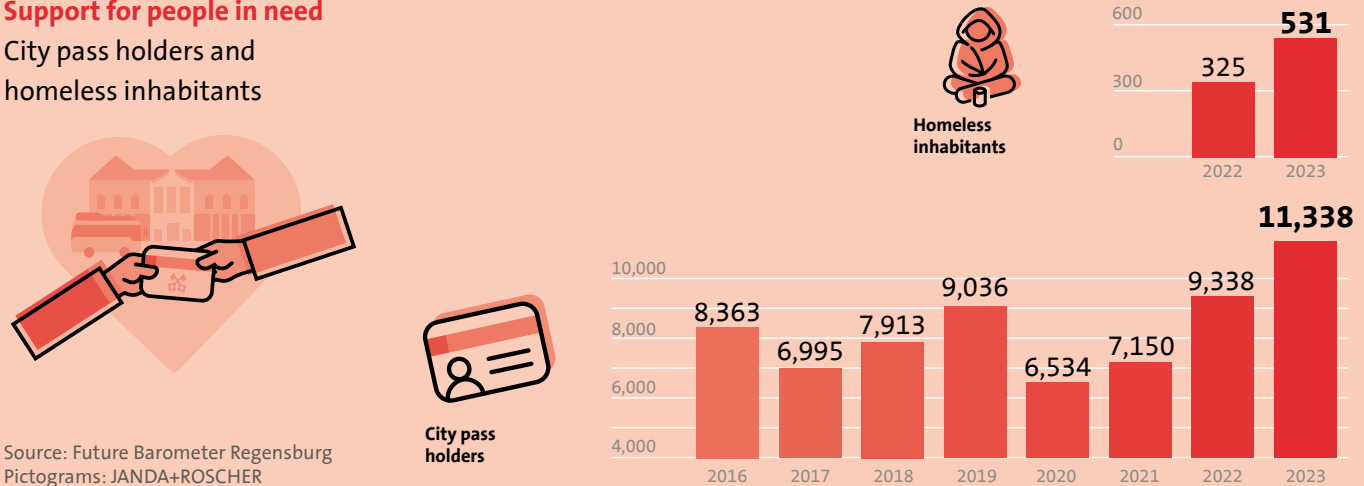
Basic security benefits
for job seekers (SDGB II rate)



End poverty
Child poverty, youth poverty and elderly poverty



Support for people in need
City pass holders and
homeless inhabitants



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg
Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER

Opportunities and challenges

Ending poverty is a key task for sustainable development, social fairness and social cohesion. A key component of the ending poverty in Regensburg is direct social support for people in vulnerable situations. This comprises the provision of social benefits, advisory services and social facilities to support people in difficult situations. Given the constant rise in the cost of living and a severe shortage of affordable housing, the number of people receiving basic security benefits has also increased in Regensburg in recent years. There has also been growth in the number of people known as the working poor. These are people who, although working, are barely able to cover their own costs of living, especially if they also have families or children to provide for.

Particular attention must be given to child poverty because vulnerable situations in childhood and adolescence impact negatively on healthy development. Where children are additionally affected by homelessness, the situation is particularly dramatic. For this reason,

the city is adding an additional component to its social assistance network and has begun the construction of a transitional supported living facility for young people – the “Chancen Haus” [“Opportunity House”]. In future, the new build will provide accommodation facilities for families and single parents with children and will ensure adequate social support and provision. The aim is to provide a place in the transitional supported living facility for up to 96 people in need.

Ongoing social monitoring has proved extremely helpful for Regensburg in being able to identify social inequalities at an early stage. It also allows the structural relationships between a range of socio-economic factors to be analysed specifically for Regensburg and therefore enables target group-specific assistance. The challenge for the future will be not only the ongoing development of municipal social policy but also shaping municipal policy overall to meet social requirements more effectively.



© Sean Prior / 123rf.com

2 ZERO HUNGER



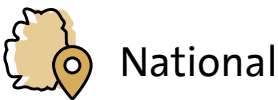
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Background



Almost two-thirds of all people worldwide eat the wrong foods, suffer from malnutrition or are overweight. This has far-reaching consequences for the well-being and health of people and societies and on their capacity to act. According to the United Nations, two billion people suffer from malnutrition and 828 million people suffer from chronic hunger.⁴ This is equivalent to one in every eleven people worldwide. Hunger has increased globally in recent years. The rise has been exacerbated, for example, by the war in Ukraine, the coronavirus pandemic and climate change. The result is food insecurity and a worsening of agricultural conditions.



According to estimates, three million people in Germany are impacted by food poverty. This is equivalent to 3.5 percent of the population.⁵ However, in Germany, a far greater problem than malnutrition is excess weight and obesity. Around two thirds of men and half of women are overweight and around one quarter of adults are heavily obese.⁶ The percentage of people in Germany who are overweight is above the EU average.



There are also a large number of people in Regensburg who are unable to afford everyday items such as food. The food banks alone in Regensburg provide donated food to around 5,000 people every week. The City of Regensburg supports a broad range of support organisations comprising churches, societies, associations and private initiatives in addressing this challenging situation.

The promotion of pesticide-free agriculture and sustainable organic food production within the region is also a further priority for nutrition in the City of Regensburg. The aim is for the proportion of regional, organically certified food to be increased to at least 50 percent in all municipal institutions with community catering by 2030. The goal is also to steadily increase organically farmed land as a percentage of all land used for agricultural purposes in the Regensburg urban area. The most recent figure for this was eleven percent.

Another focus is nutritional education projects. The purpose of these is to make the population more aware of what they are consuming and to build awareness of a more sustainable approach to food.

Shared meals promote health, social skills, and community in daycare centres and schools.



Our engagement

Relevant subgoals under SDG 2 for German municipalities include ensuring access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food and ensuring productive agriculture and sustainable food production. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

Warm lunches for children

The City of Regensburg supports children and young people from families on low income so that everyone in Regensburg receives a warm meal every lunchtime and can participate in the shared meal time at school, in child day-care centres, in after-school care centres or with childminders. The purpose of this support is to ensure provision of the key nutrients such as vitamins, minerals, proteins and fibre; and also to develop an environment in which children can eat together, engage with each other and build social relationships. Children from low-income households often do not have sufficient access to healthy and nutritious food. No child should be disadvantaged due to their social background or family circumstances.



© Daniel Delang

Organic city and model eco-region

The City of Regensburg has been part of the network of organic cities since 2017. Together with the district of Regensburg and its 41 municipalities, it has also been one of the largest state-recognised model eco-regions in Bavaria since 2019. The shared goals of the organic city and model eco-region include, in particular, supporting the production of organically produced regional food across the entire supply chain and also raising awareness of organically produced regional food. Support is also being provided to increase organic regional food in catering outside the home, such as in canteens. In 2021, the City of Regensburg's environmental committee decided to increase the proportion of organically certified food in all institutions within their own catering services to at least 50 percent by 2030.

At the Bio-Donaumarkt in Regensburg, Bavaria's first purely organic weekly market.



Promoting sustainable agriculture

The City of Regensburg is actively engaged in promoting sustainable agriculture by organically managing its own agricultural land. In addition, all of the City of Regensburg's agricultural land which is newly leased will be managed in terms of pesticide use in accordance with the principles of organic farming. The non-use of pesticides and herbicides in the management of municipal agricultural land will always be subject to contractual agreement.

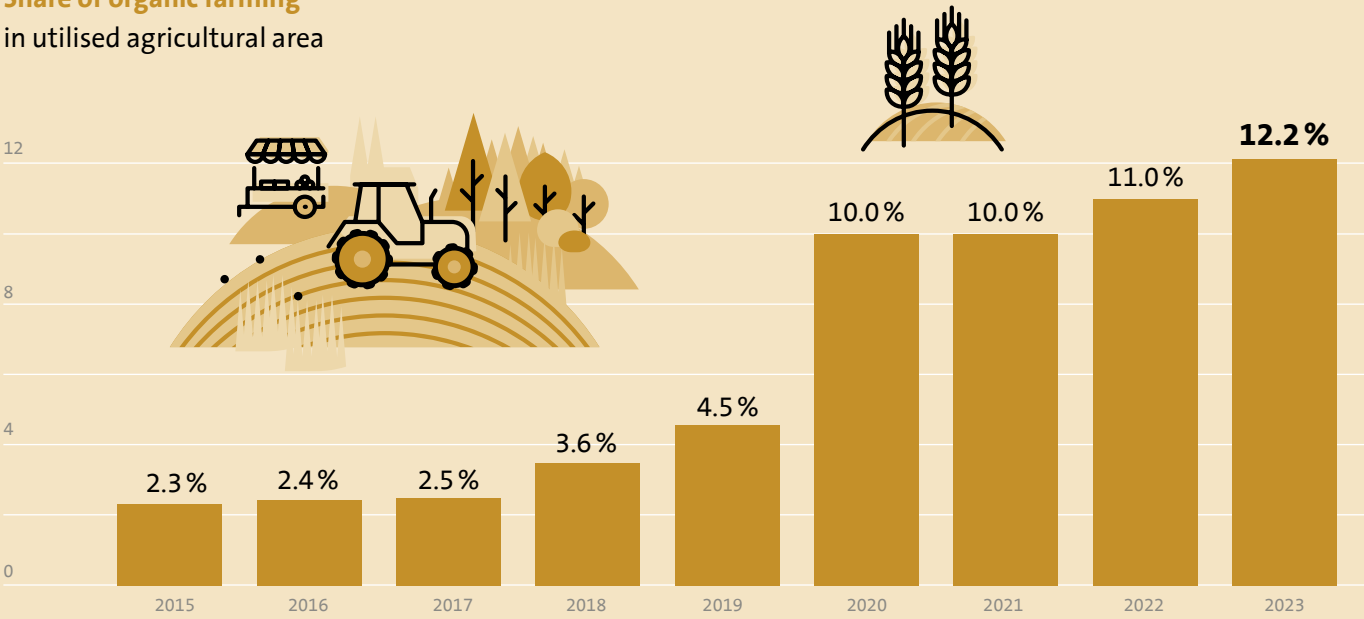
Raising awareness of healthy eating

Together with a range of different cooperation partners, the City of Regensburg organises educational and information offers such as workshops on the theme of healthy eating. The offers are targeted on the one hand at consumers, starting with children and young people in schools in order to make them aware of healthy eating. In 2023, for example, an organic farmer visited the city's primary schools and vocational schools to raise awareness of healthy eating and organic products. At markets and festivals too, however, information is provided about the added value of organically and regionally produced food. This takes the form of an organic shopping guide showing where to shop in the region. Specialist seminars are also targeted at producers, and coaching is also provided to support caterers and kitchens with the introduction of organic food.



Development at local level

Share of organic farming in utilised agricultural area



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg / Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER

Opportunities and challenges

In Regensburg, compared to regions of the world facing severe hunger crises, the issue of food security is not an issue of specific public interest. Nevertheless, the city and its inhabitants do have to deal with the rising cost of living and food prices as well as the challenges posed by inflation.

The city runs a range of different educational initiatives focused on healthy eating. These aim to educate the population about the importance of a balanced, sustainable and healthy diet. A balanced diet is critical in preventing chronic diseases such as obesity and diabetes. However, a balanced diet also supports general

well-being and mental capacity. For children and young people in particular, a balanced diet is important in supporting their physical and cognitive development.

Beside supporting healthy eating, another focus is building awareness of sustainable nutrition. In addition to reducing food waste, this also includes promoting organic, regional and seasonal food. As an organic city and model eco-region, Regensburg's goal is to increase the proportion of organically produced regional food. Workshops, seminars coaching sessions, organic shopping guides and cooking courses support consumers as well as producers.



© Daniel Delang



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Background



Although basic medical care has improved globally over recent decades and significant progress has been made in increasing life expectancy, huge regional differences remain. In 2023, global life expectancy was 73.2 years. For the same year, the average life expectancy at birth in Germany was 83.0 years for women and 78.2 years for men.⁷ By contrast, the life expectancy of a child born in sub-Saharan Africa is only around 60. Globally, around 4.5 billion people do not have access to essential health care.⁸

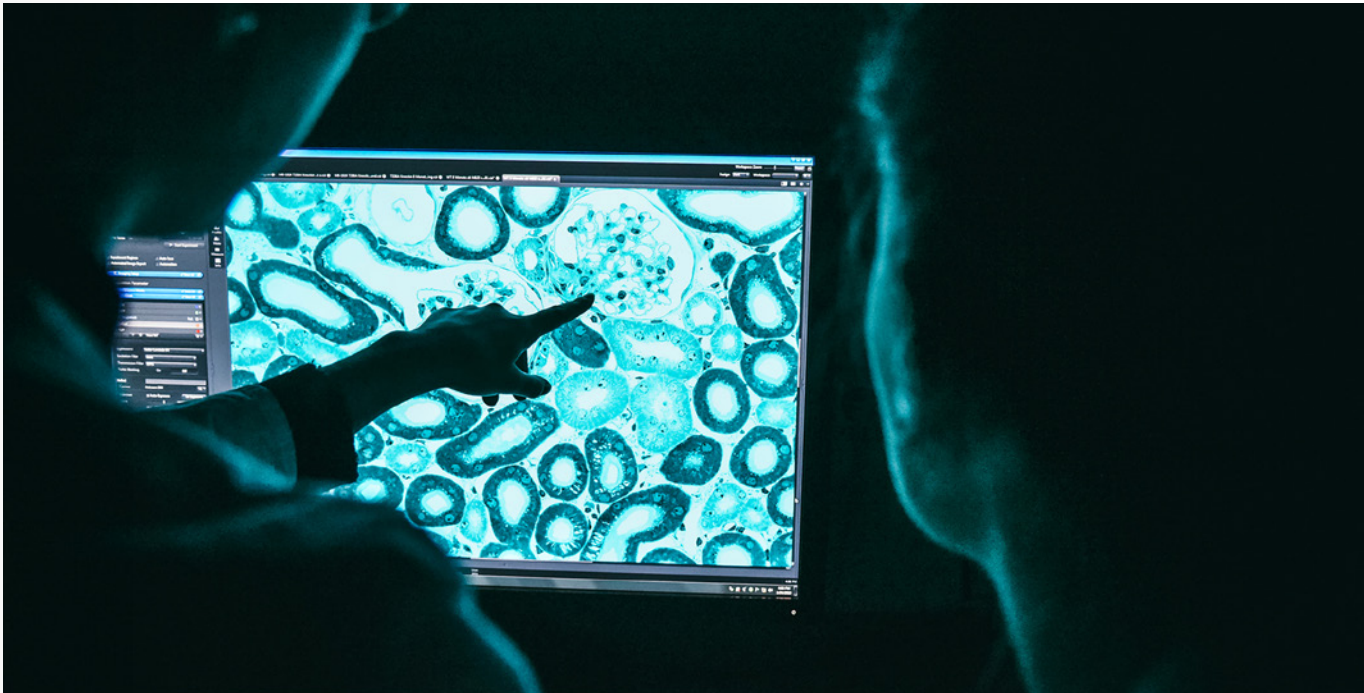


The German health system is one of the best in the world. Virtually the entire population has health insurance coverage with comprehensive statutory benefits. However, there are differences in life expectancy between different socio-economic groups. Chronic diseases in particular, such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and cancer, are more prevalent in certain population groups. A rise in mental illnesses, such as depression and anxiety disorders, has also been observed over recent years. Environment pollution is another risk to health. According to the European Environmental Agency, more than 630,000 people die every year in the European Union from the consequences of environmental pollution. In 2020, over 400,000 people died due to the consequences of air pollution alone, in particular as a result of excessively high particulate matter concentrations.⁹



Regensburg has a very differentiated and comprehensive medical infrastructure as measured in terms of requirements planning standards but also by international comparison. Hospital care is provided by eight hospitals and clinics, and access to health services is at a high level. Regensburg also has a key central role to play in terms of specialist medical care for the region. The population-weighted distance, as the crow flies, to the nearest GP is 408 metres and the population-weighted travel time by car to the nearest hospital providing basic care is around three minutes.¹⁰

As part of health promotion, Regensburg also focuses on environmental protection measures. Projects for improving air quality, such as promoting cycling, contribute to an improved quality of life. The yearly average concentration of particulate matter (PM10) in the air in Regensburg in 2023, as measured at the State Office for the Environment measuring station, was 14 µg / m³. This is equivalent to a reduction in particulate matter by 50 percent over the last 15 years. The annual average of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) was most recently 26 µg/m³.



Molecular Medicine at the University of Regensburg. © Julia Dragan

Our engagement

Relevant subgoals under SDG 3 for German municipalities include ensuring high quality health services, promoting mental health and reducing the number of deaths and illnesses due to air, water and soil pollution. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

Regensburg is “Gesundheitsregion^{plus}”

The aim of the “Gesundheitsregion^{plus}” is to improve the population’s state of health. This includes equality of opportunity in terms of health care and the optimisation of health care and nursing in the city and district. The forming of the “Gesundheitsregion^{plus}” established the framework for this systematic networking and cooperation. The fields of action are medical care, nursing, healthy upbringing, healthy ageing and intercultural health. As part of the priority area for 2024, the focus was on women's health. In terms of health behaviour, risk factors and morbidity, there are differences between the genders – and, indeed, in every phase of life.

Local Alliance for People with Dementia

The City of Regensburg is part of the Local Alliance for People with Dementia. The aim of the network is to support people with dementia and their relatives with provision of advice and assistance tailored to their requirements. The focus is on easy-to-access offers at an early stage in the illness and for people's everyday lives. The long-term aim is the creation of a caring city community where people with dementia and their families are welcomed and are supported in remaining part of the community and in accessing local help and support networks. A further goal is closer networking with all stakeholders in the support network, for example with doctors and institutions providing diagnoses.

Intercultural health – with migrants, for migrants

As part of the project “Mit Migranten für Migranten – Interkulturelle Gesundheit in Bayern” [With migrants, for migrants – intercultural health in Bavaria], Regensburg residents with a migration background are trained to become intercultural health guides. Using their knowledge, they help migrants in Regensburg to find their way around the health system. They organise multilingual information events on specific health issues for migrants and are assisted and supported in this by the Office for Integration and Migration. The project is focused on using intercultural approaches and peer-to-peer models. These involve migrants working as multipliers and health ambassadors in their communities. The project is funded by the Bavarian State Ministry of Health, Care and Prevention and supported by MSD Sharp & Dohme GmbH.

© halfpoint / 123rf.com



Sport in the Park offers free, diverse outdoor sports activities for all age groups and fitness levels.

Sport in the Park

Under the slogan of “Gesundheit durch mehr Bewegung und Sport im Alltag” [Be healthy with more exercise and sport in everyday life], people can make use of different exercise courses in Regensburg's parks free of charge and with no registration required. The age-appropriate provision ranges from boules and cycle tours to qigong. Courses are offered in a total of eight parks. The courses start each year in April and end in October. Sport in the Park is an offer for anybody wanting to be active and health conscious in their leisure time. There is also no shortage of fun and companionship. “Sport in the Park” has now been extended into the winter months and in some cases takes place indoors.

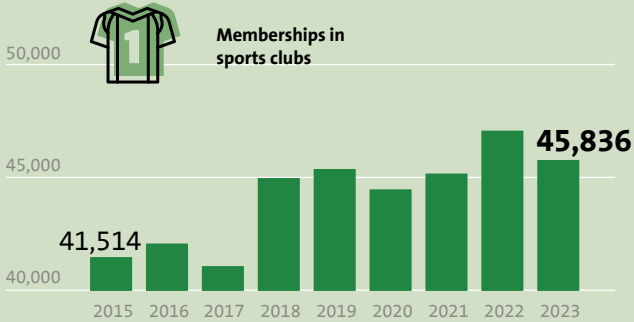
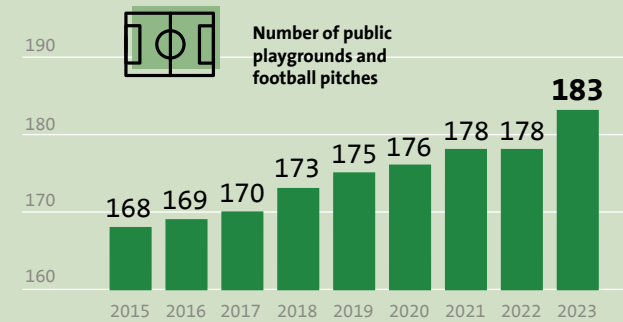
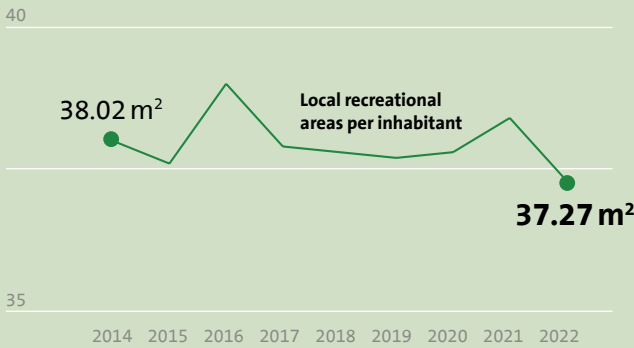
Sportbox

The Sportbox at the sports facility on the Oberen Wöhrd river island, next to the football pitch, is an exercise offer aimed at the large number of recreational and individual athletes. The Sportbox contains a range of fitness equipment such as kettle balls, medicine balls, ropes and bands, suspension trainers, fascia rollers, speed-agility ladders and also gym mats for functional training. Using the Sportbox could not be easier. Following a one-time registration, the training times can be booked using the “sportbox – app and move” app and the box can be opened at a predetermined time and the equipment removed for training. Cameras monitor and record that all equipment is there. This applies only to the sports equipment and not to the users.

Development at local level

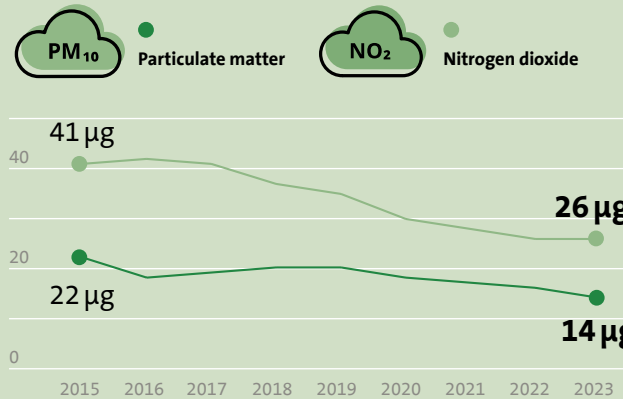
Recreation and Sports infrastructure

Preservation of green and open spaces and developing sports infrastructure



Air quality

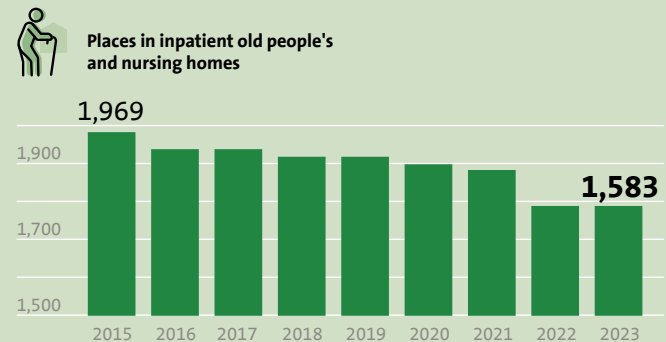
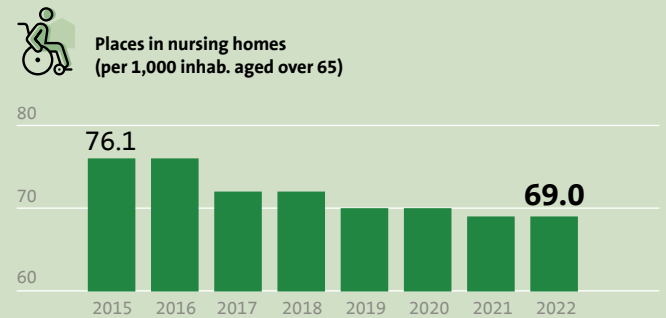
Particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide per m³



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg / Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER

Health and care services

Places in nursing homes or in inpatient old people's and nursing homes



Opportunities and challenges

Like many other cities, Regensburg is also impacted by demographic change. As the proportion of older people and people of advanced years rises, the demand for medical provision and the need for care in the city is increasing. The city must respond to these changing requirements, for example by becoming more age-friendly, expanding mobile health services, and by developing accessible infrastructure as well as projects which cross the generations. Long-term care is facing huge challenges due to less care being provided by relatives; today, places for respite care are already in short supply.

The challenges facing the healthcare system, such as shortage of specialists and the overburdened infrastructure, require innovative approaches and the strengthening of municipal health management. Regensburg is heading in the right direction by promoting health literacy and also as a result of networking and interdisciplinary cooperation, as shown for example in the Local Alliance for People with Dementia and the "Gesundheitsregionplus" [Health regions plus]. In future, the overall approach to policy-making for the elderly will be the key to the success of developing and expanding sustainable structures and other forms of support for the older generation. Since the city community of the future will also be more diverse and varied, initiatives relating to intercultural health education such as "Mit Migranten für Migranten [With migrants, for migrants] will become increasingly important.



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4 QUALITY EDUCATION



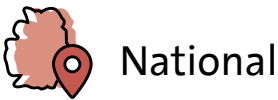
Ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



Background



Globally, millions of people do not have access to appropriate and affordable education. According to UNESCO estimates, 263 million children and young people between the ages of six and 17 are out of school.¹¹ 617 million children and young people do not have basic literacy and numeracy skills. And more than 750 million adults worldwide are illiterate, of which two thirds are women.¹²



The level of education in Germany is traditionally high. The educational opportunities, and therefore also the chances of leading a successful and independent working life, are heavily dependent on social background, educational background and the economic situation of the family. For example, significantly fewer young people with a migration background achieve the upper secondary school-leaving certificate. In 2020, approximately 27 percent of pupils with a migration background achieved a higher education entrance qualification compared to approximately 39 without a migration background percent. The school drop-out rate in Germany is about five to six percent. The rate among pupils with a migration background is significantly higher at ten to 12 percent.¹³



In 2022, the school drop-out rate in Regensburg was 3.98 percent and was approximately equivalent to the state average from Bavaria. In Regensburg, there is very good coverage in terms of the basic supply of primary schools close to home and 25 percent of child day care facilities are inclusive child day care facilities.¹⁴

The future viability of Regensburg as a place to live and the innovation capability it offers as a place for work is increasingly linked to the how the education landscape is configured. Well-structured educational and child-care provision is a key basis of a family-friendly and child-friendly municipality. It ensures educational participation and equal opportunity in all age groups and is a key location factor for Regensburg. The legal entitlement to all-day care for children of primary school age from the 2026/27 academic year certainly poses complex challenges for the municipality. However, it is also an opportunity specifically with regard to equality and equal opportunities at all levels, and also in terms of a work-life balance.



