

**Sustainability Bond #7**  
**State of North Rhine-Westphalia**



**Use of Proceeds**

**Eligible Assets**

Düsseldorf, September 2020

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## **Sustainability Strategy for North Rhine-Westphalia**

The State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia advocates for a successful, equitable and future-oriented development in social, environmental and economic terms and therefore bases its actions on sustainability as a guiding principle. As the most populous federal state, we demonstrate how to successfully implement change towards sustainable development while maintaining and reinforcing our economic and industrial structures. The [Sustainability Strategy for North Rhine-Westphalia](#), as approved in 2016, is also the political reference for the Sustainability Bonds.

North Rhine-Westphalia actively joins the global efforts under the umbrella of the global Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) articulated in it. In its Sustainability Strategy, the State Government lays out how it will implement this global consensus on all political levels (see [Activities in North-Rhine Westphalia to implement the 2030 Agenda](#)). At the same time, Agenda 2030 is a guiding theme for North Rhine-Westphalia's international cooperation efforts and interactions with partner regions.

A set of relevant targets and indicators is being used to measure progress with regard to implementation of the strategy. The reporting system comprises 60 indicators related to the fields of action of the strategy and to the 17 SDGs. The first [Sustainability Indicator Report](#) (in German) has been published in 2016. In addition, the results are available on a dedicated website with regular updates ([www.nachhaltigkeitsindikatoren.nrw.de/sdgs](http://www.nachhaltigkeitsindikatoren.nrw.de/sdgs)). The NRW Sustainability Strategy is currently under review, aligning the methodology more closely with the federal Sustainability Strategy of 2017.

## **Sustainability Bond #7**

As in the previous issuances, the key aspect of Sustainability Bond #7 is the topic of Sustainable Development in the context of SDGs and the State's own Sustainability Strategy.

An amount equal to net issue proceeds of the State Treasury Notes will be used to cover expenditures of the fiscal year 2020. Projects were selected in accordance with the categories and specifications set out in the Sustainability Bond Framework (see Second Party Opinion provided by ISS ESG). Main criterion is a clear environmental or social benefit. The eligible projects are part of the State's discretionary spending. Projects prescribed by federal law are excluded. Only the State's own expenditures (net of EU grants, federal grants or other sources of revenue earmarked for specific purposes) are taken into account. The State's personnel costs are excluded.

## **A      Education and Sustainability Research EUR 979.2m**

### ***Principal goals:***

***SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning***

***SDG 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation***

### ***Secondary goal:***

***SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls***

Demographic change, shortage of skilled labor, migration and integration as well as social disparity and heterogeneity create huge challenges for scholarly and non-scholarly educational institutions in North Rhine-Westphalia. Education must contribute to solving these issues in order to ensure that North Rhine-Westphalia can sustain its role as an industrial hub as well as a society based on knowledge and information.

Education generates a sense of purpose on the personal level. Education also promotes cultural life and is a prerequisite for participation and social inclusion. Against this background, the potential of every single person should be supported, irrespective of his or her individual level of development, gender, ethnic origin or age. The process of learning itself should be designed in a sustainable manner to enable everybody to benefit from a wide range of learning options on an ongoing basis. The State's concept of Education for Sustainable Development ([Bildung für nachhaltige Entwicklung](#)) supports interdisciplinary teaching from primary school to university. This approach helps strengthen the students' abilities to make long-term and future-oriented decisions.

### **•    Enlargement of universities, additional training facilities EUR 841.1m**

*Bund-Länder-Covenant for the expansion of universities (State's share)*

Budget items # 06 100 title group 70 (without # 06 100 231 50),

Title 685 10 (partially) of chapters 06 111 - 06 850 475.9m

North Rhine-Westphalia has a diverse university landscape with 14 public universities, 16 public universities of applied sciences, 7 public colleges of art and music, 28 recognized private and church universities with headquarters in the State as well as 5 administrative colleges.

Fortunately, many people with university entrance qualifications or a professional qualification choose to study in North Rhine-Westphalia. The total number of students in the winter semester 2018/19 was around 774,000. The number of first-year students was 121,000. In recent years, demand for university education has grown significantly. From 2006 to 2016 the number of newly enrolled students at universities in the State has increased by 67%. No tuition fees are charged at public universities in North Rhine-Westphalia, making university education available for a large group of citizens.

The State responds to growing demand for university education with the creation of additional places to study in the context of the Bund-Länder-Covenant for the expansion of universities (Hochschulpakt 2020), which has been extended for a third phase (2016 to 2020). Through this effort, a larger number of students get the opportunity to receive a high quality university education.

[www.bmbf.de/de/hoerschulpakt-2020-506.html](http://www.bmbf.de/de/hoerschulpakt-2020-506.html)

*Training facilities for the education of special education teachers*

Budget items

# 06 131 685 10, 06 181 685 10, 06 230 685 10, 06 240 685 10, 06 250 685 10 (partially) 21.2m

In order to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities in the area of education, more teachers with special education teaching competence are necessary. Existing facilities can no longer meet the training needs. Therefore, in the teacher training for special needs education (teachers at special schools and in joint learning), the capacities are expanded by a further 500 bachelor places and later the corresponding master study places. As early as 2018, 250 additional study places for special education teachers had been created or secured. In the current legislative period, 750 new study places for special education teachers will be permanently established, an increase of

almost 65 percent. This is an important step on the way to an inclusive school system in North Rhine-Westphalia.

*Measures to improve the quality of teaching and study at universities*

Budget item # 06 100 title group 72 249.0m

From winter semester 2006/07 until summer semester 2011, universities and colleges in North Rhine-Westphalia were allowed to charge tuition fees of up to EUR 500 per semester and student. These revenues were used for teaching and quality improvements. The aim of the state government is to provide unfettered access to quality education. Therefore, tuition fees have been abolished since winter semester 2011/12. In order to further improve the quality of higher education, funds for quality improvement of the same amount as the previous tuition fee revenues are provided to universities.

