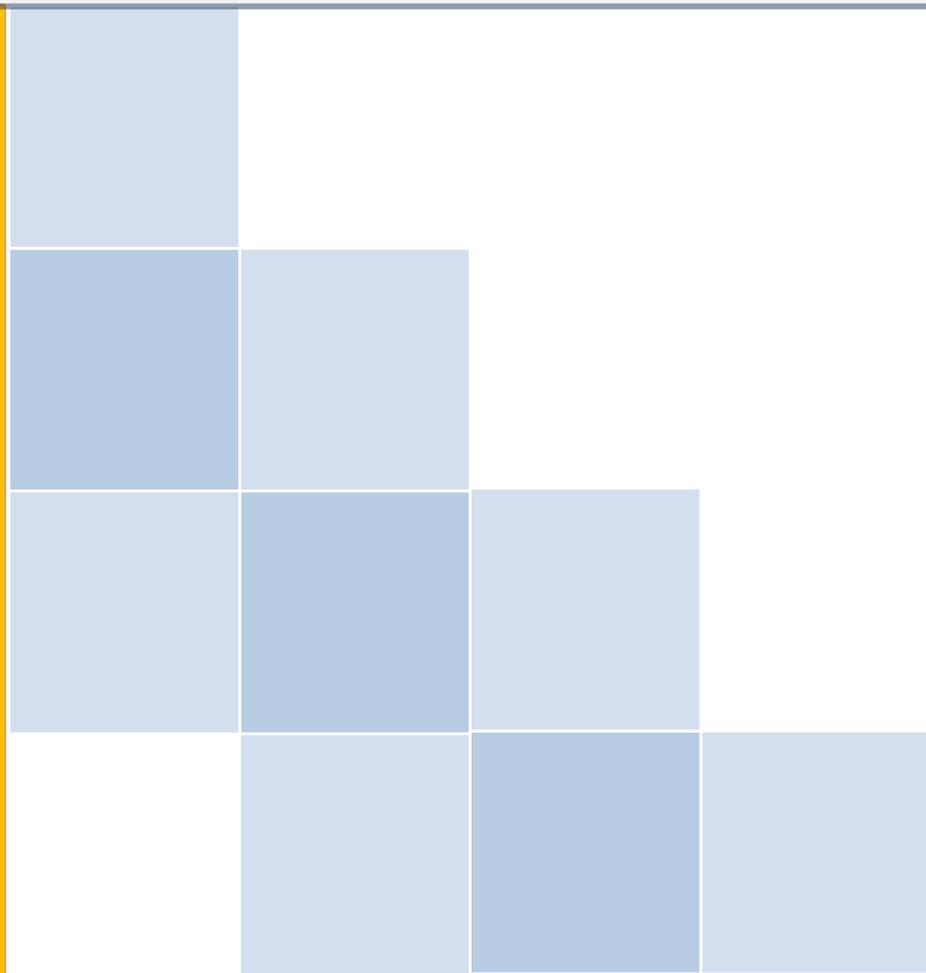




LÜNEBURG REGION

Office for Regional Development
Lüneburg



Profile Office for Regional Development Lüneburg

Functions and territorial coverage

The Office for Regional Development Lüneburg (shortly ArL Lüneburg) is one of the four offices for regional development on the territory of Lower Saxony, Germany. ArL Lüneburg is responsible for the coordination and implementation of regional policy in the region of Lüneburg. This consists of 11 counties and three county independent cities.

Policy instrument

Lower Saxon Multi-fund Operational Programme 2014-2020

Territorial Context and Major Challenges for the Region

The region of Lüneburg covers the north-eastern part of the Lower Saxony federal state and is very heterogeneous. It is characterized as an in-between area between the major cities of Hamburg, Bremen and Hanover, which are parts of three different federal states. The region is composed out of three types of territories - peri-urban areas next to the above mentioned major cities, rural areas in between these cities and peripheral rural areas.

The peri-urban areas in the region have stronger economic basis whereas the rural peripheries are significantly affected by ongoing processes of demographic change. An aging population, a rather low level of development of both transport and digital infrastructure and weaknesses in the field of

education and qualification are critical factors that hamper the future economic development of peripheral rural areas in the region.

One of the major challenges for the region of Lüneburg is to strengthen the economic power and attractiveness of peripheral rural areas. The innovation capacities of these areas are to a large extent influenced by the development of and the connections to the major cities and peri-urban areas. The majority of regional colleges, universities and research institutions, such as the Leuphana University in Lüneburg and the Hochschule 21, are located in peri-urban areas.

The lacking connection and accessibility of peripheral rural areas to research institutions is a crucial factor for their innovation delivery.

Currently, there are no schemes specifically targeting the transfer of knowledge and innovation between rural and urban areas in the region of Lüneburg. Yet, innovation activities between the peri-urban areas and Hamburg could be funded through the Hamburg-Lower Saxony Promotion Fund. Furthermore,

innovation activities are supported out of several existing national and regional funding guidelines. One of the most important policy instruments for supporting innovation activities in Lüneburg is the Lower Saxon Multi-fund Operational Programme 2014-2020.



Lower Saxon Multi-fund Operational Programme 2014-2020

The Lower Saxon Multi-fund Operational Programme 2014-2020 is managed by the State Chancellery of Lower Saxony. The Programme combines ERDF and ESF and finances projects that enhance the regional innovation capacity in accordance with the RIS3. In doing so, the Programme helps the region of Lüneburg to address its needs and potentials to generate growth and employment. The combination of funds in one programme together with the selected joint strategic approach fosters establishment of synergies and promotes effective regional actions.

The reduction of (sub-) regional disparities is one of the general objectives of the Multi-fund

Operational Programme. The first out of nine priority axes is “Support for Innovation”. Within the funding guidelines different kinds of innovation networks and other innovation activities can be funded.

Possibilities for an integrated urban-rural development in innovation policies could be the implementation of new pilot actions aiming at an increased cooperation between science and economy or the extension of existing approaches to larger geographic areas. This includes in particular strengthening cooperation over administrative borders, especially between the major cities Hamburg and Bremen and the Lower Saxon region Lüneburg.