The Central Library at Haidplatz is the largest library of the Regensburg Public Library.

Our engagement

Relevant subgoals under SDG 4 for German municipalities include that all children have access to high quality early-years childcare and education and receive high quality primary and secondary education. In terms of content, work is focused on promoting education for sustainable development and on building and expanding educational institutions designed to meet the needs of children, of people with disabilities and of different genders. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

City of Regensburg's adult education centre and city library

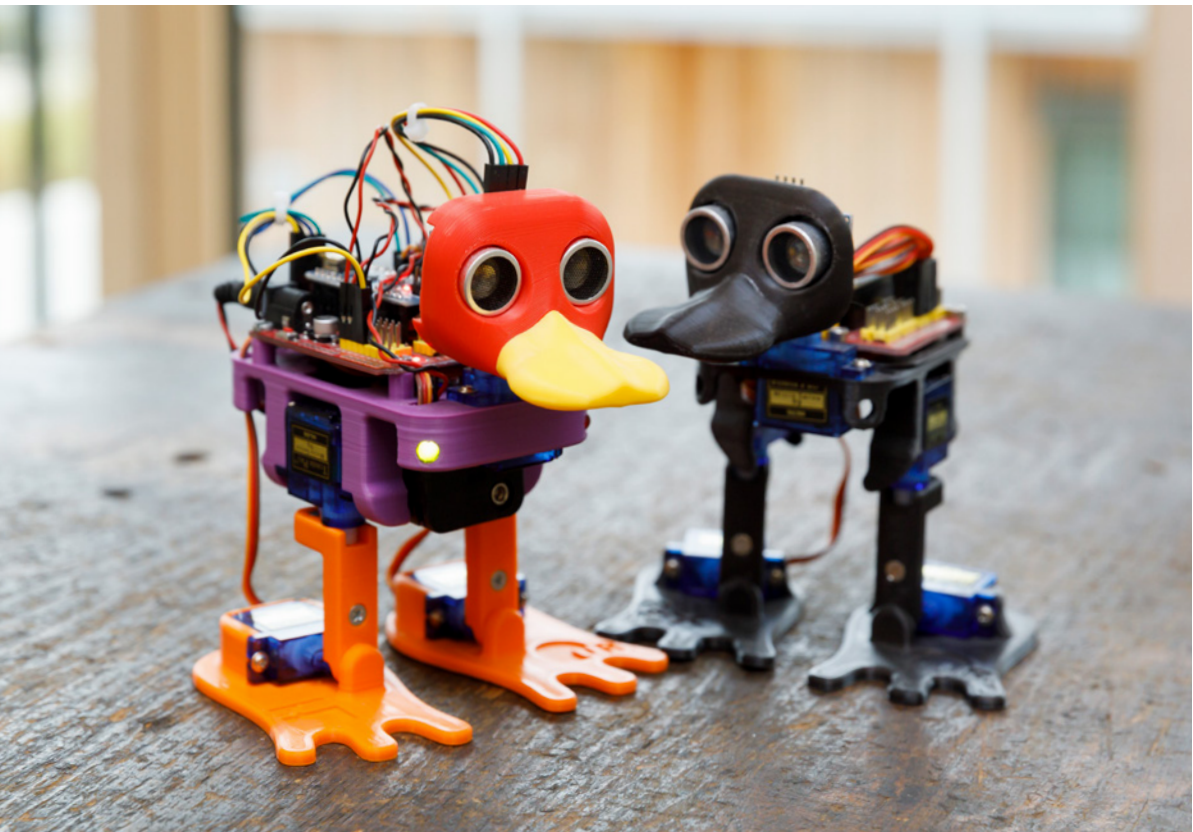
The City of Regensburg's adult education centre and city library support lifelong learning and educational equality and, for over 100 years, have been contributing significantly to equality of opportunity, integration and inclusion, political participation, and the capacity for democracy of the Regensburg population. Both institutions provide all groups within the population and all age groups with a broad-based education and media offer. The public library and adult education centre are open meeting places where people can come together to learn from and with each other. The adult education centre has more than 2,000 courses on offer annually with approximately 34,000 attendees. The city library has approximately 20,000 active readers, almost half a million visitors each year and, in total, around 1.7 million items are borrowed annually.

Second chance – completing school-leaving certificates

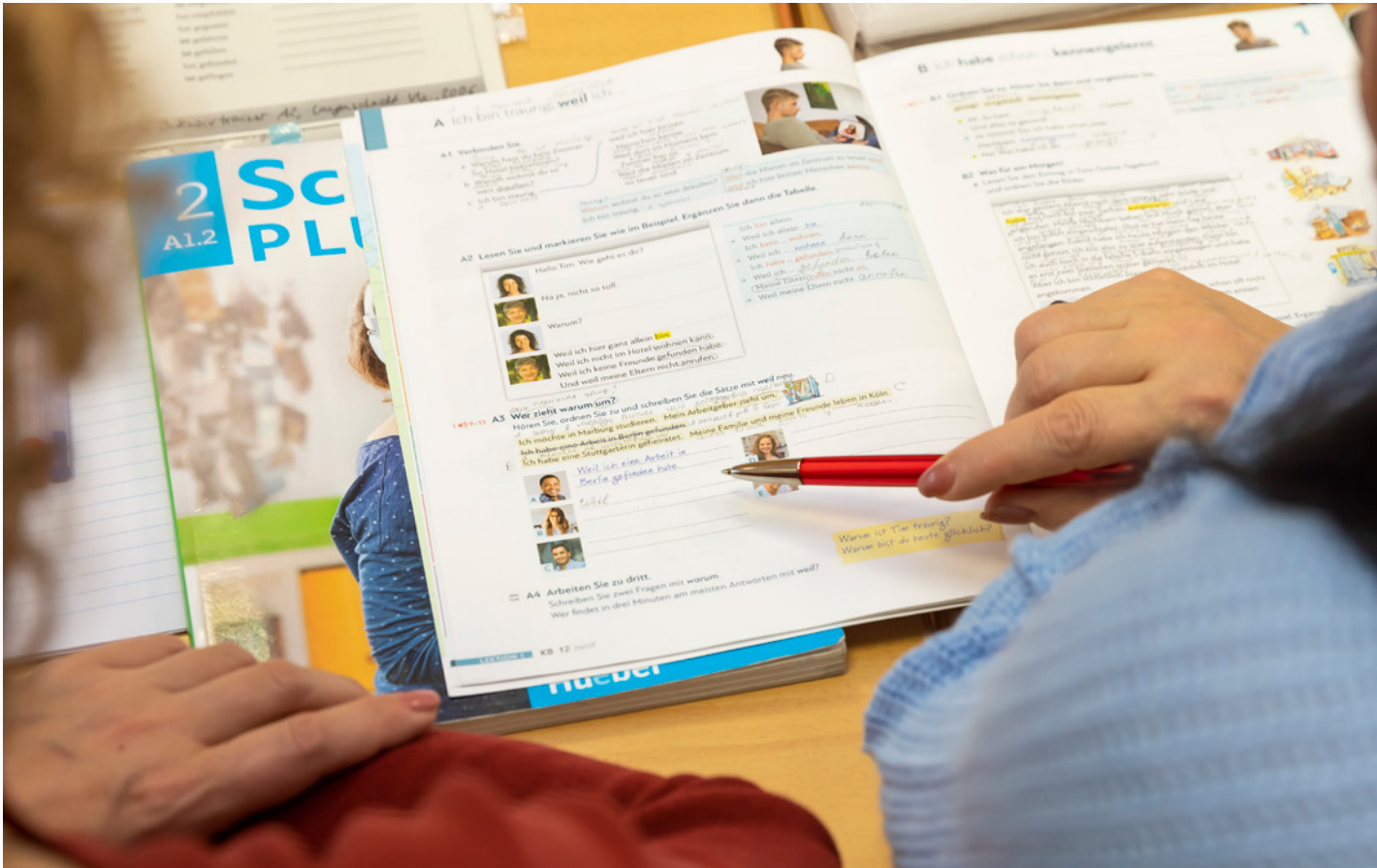
Around four percent of young people still leave school in Regensburg each year without the school-leaving certificate. This means they miss out on personal and career opportunities. In order for young people to have a second chance of making a new start in life and to have better access to the labour market, the “Wissen und mehr” [Knowledge and more] association created the “2nd Chance” project together with the adult education centre and with support from regional sponsors. It offers those who left it too late and anybody who dropped out of school early the opportunity to retake school-leaving certificates and supports them on their professional journey.

MINT-Labs [STEM labs] Regensburg

The aim of MINT-Labs Regensburg e. V, based in the RUBINA building, is to get children and young people interested in STEM subjects (science, information technology, engineering and mathematics) by encouraging them to experiment and get involved themselves. In the pupil lab, school classes are presented with a wide range of courses and in the pupil research centre those interested can get together in small groups and focus in-depth on individual topics and projects. The STEM Labs consolidate the STEM education chain from primary school through to the transition into vocational training or a degree and therefore contribute to ensuring the long-term supply of future talent. STEM specialists have a key role to play in developing and implementing solutions to global challenges. Their expertise in areas such as renewable energy, medical technology, environmental research and computer science is critical to creating a sustainable future.



STEM up close: RoboDuck – the dancing duck.



Language education for immigrants at the Adult Education Centre of the City of Regensburg.



Tablets for teachers

In addition to updating educational institutions and expanding child day-care centre and school capacities, the City of Regensburg is also investing in updating the education infrastructure. In 2023, the City of Regensburg provided around 1,600 teachers at state and municipal schools with mobile work devices. This involved the procurement and configuration of 750 iPads, 720 Windows tablets and 130 Windows laptops. This acquisition was made possible thanks to funding of 1.6 million euro from the special teacher work devices budget programme (Sonderbudget Lehrerdienstgeräte, SoLD) within the range of funding available under the Digital Pact, which the city had applied for in 2022. The city itself covered the remaining costs.

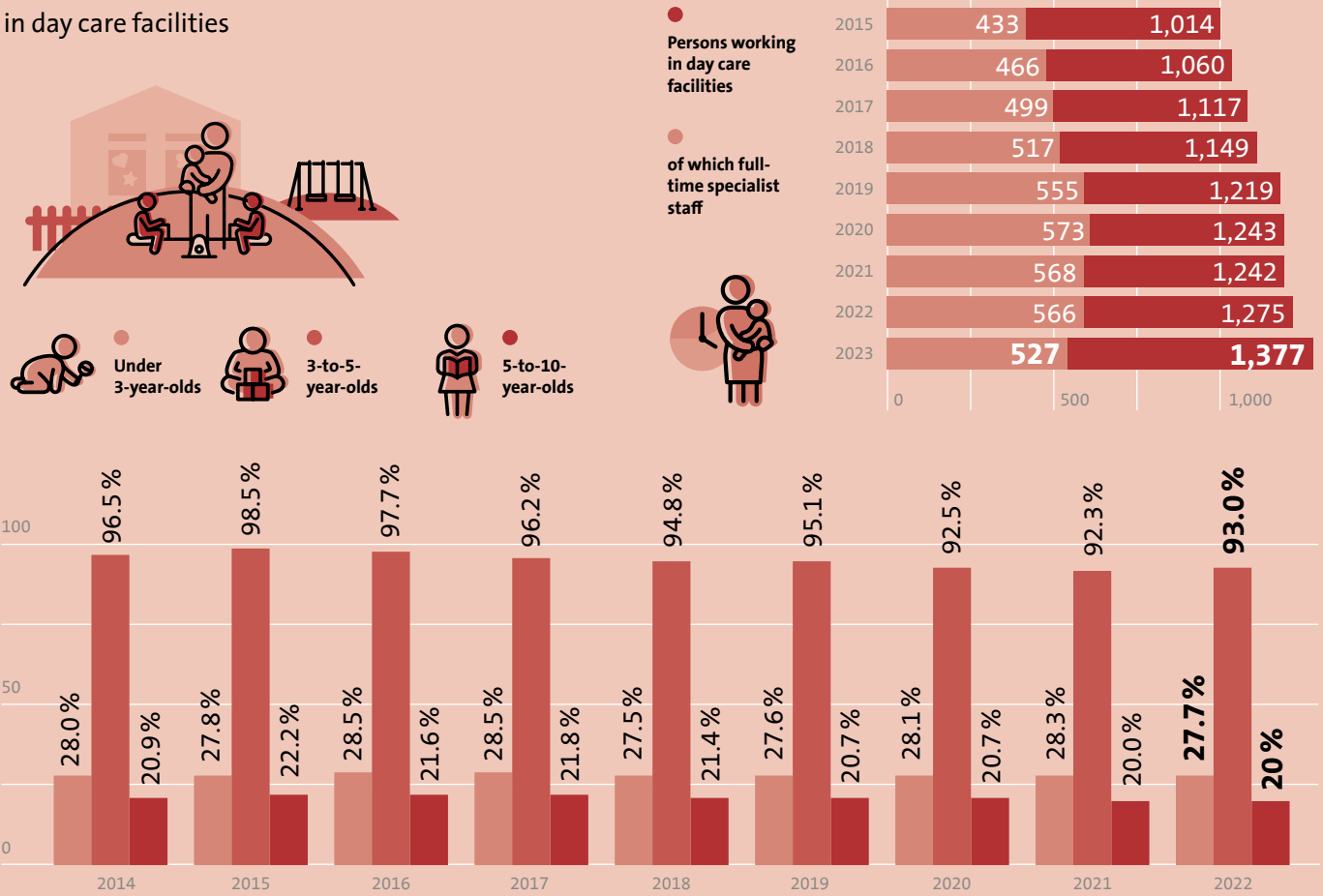
Language training for migrants

The City of Regensburg has a coordination office for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, which forms part of the Department of Further Education. The area of responsibility of the coordination office is divided into two parts. On the one hand, it is responsible for providing school career guidance to all migrants, asylum seekers and refugees from the city and district of Regensburg who are subject to compulsory vocational school training. On the other hand, it is tasked with the conceptual planning, organisation and implementation of “Preparatory courses for vocational school education”. These are targeted at young people and young adults from countries impacted by war and crises and at refugees from the EU and from countries of safe origin receiving support with literacy skills in German courses in the Regensburg adult education centre until they receive a school place.

Development at local level

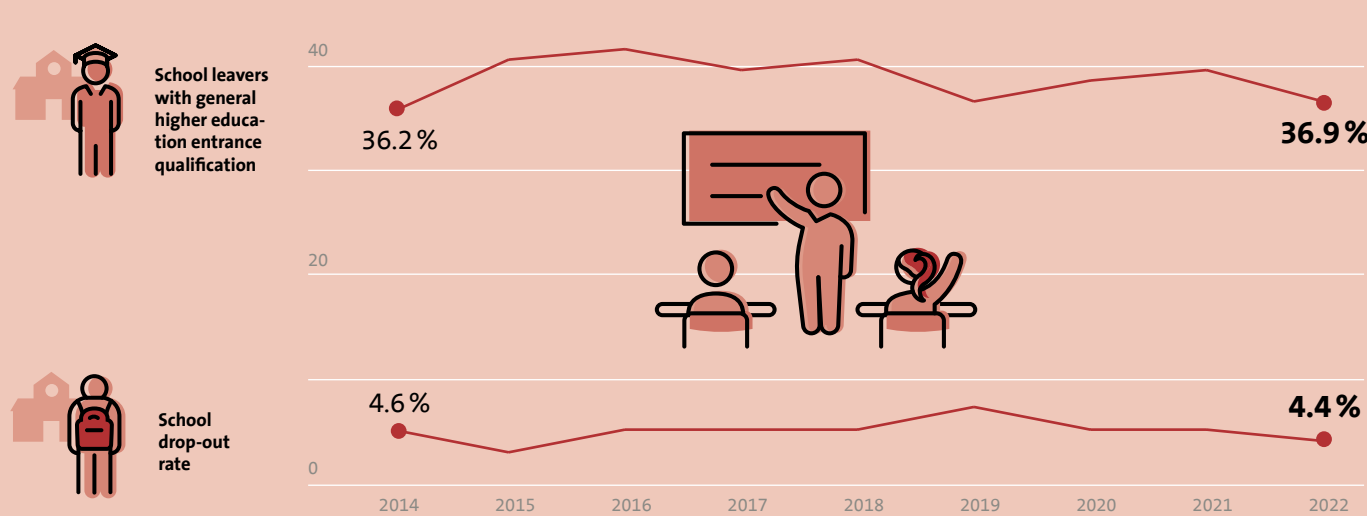
Childcare

in day care facilities



Educational equity

School leavers and school drop-out rate



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg / Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER

Opportunities and challenges

By 2028, the City of Regensburg will have invested around 172 million euro in the future-proofing of the area of education and training for more than 22,000 pupils. The aim is to make Regensburg an Educational Community (Bildungskommune). In addition to the new construction and conversion of schools and after-school care centres, such as the recent expansion of the Pestalozzi lower secondary school and the Konrad primary and lower secondary school, the city is also focused on strategic measures. In October 2023, Regensburg received the funding award under the Educational Community funding project, organised by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The project supports, among other things, the creation of two new positions in the area of education management and monitoring, coordination of all-day schools, and the acquisition of software.

In addition to increasing child day-care centre and school places, the increasingly varied requirements of children and pupils must also be considered. Equality of opportunity and educational equality are key goals which apply to all age groups regardless of origin, income or any other limitations. Integration and inclusion provision as well as accessibility in educational institutions is continually being developed.

From the 2026-27 academic year, the legal entitlement to all-day care will be gradually rolled out to all primary school classes. Currently around 70 percent of Regensburg's primary school children attend an after-school care centre, receive lunchtime supervision or receive school-based all-day care. The long-term aim is to make this possible for 90 percent of children.



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5 GENDER EQUALITY

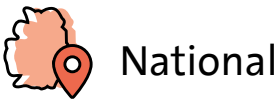


Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Background



Despite global progress in the equality of women and men, millions of women are still disadvantaged around the world whether in terms of access to education, in the everyday work or in health care.¹⁵ Women are impacted by poverty more often and are more frequently the victims of violence. By the age of 20, almost one in four women worldwide will have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from their partner.¹⁶



According to the Federal Criminal Police Office, there has recently been a significant increase in offences against women and children. There was a femicide on almost every day of 2023.¹⁷

According to the International Labour Organisation, women are under-represented in middle management and executive positions in German companies despite having comparable levels of qualification. In 2022, for example, only 29 percent of middle management and executive positions in Germany were occupied by women.¹⁸ The unadjusted gender pay gap has remained unchanged since 2020 at 18 percent. And even where qualifications, job role and employment history are comparable to that of men, women on average earn six percent less.¹⁹



Regensburg

In Regensburg the gender pay gap is approximately equivalent to the German average and persists at a level of 18.7 percent. Over recent years, however, this has been significantly reduced. In 2014 the level was 24.8 percent. There has been less progress in the employment rates of women. Between 2006 and 2021, the ratio of the employment rate of women compared to men remained relatively constant at 88 to 90 percent. Equality at work remains a challenge, in particular in executive positions and in sectors which remain heavily dominated by men.

In the Regensburg city administration, the ratio of the employment rate of women to the employment rate of men reached the highest level so far in 2023 at 54.8 percent. Since the 2020 local government elections, the two most senior management positions have also been occupied by women. Following the 2020 local government elections, the proportion of women in the Regensburg city council was 40 percent. The City of Regensburg is demonstrating commitment and pursuing further goals in terms of equality of opportunity and gender equality with a range of initiatives and programmes which may have a positive influence on society.



Memorial in public space: The Regensburg emergency hotline for women and girls with experiences of sexual violence.

Our engagement

Relevant subgoals under SDG 5 for German municipalities are, among others, to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls, to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, as well as to ensure the participation of women and their equal opportunities in taking up leadership roles. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

Frauennotruf Regensburg e. V. – a women's emergency hotline

Back in 1984, a work group of Regensburg women established the voluntary women's emergency hotline service, initially run by volunteers as a counselling centre for women and girls who had been victims of sexualised violence. The former work group has now developed into a professional specialist counselling centre with 40 years of experience and – for Regensburg and the surrounding area – is the key counselling centre for women and children who have experienced sexualised violence. It is one of many social associations, organisations and initiatives which the City of Regensburg supports financially to promote gender equality. The current mayor, Gertrud Maltz-Schwarzfischer, was a founding member of the work group which developed into the women's emergency hotline service.

Round table against domestic violence

Since 2000, a range of different professions have been working together at the Regensburg Round Table specialist body to improve the support structure for women affected by violence in the Regensburg area. Using joint publicity, their aim is to establish the issue of domestic violence as part of public discussion over the long term. Members of the Round Table are all specialist institutions in the city and district of Regensburg working in the area of “Violence against women”. These include women's shelters, the women's emergency hotline service, the relevant advisory centres, youth welfare offices, equality bodies, the German Medical Women's Association and authorities such as the judicial authorities and the police. Specific specialist issues are addressed such as the proactive approach to working with women's shelters and the police, and working with male offenders in particular.

Margarete Runtinger prize

The Margarete Runtinger prize is awarded to small and medium-sized businesses and large concerns which implement equal opportunities for women and men, enable a healthy work-life balance and develop creative ideas to support, in particular, women and families in challenging situations in their individual lives and at work. It recognises, for example, flexible working arrangements and workplaces designed with mobility in mind, the support of further training and advancement of women and the support of women and families and challenging situations in their individual lives and at work. These include women with limitations or severe disabilities, women with a migration background, single parents and older female employees. Also recognised are arrangements relating to working time, family time, mothers and fathers returning to work as well as need-appropriate solutions supporting caring for children and relatives.



Art campaign against violence towards women:
Red shoes are intended to draw attention to the
victims of femicide.



The former Governing Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit,
at the 1st Rainbow Reception in the historic Reichssaal.



City of Regensburg's equality concept

The City of Regensburg's equality concept comprises measures to ensure the equality of women and men within the city administration. One of the goals is to increase the proportion of women working within the administration. Measures also include the expansion of family-friendly and age-appropriate working time models to ensure equality of opportunity and to improve the work-life balance for women and men. As a result of the measures, the proportion of women compared to total staff within the Regensburg city administration has risen from around 46 percent in 2010 to just under 55 percent today. In the case of employees subject to collective bargaining agreements, the proportion of women rose from 55 percent to recently just under 60 percent and for civil servants from 29 percent to currently around 42 percent.

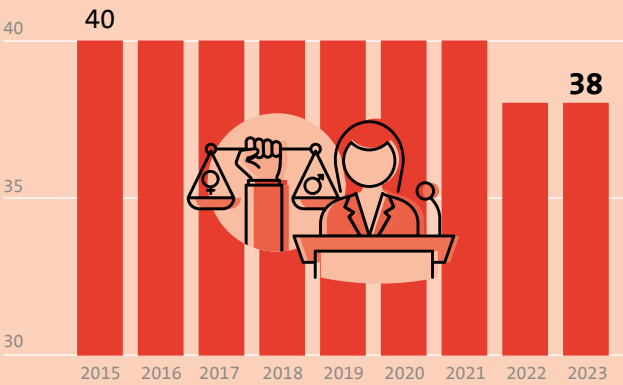
Regional alliances supporting equality of opportunity

In 2012 the City of Regensburg was selected in a national competition run by the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth as the only region in Bavaria to participate in the initiative “More women in executive positions – regional alliances supporting equality of opportunity”. The project was funded by the federal ministry and implemented by the European Academy for Women in Politics and Business. The initiative led to the creation of the regional alliance “ff – frauen führen 2.0” [wl – women lead 2.0], an association of Regensburg companies campaigning for greater equality of opportunity. Goals include implementing a successful and sustainable human resource policy as well as the same pay for equal work for women and men.

Development at local level

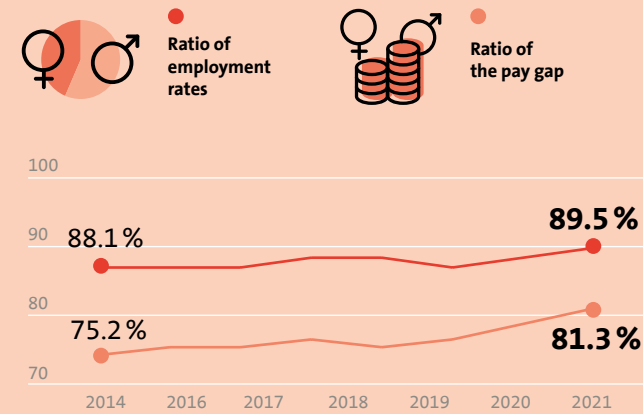
Gender equality in politics

Proportion of women in the city council



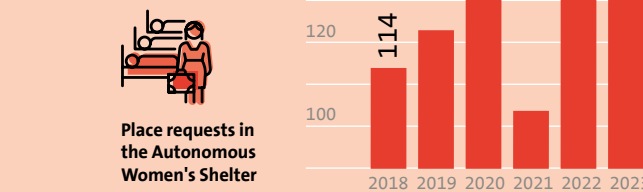
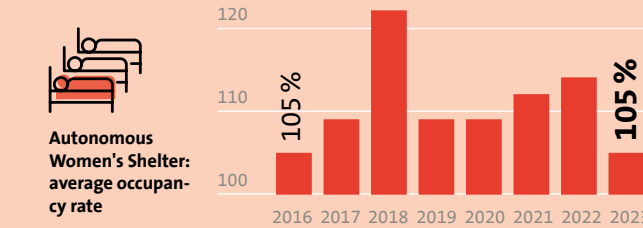
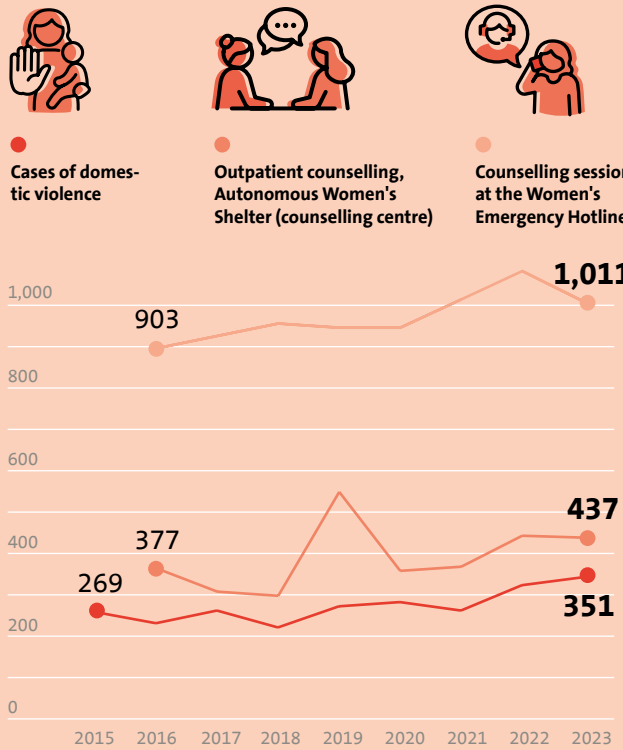
Gender equality at work

Ratio of employment rates of women to men and of the pay gap between women and men



Support for women

Cases of domestic violence, counselling sessions at the Women's Emergency Hotline and outpatient counselling, occupancy rate and place requests in the Autonomous Women's Shelter



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg / Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER

Opportunities and challenges

Promoting equality of opportunity in Regensburg is a key social responsibility for the city community. In order to remove inequalities, specific measures are being implemented targeting different aspects in areas such as education, working life and protection from violence. The City of Regensburg's equal opportunities office is working towards implementation of the principle of equality in Regensburg. It is promoting the elimination of the unequal treatment of women and men by providing advice and guidance to the city's citizens and to employees in the city administration. It also raises awareness by organising events and publishing information about issues relating to women, men and family; by linking together offers and groups relevant to women and families; by promoting gender mainstreaming in municipal administration activities and in municipal policy-making and by using measures to support empowerment and tackle discrimination.