*Return programme for highly qualified young researchers from abroad*

Budget item # 06 040 title group 65 5.4m

The State of North Rhine-Westphalia makes it easier for researchers to return to Germany after a career station abroad. Only two years after completing their doctorate, they can set up their own research group at a NRW university of their choice and qualify for a permanent professorship in this way. So far 37 promising young researchers have been returned to North Rhine-Westphalia since 2007 via the programme. For each junior research group, the State provides up to EUR 1.25m over a period of five years. The money is intended for operating expenditures and the purchase of larger equipment. Every year, the tenders for the new junior research groups have a different thematic focus. In 2020, that is battery research.

[www.mkw.nrw/forschung/foerderung/wissenschaftlichen-nachwuchs-foerdern/rueckkehrprogramm/](http://www.mkw.nrw/forschung/foerderung/wissenschaftlichen-nachwuchs-foerdern/rueckkehrprogramm/)

*Promotion of equality at universities*

Budget item # 06 100 title group 73 4.3m

In order to allow for the full innovative potential of women, participation of women at all levels of qualification in the field of science should be increased. Funds provided will be used to improve equality at universities, in particular to increase the number of female scientists in top positions in the academic system and for the coordinating office of the NRW Network on Women and Gender Research, including the implementation of projects of the Women's Research Network and the Coordinating Body of the National Conference of Equal Opportunity Officers of the Universities and University Hospitals of the State.

The Federal Government and the German States launched the professorship programme for women in 2008. The current programme phase (2017-2022) includes a funding volume of 200 million euros. The aim of the programme is to increase the proportion of women among W3 / C4 professorships: Germany is fourth-last in the European comparison with only 24.1 percent of professorships held by women (2017). North Rhine-Westphalia is 25.7 percent above the national average.

The programme works on two levels: It increases the number of female professors and it strengthens gender equality structures at German universities through specific measures. Universities qualify for participation in the programme through gender equality concepts that are subject to external assessment. Among other things, these concepts include equality-promoting measures geared to the respective university. Universities that present a convincing gender equality concept can apply for start-up funding of up to three positions for female vacancies for women to permanent W2 or W3 professorships for a period of five years. A total of 26 universities from North Rhine-Westphalia were successful with their application in the current and previous round (2018-2022) of the federal and state-sponsored professor programme with their gender equality concept.

[www.land.nrw/de/pressemitteilung/nordrhein-westfalen-erneut-spitze-sieben-weitere-hochschulen-im-land-setzen-sich-im](http://www.land.nrw/de/pressemitteilung/nordrhein-westfalen-erneut-spitze-sieben-weitere-hochschulen-im-land-setzen-sich-im)

*Professional education of geriatric nurses*

Budget items # 11 090 title group 60 85.3m

According to section 5 of the State Law concerning Geriatric Care (Landesaltenpflegegesetz NRW), the State provides financial grants for the training of geriatric nurses.

- **Excellence Strategy EUR 32.0m**

Budget items # 06 100 686 55 and 893 00

32.0m

In 2016, the Federal Government and the German states agreed to support cutting-edge research at German universities with a new funding programme. The goal is to strengthen Germany as an internationally competitive location for science. The funds are provided to enable top scientific achievements, to sharpen the profiles of universities and to stimulate networking and cooperation in the science system. The strategy of excellence thus combines the promotion of research with long-term and strategic investment in the higher education system.

The new Excellence Strategy builds on its predecessor programme, the Excellence Initiative from 2007 to 2017, which has contributed to outstanding research achievements. It has also strengthened the cooperation of universities with non-university partners and has led to increased networking of German universities with universities around the world. This development is attracting worldwide attention. More and more researchers are attracted to Germany from abroad. Other countries have launched their own programmes modelled on the Excellence Initiative. The entire German university landscape benefits from growing international visibility. The strategy is designed to maintain and expand this positive momentum.

The strategy consists of two parts, so-called funding lines: the "Clusters of Excellence" and the "Universities of Excellence".

The "Clusters of Excellence" promote internationally competitive research fields at universities or university associations on a project-related basis. In the clusters, scientists from various disciplines and institutions work together on a specific research project. The support provided allows them to focus intensively on their research goals, to train junior scientists and to recruit top international staff. Universities with clusters of excellence can also apply for additional lump sum funding as a policy supplement to strengthen their organization and strategic direction.

The selection of the Clusters of Excellence and Universities of Excellence is done solely on the basis of academic competitions. These procedures are carried out on behalf of the Federal Government and the States by "Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft" (DFG) and "Wissenschaftsrat". With two universities of excellence (University of Bonn and RWTH Aachen University) and 14 clusters of excellence, North Rhine-Westphalia occupies a leading position nationwide and has expanded its portfolio by four additional clusters (compared to the previous awards of 2012).

The Federal Government and the States will provide around EUR 533m annually for the Excellence Strategy from 2018 onwards. 75% of the funding is provided by the Federal government and the remaining 25% by the State where the cluster of excellence or the university of excellence is located. All clusters of excellence together account for around EUR 385m per year. The universities of excellence are funded with the remaining EUR 148m annually. Figures shown are the share of expenditures borne by the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

[www.mkw.nrw/exzellenzstrategie](http://www.mkw.nrw/exzellenzstrategie)

- **Innovation and sustainable development EUR 87.2m**

*Promotion of innovation*

Budget item # 14 400 title group 61

14.4m

The State's innovation strategy focuses on the major challenges of our time by promoting measures that are the basis for the development of new processes and solutions for all areas of society. The focus is on establishing an economy based on sustainability. Research and innovation play a key role in this process.

The funding should primarily take place in the lead markets of new materials, energy and environmental management, plant and mechanical engineering, mobility and logistics, media and creative industries, information and communication industries, health and life science, in which North

Rhine-Westphalia has particular strengths. The funding is addressed to universities and universities of applied sciences, university clinics and non-university research institutions as well as industry.

*Johannes-Rau-Forschungsgemeinschaft*

Budget items # 06 042, # 07 080 685 10 and # 08 500 685 00 15.4m

The umbrella organization of [Johannes-Rau-Forschungsgemeinschaft](#) (JRF) comprises [15 independent, non-profit scientific research outfits](#) which support the State's research and innovation strategy. The institutes pursue sustainable and future-oriented research for society, business and politics. The JRF institutes work interdisciplinarily under the motto "Research 'Made in NRW' for society, economy, politics" and promote young scientists.