The relevant officer for equal opportunities in the labour market, and integration staff and managers in the City of Regensburg's job centre provide support, information and advice on equal opportunities in the labour market. This covers, for example, issues relating to equal opportunities and provides advice to employers and other stakeholders on issues relating to family-friendly employment and training. In 2024, the City of Regensburg job centre set the priorities of reducing the shortage of skilled workers in the field of education and supporting women in returning to the job market.

A critical element in achieving equality for women in the workplace is high-quality, reliable and affordable childcare and this must be provided by the city. In order to advance equality further, it is important to get more women into executive positions. Regensburg's city administration is leading the way in this.



The Justitia Fountain in the heart of the historic Old Town.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

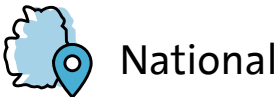


Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Background



Access to clean water is essential for human beings. In 2020, according to UNICEF, 2.2 billion people worldwide did not have regular access to clean water, and 785 million people lacked a basic supply of drinking water. Globally, around half of people live in areas where, for at least one month per year, there is extreme water scarcity.²⁰



In Germany there is currently no shortage of water and the quality of drinking water is good. However, regionally, the distribution of water reserves varies widely and in recent years there have been repeated supply shortages in certain regions. In the coming years, these supply bottlenecks will occur increasingly frequently in Germany, due, among other things, to the consequences of climate change. Regional water scarcity is increasing, in particular in combination with increasing water abstraction for agriculture and for the needs of metropolitan areas. Furthermore, groundwater and surface water in Germany are contaminated to some extent by nitrates and phosphates. Residues of pesticides and pharmaceuticals are also found in water.²¹



Regensburg

75 percent of Regensburg's drinking water comes from the Sallern waterworks, 20 percent from the Oberer Wöhrd waterworks and five percent from the recently constructed Laub water extraction plant. The waterworks are surrounded by a water protection area which ensures a natural and hygienically safe supply of drinking water. Around eleven million cubic metres of drinking water are needed in the urban area annually. About nine million cubic metres of this is used by private households and businesses. The daily drinking water consumption in Regensburg is around 140 litres per head. This is higher than the Bavarian average (134 litres) and the national average (128 litres). To ensure that Regensburg can also be supplied with drinking water at the highest quality in future, REWAG is investing today in a range of measures and water protection projects.

Besides investment and protecting water as a resource, REWAG is also investing in ensuring an efficient and modern drinking water supply infrastructure. REWAG's pipeline network is over 1,100 kilometres long, 12 elevated tanks with a total capacity of 39 million litres ensure that there is always enough water available, even at peak times. With average per-capita drinking water consumption above the national average for Germany, awareness campaigns are also run which encourage using water economically to reduce consumption over the long term.



© REWAG

Our engagement

- Relevant subgoals under SDG 6 for German municipalities are, among others, to ensure access to drinking water, to improve water quality by reducing the pollution of wastewater and by treating it, to implement an integrated management of water resources, to protect water-related ecosystems. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

Top quality drinking water

Drinking water is the most closely monitored food stuff in Germany. In order to ensure that Regensburg's drinking water meets the highest possible standards, around 1,700 tests are carried out every year in REWAG's own laboratory and in certified external laboratories. The result is that Regensburg's drinking water falls well within the legal limits set by the German Drinking Water Ordinance.

So that this remains the case, REWAG is also focused on protecting the water catchment areas. REWAG is therefore a member of the International Association of Waterworks in the Danube River Basin with the aim of safeguarding and continuously improving the water quality of the Danube and its tributaries. As an international cooperation network, the IAWD is the most important association of water companies in the Danube basin.

Trinkwasserschutz Oberpfälzer Jura (Upper Palatinate Jura drinking water protection)

REWAG is also a member of the “Trinkwasserschutz Oberpfälzer Jura” cooperative arrangement. At the heart of this cooperation is a partnership with local farmers. This is because agricultural land makes up a large part of the groundwater recharge area. Groundwater friendly land management therefore contributes directly to the quality of drinking water. One challenge among others is the use of nitrates and pesticides in conventional agriculture. The cooperative arrangement has a total of eleven members, it manages a total of 15,000 hectares of protected area and collectively pumps more than 20 million cubic metres of groundwater.

Drinking water fountains in Regensburg

There are currently five drinking water fountains in the Regensburg urban area where residents and visitors can obtain free drinking water at any time and free of charge. The quality of the drinking water is ensured by means of regular tests carried out by an external laboratory specialising in microbiological and chemical analytics in accordance with the Drinking Water Ordinance. Setting up drinking water fountains in public spaces is one of the ten measures developed within the framework of Regensburg's heat management. The drinking water fountains are intended to help provide sufficient drinking water, in particular in high temperatures. They are a health measure for protecting the population.



Oberer Wöhrd waterworks



A look inside the waterworks: Around eleven million cubic metres of drinking water are needed in the urban area annually.

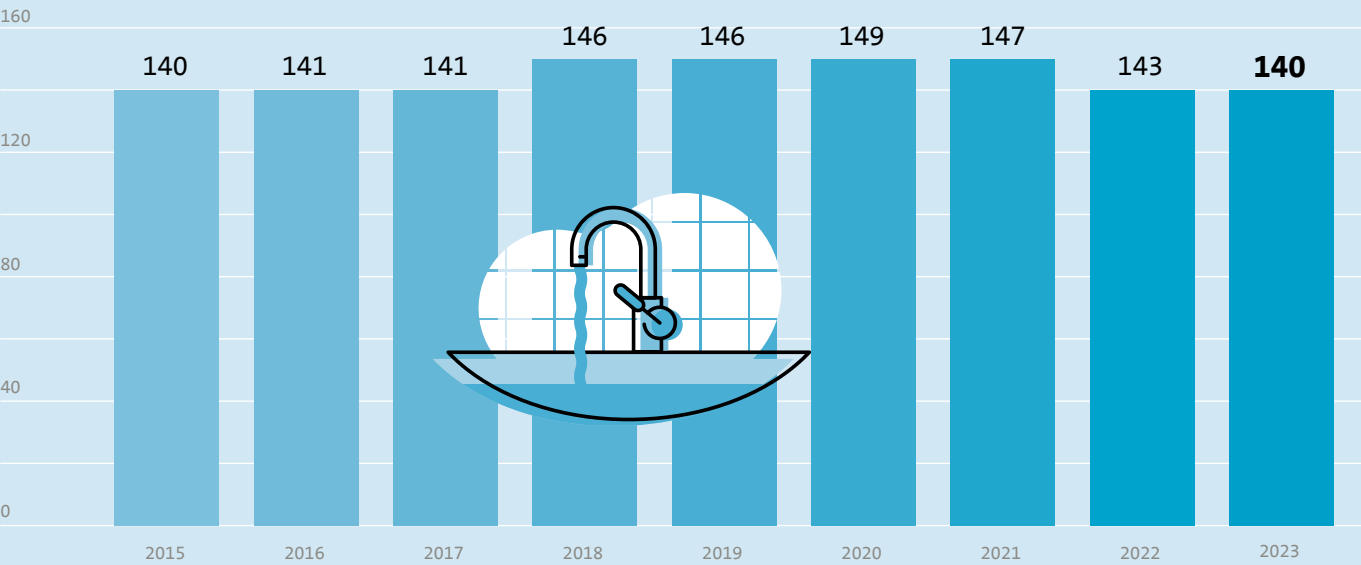


Drinking water fountains on Bismark Square.



Development at local level

Drinking water consumption
of private households per day (litres per inhabitant)



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg / Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER

Opportunities and challenges



A city beside the river – Regensburg and the Danube

Municipal water suppliers will be faced with a series of challenges over the coming years in also being able to supply sufficient drinking water of a high quality in the future. Climate change is one of the biggest challenges we face in terms of the water supply in the future. Periods of drought are becoming more frequent as a result of rising temperatures and changed rainfall patterns and this may result in reduced water availability. Heavy rainfall and flooding on the other hand places a strain on sewage systems which may increase the risk of drinking water resource contamination if wastewater and contaminants find their way into the rivers.

Besides developing flood defence facilities and dikes and also extending conservation areas, important measures for cities on rivers such as Regensburg also include the renaturation of rivers to create flood plains. In line with the Sponge City concept, creating green infrastructure, enlarging riparian zones, rainwater infiltration and rain-water collection basins in the urban area will also help to ease the pressure on the drainage system. Last but not least, drilling deeper wells for groundwater extraction must also be considered to ensure a drinking water supply in the future.

The pollution of rivers from agricultural discharges such as nitrates, phosphates and pesticides is another challenge. Raising awareness among farmers and, not least, the steady transition to organic farming, as encouraged by Regensburg's organic city and model eco-region status, can protect water quality.

7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



Ensure access to affordable,
reliable, sustainable
and modern energy for all

Background



The expansion of renewable energy is booming world-wide. In 2023, the global installed cumulative nominal capacity of photovoltaic systems was around 1600 gigawatts. Recently, around 239 gigawatts of new capacity were installed, which is a new record. The annual rate of increase in newly installed photovoltaic systems was recently around 40 percent.²² In addition to photovoltaic systems, rapid progress is also being made in the expansion of wind turbines. In 2023, the 1,000-gigawatt mark for installed capacity of wind power was exceeded worldwide.²³ However, in 2023 more coal and oil were consumed worldwide than ever before. 80 percent of the energy generated worldwide still comes from fossil fuels.²⁴



The energy transition in Germany has also gathered pace significantly. Despite positive developments over recent years, the share of renewable energy as a proportion of gross final energy consumption in Germany was just 22 percent in 2023. By contrast, the share of renewable energy in the electricity sector is encouraging, at around 52 percent in 2023. ²⁵ The aim in Germany is to have a minimum of 80 percent of energy consumption supplied by renewable energy by 2030.



The expansion of renewable energy in Regensburg is also progressing steadily. The installed nominal capacity of all renewable generation plants in the urban area rose from around 41 megawatts in 2015 to recently more than 81 megawatts in 2023. Photovoltaic systems with a nominal capacity of around 64.4 megawatts are currently installed in the city. Hydropower accounts for 9.5 megawatts of renewable electricity generation, followed by nearly seven megawatts from biomass and 0.5 megawatts from wind. Steady progress has been made in recent years, in particular with the construction of new photovoltaic systems – this has more than doubled since 2017. This also offers the greatest potential for the ongoing expansion of renewable energy in the urban area.



© euregiocontent / 123rf.com

Our engagement

Relevant subgoals under SDG 7 for German municipalities are, among others, to ensure general access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, to increase the percentage of renewable energy in the energy mix, to increase energy efficiency, as well as to promote investments in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

Green energy area for Regensburg

Together with four companies in Regensburg, the city administration wants to develop a photovoltaic field on an urban area of around 20 hectares as part of the Green Deal. The regionally generated green electricity will be fed directly into the local industrial areas. The energy project will make a significant contribution to the decarbonisation of a key industrial area in Regensburg. The land, which is owned by the city, will be made available to the project for 25 years. The construction and operation of the photovoltaic field will be carried out by the cooperative Bürger Energie Regensburg (BERR eG). Citizens will be able to participate financially. In addition to the large energy area, the city is also facilitating the implementation of smaller solar farms, for example on an area of four hectares in Haslbach and also in the north of the city.



Modern living in the historical urban district of Margaretenau.

Subsidies for photovoltaic systems

As part of the “Regensburg efficient” funding arrangement, citizens, SMEs, associations and institutions have been able to apply for funding for the installation of photovoltaic systems since spring 2023. Each kilowatt peak will be subsidised with 100 euro up to a maximum of 1500 euro. In the case of specific difficulties, such as installation on listed buildings or the combination of photovoltaics with green roofs, applicants will receive an additional lump sum of 200 euro. Private individuals can also apply for a grant for the purchase of a plug-in solar device, also known as a balcony power station. A subsidy of 150 euro is available for the purchase of a plug-in solar device through to the end of 2024.

Digital energy twin

The digital energy twin is a planning tool for achieving a more environmentally-friendly and more economical energy supply. It examines the energy flows, i.e. power and heat, of a building or neighbourhood and reproduces these in a digital model. The spatial analysis and presentation of the data create a new understanding of the energy requirements and provide a basis for evaluating potential local energy savings. Using the first prototype of the digital energy twin, a 3D model of the City of Regensburg has been created and enriched with building and energy data from a pilot neighbourhood. This has been visualised based on robust scientific principles for the purpose of a functional evaluation. A renovation function was also implemented in order to calculate energy, financial and GHG-related savings. The prototype is now being developed into a fully functional system.

Prinz-Leopold-Kaserne Innovation quarter

An entirely new district is planned in the coming years for the area of the former Prinz-Leopold barracks. The district will be as climate neutral as possible. A key element of this is the implementation of an innovative energy concept based on the consistent and efficient use of renewable energy. The City of Regensburg is looking to photovoltaic systems and heat from wastewater, air and geothermal energy for the energy supply. Air can be used as a heat source even in winter at temperatures of around minus 20 degrees Celsius. Heat from wastewater will be created by using the heat energy from the main sewer running through the planning area. Geothermal energy will also be used with the aid of geothermal probes. Combining all this with the use of sustainable building materials and innovative building technology will create an innovative city neighbourhood.

Feasibility study for old town heating network

As most of Regensburg's old town is currently heated with natural gas and as the status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site makes an alternative heat supply particularly challenging, a feasibility study was carried out into an energy efficient and climate-neutral heat supply. The reasons for the chosen modular project approach is to be able to transfer the developed neighbourhood solutions to power supply contexts with comparable demand and supply characteristics, and not only in the old town.

In terms of the old town study area, it can be concluded that the majority of the heat demand could be met through the use of renewable energy sources such as wastewater, river heat and geothermal energy in courtyards.

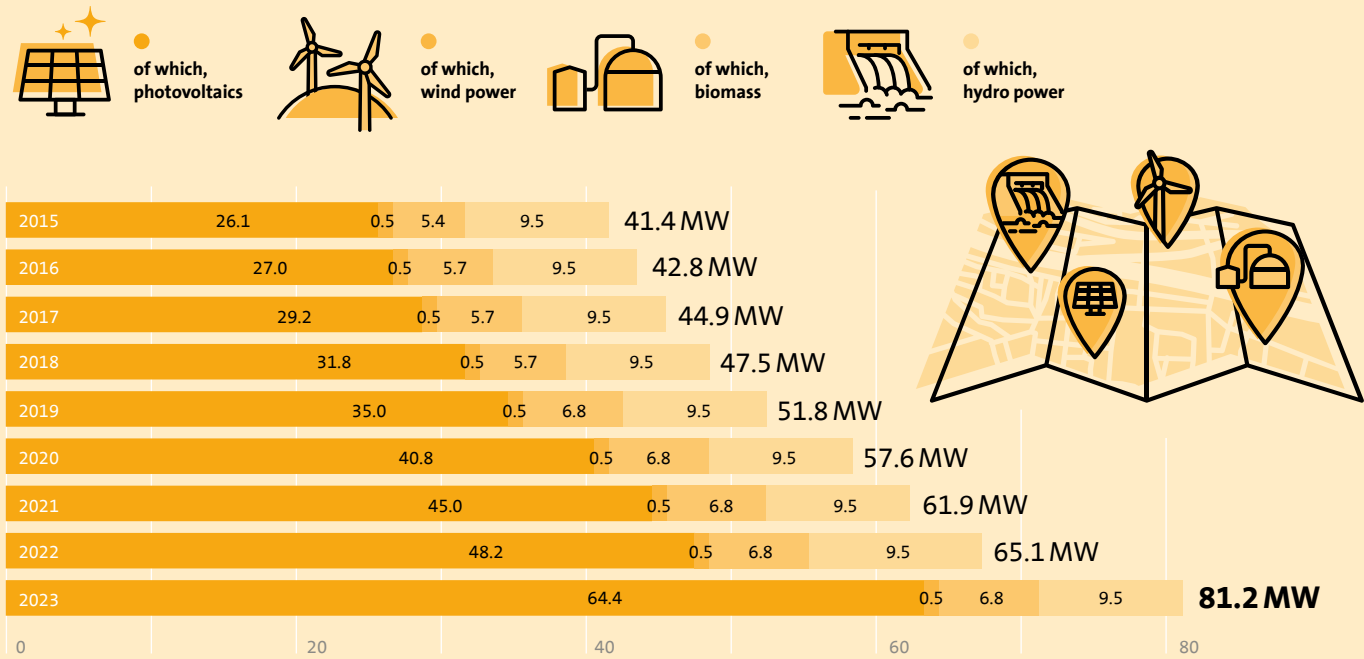
Prinz-Leopold-Kaserne Innovation quarter © Maier Neuberger Architekten GmbH, Palais Mai Gesellschaft von Architekten und Stadtplanern mbH, Nadine Kuhn.



Development at local level

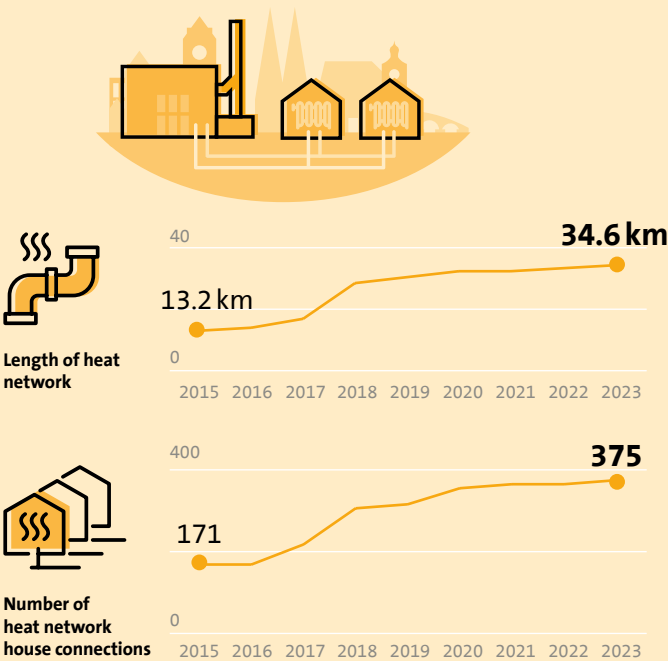
Renewable energy

Total installed capacity of renewable energy



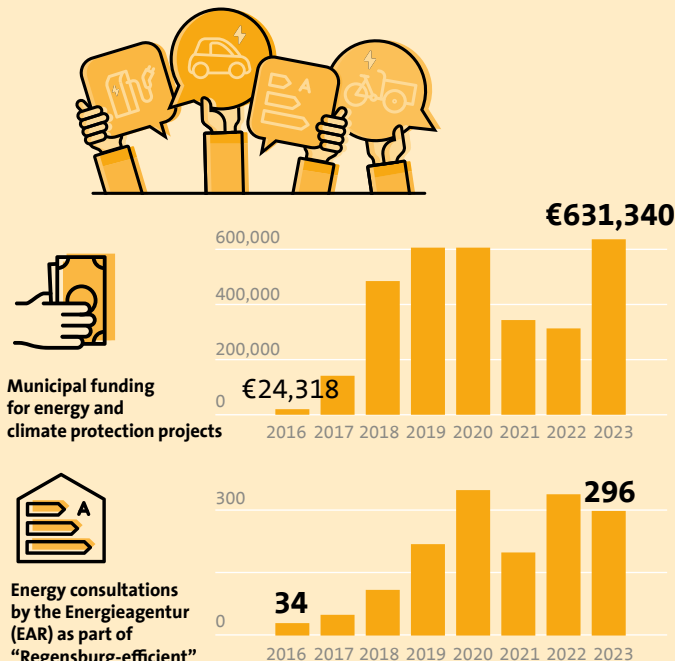
Heat transition

Length of heat network and house connections



Funding offers for climate action

Municipal funding and Energy consultations



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg / Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER

Opportunities and challenges



The historic old town under a soft blanket of snow.

The installed nominal capacity of all renewable generation plants in the urban area is currently around 81 megawatts. The construction of new photovoltaic systems in particular will also see the capacity increase over the coming years. The energy area to the east of Regensburg provides potential for a nominal capacity of around 20 megawatts.

Despite the increase in renewable energy, there is still a huge dependency in the urban area on fossil fuels for supplying electricity and, in particular, heat. 54 percent of energy consumption is currently used for heating buildings. This requires the production of hot water and industrial heat. At present, fossil fuels such as gas (80 percent) and oil (10 percent) are still mainly used for this. The heat transition is therefore an essential building block on the road to climate neutrality. In order to replace fossil fuels, the city is currently preparing a potential analysis as part of municipal heat planning. It is investigating ways to produce heat from renewable energy but also how to make heat savings by means of energy-related building renovation. Besides the funding and expansion of generation and storage facilities for renewable energy in the urban area, one focus of the city and of REWAG over the coming years will be the expansion of heat networks. The current length of the heat network is 34.6 kilometres.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Background



Global

For many years, the conditions under which the global economy operates have become increasingly complex. And it is not solely the coronavirus pandemic, the war in Ukraine, the associated rising energy costs, inflation and rising interest rates which ultimately impact on the global economy. Geopolitical tensions, protectionism and disrupted global supply chains also increase the cost pressure on companies and the pressure to innovate. Following the global economic downturn during the years of the pandemic, the economies of all G20 nations grew again in 2023, with the exception of Argentina (-1.6 per cent), Saudi Arabia (-0.8 per cent) and Germany (-0.3 per cent). The strongest growth was seen in India (+7.8 per cent) and China (+5.2 per cent).²⁶



National

With a gross domestic product of around 4.5 billion US dollars in 2023, Germany is the world's third biggest economy after the USA and China.²⁷ However, the consequences of the global crises had a greater impact on Germany as a location for business than on other regions. In addition to this, there are structural problems such as high energy and raw material costs, a lack of investment, demographic change, high costs in transitioning to a climate-neutral industry and also low demand, including from abroad. The factors recently led to Germany entering into a recession.



Regensburg

Over recent decades, Regensburg has developed into one of the most successful business locations in Germany. In 2023, the employment density is the second highest of German cities and the unemployment rate is below the average for Bavaria and for Germany. The gross domestic product per inhabitant is 90,529 euro which is significantly above the average for the state of Bavaria. For many years, Regensburg has occupied top positions in city rankings and, by offering excellent future opportunities, is recognised across Europe as a location with a successful innovation and cluster policy. The close integration of business, science, universities and research institutions also contributes to dynamic economic development, to innovative capability and to the future viability of Regensburg as a location. However, the impacts of global crises and structural change in the labour market can also be seen in Regensburg, not least due to the heavy reliance of many local companies on exports.



Regensburg is recognised throughout Europe as a location for successful innovation and cluster policy.

Our engagement



Relevant subgoals under SDG 8 for German municipalities are, among others, to maintain economic growth, to increase productivity, to improve resource efficiency, to achieve productive full employment, decent work and fair payment, as well as to promote development-oriented measures in order to support the economy. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

Focus on economic policy strategy

In the mid 1990s, the City of Regensburg developed a strategic approach to its future economic policy, implemented this consistently and adapted it continuously taking into account new trends and challenges. A defining element of this strategy was and is the close integration of business, science and administration as well as the promotion of cooperations, networks and clusters. Regensburg is heavily focused on innovation and on promoting research and development. The close connection between research institutions and business has led to a dynamic innovation landscape. Today, the 17 sustainability goals of the United Nations are also key pillars of the economic policy strategy for Regensburg as a location for business.

TechCampus – a location for innovation

Across an area of around ten hectares, TechCampus Regensburg offers innovative technology companies unique location options in an excellent environment for networking and cooperation. The TechCampus gives a spatial dimension to Regensburg's vision of developing into a resilient city of knowledge and innovation – in the immediate vicinity of the universities, the University hospital and the startup and innovation centres. The infrastructure also includes green spaces, schools, residential areas, a multi-story car park and an attractive public transport system and e-car sharing scheme. The RUBINA energy and environmental education building – which is home, for example, to “um:welt”, Bavaria's first energy education centre; the Energieagentur Regensburg and MINT-Labs [STEM labs] Regensburg – has located on the TechCampus.

 The TechBase provides around 20,000 square metres of office, workshop and research space as well as seminar and conference rooms. © TechBase

TechBase innovation centre

As an urban technology and innovation centre, TechBase marks the entrance to the TechCampus in the immediate vicinity of the University of Regensburg and the Ostbayerischen Technischen Hochschule Regensburg. The proximity to science and high-tech companies makes TechBase attractive for startups in the fields of digitalisation, future clusters and industry-related services as well as for innovation laboratories of established industrial companies. The TechBase innovation ecosystem is complemented by research areas. In TechBase, technology-oriented startups find the optimal requirements for successful business development: favourable conditions, tailored advice, networking with industry investors and science.



View of the historic Old Town from Dreifaltigkeitsberg (in German: Trinity Mountain)



BioPark Regensburg

BioPark Regensburg GmbH is a company of the City of Regensburg and part of the economic development programme. It began in 1999 as a biotechnology centre on the campus of the University of Regensburg and, today, is Bavaria's second largest biotech location and among the top 10 of German BioParks in terms of size and turnover. The BioPark offers around 18,000 square metres of office and laboratory space for start-ups, universities and established companies. The ongoing development involving the regional pharmaceutical industry, medical technology, diagnostics/analytics and most recently the healthcare industry has created one of the most innovative clusters in the city, district and in region of Eastern Bavaria. Currently 66 businesses employing 5,671 staff are based in the cluster.

Sustainable tourism as a sector of the economy

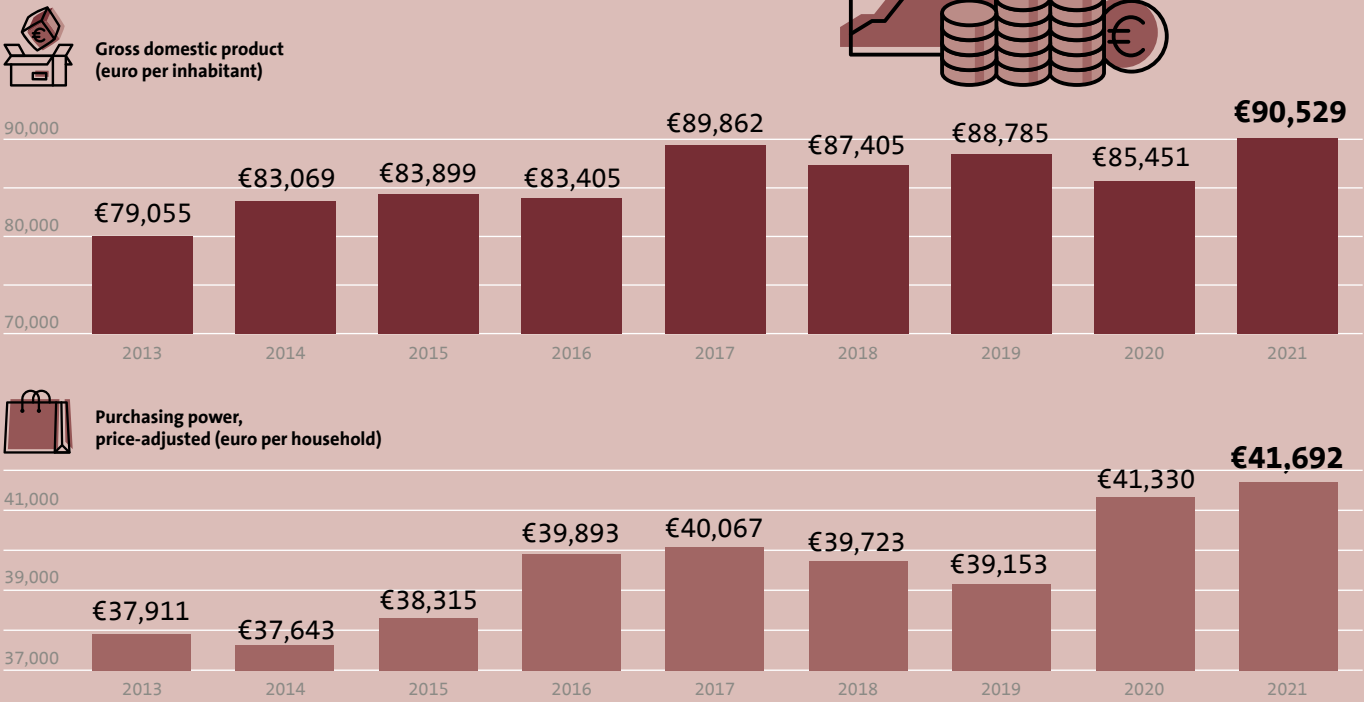
Tourism in Regensburg is booming. The city recently recorded more than 1.3 million overnight stays. Tourism activities can have a negative impact on the environment, for instance due to travel to and from the destination, the consumption of resources and the production of waste. On the other hand, a modern and sustainable tourism industry secures jobs, contributes significantly to the product and thus creates prosperity.

Regensburg Tourismus GmbH (RTG) is therefore actively committed to a sustainable tourism industry focussed on the common good. This involves taking into account the needs of both travellers and the city's community. The careful use of resources is just as much a focus as supporting local businesses. In March 2023, Regensburg was one of the first cities in Germany to be recognised as a sustainable destination and was awarded the TourCert seal.

Development at local level

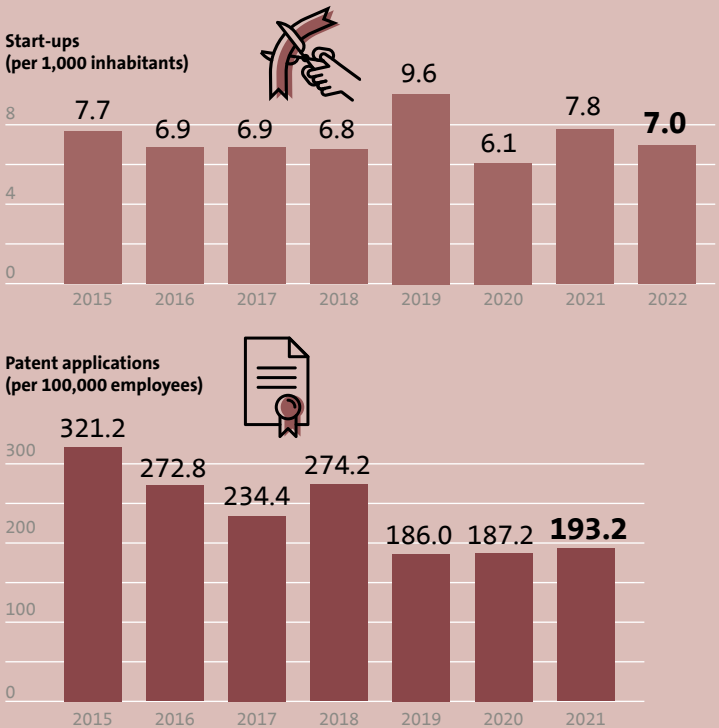
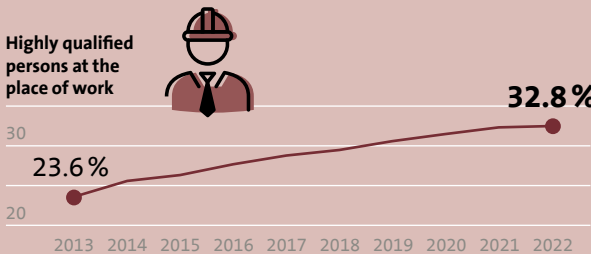
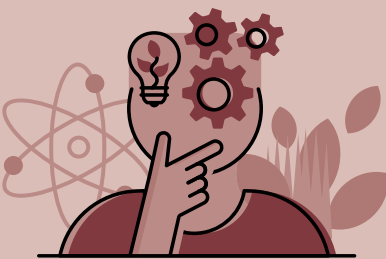
Economic power

Gross domestic product and purchasing power



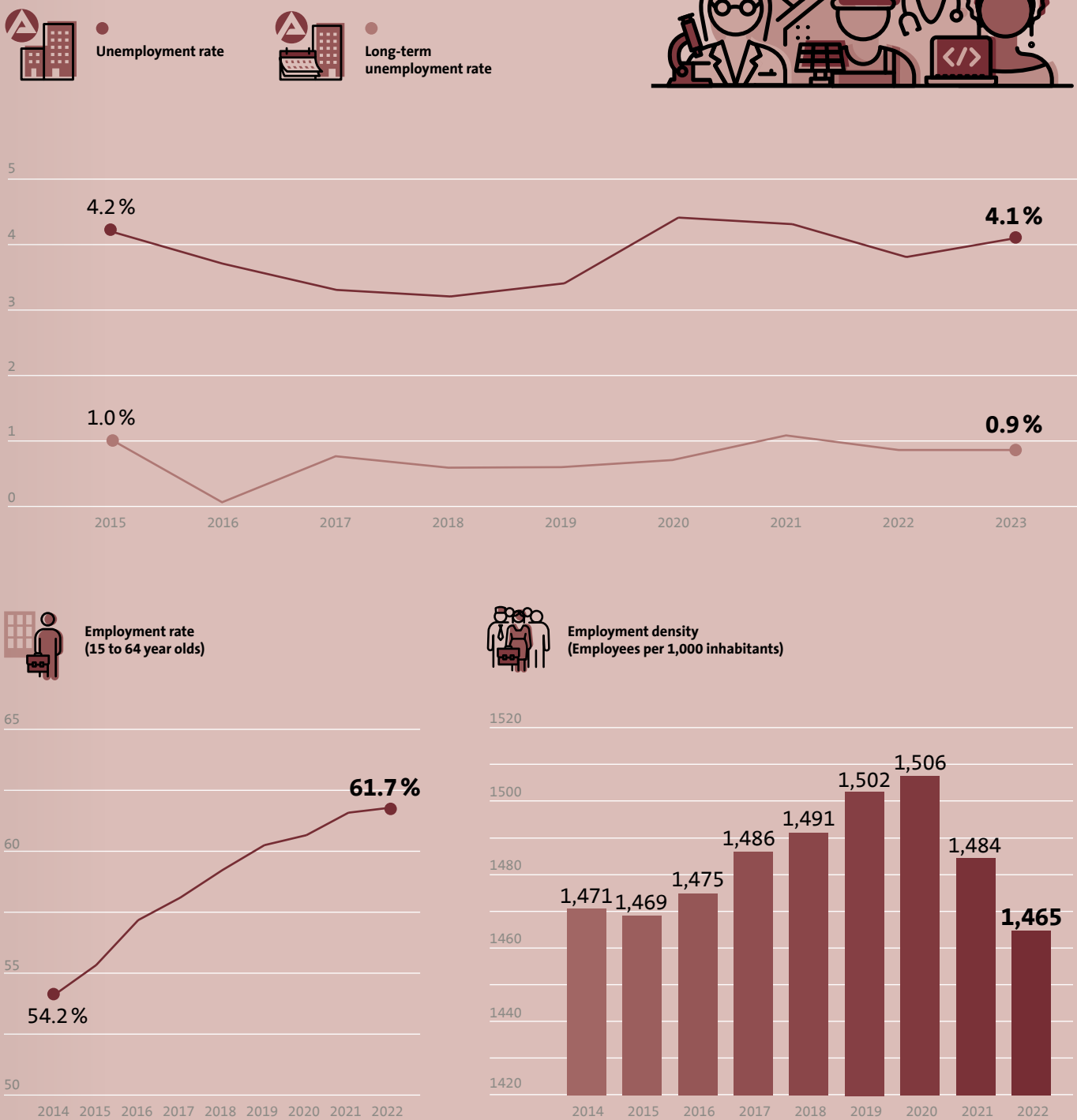
Innovation

Highly qualified persons at the place of work, start-ups and patent applications



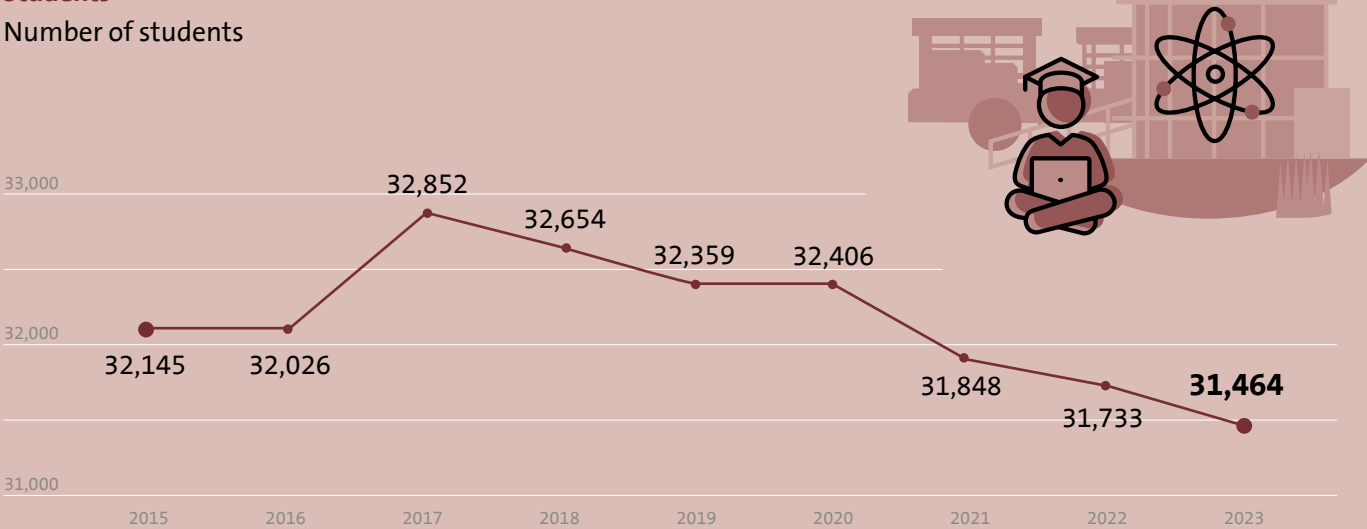
Employment for all

Employment, unemployment and long-term unemployment rate and job density



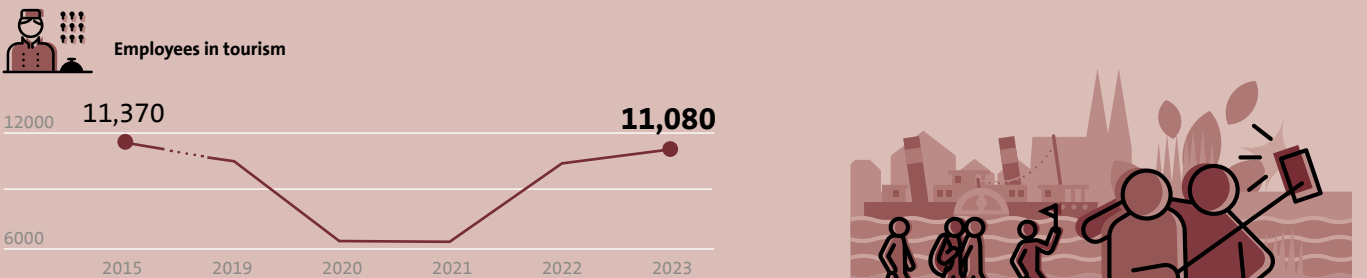
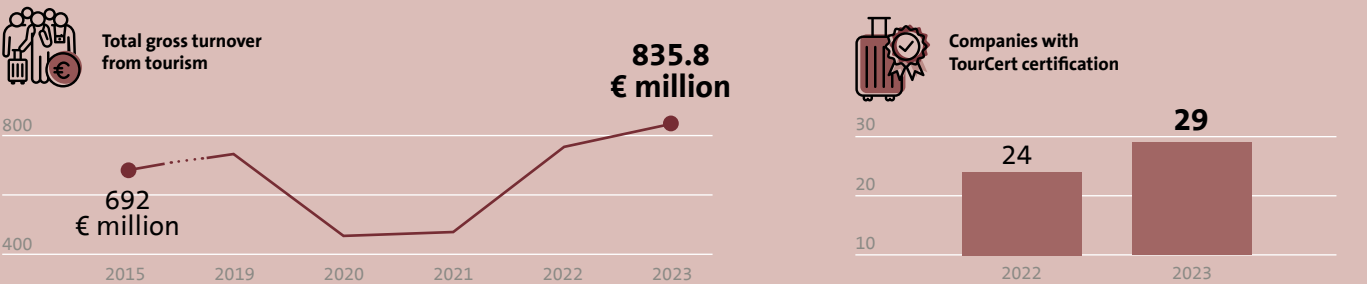
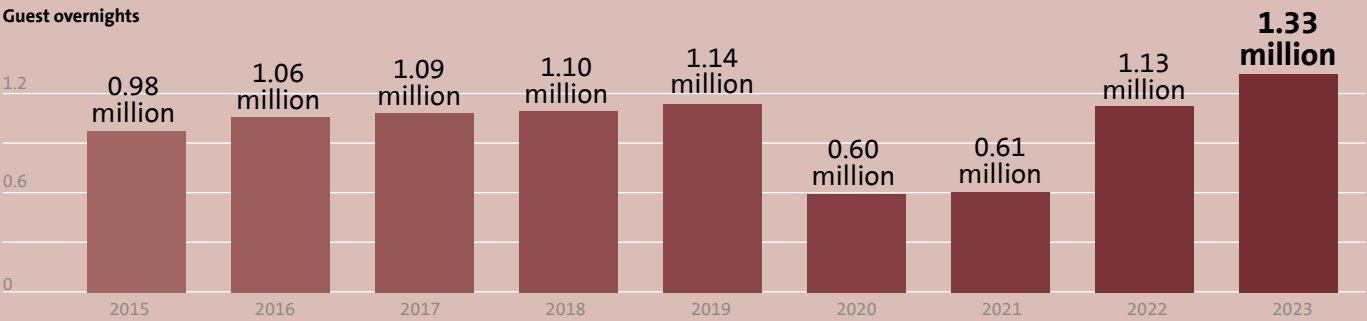
Students

Number of students



Sustainable tourism

Guest overnights, Total gross turnover from tourism, Employees in tourism and Companies with TourCert certification



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg / Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER

Opportunities and challenges

The City of Regensburg is also endeavouring to create positive underlying conditions to support economic growth in the future. In order to remain successful over the long term, it is critical that trends are identified at an early stage and strategies are adapted appropriately. The promotion of future technologies will also build on endogenous potential in the future. The intention is to further develop the cluster approach, to enhance profiles and to strengthen networking in line with global technology trends. The cross-cluster approach and cross-innovation platform will provide better access to innovation potential between clusters and extend to non-technical innovations.

In order to enhance the location as a centre for science, the aim is to provide a base for further non-university research institutions. The specialised institutions contribute to further enhancing the area as a place to do business, in particular for technology intensive companies. The goal is to effectively compete among regions and cities and to utilise the knowledge available at universities in products, production processes, services and therefore in future-oriented jobs. In this regard, supporting start-ups, in particular from the higher education sector, has a key role to play.

Today, Regensburg is one of the most successful locations for business in Germany.



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

Background



Global

A well-functioning infrastructure is a requirement for prosperity, a productive business economy and development. Besides technical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, railway networks and energy supply, water supply, effective local public transport and internet provision; infrastructure also includes social areas – for example, educational institutions, hospitals, sport and leisure facilities and cultural facilities. These factors determine whether and how societies develop, their innovative capability and how prepared they are for the future.



National

According to the Global Innovation Index, Germany is one of the most innovative countries in the world and was ranked eighth in 2023. Germany performs particularly well in the area of research and development.²⁸ And Germany is in a good position thanks to innovative technologies in the area of environmental protection and renewable energy. On the other hand, there is a massive backlog of investment in public infrastructure and in the transformation and decarbonisation of the economy. There is very little progress in the energy and transport transition. Bridges, roads and railways need to be upgraded. The expansion of renewable energies and the electricity grids is proceeding too slowly, as is the expansion of broadband. In a study, the Macroeco-

omic Policy Institute (IMK) and the German Economic Institute (IW) call for state investment of around 600 million euro to make Germany fit for the future.²⁹



Regensburg

Regensburg has occupied the top positions in well-known city rankings for many years. In the 2020 sustainability ranking of German cities published by IW Consult and 'WirtschaftsWoche' business magazine, Regensburg came out on top as Germany's most sustainable city. Regensburg scored particularly well in the sub area of ecology. Factors critical in determining top positions were the high density of electric vehicle charging stations, fibre optic connections to private households, the proportion of companies engaged in sustainability, job opportunities for young employees and also the number of patents compared to the number of people in gainful employment. In the 2024 city ranking, Regensburg came in eighth position in the standard ranking (which considers socio-economic structures) and tenth in the sustainability ranking. The future is extremely bright for Regensburg as a location. It has a real opportunity to develop into a sustainable location with continued innovative capability for production and developers and to maintain its international competitiveness.



Awarded the state prize for Bavarian creative locations by the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs: the Degginger creative centre. © Berli Berlinski

Our engagement



Relevant subgoals under SDG 9 for German municipalities are, among others, to build a sustainable infrastructure, to modernise the existing infrastructure, to promote research, development and innovation and to expand access to information and communication technology. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

Future cluster in Regensburg

The City of Regensburg has been pursuing an active cluster policy since 1996. The aim is to ensure the medium- and long-term competitiveness and resilience of the city and its businesses, to exploit innovation potential and, in connection with this, to secure and expand high-quality jobs in the location. Today, Regensburg is recognised throughout Europe as a location for successful innovation and cluster policy in the fields of biotechnology and healthcare, IT, mobility and logistics, sensor technology, cultural and creative industries, renewable energy, energy efficiency and artificial intelligence. In 2021 the "Green Tech Cluster" was initiated. This is the newest cluster and is a supra-regional network for future technologies in energy and climate protection.



© Janda+Roscher

R_NEXT Smart City model project

As a federal Smart City model municipality (Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building, BMWBS), Regensburg is part of the largest national Smart City network of 73 funded municipalities and a pioneer in digital and sustainable urban development. In innovative projects, solutions are created to urban development policy challenges which can then be transferred to other cities. As part of the REGENSBURG_NEXT project, five lighthouse projects have already been implemented in the areas of accessibility, mobility, energy, data and sensor technology as well as IT systems and cross innovation urban development. A further eight projects are currently being implemented including the development of an open urban data platform.

Implementation of the Smart City projects enabled Regensburg to achieve 14th place in the Smart City Bitkom Index 2024, making it one of the smartest cities in Germany.

Digitalisation of the city administration

The strategic alignment of the e-government and Smart City areas as future issues has allowed the city administration to take important steps in setting a course for the digital transition. In 2024, 326 city administration services could already be accessed digitally. This puts Regensburg in second place among all cities and rural districts in the ranking of the Bavarian State Ministry for Digital Affairs. The city administration's digital service portals, online procedures and appointment services have also been expanded. This means, for example, that housing benefit, residence entitlements, resident parking permits, trade registrations and also planning applications can be applied for or submitted digitally. A large number of services concerning all aspects of the electronic residence permit can also be accessed online. The Civic Centre, for example, also offers citizenship services and wedding date reservations digitally and around the clock. For citizens and businesses, this has therefore made access to key authority services much easier.

Gigabit provision – 2025 broadband strategy

With financial support from funding provided under the directive “Funding to support broadband expansion in the Federal Republic of Germany” (In German: Förderung zur Unterstützung des Breitbandausbaus in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland), the City of Regensburg has developed the “2025 Broadband Strategy for the City of Regensburg”. The defined goal set out in the 2025 Broadband Strategy is to provide 100 % of the entire urban area with a fibre-optic connection by 2032. Today, around 95 percent of households have a fibre optic connection providing 1000 Mbit/s. Approximately 65 percent of premises in the urban area currently have a fibre optic connection. 2,500 kilometres of fibre optic cable connect private homes, companies and businesses to the ultra-fast internet – for Regensburg's economy this is a key location and competitive factor.

Free public Wi-Fi

In cooperation with the Stadtwerk Regensburg municipal utilities company and with financial support from the BayernWLAN initiative of the Free State of Bavaria, the City of Regensburg has installed free public Wi-Fi in heavily frequented areas and tourist areas and in public transport. A total of 98 new BayernWLAN hot spots have been created, including 60 in buses operated by the local public transport network. In addition to this, 28 bus stops in heavily frequented areas were equipped with public Wi-Fi and ten solar powered Wi-Fi locations were installed in popular areas in the old town and around the TechCampus. The free public Wi-Fi enables digital participation and equality of opportunity and increases the attractiveness of the old town retail area.

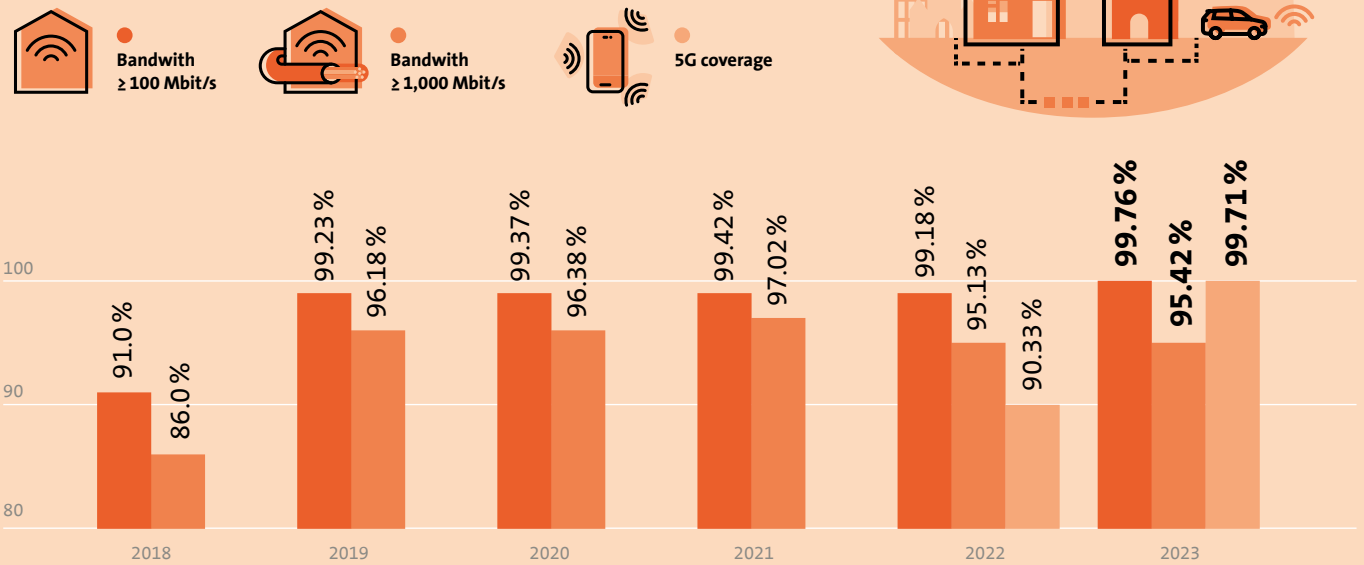
The broadband strategy aims to provide 100 % fibre-optic coverage for the urban area by 2032.



Development at local level

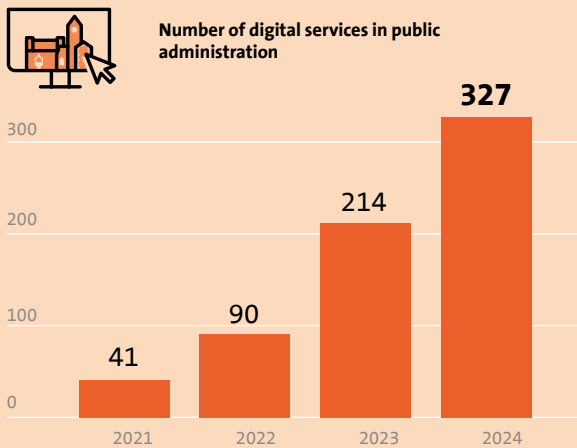
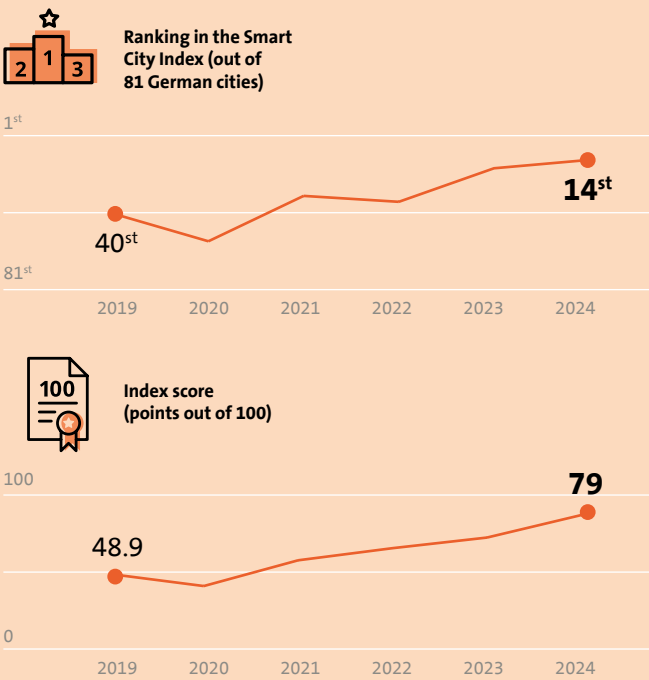
Digital infrastructure

Broadband coverage for private households and 5G coverage



Smart City

Smart City Index ranking, Smart City Index score and number of digital services in public administration



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg / Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER

Opportunities and challenges

The steadily increasing pace of development and complexity requires a high capacity for change and continual transformation, in particular in the area of digitalisation. For this reason, Regensburg is investing in the expansion of the digital infrastructure and in the adaptation of the existing infrastructure to meet the growing demands.