[Annual report 2019 of JRF](#)

*Greenhouse gas neutral industry of the future*

Budget item # 14 300 title group 68 2.5m

Against the background of the Paris climate protection agreement, the energy-intensive industry in North Rhine-Westphalia is facing major challenges. The course must already be set today for a future-proof and competitive industry that will produce greenhouse gas neutrally in the future. The State government's IN4climate.NRW initiative is intended to help further develop the North Rhine-Westphalian industry through innovations, promoting projects and strategies towards greenhouse gas neutrality, thereby making an important contribution to meeting the Paris climate protection goals.

The State of North Rhine-Westphalia supports projects from industrial research and experimental development to prototypes in the greenhouse gas neutral industry with the aim of supporting transformation processes towards greenhouse gas neutrality by 2050.

*Energy research offensive and real laboratories*

Budget item # 14 300 title group 69 11.1m

The State supports measures for the implementation of the Energy Research Offensive, which focuses on the establishment of a sustainable economy. Research and innovation play a key role in this process. The initiative is based on a broad concept of innovation, which not only encompasses the technological implementation of scientific findings and ideas into marketable products but also offers new processes and solutions for all sectors of society. For this purpose, funding is provided for projects at the private level and for entities outside the State administration, for the implementation of new ideas for products, services and processes, for innovation with regard to existing products and procedures as well as for the transfer of knowledge. Universities and research institutes can apply for support. Public relations work and the Energy Research Report are part of the overall efforts.

*Research and innovation in the fields of sustainable development*

Budget item # 14 400 title group 75 35.2m

These funds support the development of innovative ideas in the context of industry and science. In particular, contributions in the fields of major societal challenges such as climate change, energy transition, demographic change, health, resource efficiency and increasing demands on mobility and digitalization are financed. The focus is on projects and structures of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, involving stakeholders from business and civil society in the context of the state's innovation and digital strategy. The transfer of knowledge and technology into economic and social applications, spin-offs and start-ups, patenting and utilization structures is part of the initiative. The aim of a research-friendly and business-friendly innovation policy is to enable researchers, entrepreneurs and founders in NRW to carry out bold future investments.

*Sustainable development*

Budget item # 10 060 title group 66 1.4m

The State sponsors projects contributing to sustainable development in the State, in the context of the State's Sustainability Strategy ([Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie NRW](#)) and the concept of Education for Sustainable Development ([Bildung für nachhaltige Entwicklung](#)). Local sustainability is also strengthened.

### *Foundation for Nature and Sustainable Development*

Budget item # 10 060 686 72

2.0m

The Foundation for Nature and Sustainable Development North Rhine-Westphalia ([Stiftung Umwelt und Entwicklung Nordrhein-Westfalen](#)) strives to create a forum for environmental and development policy activities in North Rhine-Westphalia and to connect these projects with practical engagement of civil society. The goal is to make a contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Agenda 2030. The Foundation for Nature and Sustainable Development supports projects of various organizations relating to dialogue between citizens of the northern and southern hemisphere, protection of environment and nature, intercultural exchange and sustainable development within the State. Since its inception in 2001, the Foundation has sponsored about 1,400 projects with total grants of EUR 70m. Detailed information on these projects is accessible through a dedicated [data base](#).

[Annual report 2018 of Foundation for Nature and Sustainable Development](#)

### *Facilities for environmental education*

Budget item # 10 060 title group 77

2.5m

The State's support for environmental education facilities helps to establish a statewide network of such institutions in the context of the concept of Education for sustainable development ([Bildung für nachhaltige Entwicklung](#)).

### *EU School programme*

Budget items # 10 040 531 10, 547 11, 685 11 and 686 11

2.9m

Promoting balanced and healthy school meals is an important task for the State government. The aim of this EU school programme is to introduce children to fruits, vegetables and milk and to make their diet healthier in the long term. To this end, the State provides complementary financing for the implementation of the programme.

### • **Consumer protection EUR 18.9m**

Budget items # 10 040 684 10 and 686 10

18.9m

The State provides financial support for projects focusing on consumer education and for the works of the consumers' association of North Rhine-Westphalia ([Verbraucherzentrale NRW e.V.](#)). One of the most important current issues relates to how consumers are affected by the ongoing energy transition ([Projekt Energiewende](#)). Further topics include the promotion of a healthy, balanced and sustainable nutrition, especially for children and young people, and the integration of such measures into life at school and day care facilities.

[www.verbraucherzentrale.nrw/ernaehrung](http://www.verbraucherzentrale.nrw/ernaehrung)

The consumer protection advice centre North Rhine-Westphalia NRW records around 800,000 contacts with people seeking advice every year, be it by visiting one of the 61 branches, by telephone or in writing. Personal advice, out-of-court legal advice and representation, up-to-date information and advice books as well as active public relations are among the services offered.

[Annual report 2019 of Verbraucherzentrale NRW e.V.](#)

In all programmes in category A, projects relating to nuclear, tobacco, armaments, crude oil and coal are not being sponsored.



## **B      Inclusion and Social Coherence EUR 773.3m**

### ***Principal goals:***

***SDG 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere***

***SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning***

***SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls***

***SDG 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all***

***SDG 10 – Reduce income inequality within and among countries***

### ***Secondary goal:***

***SDG 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels***

The State aims to bring the employment rate of persons with a migration background closer to the general employment rate in order to achieve a sustained reduction of poverty risk in this population group. This is achieved, among other things, by increasing educational participation and equal opportunities for people with a migration background, with a particular focus on social participation.

The foundations for the successful development of children are laid in early childhood. Early access to good education, upbringing and care opens up opportunities for the best possible future for our children. Good quality and reliable childcare offers support and facilitate the compatibility of family and work. Therefore, the needs-based expansion of childcare places and the improvement of the quality of early education are two closely related points that are particularly important to the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

- **Inclusion, integration and qualification EUR 176.4m**

*European Social Fund 2014-2020 (State's share) / Programmes "No dead-end qualification" / "No dead-end qualification (compact)"*

Budget items # 11 032 title group 71 and # 11 029 title group 80 38.5m

The European Social Fund ([Europäischer Sozialfonds](#)) promotes education and employment opportunities. Core issues are competitiveness of small and medium-sized companies and employees, the employability of young people and migrants, the transition from school to employment, and human capital.