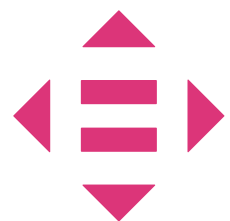
The City of Regensburg's investment programme for 2024 to 2028 amounts to 735 million Euros and sets clear priorities. The investments specifically concern economic and technology-oriented measures, as well as the future topics of education, climate, infrastructure and digitisation.

Regensburg's digital infrastructure is being enhanced in particular by the expansion of broadband internet and also by the introduction of free Wi-Fi in various areas. This not only benefits citizens but also supports businesses. As a federal Smart City model municipality, Regensburg is also seeking to stimulate digital transformation in the region and far beyond. Regensburg is also able to build on its successful innovation and cluster policy. The location of Regensburg offers great potential in terms of the future. The capacity of regional companies for innovation and the high levels of cooperation between science, business and local government can potentially pave the way for a leading role in Industry 4.0.

The Danube shapes the cityscape of Regensburg in a special way.



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reduce inequality within and among countries

Background



Global

Inequality comes in many forms. A person's opportunity to participate often depends on their age, gender, disability, origin, ethnicity or economic status. Inequality can occur in a number of areas including access to education, healthcare and also in participation in the social and political process. There is also a particularly unequal distribution of wealth around the world. According to the Global Wealth Report 2023 from Credit Suisse and UBS, the wealthiest 1 percent of the global population owns approximately 44.5 percent of global wealth.³⁰



National

Wealth inequality in Germany is also very high. The richest 1 percent of the population owns approximately 29 percent of overall wealth, while the richest 10 percent accounts for around 67 percent of overall wealth.³¹ Migrants and people with a migration background often experience discrimination in Germany. They frequently also have fewer opportunities within the education system and on the job market. Instances of precarious working conditions and atypical employment have been on the rise in Germany for a number of years. According to the Federal Statistical Office, more than 3 million people in gainful employment were threatened by relative poverty in 2020. This is equivalent to eight percent of persons in gainful employment in Germany.³²



Regensburg

Large scale social inequalities can endanger social cohesion. On the other hand, reducing inequalities strengthens social cohesion and promotes equality of opportunity and confidence in institutions. Regensburg regards itself as an outward-looking and diverse city. People from more than 150 nations live together here. This shapes society and the way we live together. All people in Regensburg should have equal opportunities regardless of gender, cultural and social background, nationality, disability, religion and beliefs.

From this perspective, there is an encouraging trend in Regensburg in naturalisations. Naturalisation of foreign nationals in particular allows foreigners to become German citizens with equal rights and with all the rights of German nationals. In recent years there has also been a positive trend in the ratio of the employment rate of foreigners compared to the employment rate across the entire population. This rose from 77.8 percent in 2014 to 87.6 percent in 2020. However, over the same period there has been no significant change in the school dropout rate of foreigners compared to the school dropout rate across the entire population.



Regensburg is and remains diverse: The City of Regensburg's integration concept.

Our engagement



Relevant subgoals under SDG 10 for German municipalities are, among others, to promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all people, to ensure equal opportunities, to implement measures for more social equality, to facilitate safe, legal and responsible migration. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

City of Regensburg's integration concept

In the summer of 2023, the city council adopted the new integration concept which was developed with broad participation of the city administration, external experts, local politicians and citizens. It anchors integration as a central cross-departmental task in Regensburg's city administration. The aim and aspiration is that everyone – regardless of gender, age, origin, belief, mother tongue, sexual orientation or ability – should have the same opportunities to participate in the city's community and to develop their full potential. This understanding of integration is also emphasised in the new mission statement "Regensburg with everyone for everyone".

City of Regensburg's anti-discrimination agency

In 2018, the City of Regensburg established an anti-discrimination agency as a voluntary service. The General Act on Equal Treatment (Gleichbehandlungsgesetz, AGG) forms the basis of its work. The purpose of this Act is to prevent or to stop discrimination on the grounds of race or ethnic origin, gender, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The anti-discrimination agency raises awareness, carries out publicity work and, together with the equality body, provides advice in cases of sexual harassment. An important pillar is also networking with other stakeholders working in the area of anti-discrimination. The anti-discrimination agency also provides initial advice and referral guidance for people living in Regensburg.

Inclusion in the City of Regensburg

Since 2016, the City of Regensburg has had an inclusion officer to address the concerns of people with a disability. The aim is to promote participation for people with a disability on an equal basis in all areas of life in our city and to achieve equal living conditions for people with and without a disability. The inclusion officer also promotes the involvement of people with a disability in municipal decision-making processes and, in so doing, is contributing to improving inclusive living conditions for just under 24,000 people who live with a disability in the urban area. The inclusion officer also runs the inclusion advisory board office.



Participants at the four-day "Inclusion Round Table" conference.



© Tür an Tür Digital Factory gGmbH



Inclusive job fair

The City of Regensburg is also committed to integrating people with a disability in the "primary labour market". As part of the "Inclusive job fair" – which is run jointly by the City of Regensburg and the Inclusive Labour Market work group, the aim is to get job seekers, companies, businesses and institutions talking to each other. On this day, attendees receive extensive careers guidance and make contact with companies in the region. The day is targeted in particular at people with a disability, reintegration participants and at pupils from vocational promotion centres and vocational training centres, and from rehab measures and special needs schools making the transition from school into working life. Within the city administration itself, the proportion of employees with severe disabilities is eight percent.

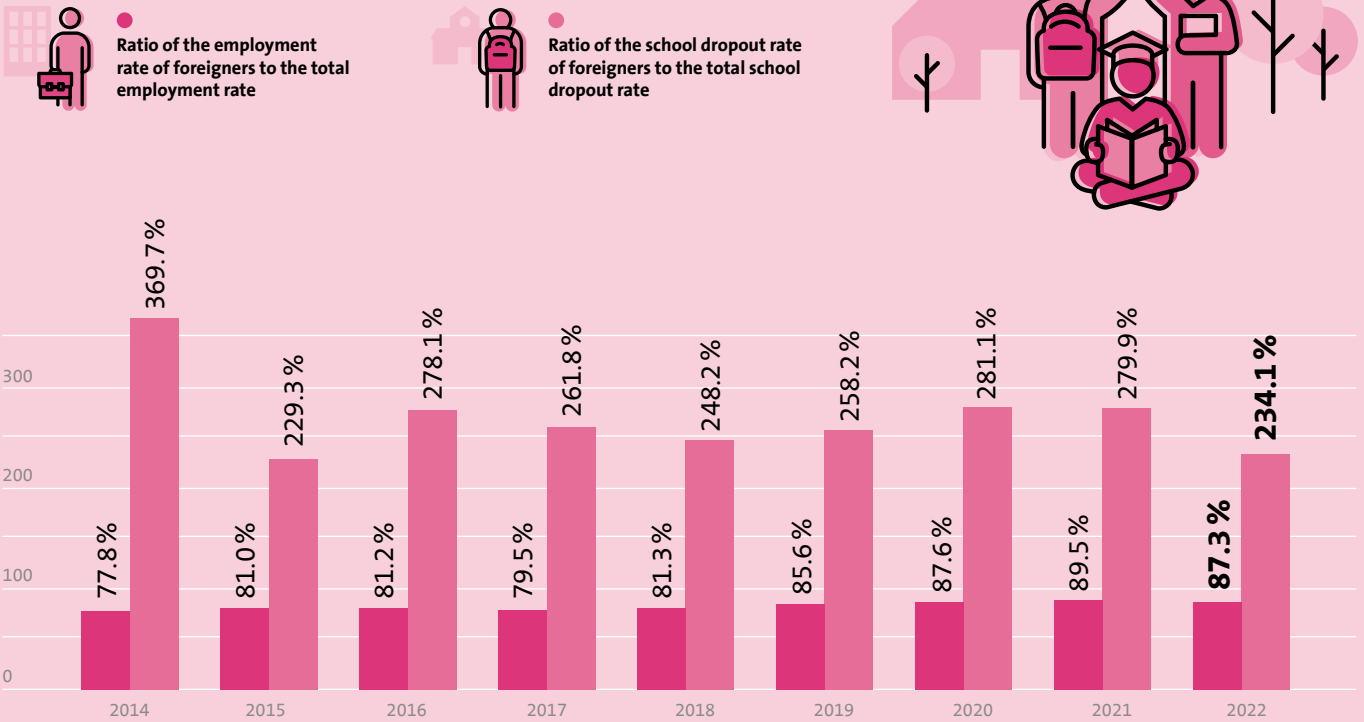
Regensburg's Integreat app

In cooperation with Tür an Tür – Digital Factory gGmbH, the City of Regensburg provides the key information needed for making a good start in Regensburg in this app. It is also multilingual and available in more than 15 languages. The German texts are written in simple language to enable people new to learning German to understand them as well as possible. Some examples of questions answered in the app are: Where can I get help and advice? How does the asylum procedure work? Where can I learn German? Where can I find training and work? How can I study? How does the healthcare system work?

Development at local level

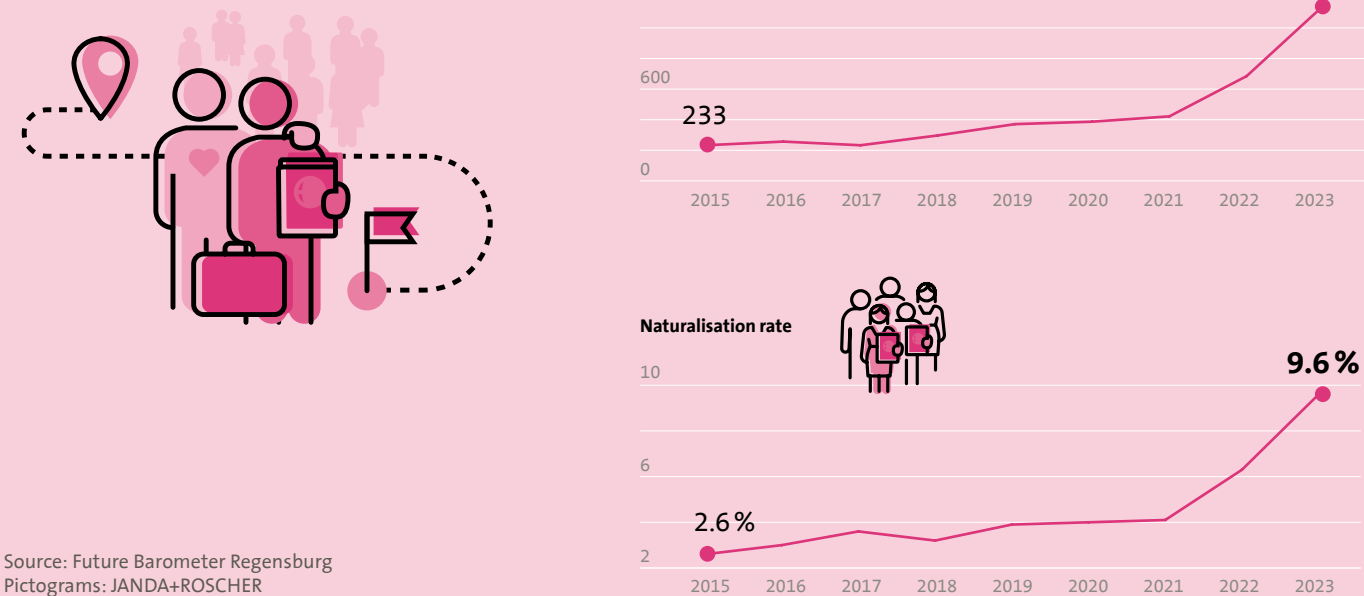
Equal opportunities

Employment rate and school dropout rate – foreigners



Integration

Naturalisations and naturalisation rate



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg
Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER

Opportunities and challenges

Municipalities can actively contribute to reducing inequalities and promoting equality of opportunity by supporting migrants, people with disability and other disadvantaged groups. Today, people from 150 nations live in Regensburg. The city community of the future will be more diverse and varied and it will be even more important to create scope for participation on an equal basis for all. Tackling discrimination in all areas of society, awareness-raising measures for promoting empathy and also programmes combating racism are critical to creating an inclusive society and enabling respectful coexistence.

In particular with regard to increasing age diversity, the requirements of older people will need to be given greater consideration in Regensburg, for example via an accessible infrastructure. This means that, in future, other groups

of people will also benefit from the “Barrierefrei durch Regensburg” [Accessible Regensburg] guide provided by the City of Regensburg's inclusion advisory board. Older people, particularly those from socially disadvantaged groups, often need targeted support to enable them to continue participating actively in society.

Due to their proximity to citizens, municipalities can play a key role in promoting solidarity and tolerance and in determinedly opposing growing popularism and social division. Regensburg is aiming to shape a society in which all people, regardless of origin, age, gender or other characteristics, are able to participate equally in life and contribute to the city community.



© Diego Cervo / 123RF.com

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIE AND COMMUNITIES

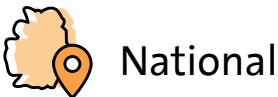


Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Background



Approximately 56 percent of the world's population lives in urban areas and the trend towards urbanisation can be observed globally.³³ In South America the urbanisation rate is already in excess of 80 percent and in Asia and Africa it is set to rise to more than 50 percent by 2030.³⁴ Even today more than 80 percent of global economic activity takes place in cities. Cities are drivers of economic activity and prosperity. However, globally, cities are also responsible for around 75 percent of all CO₂ emissions, consume more than three quarters of all resources and generate billions of tonnes of waste.³⁵



In 2023, 77 percent of people in Germany were living in cities or conurbations. 82 cities have more than 100,000 inhabitants and 15 cities have a population of over 500,000. Four of these have populations of over 1 million. Only 15 percent of the German population lives in municipalities with fewer than 5,000 residents.³⁶ Due to increasing urbanisation, there is a lack of around 1.9 million affordable homes in Germany's cities.³⁷



In addition to our major cities, it is the large cities in particular which attract residents – Regensburg is one of these with around 177,000 inhabitants. According to forecasts from the Bavarian State Office for Statistics and the City of Regensburg, the city's population will continue to increase significantly over the coming years.

A key challenge of urbanisation is creating and maintaining affordable housing. The housing completion rate in Regensburg has been at a very high level for many years and the city regularly occupies top positions in terms of building completions across Germany. According to the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, Regensburg built the most housing units per resident across Germany in 2020 with around 1,900 completed residential units. In 2023, Regensburg also led the way nationally in Germany in the construction of apartment buildings.

Another challenge is managing the mobility transition. The aim is to reduce motorised private transport in favour of climate-neutral public transport, cycling and walking. The share of private transport is to be reduced from 37 percent of the modal split today to 30 percent by 2040. At the same time, the share of eco-mobility is to be increased to 70 percent by 2040. In particular, the share of cycling is to increase from 26 percent today to 30 percent.



The housing completion rate in Regensburg has been at a very high level for many years.

Our engagement

Relevant subgoals under SDG 11 for German municipalities are, among others, to ensure access to appropriate, safe and affordable housing, to provide access to sustainable traffic systems, to improve road safety, to enhance sustainable settlement planning, to reduce environmental impact, to ensure access to green spaces. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

Subsidised housing

Maintaining or increasing the number of subsidised housing units at a constant level remains a major challenge. Following years of stagnation, the addition of new subsidised housing increased the total number of residential units from 5,323 to 5,846 between 2015 and 2023. Due to the simultaneous elimination of the commitment to “traditional” social housing, however, enormous efforts must still be made to achieve a significant increase in publicly subsidised housing. For this reason, in 2019, the Regensburg Building Land Model set a rate of 40 percent of subsidised housing for new development plan areas. In urban areas, up to 60 percent of residential land is provided for this purpose.



En route along "Cycle route 5", Regensburg's first main cycle route.

Bicycle friendly municipality

Since 2019, Regensburg has officially been able to call itself a "Bicycle friendly municipality in Bavaria". Cycling currently accounts for 26 percent of the modal split, which is above the Bavarian average.

To further increase the proportion of cyclists and make cycling even safer, Regensburg will receive a main cycle route network with a total length of 170 kilometres. The long-term aim is for this to connect all key residential and commercial areas, schools and universities, leisure and shopping destinations and cultural and sporting venues with one another. The first main cycle route, "Cycle route 5", is 9 kilometres long and was completed in 2024. Gaps in cycle routes are continually being closed and safety improved by means of rebuilding and the use of priority settings at traffic lights.

Vision Zero – more safety for cyclists

In order to make cycling even more attractive and safer in Regensburg, the city is pursuing "Vision Zero". This aims to use a range of different measures to achieve a continual reduction in the number of cycling accidents. Serious accidents frequently occur at junctions in particular and are often caused by car or lorry drivers. The measures range from making cycle crossings different colours at dangerous junctions, installing mirrors and flashing warning lights and adjusting traffic light settings to protected cycle lanes and streets. The city has been awarded the "Goldenen VCD-Bruckmandl" [Golden VCD Bridge man] by the Regensburg section of the Verkehrsclub Deutschland [VCD, Traffic Club Germany] for constructing a new diagonal cycle route across the Kumpfmühler junction which makes crossing it safer and quicker for cyclists.

Clean public transport

Electromobility is the key to more climate-friendly public transport and for this reason its expansion has been on the agenda for *das Stadtwerk.Regensburg* municipal utilities company for many years. The plan is for the municipal utility company to be climate neutral by 2035. The electrification of the bus fleet is one of the main drivers in achieving this. The goal is for at least 30 percent of the urban area's bus fleet to be running emission-free by 2027. The introduction of the Emile electric bus on the Old Town route meant that, in 2017, Regensburg was the first Bavarian municipality to have a completely electrified bus route. Since 2021, in addition to minibuses, fully electric solo buses have also been in use in the urban area. Fully electric articulated buses have also been deployed since 2023. The aim, each year, is for between ten and 15 new emission-free buses to gradually replace the existing bus fleet each year and make it more climate friendly.

Outstanding e-charging point infrastructure

The expansion of a comprehensive charging infrastructure as a basis for emission-free mobility has been a focus in Regensburg for many years. Since 2015, REWAG has been putting in place the requirements for a comprehensive infrastructure for electric cars by expanding e-charging points in the urban area. According to the BDEW [German Association of Energy and Water Industries] city ranking, Regensburg ranks fifth in 2023 in Germany in terms of the number of charging points in the urban area. The German Association of the Automotive industry (VDA) even ranked Regensburg second in 2023 in a comparison of cities in terms of the ratio of charging points to registered electric vehicles. In 2024, there were 746 charging points in the urban area, 309 of which are operated by REWAG. 100 percent of REWAG's charging points are powered by regionally generated green energy.

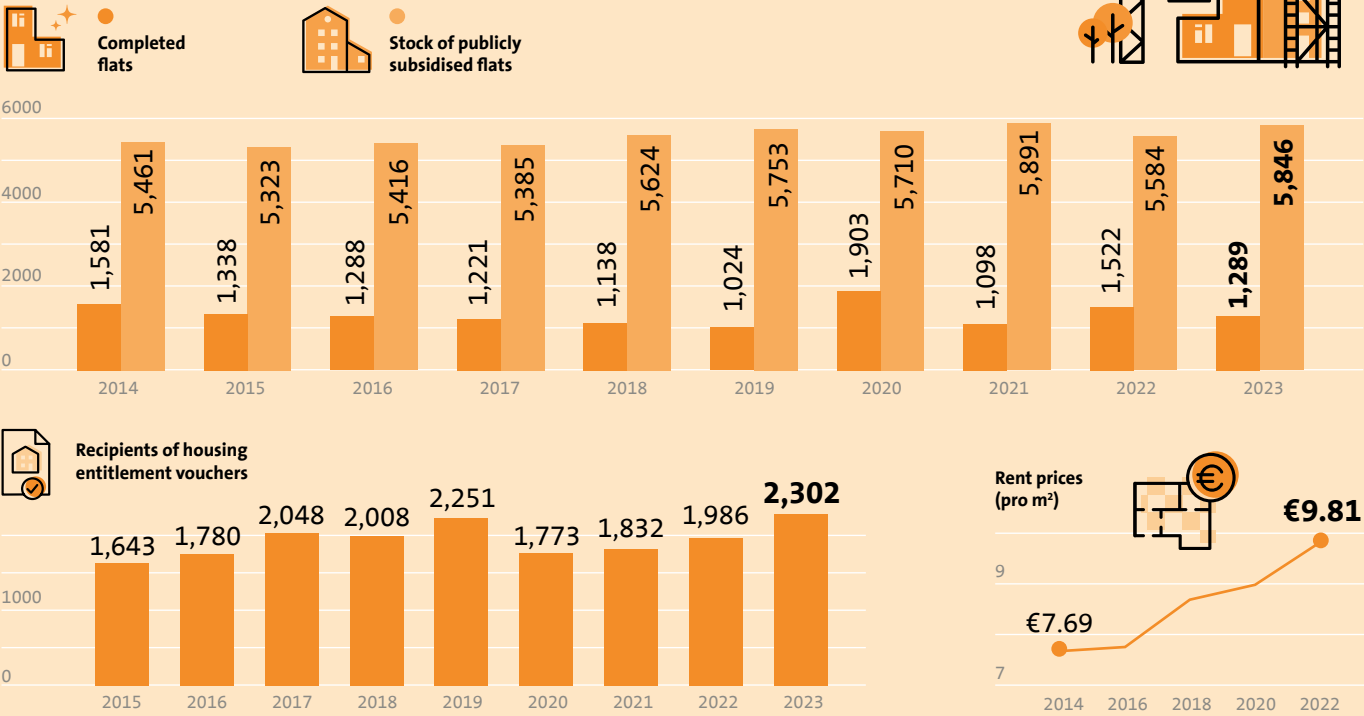
Process in the electrification of the bus fleet. © Simon Gehr / das Stadtwerk



Development at local level

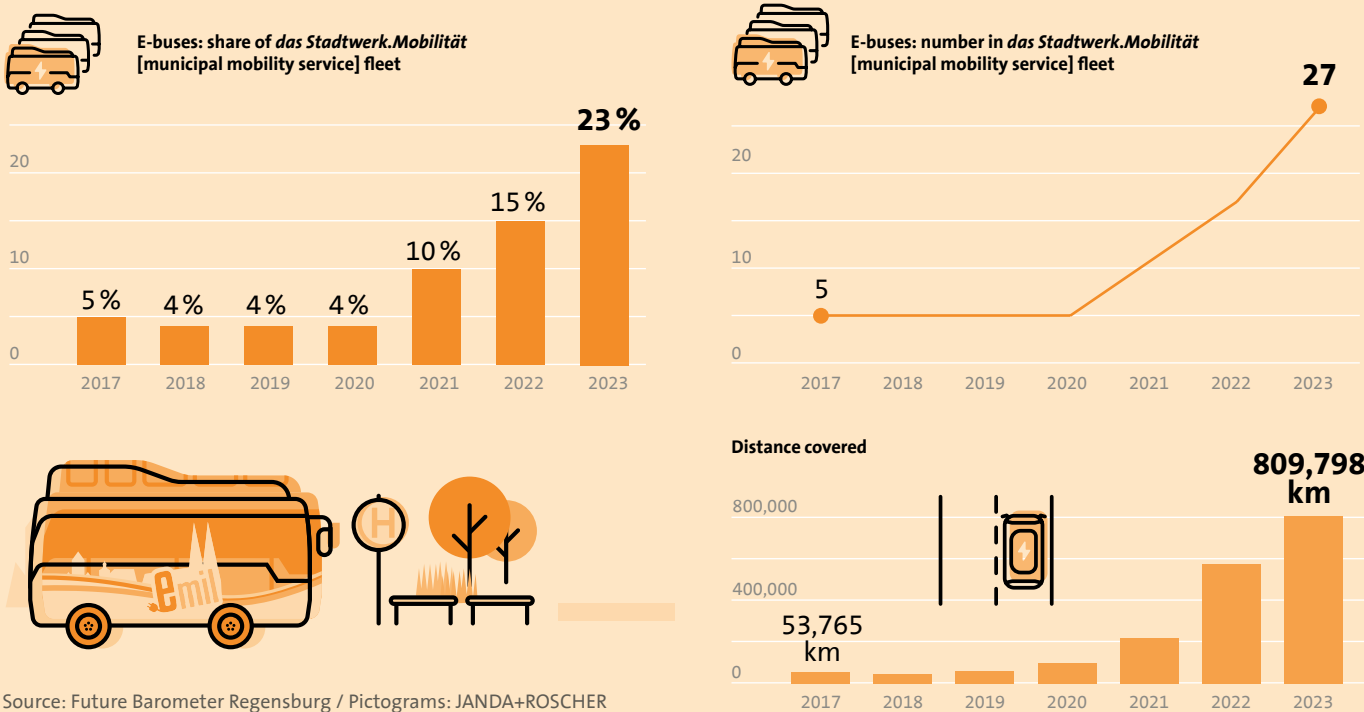
Housing offensive and support for people in need

Completed flats, stock of publicly subsidised flats, rent prices and recipients of housing entitlement vouchers



Zero-emission public transport

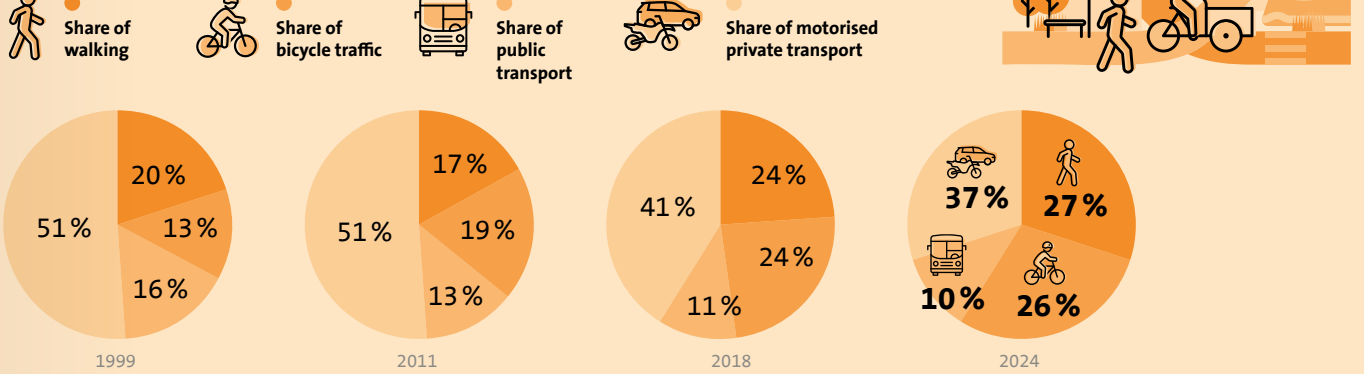
Share of E-buses in the fleet of *das Stadtwerk.Mobilität* and distance covered



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg / Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER

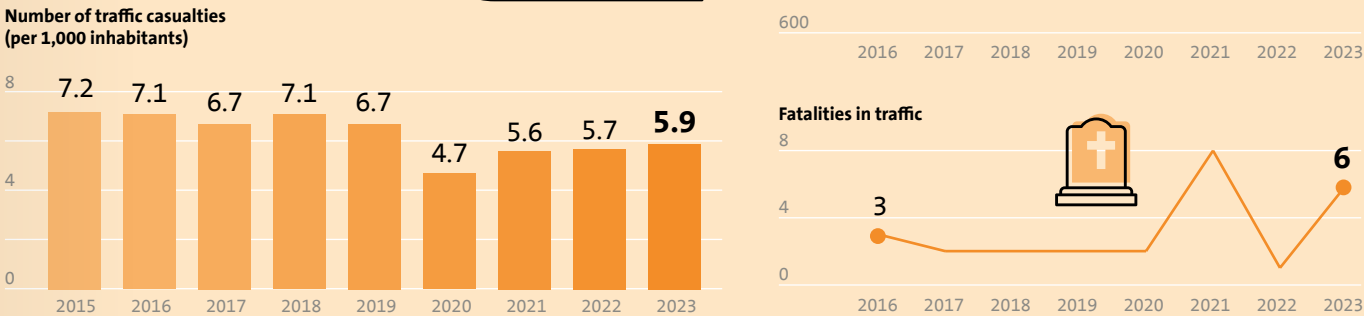
Mobility transition

Modal split: Share of walking, bicycle traffic, public transport and motorised private transport



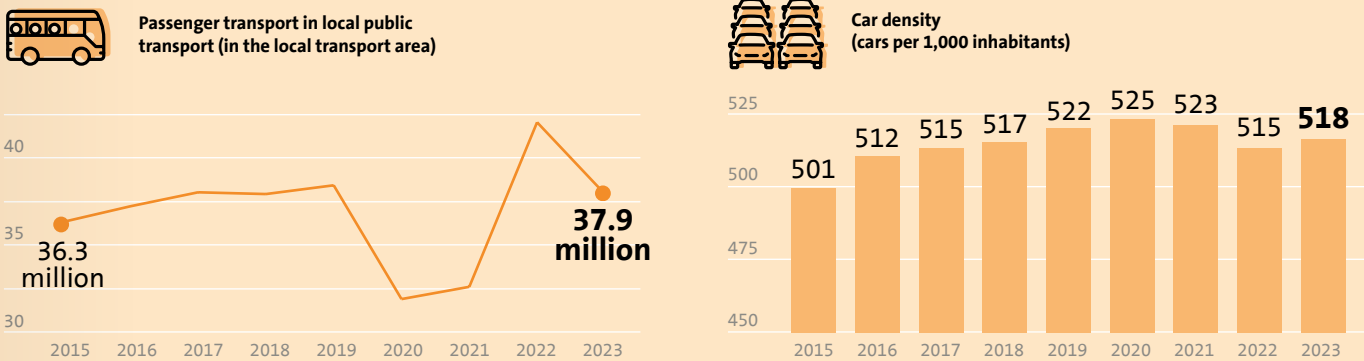
Vision Zero

Casualties, injuries and fatalities in traffic



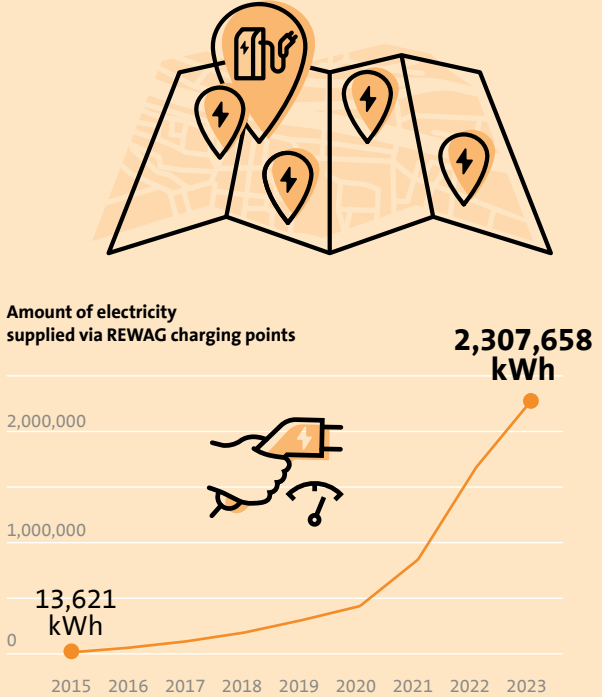
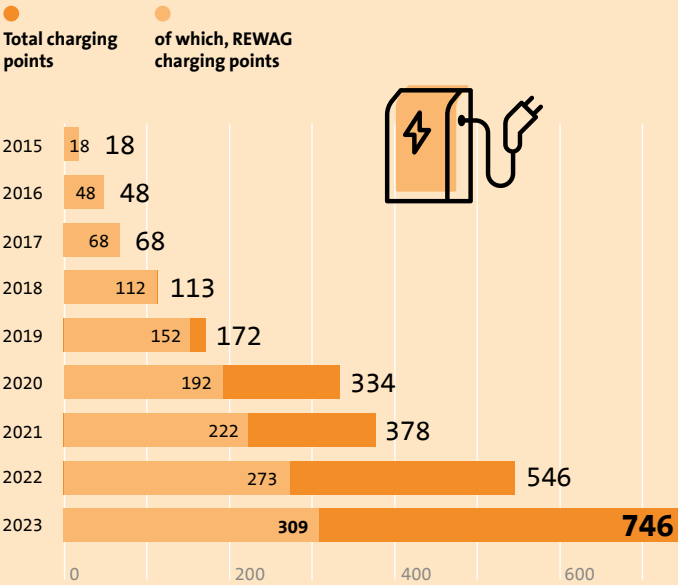
Attractive public transport

Passenger transport in local public transport and car density



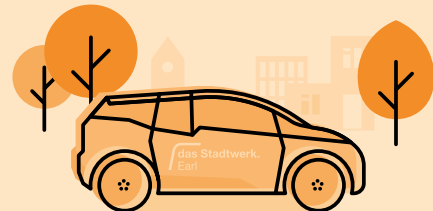
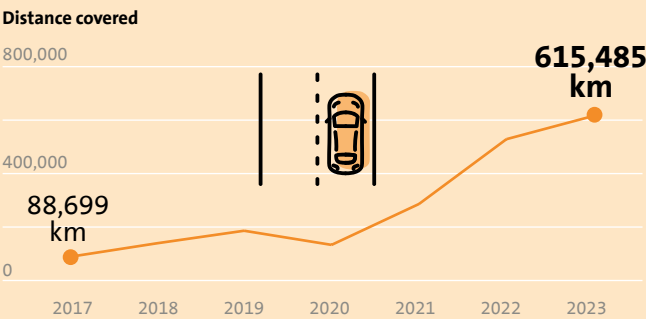
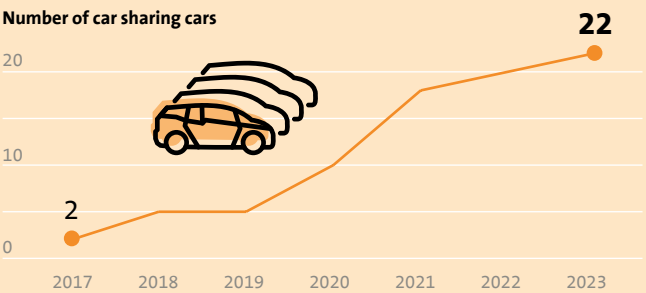
Charging infrastructure for electric vehicles

Total charging points and amount of electricity supplied



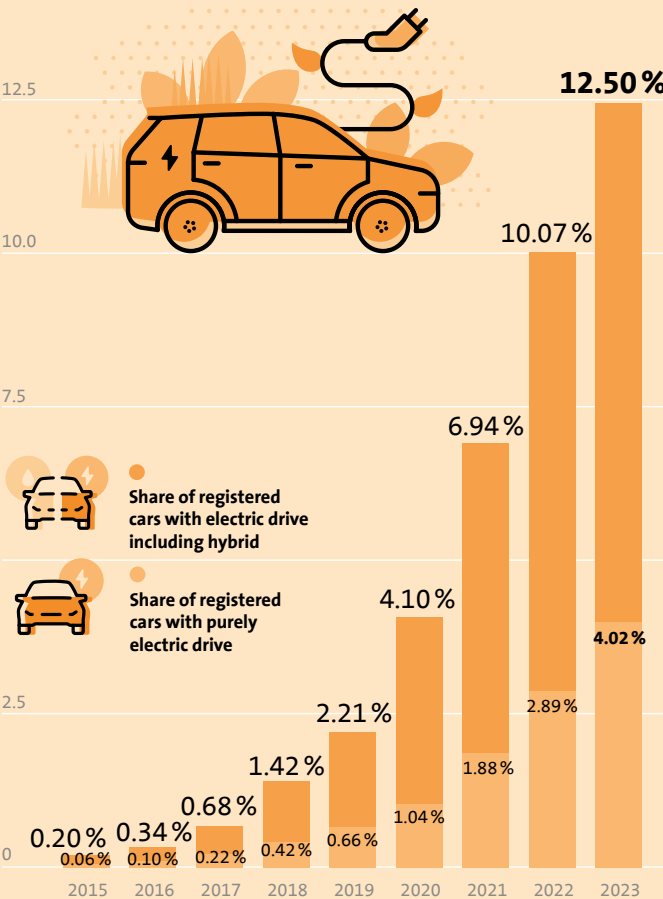
Sharing services

das Stadtwerk.Earl [municipal car sharing project]:
Number of car sharing cars and distance covered



Electric mobility

Share of registered cars with electric drive



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg / Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER

Opportunities and challenges

Sustained population growth and high demand for housing has resulted, in Regensburg, in a challenging housing market and in rising rents and property prices. Low-and-middle-income households are impacted in particular because, despite high levels of construction activity, the supply is not sufficient. Regensburg is seeking to combat this, among other things, with a housing offensive and the addition of new subsidised housing.

The aim of the urban development is also to create attractive, lively neighbourhoods with mixed structures, places for people to meet, good local amenities and a high-quality environment. In line with the “15-minute city” concept, neighbourhoods should have good service provision and offer a wide range of leisure opportunities.

With 53.7 per cent of participants voting against the city rail plans in a referendum in summer 2024, Regensburg has now adopted a transport planning approach which aims to enhance public transport, cycling and walking even without the city rail service. In order to achieve this aim, the “Impuls Mobilität Regensburg” [Stimulate Regensburg mobility] project group was created. Priorities over the coming years include expanding the main cycle route network, the speed of bus services, accessible upgrading of bus stops, further development of the sharing services and the management and organisation of motorised private transport, delivery vehicles and parking facilities.

© Simon Gehr / das Stadtwerk



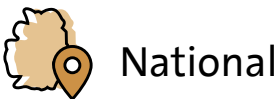


Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Background



The global consumption of resources has almost doubled over the last 20 years. Earth Overshoot Day is used to illustrate how high this consumption is. This is the date on which it has been calculated that all natural resources grown within one year will have been consumed. The global Earth Overshoot Day for 2024 was 1 August. By comparison, the Earth Overshoot Day in 1987 was 19 December.³⁸



By international comparison, the consumption of resources in Germany is very high. The German Earth Overshoot Day for 2024 fell on 2 May.³⁹ According to the Federal Statistical Office, the amount of waste generated in 2022 in Germany is around 399 million tonnes⁴⁰ and is therefore significantly above the EU average.⁴¹ If all people on earth were to live as we do in Germany, then three planets would be required in order to satisfy the demand for resources. The European Commission is seeking to use the Circular Economy Action Plan to initiate a change in production and consumption patterns to address resource consumption.



Over the last ten years, the total waste generated in the City of Regensburg has ranged between 80 thousand and 90 thousand tonnes. This is equivalent to an average annual amount of around 600 kilogrammes of waste per resident. This value is roughly comparable to the German average of 620 kilogrammes of waste per person per year.⁴²

In 2023, the volume of waste in Regensburg was 481 kilogrammes per resident and therefore significantly below the long-term average. Just under 63 percent of waste generated was recycled, which leaves a residual waste share of 300 kilogrammes per person per year. This 300 kilogrammes – comprising domestic waste, business waste, bulky waste, and commercial waste similar to domestic waste – is currently incinerated to generate heat (energy recovery), but not recycled in the material sense. The City of Regensburg is aiming to significantly reduce the consumption of resources and therefore the amount of waste generated in Regensburg in the coming years.

Besides reducing resource consumption and waste generation generally, it is essential to promote sustainable production patterns. Regensburg has been a Fairtrade city since 2012 and actively promotes fair trade. When awarding its own contracts, the city is committed to a sustainable procurement policy. The administration is also seeking to raise the population's awareness of the advantages of fair trade and the impact of individual consumption on global production conditions.



Our engagement

- Relevant subgoals under SDG 12 for German municipalities are, among others, to achieve a sustainable use of natural resources, reduce food waste, reduce waste generation, encourage companies to introduce sustainable practices, promote sustainable sourcing in the public sector. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

Zero waste Regensburg

In order to reduce resource consumption and therefore waste generation the urban area, the City of Regensburg is developing a zero-waste strategy. For this purpose, the city has created a zero-waste coordination position within the Office for Circular Economy, Urban Cleaning and Fleet Management. An appointment was made to the position in 2024. The development of the zero waste strategy is intended to help actively support the social transition to making city life more sustainable. The long-term goal of zero-waste Regensburg is to reduce the annual residual waste generated to 50 kilogrammes per person. The aim is to make the amount of residual waste per head less than 170 kilogrammes by 2035. In order to achieve this ambitious target, the prevention or reduction of waste must be the priority. However, there also needs to be further development of recycling and reuse.

Waste app

The City of Regensburg has been providing a user-friendly waste app for its citizens since 2023. In addition to the collection and emptying schedules for the City of Regensburg, the app also includes a map showing the nearest glass and old clothes bins, organic waste bins and green waste collection points. In a waste ABC, helpful tips on correct waste separation, disposal and recycling options are provided as well as information about the recycling depots. The aim of the app is to improve waste management and to help promote responsible use of resources and waste.

Construction waste recycling on municipal construction sites

In order to reduce the waste generated in the construction and demolition sector, the City of Regensburg arranges for demolition material from demolition work to be processed. On the site of the former Prince Leopold barracks in the east of the city alone over 100,000 tonnes of construction waste, including a high proportion of concrete, was recycled and largely reused. First, the construction waste is processed and foreign matter separated out. Next, the material is crushed in a mobile crushing plant before being certified. In the end, the majority of the suitable recycled material was reused, for example as recycled concrete in road building, and in the embankment construction. Recycling construction waste saves natural resources and, in many cases, requires significantly less energy than producing new building materials.



Regensburg has been a Fairtrade city since 2012.

The City of Regensburg's waste app provides information on collection and emptying schedules and other important topics.



© Katja Fouad-Vollmer / RTG

Sustainable procurement management

In 2009 the Regensburg city council decided to take social and environmental criteria into account when awarding contracts and to avoid products resulting from exploitative child labour. Regensburg first met all the criteria of a Fairtrade City for the first time in 2012 and still has this status today. By setting up the Coordination Office for Municipal Development Policy in 2020, the city council then had its own office to promote sustainable procurement. For an increasing number of product groups – from recycled paper to fairly-produced workwear, from fair-trade certified fireproof protective clothing for the fire service to certified IT products – environmental and social criteria along the production and supply chains are being incorporated within the evaluation when awarding municipal contracts.

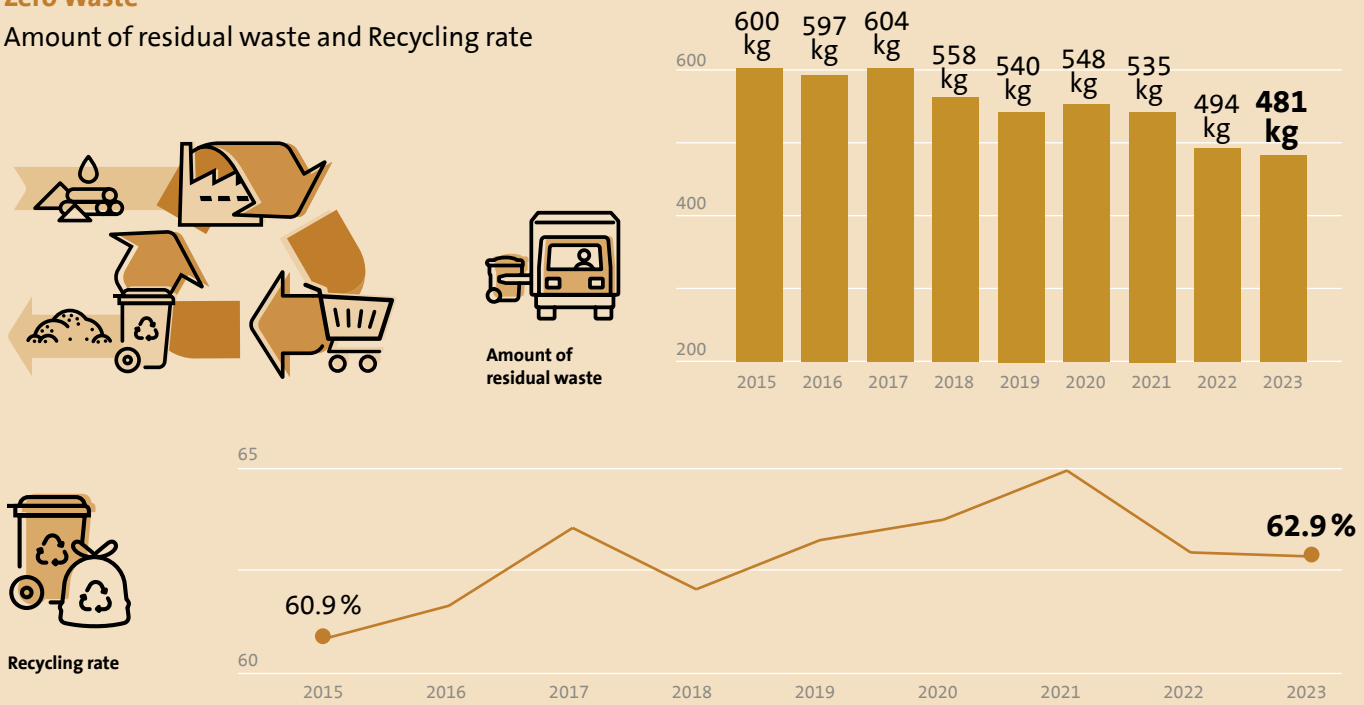
Discover Regensburg in a sustainable way

For visitors to the World Heritage city and for people of Regensburg, Regensburg Tourismus GmbH showcases offers from local companies and initiatives in the areas of retail, markets, gastronomy, accommodation and mobility on the regensburg-nachhaltig.de platform. These are offers and initiatives that meet particularly high sustainability criteria. The focus, for example, is on organic products, fair trade products, regionality, second hand goods, accessibility and climate protection measures. Local sustainability initiatives and projects being implemented in Regensburg are introduced on the interactive platform. This online portal makes it very easy to access an environmentally-aware and more sustainable World Heritage experience. It is also very easy and straightforward for Regensburg businesses to get involved.

Development at local level

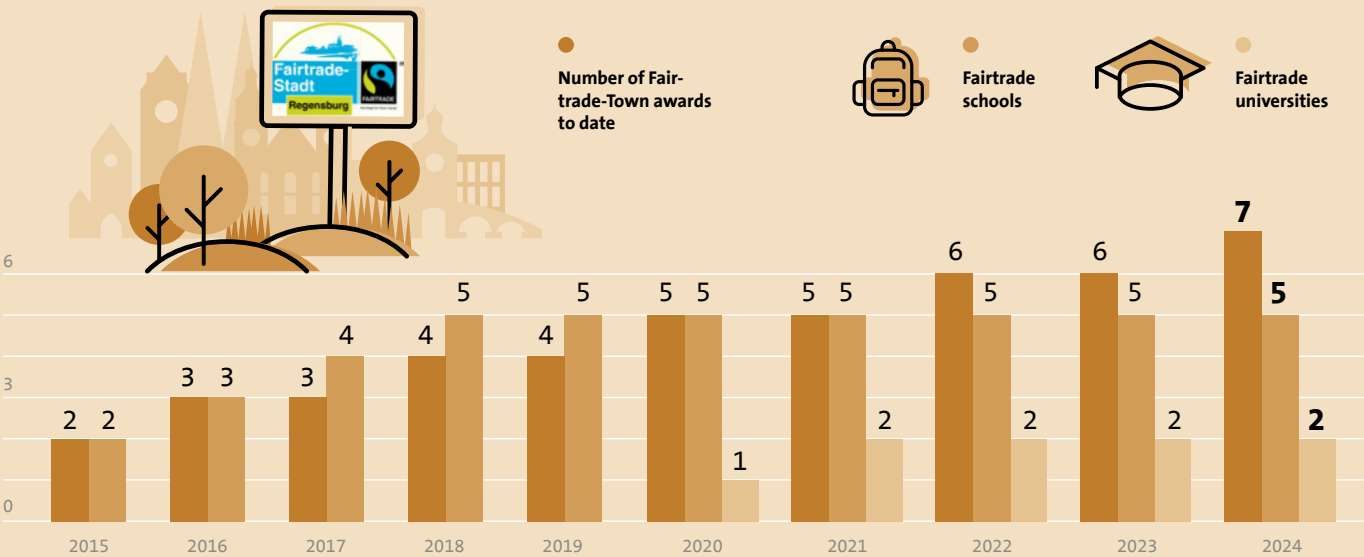
Zero Waste

Amount of residual waste and Recycling rate



Fairtrade City of Regensburg

Promoting fair trade and sustainable consumption



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg / Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER

Opportunities and challenges

An increase in the volume of waste is anticipated over the coming years in the urban area due to rising consumption and population growth in Regensburg. Even today, the municipal recycling centre is sometimes at the limits of its capacity and, in terms of size and conditions for those arriving with waste for recycling, no longer meets the necessary requirements. Development of the recycling centre taking into account the growing importance of the circular economy is therefore essential. The collection infrastructure in the urban area for recyclable material, green waste and organic waste needs to be developed. Container locations for glass and clothing as well as green waste collection points and organic waste bin locations must be attractive and easily accessible.

Over recent years, disposable packaging for “on-the-go” consumption has contributed to increasing levels of waste in public spaces. The increase in online shopping has also led to a further rise in packaging waste over recent years. Regensburg is setting a course for the future with the development of a zero-waste strategy. The focus must be on avoiding waste and promoting zero waste initiatives as well as on raising awareness in terms of sustainable consumption. The department for municipal development policy is also supporting this with sustainable procurement management. In addition to environmental criteria, there is now also a focus on the social aspects of sustainable consumption, for example fair working conditions, fair wages along the supply chain and the abolition of child labour.



Out and about in the Fairtrade City of Regensburg.



13 CLIMATE ACTION



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Background



Global

In 2015, at the Paris Climate Conference COP 21, the international community agreed for the first time under a legally binding international treaty to limit global warming by end of the century to well below 2 degrees Celcius above pre-industrial levels, and where possible to limit this increase to 1.5 degrees. However, according to the UN, the world is currently heading for a temperature increase of 2.7 degrees Celsius.⁴³ According to Copernicus, the EU's climate change service, the global average temperature in 2023 was already 1.48 degrees above the pre-industrial average. For the year 2024, Copernicus is predicting an average temperature of 1.55 degrees above the global pre-industrial average.⁴⁴



National

The goal is for Germany to be climate-neutral by 2045. By 2030, the aim is to reduce greenhouse gases by 65 percent compared to 1990. According to the Federal Environment Agency, greenhouse gas emissions in Germany fell by more than ten percent in 2023 compared to the previous year. This was the largest drop in emissions in more than 30 years. According to the Federal Environment Agency, the national climate targets for 2030 are achievable. Overall, in Germany, around 673 million tonnes of greenhouse gases were released in 2023.⁴⁵



Regensburg

In line with the European Green Deal, the City of Regensburg announced the “Green Deal Regensburg” in April 2021. The aim is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 65 percent by 2030 compared to 1990. The city administration is to become climate-neutral by 2030 and the entire city by 2035. The city is seeking to use the Green Deal Regensburg to make its climate strategy visible and to play an active role in the transformation process taking place globally.

In the cathedral city, extreme weather, such as heavy rains, heat and drought, is also becoming increasingly frequent due to climate change. The City of Regensburg most recently had to declare a disaster situation due to a flood event in 2024. Greenhouse gas emissions across the entire city are currently around 1.25 million tonnes, which is equivalent to around 7.1 tonnes per inhabitant. To date, 42 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions have been avoided compared to 1990. In order to meet the ambitious municipal climate targets by 2030, a further reduction in the current emissions of 38.8 percent is needed. According to the 2021 climate report by the Free State of Bavaria, without consistent countermeasures and political resolve, the result for the Danube region will be an average temperature rise of up to 3.8 degrees Celsius in the year 2100 compared to the reference period 1971 to 2000.⁴⁶



At the presentation of the European Energy Award.