During the 2007-2013 stage of the programme, 1.1m people participated in ESF projects. The most important cluster was employability/human capital (so-called priority axis B) with almost 700,000 participants in various projects. More than 90% of participants were between 15 and 25 years of age ([www.mags.nrw/sites/default/files/asset/document/esf\\_operationelles\\_programm\\_durchfuehrungsbericht.pdf](http://www.mags.nrw/sites/default/files/asset/document/esf_operationelles_programm_durchfuehrungsbericht.pdf)).

The current programme for North-Rhine Westphalia ([Operationelles Programm 2014-2020](#)) also aims at social inclusion and reduction of poverty. Projects include [expert advice on the recognition of qualifications acquired abroad](#), the programme "[TalentCompass NRW](#)" for support in career orientation and development as well as the programme "[No dead-end qualification](#)".

The initiative "[No dead-end qualification](#)" supports pupils in North Rhine-Westphalia in the context of transition from school to work. A central element is early vocational orientation as well as advice with regard to career choices and entry into vocational training or university studies. The aim is to provide all young people finishing school with a follow-on perspective as soon as possible and to use effective coordination to avoid unnecessary waiting loops. This includes, among other things, an analysis of the student's potential as a basis for planning the individual learning process, documentation of vocational orientation and study selection as well as practical courses to deepen work experience and develop individual decisions.

At the beginning of the school year 2016/17, the programme was supplemented by a compact version of that course. The compact programme enables students who have not yet received initial vocational orientation to catch up with key elements of the regular programme. The target group of the compact course are newly arrived students with a migratory background attending 10th grade at general education schools or international classes at vocational colleges. Pupils from 10th grade who missed out on the regular programme due to a change of residence can also participate.

*Equality and potential development in work and society*

Budget item # 08 300 title group 62

5.0 m

The State of North Rhine-Westphalia promotes the development and implementation of measures for equality and potential development in work and society with a focus on life-phase-oriented personnel policy, re-entry, start-ups, development of female leadership potential, equal pay, equality of women and men in the public service, cliché-free professional study orientation, social and political participation and women in special life situations. The "Alliance for Diversity and Equal Opportunities" is intended to support small and medium-sized enterprises in implementing a life-phase-oriented personnel policy.

*Fight against poverty and social exclusion*

Budget item # 11 042 title group 95

9.5m

Despite a fundamentally sound economic development in North Rhine-Westphalia, unemployment and forms of employment which do not provide a sufficient source of income remain a significant problem. The fight against social inequality, poverty and social exclusion will remain an important task for politics and the society in general. The number of people whose life situation proves to be precarious is growing. Overall, poverty and social exclusion have solidified, and social divisions have increased despite the positive development of the economy and the labour market. This is particularly evident at the local level in the different living situations in the neighbourhood.

The State of North Rhine-Westphalia works at various levels of action and in cooperation with other political actors, trade unions and social associations, the bodies responsible for voluntary welfare, the municipalities and municipal umbrella organisations to avoid poverty wherever possible and where it already exists, to fight it. To combat poverty and social exclusion, needy children and families in disadvantaged city districts and neighborhoods are supported. Visiting offers and assistance to improve participation as well as direct support for children and young people are essential components of the support.

Homelessness is the worst form of poverty after hunger and every homeless person is one too many. "Finally a HOME!" Is the new initiative of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to combat homelessness with different components. It bundles all activities/measures to combat homelessness. An essential component is the promotion of so-called "carer projects" in the 20 municipalities/districts in North Rhine-Westphalia that are statistically most affected by homelessness. With this initiative, the State supports the responsible municipalities in the fight against homelessness.

Most of the children in North Rhine-Westphalia live in socially and economically secure conditions. But despite various efforts to improve the situation of families and children, some children still grow up in disadvantaged circumstances. The support programme "All children eat with" enables children of parents who, despite a comparable financial situation, are not entitled to the education and participation package, to take part in lunch. Detailed information on the social situation in North Rhine-Westphalia including demographics, education, the labour market and income levels is set out in the latest social report for North Rhine-Westphalia ([Sozialbericht 2016](#)). The most recent figures are reported on a dedicated website ([Sozialindikatoren Nordrhein-Westfalen](#)).

*Social inclusion of persons with disabilities*

Budget item # 11 050 title group 80

3.7m

More than 2,600 people with disabilities live in North Rhine-Westphalia. With a wide range of social assistance schemes, the State is committed to provide opportunities for equal participation in work, employment and society for them.

The programme "NRW – One society for all" ([Eine Gesellschaft für alle – NRW inklusiv](#)) is a comprehensive set of measures adopted by the State to implement the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. The projects and initiatives create opportunities for participation in society. An overview of successful projects, measures and initiatives, clustered according to regions and action areas, is available through an interactive map of NRW ([Inklusionskataster NRW](#)).

*Occupational integration of people with disabilities*

Budget item # 11 050 title group 86 7.7m

The State government is continuing to expand workplaces in workshops for disabled people as needed. The funding of the workshop projects is provided jointly by the Land, the inclusion offices of the two regional associations, the Regional Directorate of North Rhine-Westphalia of the Federal Employment Agency as well as funds provided by the owners. Currently, 104 workshops for disabled people in North Rhine-Westphalia employ around 80,000 people.

The State of North Rhine-Westphalia provides funds for investment in newly created jobs in integration companies / inclusion companies for severely disabled people. The two regional associations participate in the programme with their own funding and implement it in coordination with the State.

Approximately 300 inclusion companies in North Rhine-Westphalia currently provide more than 4,000 jobs for people with disabilities with full access to social security.

[www.mags.nrw/integration-unternehmen](http://www.mags.nrw/integration-unternehmen)

*Measures for children from refugee families and for young refugees*

Budget item # 07 040 title group 68 12.6m

The State finances the improvement of the access of refugee children and young people to the standard offers of youth work and youth social work as well as targeted measures to support and promote young refugees as well as the further development of youth work and youth social work for the integration of the target group of minor refugees. It promotes professional qualification through existing and newly developed offers of youth social work. In addition, the State strengthens the prevention of sexual violence and the teaching of values in youth welfare.