Our engagement

- Relevant subgoals under SDG 13 for German municipalities are, among others, to strengthen resilience and adaptability regarding climate-induced hazards and natural disasters, to include climate protection measures in policies and strategies and to improve communication and capacities in the area of climate protection. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

European Energy Award

For its efforts and progress made in the field of energy and climate protection, the City of Regensburg was awarded the European Energy Award (EEA) for the first time in 2022. The European Energy Award is a quality management system which is recognised across Europe and which, in a structured way, records, evaluates, regularly checks and ultimately controls all measures taken by a municipality in the field of energy and climate protection. To be certified with the award, a municipality must meet at least 50 percent of the required criteria. In its first audit in 2022, the City of Regensburg achieved 66.3 percent. The EEA is hugely significant for the City of Regensburg because it not only recognises successes achieved so far but also provides a clear framework for action for future measures.

Regensburg Energy Agency

By establishing the Regensburg Energy Agency in 2009, the city and district of Regensburg, together with representatives from business, science and industry, clearly signalled their intention in support of the energy transition and climate protection.

The aim of the organisation is to mobilize the potential for energy saving in the region, to increase energy efficiency and to increase the use of local resources in energy generation. For citizens, companies and municipalities, the agency is available as a neutral contact partner to respond to any questions relating to energy and climate protection. Currently, approximately 180 network partners from business, science and the public sector have come together in conjunction with the Energy Agency. Management of the “Green Deal Regensburg” has also been transferred over to the Energy Agency.

Climate adaptation in Regensburg

The City of Regensburg addressed the issue of climate adaptation at an early stage. In 2018, climate resilience management was introduced to bring together the large number of activities in this area. The purpose of the staff unit is to record all measures and projects for strengthening climate resilience which are already under way, to coordinate these with an overall strategy and to initiate new activities by means of a participatory approach. In addition to a climate resilience strategy, a flood protection plan, and heavy rain and heat management, booklets have also been created on “Water-sensitive planning and building in Regensburg” to support property protection and on “Provision for heavy rain – recommendations for planning an implementation” as a planning tool. In 2023 aerial thermal imaging took place in the urban area and in 2024 the city climate analysis from 2014 was updated to achieve a better understanding of climate resilience.



Bismark Square in the heart of the Old Town.



Energy efficient urban development of the historic district of Margaretenau.



Energy efficient urban development of the Margaretenau

On behalf of the city and the Margaretenau building cooperative, the Luxgreen Climadesign office developed an energy-efficient district concept for the renovation of the cooperative’s building stock as part of the “energy efficient urban renovation” KfW-funding 432 programme. The aim of the renovation is to transform Margaretenau into a CO₂-neutral urban district by 2030 while preserving its design character and without overburdening the residents economically. Research groups from the university of OTH Regensburg have contributed significantly to achieving this goal. The renovation project was awarded, among other things, the 2021 Federal Environment and Building Award. Another energy efficiency-focussed renovation project on which the Margaretenau building cooperative and City of Regensburg are working together is renovation of the “Eisbuckel” group of buildings.

Subsidies for building renovation

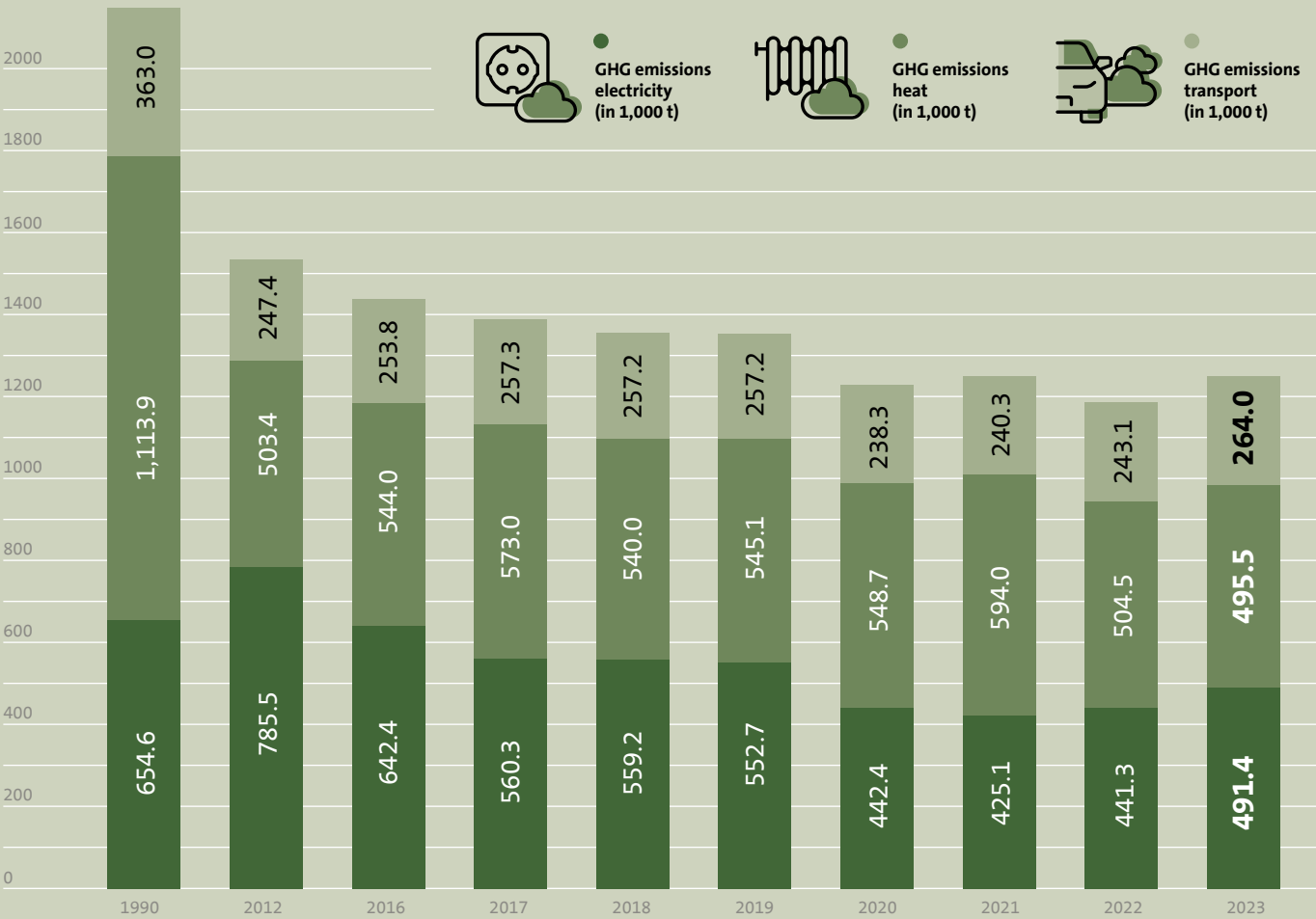
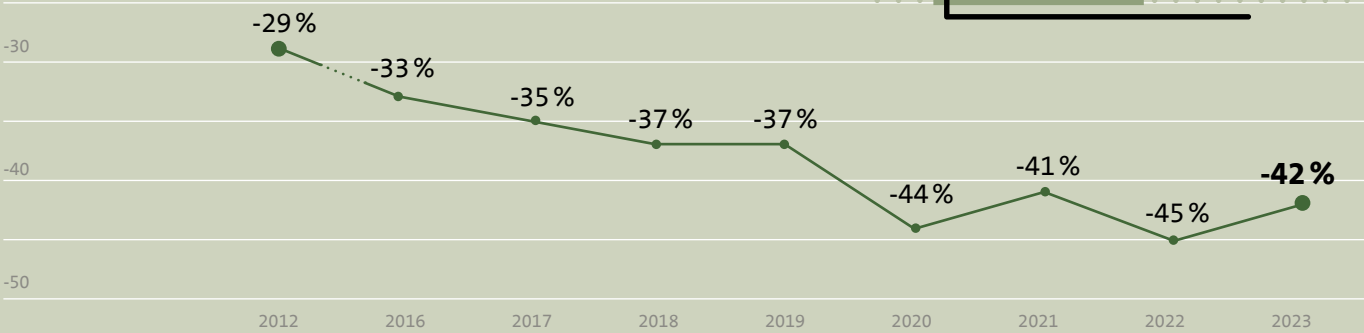
Private households account for approximately one third of Regensburg's final energy consumption. The City of Regensburg therefore helps its citizens with building renovation for energy efficiency purposes. Eligible measures include the use of ecological insulation, using renewable raw materials and the installation of wood-aluminium windows, wooden windows and external doors. The “Building envelope” funding of the “Regensburg efficient” funding programme focuses on reducing operating energy and so-called grey energy, i.e. the energy that has to be used for the production of building materials in the construction process, maintenance or disposal of buildings and components.

Development at local level

Green Deal Regensburg

Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 and GHG emissions in electricity, heating and transport

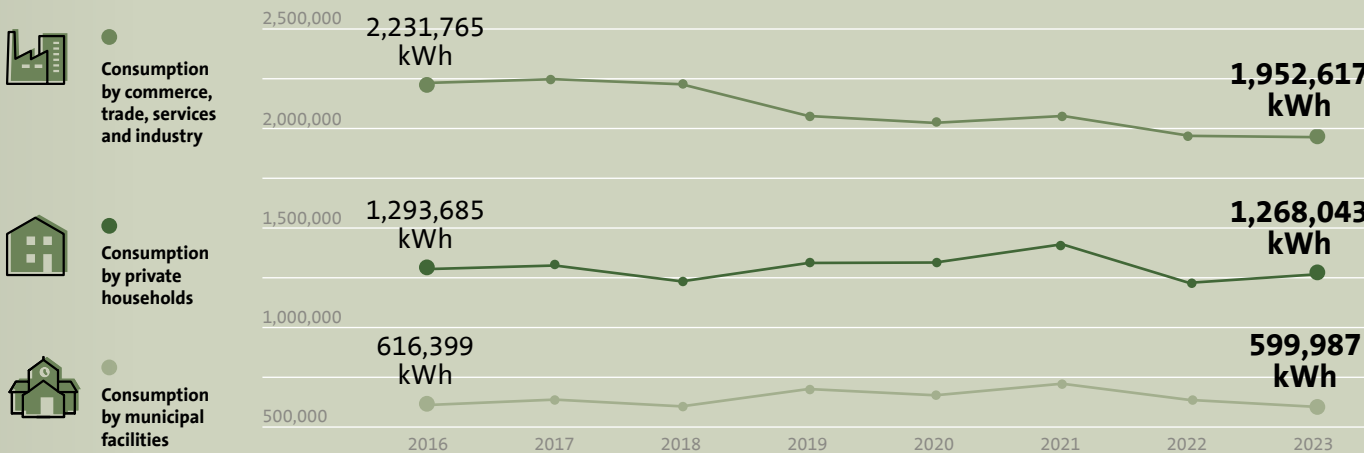
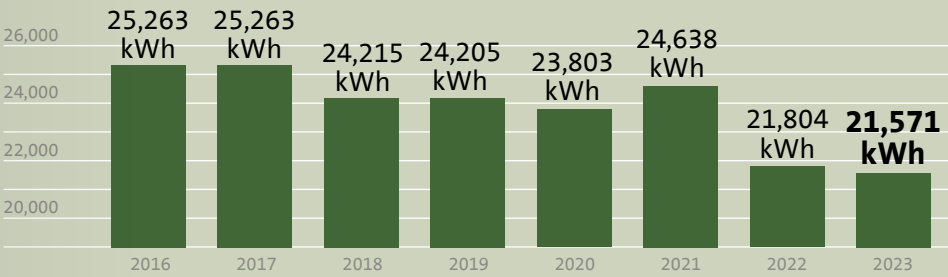
Reduction of GHG emissions compared to 1990



Energy savings

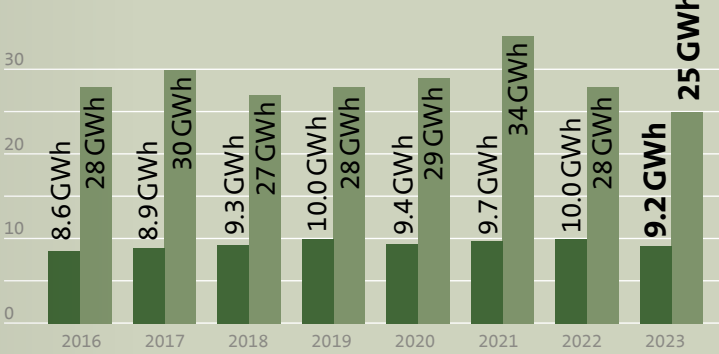
Energy consumption per inhabitant and private household, commercial and municipal consumption

Energy consumption for electricity, heat and transport per inhabitant

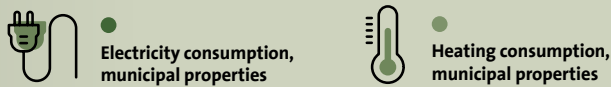
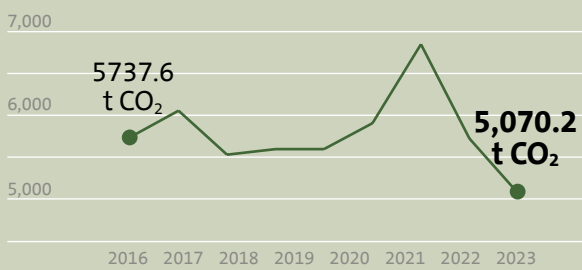


Climate neutral city administration

CO₂ emissions, electricity and heating consumption of the municipal properties



CO₂ emissions, municipal properties



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg / Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER



Floods in Regensburg.
The Danube bursts its banks.



Opportunities and challenges

Over the past three decades, the population of Regensburg has grown by almost 40,000 to over 177,000. This has been accompanied by a trend towards smaller households and larger living areas, which has resulted in a rise in private household energy consumption. This therefore makes energy efficiency and energy-saving measures, as well as municipal grants for individual climate-protection undertakings, all the more important. To reduce energy consumption by private households, the City of Regensburg offers a range of funding opportunities from funding for building refurbishment and energy-efficient household devices to the funding of photovoltaic devices, and is continually expanding this offer. At the same time, existing neighbourhoods must continue to be redeveloped for energy efficiency purposes and newly developed areas must be consistently planned based on energy efficiency and sustainability criteria.

Renovation of the city's own municipal building is also a requirement for achieving the climate targets. The renovation of the new town hall alone, which began in 2024, could save around 200 tonnes of CO₂ per year. The city must also actively take measures to prepare itself for the negative consequences of climate change. This applies in particular to adapting infrastructure to changing rainfall patterns and potential floods and also to dealing with heat waves and reducing heat stress in summer months.

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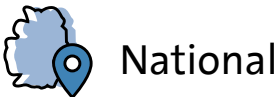


Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Background



Oceans cover around 71 percent of the earth's surface and are regarded as the basis of all life on Earth. Biodiversity in the marine ecosystem is incredibly large, and oceans also have a major influence on the climate. They store approximately 25 percent of CO₂ emissions which humans produce each year and, by doing so, lessen the greenhouse effect. The storage role, however, is reducing due to the increasing acidification of the oceans. The acidification is also threatening biodiversity of plants and marine life.⁴⁷ The oceans' ecosystem is also threatened by overfishing and by pollutants and waste. Globally up to ten million tonnes of waste enters the seas each year. The UN Environment Programme UNEP, estimates that there are, on average, 13,000 plastic waste particles floating on every square kilometre of ocean.⁴⁸



In Germany each year, around 446,000 tonnes of plastic finds its way into the environment, 74 percent of which is in the form of micro plastics.⁴⁹ Micro plastics also turn up in our rivers and therefore ultimately end up in the sea. Of the rivers in Bavaria, the Danube is particularly heavily polluted.



Regensburg

Even though Regensburg is not located on the coast, the city is connected to the sea via the Danube. At a length of 2857 kilometres, the Danube is Europe's second longest and second largest river. Before the Danube enters the sea, it flows through ten countries, which is more than any other river on Earth.

Regensburg is able to help in particular by reducing the discharge of pollution of all types into the rivers and therefore into the sea. This is because the Danube is one of the most heavily polluted rivers in Bavaria. The highest value of micro-plastic particles in Bavarian waters was measured in Deggendorf, not far from Regensburg. More than 150 plastic particles per thousand litres of water were detected.⁵⁰ Further upstream in the Danube, between Vienna and Bratislava, more plastic particles than even fish larvae were detected. According to a projection by the University of Vienna, the Danube discharges around 4.2 tonnes of plastic waste into the Black Sea on a daily basis.⁵¹ By improving wastewater treatment systems and updating the sewage treatment plant, Regensburg can contribute to improving the quality of water in the Danube and in so doing indirectly mitigate against the discharge of pollutants and waste into the sea.



The Regensburg wastewater treatment plant.

Our engagement

Relevant subgoals under SDG 14 for German municipalities are, among others, to prevent and reduce all forms of marine pollution especially by activities coming from land, as well as to improve the preservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

Treatment of wastewater

More than 100 City of Regensburg staff are engaged in the conveyance and treatment of wastewater in the city. They develop, plan, construct, redevelop and monitor the channel network and the wastewater treatment plant. The total length of the wastewater channels in Regensburg is approximately 440 kilometres and each year the channel network grows by up to four kilometres. The wastewater is fed to the wastewater treatment plant in the east of the city where it is purified. The wastewater treatment plant operates on a fully biological basis. With a capacity of 400,000 population equivalents (PE), the Regensburg wastewater treatment plant achieves a purification efficiency of more than 95 percent for biodegradable matter. Once the wastewater has passed through the mechanical, biological and chemical purification stages, it is fed back into the Danube. The quality of the purified wastewater is monitored on an ongoing basis in the city's own certified wastewater laboratory.



Opportunities and challenges

The Regensburg wastewater treatment plant handles a daily volume of around 60,000 cubic metres, and up to 180,000 cubic metres when it rains. Each day, up to 25,000 kilogrammes of sludge is filtered out of the wastewater before it is fed into the Danube. Despite the enormous volumes of sludge, the wastewater treatment plant is not able to filter out all contaminants from the water. Pharmaceutical residues such as antibiotics and pain medication for example can only partially be separated out from the wastewater. In an ageing society and with the city also growing, this is likely to become a bigger issue. The City of Regensburg is therefore already preparing a draft resolution for the capacity of the sewage treatment plant to be increased to 600,000 population equivalents (PE) and to make it possible to add the 4th purification stage. In future, this will improve the ability to filter out pharmaceutical residues and other micro pollutants from the wastewater.

However, pollutants are not solely discharged via wastewater into the rivers. Micro plastics also find their way into the environment via tire wear particles. This means that a consistent mobility transition, a reduction in motorised private transport and expansion of the local public transport network might also contribute indirectly to improving the water quality of the rivers and seas.

The pollution of rivers from agricultural discharges such as nitrates, phosphates and pesticides is another challenge. By supporting regional organic farming as an organic city and model eco-region, Regensburg is well on the way to further reducing these discharges.

Connecting Regensburg with the Black Sea: at 2857 kilometres, the Danube is Europe's second longest river.



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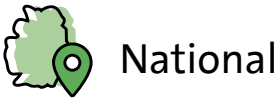


Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Background



Species extinction is one of the greatest threats of our time. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 40,000 animal and plant species are at risk of extinction,⁵² and according to the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, up to 150 species become extinct every day.⁵³ The way we live is one of the main reasons for the loss of biodiversity: increasing land use as a result of urbanisation, intensification of agriculture, excessive resource consumption, environmental pollution and man-made climate change.



Between 2019 and 2022 in Germany, around 52 hectares per day were newly designated as areas for settlement and transport. 37 hectares was for industry, commerce and public institutions, and 12 hectares was for sport, leisure and recreation and for cemeteries. In 2022, 14.5 percent of the entire area of Germany was used for settlement and transport.⁵⁴ Agriculture has an even greater area requirement occupying around 50 percent the area of Germany. In agriculture, the use of pesticides and fertilisers in conventional agriculture is particularly damaging to biodiversity.



According to a 2024 investigation by Environmental Action Germany (Deutsche Umwelthilfe), the proportion of sealed surfaces using impervious materials as a percentage of the Regensburg's total settlement and transport area was 53.98 percent. This puts Regensburg significantly above the German national average of 45 percent.⁵⁵

Land use in Regensburg continues to be high with 57 percent of the total area of Regensburg being used for settlement and transport. However, there was recently a decline in the use of new land. In 2022, 3.4 percent of the total area of the municipality was designated as nature protection areas such as Natura 2000 areas, nature reserves and national parks, and this percentage remains constant. The City of Regensburg must continue to work at achieving a balance between urban growth and conserving green spaces. A wide range of measures is already being implemented to promote biodiversity in the urban area.



More greenery in the city strengthens biodiversity and supports well-being.

Our engagement

Relevant subgoals under SDG 15 for German municipalities are, among others, to ensure the maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of land and inland water ecosystems, promote the sustainable management of all types of forests and to maintain and promote biodiversity. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

Citywide open space development policy

Regensburg has seen strong growth over many years which has increased the pressure to create housing. This inevitably results in land use. In order to ensure a balance between the built environment and open space, the city has created an open space development policy together with the population and professional associations. The open space design statute adopted in 2020 includes guidelines relating to greening and the design of undeveloped portions of a plot and the greening of roofs and façades. In order to promote biodiversity, ten percent of leased municipal land is used to a breadth of at least five metres for perennial flowering areas, strips of wild plants, herbs and shrubs; and wild flower strips. Away from development plan areas, riparian strips are created to a width of at least ten metres and all use of pesticides and fertilizers is prohibited.



Funding arrangement for roof and façade greening

The greening of roofs, façades and courtyards can contribute effectively to increasing biodiversity, rainwater retention and to providing relief to areas subject to excessive heat. The City of Regensburg is therefore introducing the “Regensburg resilient” funding programme in 2025. Its aim is to help the city become more resilient to the consequences of climate change. In future, subsidies will be available for greening measures on roofs and façades of existing building stock as well as for desealing and greening measures used in courtyards and open spaces belonging to existing housing stock. Private individuals, small and medium-sized businesses, industrial undertakings and voluntary organisations are entitled to apply. Detailed information will also be made available in addition to the financial support.



Sustainable agriculture and certified municipal forest

The City of Regensburg is actively engaged in promoting sustainable agriculture by organically managing its own agricultural land. In addition, all of the City of Regensburg's agricultural land which is newly leased will be managed in terms of pesticide use in accordance with the principles of organic farming.

The City of Regensburg also owns approximately 260 hectares of forest which is spread over several areas in the city and district and is sustainably managed. The forestry company responsible for managing the municipal forest is PEFC certified. The certification has been in place since 2004 and is continuously updated by means of appropriate audits.

Sheep in the municipal vineyard

The City of Regensburg has around 5,000 square metres of wine slopes. A small herd of sheep spend the spring there – basically acting as a team of animal landscape conservation specialists. The livestock eat up the grass, weeds and other plants between the vines, uncovering them in the process. This measure protects the grapes, for example, from fungal attack and reduces the growth of unwanted vegetation. When grazing, the sheep tread into the earth with their hooves which produces natural soil aeration. This promotes soil permeability which means water is better able to penetrate into the soil which, in turn, improves the soil structure. And, last but not least, the sheep leave behind organic fertilizer in the form of dung and urine which supplies the soil with nutrients and promotes soil fertility.



More greenery in the city

The parks department has around 165 employees and is responsible for the care and maintenance of parks, tree-lined streets, playgrounds and playing fields, sports grounds and school playing fields and grounds. The parks department also takes care of the greenery along roads. In order to promote biodiversity and to afford insects as much nourishment and space as possible, the City of Regensburg has reduced grass-cutting to twice per year. The mowing height has also been significantly increased. From now on, areas of long-grass and flowering areas are left to grow until at least 1 July.

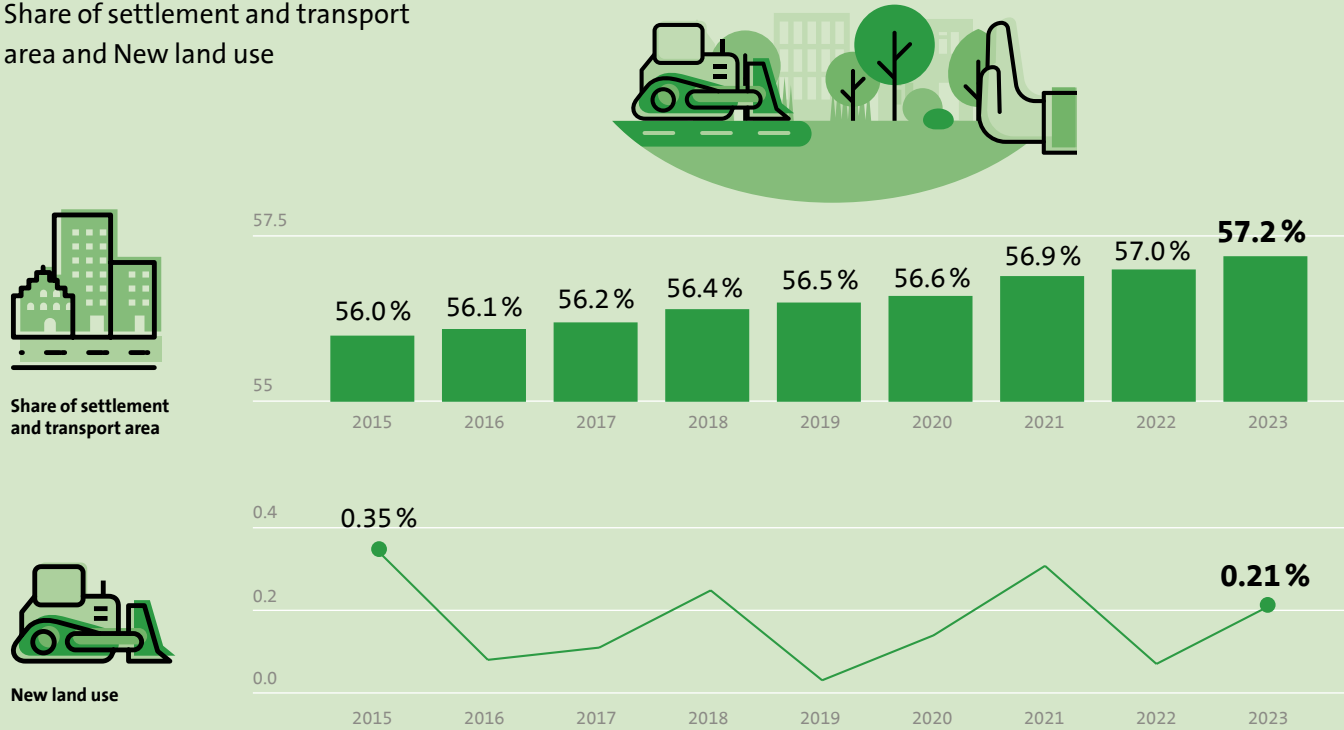
In Regensburg's medieval city centre, where it is more difficult to create green spaces, plant containers measuring 1.20 x 1.20 metres have also been set up to create a space for biodiversity even in sealed traffic thoroughfares.



Development at local level

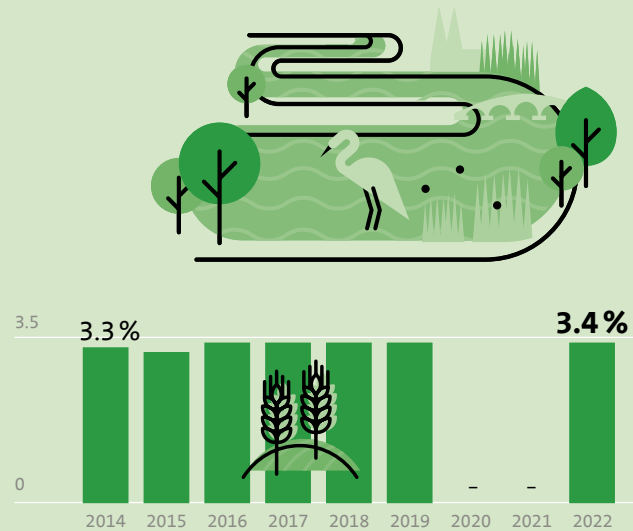
Land use

Share of settlement and transport area and New land use



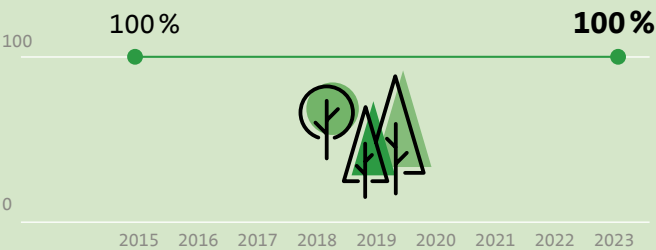
Species protection

Share of nature conservation areas and landscape conservation areas



Organic farming

Share of PEFC-certified sustainable forestry in urban forest area



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg / Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER

Opportunities and challenges

As is also the case in many other cities, the sealing of land in Regensburg as a result of building projects for housing, infrastructure and commercial areas is a growing problem. Rising pressure on housing is increasingly resulting in densification, often at the cost of biodiversity as many of the areas provide valuable habitats for plants and animals. In inner city areas in particular, important privately-owned green spaces and trees are being removed. These spaces are hugely relevant in terms of the city climate and biodiversity, and their loss is not being adequately replaced.

Under the Regensburg Building Land Model, at least 50 percent of compensatory nature conservation will occur in new development plan areas. However, due to a lack of compensation areas, the search for appropriate land is becoming increasingly difficult. In future there must be an increasing focus on implementing the compensation where it makes sense technically. Measures under regulations relating to species protection must preferably be implemented at the site of the intervention. Mandatory corridors between habitats are also a key element for preserving a high level of biodiversity in the city.

The city's main aims are to reduce land use and to deseal oversized traffic areas. The tree population, especially the old stock to the west of the inner city and along the Alleenring, must be particularly protected. The medieval old town remains a particular challenge. Under monument protection laws, very strict regulations apply to the "Stone City" terms of greening.



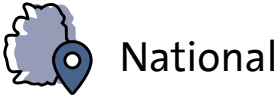


Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Background



Peace and justice as well as transparent, effective and inclusive institutions are key requirements for sustainable development. Russia's invasion of Ukraine shows that peace cannot be taken for granted. The war of aggression in February 2022 ended what had been, up until then, the longest period of peace in the history of the European continent. According to the Hamburg Working Group for Research into the Causes of War (AKUF), a total of 27 wars and armed conflicts were waged in 2023.⁵⁶ One quarter of the global population live in countries impacted by conflict.⁵⁷ According to the UNHCR, there were 122.6 million forcibly displaced persons globally in June 2024, more than ever before – this is equivalent to around 1.5 percent of the world's population.⁵⁸



Germany is committed both nationally and internationally to promoting the rule of law and democratic principles, it supports democratic institutions and the observance of human rights. As a member of the United Nations and the European Union, Germany is involved in peace operations and promotes conflict prevention and the reconstruction of areas impacted by conflict. Germany plays an active role in mediating peace processes and supporting countries in post-conflict situations.



Regensburg

Regensburg can also contribute to preserving and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies. Of vital importance at municipal level in particular is the strengthening of transparent and responsible institutions and the sustainable funding of these institutions for the purpose of safeguarding future tasks, as is support for corruption prevention measures. The strengthening of parliamentary democracy and facilitating participation by citizens in the political process – for example via public participation – as well as promoting social commitment can all strengthen social cohesion and contribute to solving social challenges. Last but not least, guaranteeing public safety and combating organised crime and violence are vitally important for preserving non-violent, fair, inclusive and peaceful societies.



Oriel window of the Old Town Hall's imperial hall.

Our engagement

Relevant subgoals under SDG 16 for German municipalities are, among others, to reduce all forms of violence, tackle all forms of organised crime, build effective, accountable and transparent institutions and to promote inclusive, participative and representative decision-making. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

Member of Transparency Germany

Transparency Germany provides the option of corporate membership to those municipalities which are specifically seeking to combat corruption. This is tied to a clear commitment to fight corruption and to fulfil minimum prevention standards. Since 2023, Regensburg has been the first Bavarian municipality and the tenth municipality overall to be a member of the organisation.

However, the theme of corruption prevention has been established within city administration from a much earlier stage. The administration has had its own public procurement office in place since 2006 and this was followed in 2012 by a comprehensive anti-corruption guideline. Today the city also has an anti-corruption officer, an ombudsman, an anti-corruption work group and e-learning training on prevention.

Annual democracy conference

The “Demokratie leben!” [Embrace democracy] coordination and specialist department and the municipal youth work office host the Regensburg democracy conference once a year. Participants at the conference include relevant stakeholders from civil society, local institutions and managers from the areas of policy-making and administration. The aim of the conference is to reflect in a participatory way on the current situation, goals and focus of the “Partnership for democracy”. The focus is on phenomena including group-related human conflict, such as extremism, racism and discrimination and further challenges facing our democracy including conspiracy narratives and hate speech.

Municipal advisory boards

The City of Regensburg has a wide range of different advisory boards which represent the interests and concerns of different groups in society and provide specialist support to the city council and its committees. The purpose of the advisory boards is to raise the respective needs with the city council and to build awareness of the respective issues in the city community and the administration. The City of Regensburg currently has eight advisory boards. These include advisory boards for the areas of inclusion, integration, youth, the elderly and nature conservation. The City of Regensburg is a child-friendly municipality and it is therefore also important that children and young people are also involved in decision-making. Regensburg therefore has a children's advisory board. This consists of 25 children who meet on a regular basis with the city's leaders to discuss current issues.



5th City of Regensburg's youth advisory board.



Democracy up close:
The “Mini Regensburg” project.



Civil engagement coordination centre

The civil engagement coordination centre team (KoBE) supports, advises and networks with all stakeholders in the area of volunteering in Regensburg. The service is targeted both at organisations working with volunteers and also citizens who would like to get involved or who are already volunteering. Besides organising numerous events and campaigns for volunteers, one focus of KoBE's work is to provide an appropriate premises for associations and initiatives in order to provide a space for civic engagement to take place. The civil engagement coordination centre has been in place in Regensburg since 2015.

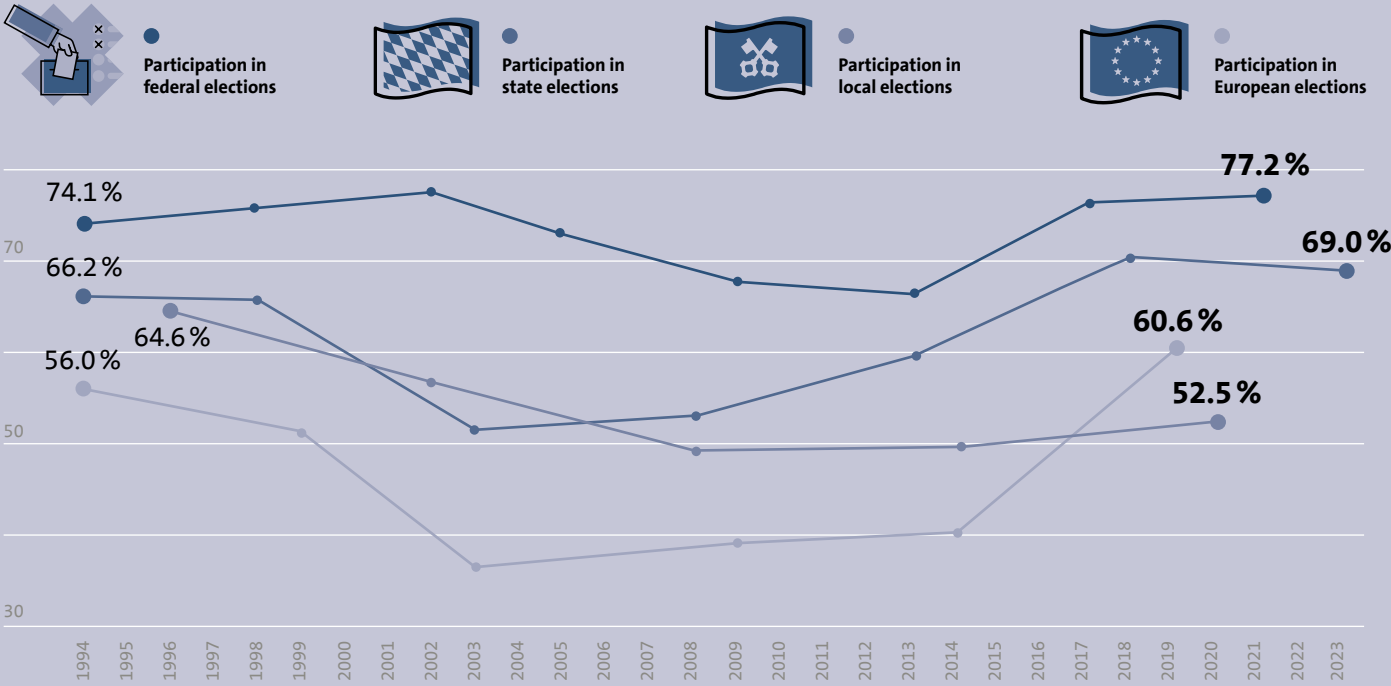
Mini Regensburg

“Mini Regensburg” is a democratic and highly participatory children's play town and is the perfect opportunity for children and young people aged between 7 and 14 to experience self-efficacy. This means, regardless of background level of education or resources, making decisions for yourself and others as an equal member of a society, seeing the impacts of these ‘live’ and having an influence on your own everyday life. This is where you can experience democracy up close. In Mini Regensburg, children and young people can do almost everything and become almost anyone: mayor, city councillor, banker, travel agent, mediator and even leisure park employee. Creating these experiences is part of the youth work carried out by the Regensburg youth work office and this is organised every two years in the summer holidays.

Development at local level

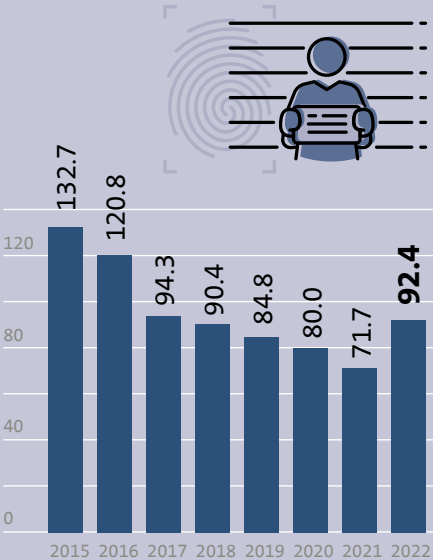
Parliamentary democracy

Participation in local, state, federal and European elections



Crime

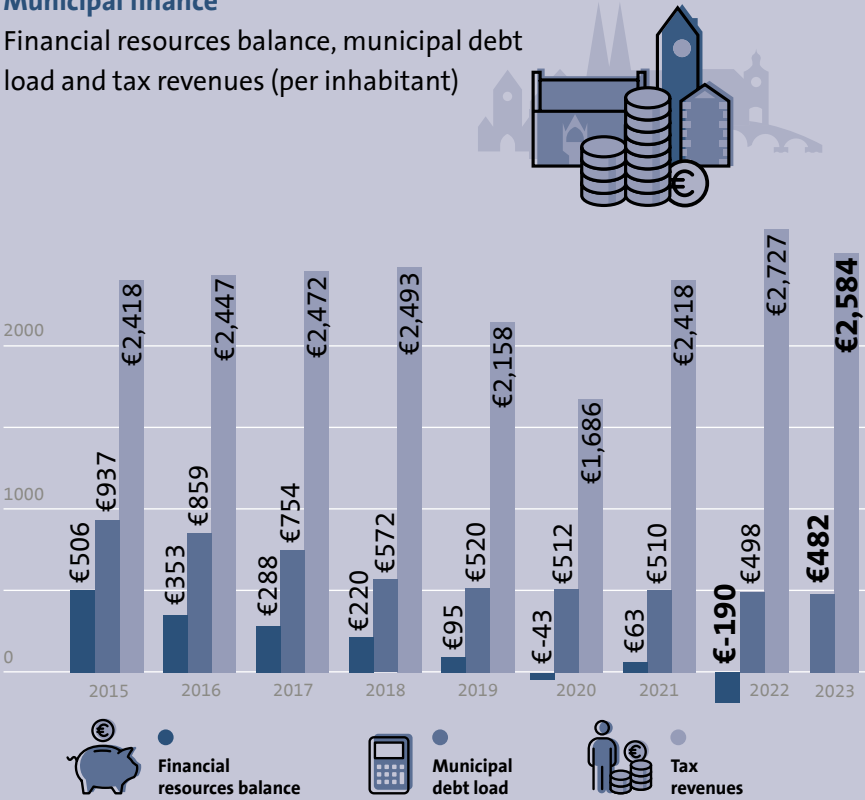
Crimes (per 1,000 inhabitants)



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg
Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER

Municipal finance

Financial resources balance, municipal debt load and tax revenues (per inhabitant)



Opportunities and challenges

An important step in preserving peaceful, fair and inclusive societies is promoting political participation and public participation at all levels. Citizens are able to actively participate in shaping the city by means of regular citizen forums, the development of digital platforms supporting co-determination such as mein.regensburg.de and transparent decision-making processes. This builds trust in local institutions and encourages the population to take responsibility for joint challenges.

The advisory boards in Regensburg serve as platforms for representing the interests of different groups and for promoting dialogue between the city administration and citizens. They help to increase the level of public participation, to consider a range of different perspectives and to promote inclusive city development. The mayor regularly hosts the “Regensburg City Discussions” in order to talk about relevant municipal issues such as mobility, climate resilience, the energy transition or the city centre transformation.

The public meetings in the municipal districts serve the same purpose. The priority here is discussing matters relating to the municipal districts or city districts.

Another key to supporting peaceful, fair and inclusive societies is through promoting democracy, for example through education programmes such as “Mini Regensburg” or the democracy conferences. In this way, the City of Regensburg can make an important contribution to strengthening civil society and to preserving democracy and the rule of law. Social cohesion is strengthened by programmes encouraging dialogue between groups in the population and by social projects. Support provided for volunteering also has an impact in this respect. Voluntary work strengthens social cohesion, contributes significantly towards social coexistence and promotes empathy and a sense of responsibility. These measures not only contribute to achieving SDG 16 but also create a fair and inclusive city characterised by solidarity and which is fit for the future.

Dialogue forum for Regensburg's city railway line.



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

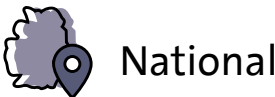


Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Background



Global challenges require joint efforts, which will only enable the SDGs to be achieved by working together cooperatively and by means of multilateral partnerships at the global, national and local level. International development cooperation reached a new record level in 2023. According to information from the OECD, total aid was valued at USD 223.7 billion. Development aid over recent years has risen in particular due to humanitarian aid to the Ukraine, Gaza and the West Bank. Further aid was also provided in connection with the coronavirus pandemic and to cover refugee costs in donor countries.⁵⁹



In 2023, after the USA, Germany was the largest donor of development assistance, providing USD 36.7 billion.⁶⁰ Projects were supported in particular in the areas of health, education, climate protection and good governance. Germany is also supporting the transfer of technology and know-how, for example in the areas of renewable energy, water supply, agriculture and digital infrastructure. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the KfW bank group are key stakeholders in German development cooperation.



Regensburg

The City of Regensburg makes an important contribution to international understanding, to maintaining peace and to implementing the global sustainability goals. The idea of twinning was strengthened, particularly after the Second World War, by the desire for reconciliation and international understanding. Prejudices were to be broken down and mutual trust promoted through direct encounters. Regensburg has maintained a total of eight partnerships since the mid-1950s: Aberdeen (1955), Clermont-Ferrand (1969), Brixen (1969), Tempe (1978), Odessa (1990), Pilsen (1993), Budavár (2005) and Qingdao (2009). Exchanges traditionally take place in the areas of culture, education, youth, sport, business and science. There is also an increasing focus on future topics such as sustainable urban development and inclusion.

A feature of the initial contacts with Aberdeen, Clermont-Ferrand and Brixen was the goal of the united Europe. Following the fall of the Iron Curtain, establishing city-to-city partnerships in Eastern Europe – notably with Odessa – was intended as a way of expressing political solidarity and providing direct help and support. The focus of the partnership with Budavár, one of the central districts and the castle district of the Hungarian capital Budapest, was the joint bid for the title of European Capital of Culture. By contrast, initial contacts with the Chinese metropolis of Qingdao, which has over 1 million inhabitants, were made in the context of economic development.



In addition to power generators, water pumps, and medicines, Regensburg also delivered pick-up trucks to the partner city of Odessa.

Our engagement

Relevant subgoals under SDG 17 for German municipalities are, among others, to mobilise additional financial means for countries in the Global South, to improve policy coherence in favour of sustainable development, to expand the global partnership for sustainable development and to form effective public, public-private and civil-society partnerships. The following examples illustrate a selection of measures and projects which the City of Regensburg is using to seek to contribute towards these subgoals.

Partner city of Odessa

The city-to-city partnership between Regensburg and Odessa has been in existence for 35 years and over this period numerous friendship arrangements have been formed. An active youth exchange has developed and a range of connections have been created in the areas of culture, inclusion and sustainability. Most recently the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has triggered great solidarity and a willingness to help in Regensburg. A municipal donation account was set up and, in close coordination with the Ukrainian partner municipality of Odessa, urgently needed relief supplies were arranged including vehicles and articulated buses. Power generators, water pumps, medicines, food, thermal underwear, sleeping bags and sleeping mats were also delivered to Odessa. The City of Regensburg was supported by GIZ, the Association of German Cities (“Deutscher Städtetag”) and Engagement Global gGmbH.



International youth conference participants.

Place of refuge for orphans from Odessa

As a place of refuge for numerous refugees from all over Ukraine, Regensburg offered to take in particularly vulnerable people immediately after the Russian attack as part of the city-to-city partnership with Odessa. Against this backdrop, orphans aged between three and 17 and their adoptive mothers were taken in March 2022. They had previously lived in Odessa in the facility organised in a similar way to the SOS Children's Villages in terms of structure. The evacuation was organised in close cooperation with the head of the Diaconia in Odessa. Helpers from the Space-Eye organisation picked up the children and their adoptive mothers at the Ukrainian border and brought them safely to Regensburg.

International youth conference

In view of the globally increasing political instability, wars and extremist tendencies, it is important to strengthen the openness and the level of engagement by young people internationally. The International Youth Conference, which takes place every two years, builds on this and aims to create understanding, exchange and tolerance across national borders. Under the motto “Global? Local? Cooperate together!”, the fourth International Youth Conference, took place in Regensburg in 2024. The conference offers young participants the opportunity to discuss current political and social issues.

Regensburg: a “City of Safe Harbour” International SDG conference

In 2018, in an open letter to the German Chancellor, the City of Regensburg declared its willingness to take in refugees in distress. Since then, the city has shown great commitment to making sea rescues in the Mediterranean possible again for humanitarian reasons and to ensuring rescued people are taken in. This has been due, in particular, to the Sea-Eye e.V. rescue organisation which is based in Regensburg. In July 2020, the city of Regensburg joined the “Cities of Safe Harbour” alliance and signed the “Potsdam Declaration”. In doing so Regensburg is standing up for embracing culture of openness and for decriminalising aid organisations and offers of help from civil society. In March 2021, the initial families, who had previously been accommodated in the Moria refugee camp in Greece, were welcomed into the “Safe Harbour of Regensburg”.

The first Regensburg SDG Partnership Conference took place in 2023 under the motto “Together into the future. Together sustainable.”. The international conference focused on the key future topics such as “Climate-friendly growth”, “Production of clean energy” and “Sustainable mobility”. The conference, which was organised in hybrid form, involved not only experts from Regensburg and the partner cities, but representatives from the cities of Valladolid und Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain) and Memphrémagog (Canada) also contributed their expertise. Like Regensburg, they are members of the international network of Michelin cities. The next international SDG conference is expected to take place in 2026 in Regensburg.

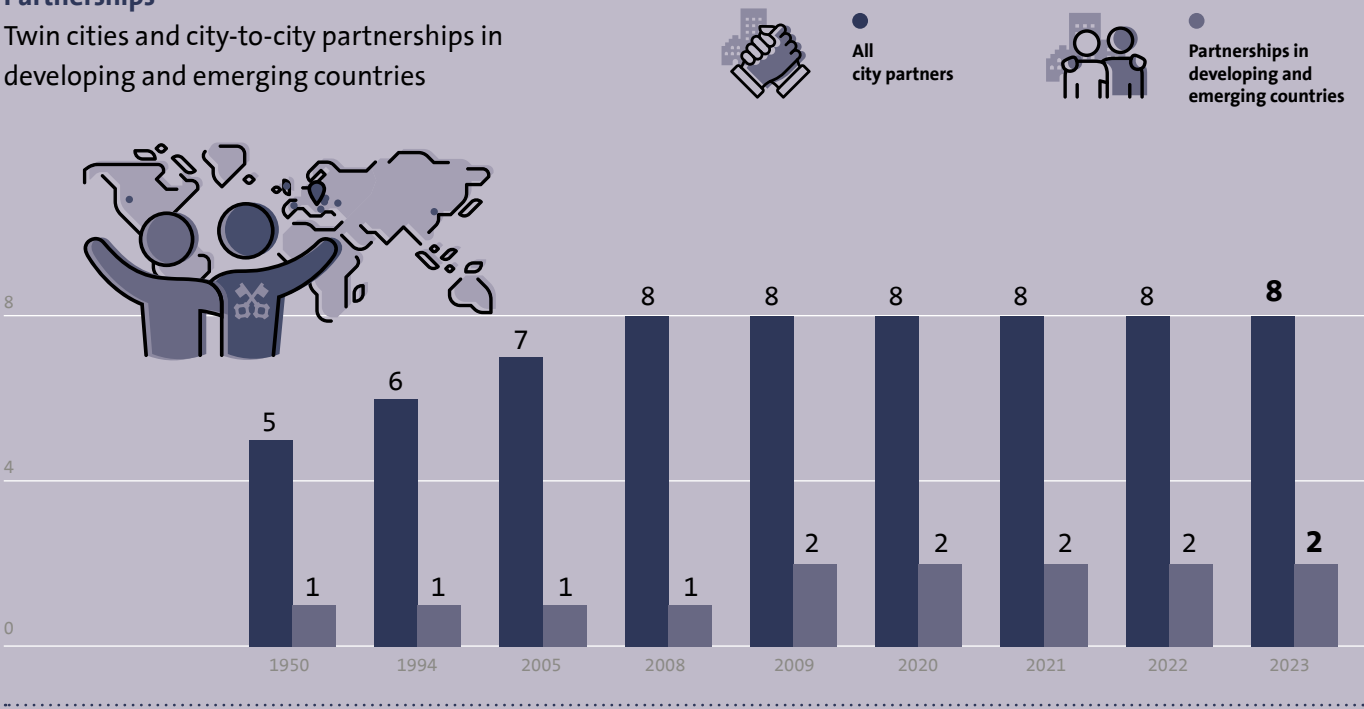


International SDG conference participants.

Development at local level

Partnerships

Twin cities and city-to-city partnerships in developing and emerging countries



Source: Future Barometer Regensburg / Pictograms: JANDA+ROSCHER

Opportunities and challenges

Over the years the city-to-city partnerships between Regensburg and its twin cities have actively developed. They have a strong and broad-based foundation supported by many stakeholders in the city community ranging from clubs and associations to schools and universities. In addition to the partnership activities on specific themes, a great tradition is inviting guests from the partner cities to the Regensburg city festival and regularly supporting the shared cultural exchange. Regular visits, shared events and the implementation of partnership projects help to consolidate the links.

The plan for the future is that the city-to-city partnerships will play an even greater role in a development-related context and in joint work on implementing the sustainability goals. The partnerships provide a valuable platform to sup-

port the transfer of knowledge and for mutual support in the areas of climate protection, sustainable city development and social justice. Regensburg can learn from cities which have already implemented innovative solutions, e.g. for reducing CO₂ emissions or for promoting sustainable mobility. In turn, Regensburg can offer the expertise it has in the digital transformation and in cluster policy. There is also potential for closer cooperation in the area of education and in promoting equal opportunities. Joint projects for promoting green growth, for improving quality of life and strengthening resilience against global crises could form the priorities of partnerships in future and help make progress towards the SDGs in a sustainable way.

The flags of Regensburg's eight twin cities at the Old Town Hall.





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03

3 Outlook

Outlook

The City of Regensburg wants to use the publication of the first Voluntary Local Review to provide a comprehensive summary of the progress made in the local implementation of the United Nations' 17 sustainability goals in 2024. Both qualitative and quantitative aspects have been examined. The presentation of the indicators as well as the measures and projects relating to the individual SDGs show that Regensburg is making a key contribution to implementing the 2030 Agenda at a local level. It also underlines in general the key role which municipalities play in implementing the global sustainability goals.

Sustainable development is an ongoing process which Regensburg is seeking to support with regular and transparent reporting. The effectiveness of measures can be reviewed objectively on the basis of specific and measurable data. This creates a sound basis for political and social discussion. It clearly highlights not only successes but also weaknesses and enables an accurate

assessment of the current situation. This transparency and objectivity forms the basis for evidence-based decisions which point the way ahead along the path to a more sustainable future.

This report is therefore not just an analysis and communication tool for policymakers and for society but also a key management tool intended to initiate and accelerate transformation processes. At a time when public debate is frequently shaped by emotions, populism, disinformation campaigns and fake news, this report provides an objective, factual and reliable source of information. It aims to increase trust in administration and politics and create a common basis for solving the challenges facing society. In this way the VLR contributes to nurturing social cohesion, reducing polarization and supports Regensburg in becoming greener, fairer and more productive – and a better place for everyone to live.



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