*Promoting integration of migrants living together in diversity*

Budget items # 07 080 title group 68 and # 07 080 547 12 74.4m

The State supports a wide variety of efforts at the municipal level to help integrate migrants into society. There are 53 municipal integration centres in North Rhine-Westphalia. These centres primarily work with migrants who have been living in North Rhine-Westphalia for a longer period of time.

Intercultural centres should be places of encounter and communication for people of different backgrounds and cultures. Funding is provided for training opportunities, low-threshold projects to support integration and the self-organization of migrants.

[kommunale-integrationszentren-nrw.de](http://kommunale-integrationszentren-nrw.de)

*Municipal integration management*

Budget item # 07 080 title 633 30 25.0m

The new funding programme includes the statewide introduction of municipal integration management throughout North Rhine-Westphalia, which strengthens the municipalities and promotes intra- and inter-municipal cooperation. The goal is to integrate new immigrants more quickly.

• **Language skills in early childhood, family centres and non-contributory day care EUR 446.7m**

*PlusKita and language courses at childcare facilities*

Budget items # 07 040 633 14 (partially), # 07 040 633 15 82.5m

Children from low-income families, with a migration background or from a relatively uneducated social environment have worse educational opportunities than other children. The reason is not a lack of abilities, but worse starting conditions and a lack of support. In order to provide fair educational opportunities for all children from the beginning, day care facilities with a high proportion of families in difficult conditions receive additional support. Since the kindergarten year 2014/2015, these

plusKITAs receive at least 25,000 Euros additionally per calendar year. There are currently around 1,700 plusKITAs in North Rhine-Westphalia. The most important objective of plusKITAs is to improve educational opportunities for children right from the start by targeting educational disadvantages. This is done through individual strengthening of the children's potential. Support focuses on the everyday life of the families: educational concepts and forms of action appropriate under the prevailing conditions, cooperation with and empowerment of parents, a reliable contact person in local network structures and special training measures are among plusKITAs' tasks, which go further than in the case of regular day care facilities.

Language skills belong to the most important skills for successful education and integration into the labour market. To provide a good foundation for all children, language education should begin as early as possible. Against that background, the State finances language courses at childcare facilities, in particular for children from low-income families or from disadvantaged local communities and for children whose first language is not German ([www.kita.nrw.de/fachkraefte-fachberatung/sprachliche-bildung](http://www.kita.nrw.de/fachkraefte-fachberatung/sprachliche-bildung)).

*Support for family centres / promotion of cooperation of family formation and counseling centres with family centres*

Budget items # 07 040 633 16 and # 07 030 684 10 54.0m

The purpose of the family centres ([Familienzentren](http://www.familienzentrum.nrw.de/zertifizierung/checkliste-guetesiegel)) is to provide information and counselling services to help parents support their children, as well as to bundle counselling and support services for parents and families and to link them with one another. Especially in areas characterized by poverty or inadequate infrastructure, family centres can help promote the social participation of disadvantaged families. In doing so, they make a contribution to more equal opportunities. Day care centres which have been approved as family centres receive special support from the State. One funding priority is family centres in social hotspots.

[www.familienzentrum.nrw.de/zertifizierung/checkliste-guetesiegel](http://www.familienzentrum.nrw.de/zertifizierung/checkliste-guetesiegel)

*Childcare in special cases*

Budget item # 07 040 633 13 18.2m

Among the refugees in North Rhine-Westphalia are also numerous children who are entitled to receive childcare and who should benefit from early childhood education in day care centers. Since not all affected children immediately attend a regular childcare center, there is a need for particular services at an early point in time. The funds are provided for low-threshold day care services beyond the benefits of the Child Education Act, in order to facilitate the transition to institutional day care for children and their parents. In addition, counseling services for staff are supported.

*Exemption to contribution for parents for the two years of day care*

Budget item # 07 040 633 20 292.0m

Day care centres are educational institutions and must therefore be accessible to all children. The last year of day care before enrolment at school is free of charge in North Rhine-Westphalia. Since August 2020 the last two years before school entrance are free of charge. Thus, pre-school education, which is not compulsory in Germany, does not depend on the parents' income.

• **School social work EUR 122.7m**

*Social work at schools*

Budget item # 11 029 633 20 47.7m

The initiative for school social work ([Soziale Arbeit an Schulen](http://www.soziale-arbeit-an-schulen.de)) promotes education and participation for disadvantaged children and teenagers. Supported projects aim at regular school attendance, improved school performance, a reduction of the number of school drop-outs and a broader participation of students in sports and cultural activities. The goal is to strengthen the students' personal development and living environment as well as their employability.

[Evaluation of the programme „Soziale Arbeit an Schulen“](http://www.soziale-arbeit-an-schulen.de)

### *Vacation programme at general education schools and special schools*

Budget item # 05 010 title group 88 (partially) 75.0m

The State of North Rhine-Westphalia offers an additional educational programme for summer 2020 in order to mitigate the negative consequences of the school closings due to the corona pandemic. The various free vacation offers are aimed at schoolchildren with special educational needs as well as at children and young people from socially disadvantaged families. The aim of all vacation programmes is to offer the schoolchildren various educational and upbringing options such as offers for social, motor and language learning as well as care and leisure activities. This also includes extra-curricular exercise and leisure activities in the area, such as visits to museums and other cultural institutions, amusement parks or zoos. In addition, families will also receive support by temporarily caring for and accompanying the children and young people in schools or at home.

- **Protection against violence EUR 27.5m**

#### *Girls in special situations*

Budget item # 07 040 title group 64 1.1m

The State supports youth welfare organisations offering help for girls who are affected by forced marriage. The funding is intended to enable facilities to be able to offer help immediately. In addition, additional capacities are being created in the Rhineland to accommodate girls who are threatened or affected by domestic and sexual violence. Furthermore, prevention offers are promoted.

#### *Protection from violence*

Budget items # 08 300 title groups 61, 63, 98 26.4m

The State promotes the further development of places in women's shelters as well as general women's advice centres, specialist advice centres that offer women and girls help after sexualised violence, advice centres for female victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation and the creation of sheltered living space for female victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation as well as specialist advice centres for protection against forced marriage. The State action plan to combat violence against women and girls provides, among other things, for anonymous securing of evidence in cases of sexual violence. The instrument of work with perpetrators, which aims to provide support and advice on changing behaviour in partnerships of violent men, is an important component in the fight against domestic violence.

The Federal Government plans to work with the federal states to implement the federal funding programme "Together against violence against women" for the period from 2020 to 2023. An investment programme is planned to support the expansion, conversion and new construction as well as the renovation of women's shelters and outpatient women's support facilities, as well as an innovation programme for model projects.

Domestic violence is not the only victims of domestic violence. Boys and men are also affected, but there is only a selective support infrastructure for male victims and hardly any reliable information about the extent of those affected. Therefore, the State of North Rhine-Westphalia is developing a State action plan to combat violence against boys, men and LGBTI \*. The aim is to describe the problem and requirement situation and to create a basis for developing suitable measures to improve the situation for the target group concerned. A support structure is also planned. As a first component, the State government of North Rhine-Westphalia and the State of Bavaria have jointly established a helpline.

## **C      Public Transportation and Local Mobility EUR 218.1m**

### ***Principal goals:***

**SDG 9** – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

**SDG 11** – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

### ***Secondary goals:***

**SDG 10** – Reduce income inequality within and among countries

**SDG 12** – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**SDG 13** – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

### **• Public transportation for low-income citizens EUR 40.0m**

Budget item # 09 110 title group 60 40.0m

The State supports transport associations and municipalities who offer season tickets at reduced fares for low-income citizens. Most regions of North Rhine-Westphalia now offer such tickets, covering approximately 85% of all potential beneficiaries.

Social tickets enhance the participation of all citizens in a life that is increasingly determined by mobility. At the same time, the system of public transport is strengthened. According to a survey carried out in 2015, approximately 2m people are eligible for social tickets and more than 300,000 people use it. More than 50% of respondents use public transport more frequently now.

[www.landtag.nrw.de/portal/WWW/dokumentenarchiv/Dokument/MMV16-3361.pdf](http://www.landtag.nrw.de/portal/WWW/dokumentenarchiv/Dokument/MMV16-3361.pdf)

### **• Public transportation for pupils and students EUR 138.9m**

Budget item # 09 110 title group 74 138.9m

According to section 11a of the State's law relating to public transport in North Rhine-Westphalia (ÖPNVG NRW), municipalities and regions get reimbursed for lost income due to reduced fares for pupils, students and trainees. The State also covers additional costs for the improvement of supply and quality in educational traffic ([Ausbildungsverkehr](#)).

### **• Transportation infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians EUR 39.2m**

#### *Local mobility*

Budget item # 09 160 title group 61 26.8m

#### *Improvement and expansion of bicycle lanes*

Budget item # 09 150 777 14 12.4m

The State provides financial support for projects which improve conditions for cyclists and pedestrians, particularly on short-haul routes (local mobility, see [Aktionsplan Nahmobilität](#)). Major projects relate to the construction of a bicycle road infrastructure and bicycle parking facilities as well as construction of bicycle paths on abandoned railway lines. Supported projects also include

- [Radroutenplaner NRW](#) (Bicycle Route Planner),
- [Wanderrouutenplaner NRW](#) (Hiking Route Planner),
- [Radverkehrsnetz NRW](#) (Bicycle Route Network).



## **D      Climate protection and energy transition EUR 243.1m**

### ***Principal goals:***

***SDG 7*** – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

***SDG 13*** – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

### ***Secondary goal:***

***SDG 8*** – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

In order to mitigate climate change and its inevitable impact, it is necessary to limit the global temperature rise to a maximum of 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius in comparison with pre-industrial time. To achieve this goal, enormous efforts are needed at all political and social levels. The State government of North Rhine-Westphalia stands by the climate protection agreement of Paris and supports the goal that the world should operate greenhouse gas-neutral from 2050 onwards. North Rhine-Westphalia will make an appropriate contribution to this target. The goal is to turn North Rhine-Westphalia into the most up-to-date and environmentally friendly location for industries in Europe. The State law concerning Climate protection (Klimaschutzgesetz NRW) provides binding targets in this regard. Specific measures to achieve these targets are set out in a plan of campaign ([Klimaschutzplan NRW](#)).

In the context of current climate protection targets at the EU and the federal level, the State Climate Protection Act aims to reduce greenhouse gases in North Rhine-Westphalia by at least 25% by 2020 and by at least 80% by 2050 (compared to levels of 1990). By 2025, more than 30% of all electricity consumption in the State should be obtained from renewable sources. By 2050, this ratio should be 80%. In order to achieve these goals and to reduce environmental damage associated with raw material consumption, it is important to enlarge the capacity for the generation of renewable energies, to enhance networks and grids as well as storage facilities and to increase energy efficiency and resource efficiency in general. Adaptation to unavoidable consequences of climate change will also become an increasingly relevant topic.

[www.klimaschutz.nrw.de](http://www.klimaschutz.nrw.de)

### **• Climate protection and renewable energies EUR 227.3m**

*Energy systems of the future, system transformation, innovation, e-mobility and energy efficiency*

Budget items # 14 300 title group 63 and # 14 010 title group 88 (partially) 133.5m

On the way to a largely greenhouse gas-neutral energy system of the future, the structure of North Rhine-Westphalia as a hub for energy production will change. Today's energy system will evolve into an international, intelligent and integrated system linking electricity, heating / cooling and mobility. A prospective cross-sectoral energy system will be shaped by renewable energies, energy efficiency, digitalization and decentralized structures.

Funds provided primarily support projects of "progres.nrw", a programme for rational use of energy, renewable energies and energy saving with the central modules "product launch", "low-emission mobility" and "innovation". With the module "innovation", the State supports projects ranging from industrial research and experimental development to prototypes in the field of energy systems of the future, system transformation, e-mobility and energy efficiency. The aim of the module "market introduction" is to accelerate the use of new energy efficiency technologies and renewable energies. Its purpose is to accelerate widespread adoption of many applicable technologies for the use of inexhaustible energy sources and the rational use of energy in order to make a significant contribution to climate protection, reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and strengthening of the general economy. The focus is on marketable products, which only need temporary support in order to reach widespread application. The initiative also includes efficient use of heat potentials and innovative projects for the expansion of local and district heating supply. A project relates to "low-emission mobility". As a follow-up to previous e-mobility initiatives, this programme integrates incentives for individuals, small and medium-sized enterprises and municipalities. Consulting services are provided for municipalities, landlords and real estate managers as well as fleet operators. The promotion of private and publicly

accessible charging infrastructure as well as municipal vehicles will continue to further increase the willingness to purchase electric vehicles and accelerate the market upturn. In addition, cities and municipalities are supported in the participation and implementation of energy and quality management processes as well as in the preparation of a CO2 balance.

As part of the programme to cope with the consequences of the corona pandemic and to strengthen the future viability of the State, an additional 35.0 million euros were earmarked for the "progres.nrw - low-emission mobility" funding programme and an additional 37.0 million euros for the programme "progres.nrw - programme part market launch" approved.

#### *Target group-oriented climate protection*

Budget item # 14 300 title group 64 10.1m

The international community has agreed to counter the negative effects of climate change through ambitious climate protection. In order to create favorable framework conditions for companies and municipalities, the process of strategic, climate policy orientation is fostered by scientific support. In this context, for example, scenarios are developed to examine the possible effects of the variation in climate-relevant parameters. Companies and municipalities are supported in their climate protection efforts through direct grants.

The funding programme serves to create suitable, efficient structures and procedures in the area of municipal climate protection and, in particular, to support the implementation of municipal measures to reduce greenhouse gases. The programme also finances a UNFCCC pilot project for the further training of future managers in the field of climate protection.

#### *Environmental economy, sustainable economy*

Budget item # 10 060 title group 63 1.8m

The State's strategy for an environmental economy systematically targets positive effects of climate protection and environmental policy on the overall economy and employment. True to the motto "environmental protection pays off", the strategy for an environmental economy reveals that projects in this area, in addition to reducing the environmental impact of operations, also contribute to reducing costs. The aim is to strengthen the competitiveness of companies while at the same time helping to protect the climate and the environment. The three most important fields of action within the strategy are promotion of innovation, market development and internationalization.

The State government supports brand development for North Rhine-Westphalia as a future-oriented location for manufacturing and services. The strategy for an environmental economy contributes to further expanding the strong position of environmental industries located in North Rhine-Westphalia, increasing its competitiveness, and making local companies pioneers in resource-efficient, energy-efficient and climate-friendly business.

[Umweltwirtschaftsbericht 2017](#)

#### *Green economy*

Budget item # 10 010 title group 88 (partially) 5.0m

Green start-ups are supported in particular by increasing the funding of the KUER.NRW start-up competition: The KUER.NRW start-up competition (Klima, Umwelt, Energie und Ressourcenschonung: climate, environment, energy and resource conservation) supports innovative green start-ups from the start-up idea to successful market integration. Targeted financial support for these start-ups can promote a sustainable economic recovery and transformation processes in the direction of an environmentally friendly economy. Digital business models often play an important role in this. At the same time, the innovation location North Rhine-Westphalia can further expand its leading role in the field of environmental management. In addition, overall support is provided for regional structures and approaches in the environmental economy to promote innovations and strengthen regional value creation. As part of this programme to cope with the consequences of the corona pandemic and to



strengthen the future viability of the State, research projects are initiated, projects and value chains are established on site, the economy is strengthened and jobs are created.

*Funding programme for pumped storage power plants*

Budget item # 14 300 title group 67 2.0m

Pumped storage power plants allow for energy storage with high capacity, high efficiency and fast availability. They form an important basis for ensuring energy supply with a high share of renewable energies. Planning and conception of such units occur over periods of more than 10 years and must start now.

*European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2014-2020 (State's share)*

Budget item # 10 090 title 82 18.6m

The State provides financial support for environmental initiatives carried out within the framework of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Supported projects focus on climate protection and renewable energies, combined heat and power, energy efficiency and resource efficiency, decentralization of energy consumption, soil protection and remediation of land as well as reduction of noise. In the current period, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions has a particularly high priority.

[www.efre.nrw.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/3\\_Factsheet\\_EFRE\\_NRW\\_final.pdf](http://www.efre.nrw.de/fileadmin/user_upload/3_Factsheet_EFRE_NRW_final.pdf)

*Photovoltaic funding*

Budget item # 14 010 title group 88 (partially) 55.0m

As part of the energy supply strategy, the State of North Rhine-Westphalia has set itself the goal of doubling the installed capacity of wind energy and photovoltaics in the State by 2030 compared to 2018 when expanding renewable energies. The expansion of photovoltaics will be financially supported and promoted by the removal of regulatory obstacles. It will include both roof and open space photovoltaics. To achieve this goal, on the one hand, the State is expanding the support for battery storage, which has been very well received in connection with roof-top photovoltaics. On the other hand, an additional state-specific funding programme is initiated. This funding programme grants investment and planning grants for the photovoltaic components that are not covered by the Renewable Energy Sources Act. In addition to multi-family houses, the target group of the funding is particularly aimed at the commercial sector in the State.

With the photovoltaic programme of BLB, a total of 30 million euros are invested in photovoltaic systems on state-owned properties, which provide an economic impetus and a significant contribution to climate protection. This programme will be accelerated.

This package of measures was launched as part of the programme to cope with the consequences of the corona pandemic and to strengthen the State's future viability.

*Climate Action / Regional Climate Adaptation Measures (LIFE) / Adaptation to climate change*

Budget item # 10 060 title groups 65, 67 and 75 1.3m

Funds are provided to finance instruments and measures to achieve the State's climate goals and for public relations in the field of climate protection and adaptation.

LIFE is an EU programme that financially supports environmental and conservation projects. The LIFE programme aims to contribute to implementation, revision and further development of environmental policy and environmental legislation, and to sustainable development in the European Union.

• **Resource efficiency EUR 15.9m**

*Enhancement of resource efficiency*

Budget item # 10 060 title group 68 5.9m

Funds are provided for the State's efficiency agency ([Effizienz-Agentur NRW](http://www.effizienz-agentur.nrw.de)), projects relating to environmental protection at the company level, and the State's strategy for an environmental economy. The main focus is on resource efficiency and energy efficiency.

[www.umwelt.nrw.de/umweltschutz-umweltwirtschaft/umwelt-und-ressourcenschutz/ressourceneffizientes-wirtschaften](http://www.umwelt.nrw.de/umweltschutz-umweltwirtschaft/umwelt-und-ressourcenschutz/ressourceneffizientes-wirtschaften)

*Circular economy and resource efficiency*

Budget item # 10 010 title group 88 (partially)

10.0m

The circular economy, which is also an essential part of the EU's Green Deal, holds great potential for higher resource productivity and for achieving environmental and climate goals. At the same time, the circular economy can provide important long-term economic stimuli. For this purpose, production and material cycles should be closed. At all points in the product and / or service cycle, changes must be made in line with the cycle – often with the help of digitisation. Targeted investments, information on how to deal with complex administrative and regulatory procedures and an exchange between the actors along the value chain are required on the basis of awareness-raising and potential analyses. The programme is intended to support companies in the circular-oriented design of business processes and in the development of new concepts for product design.

The previous independent advice with a focus on resource efficiency and the circular economy as a project to prepare for investments will be increased and expanded. This offers companies the opportunity to identify opportunities for sustainable corporate development, triggers short-term investment measures and increases the companies' competitiveness.

Companies, especially SMEs, often have to postpone investments in digital transformation because they do not have sufficient management capacity. External consulting services can solve this problem and thus trigger investments directly. This leads to resource savings, efficiency gains in all business processes and the implementation of new business models. The successful "Resource Efficiency Consulting.NRW" programme is planned to be expanded to include this new offer.

In order to achieve the sustainability and climate goals and to mobilise the ability to innovate, companies must be shown financial incentives how they can apply new types of resource-efficient technologies or recycling technologies in the sense of the circular economy for the first time. A targeted, long-term continuous promotion of up-scaling of developed, innovative, resource-efficient process technologies or recycling methods facilitates the establishment and penetration of the market.

In order to make competitiveness and growth as sustainable and environmentally friendly as possible, companies must be shown financial incentives to develop new technologies and processes in an application-oriented and beneficial manner in the long term. For this reason, projects that target new products, processes or technical services are specifically funded.

These measures were initiated as part of the programme to deal with the consequences of the corona pandemic and to strengthen State's future viability.

In all programmes in category D, projects relating to nuclear, tobacco, armaments, crude oil and coal are not being sponsored.

## **E      Protection of natural resources EUR 187.6m**

### ***Principal goals:***

**SDG 2** – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

**SDG 15** – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

### ***Secondary goals:***

**SDG 6** – Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

**SDG 11** – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**SDG 12** – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**SDG 13** – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

With almost 18 million inhabitants, North Rhine-Westphalia is one of the most densely populated areas in Europe. At the same time, the State features a diverse and unique natural heritage. A share of 26% of the State's territory is covered with woodlands. Agriculture lands account for 49%. The State has 3,152 protected nature area sites covering more than 8% of the land area.

The State of North Rhine-Westphalia is committed to the protection of biodiversity in its Biodiversity Strategy ([Biodiversitätsstrategie](#)) and in its Sustainability Strategy ([Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie](#)). Biodiversity is one of the most important foundations of human life. In NRW, however, diversity of this kind is dwindling at an alarming rate. According to the State's latest environmental report ([Umweltbericht Nordrhein-Westfalen 2016](#)), the number of extinct or lost species is higher than ever. A severe threat for habitats and species can be seen from "red lists" and unfavorable conservation conditions. Of the species studied in North Rhine-Westphalia, almost 45 per cent are endangered, threatened with extinction or are already extinct.

The central objective of conservation policy in North Rhine-Westphalia is to avoid loss of biodiversity and to increase population of endangered species. The goal is to reduce the rate of red list species to 40 percent by 2030 and increase overall biodiversity over this period. Comprehensive protection of existing species, preservation of cultivated landscapes and sufficient space for undisturbed wildlife can significantly contribute to this. It is also important to use the forests in a sustainable manner.

### **• Protection of nature, landscape and biodiversity EUR 79.6m**

#### *Soil protection*

Budget item # 10 050 883 00

4.7m

Funds provided finance measures to prevent deterioration of soil functions, to improve areas with adverse conditions and to enhance establishment of soil protection as well as to document damaging soil changes and contaminated sites and to further develop records of contaminated parcels of land.

#### *Forests reforestation*

Budget items # 10 030 title group 78, # 10 010 title group 88 (partially)

38.0m

Storms, droughts and bark beetles have caused devastating damage to the North Rhine-Westphalian forests in recent years. Intensive work is currently underway to limit the consequences for forests with their important uses, protection and recreational functions. According to experts, significant damage is to be feared in the coming years. Therefore, the State supports the damage management as well as the development of diverse, stable and climate-resilient forests.

The again warm and dry spring 2020 leads to a dramatic aggravation of the boreal beetle damage in the North Rhine-Westphalian spruce forests. In 2020, damaged spruce wood due to storms, droughts and bark beetles is expected to rise to around 34 million cubic meters, of which around 19 million cubic meters in 2018/2019. Additional special funds of 28.0 million euros to cope with the consequences of the corona pandemic and to strengthen the future viability of the State are intended to help overcome the dramatic bark beetle damage and contribute to the development of diverse and climate-stable mixed forests. The funds are intended for rapid and unbureaucratic assistance, for example for forest

fire prevention or the removal of danger trees to secure public infrastructures, to strengthen the forest and timber industry in the areas of digitization and timber construction as well as in training and further education, and to the support for the reforestation of the damaged areas in private and municipal forests.

#### *Protection of nature*

Budget item # 10 030 title group 82 37.1m

An import pillar of the State's conservation policy is the Biodiversity Strategy of 2015 ([Biodiversitätsstrategie](#)). It reflects efforts at the national level, where the federal government has submitted the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) in 2007. The NBS contains around 330 goals and 430 measures for protection and sustainable use of nature in Germany with a time frame from 2010 to 2050. The Biodiversity Strategy of NRW supplements and specifies the NBS with regard to the specific conditions of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The State also provides financial support for private environmental protection facilities ("[Biologische Stationen](#)") and for land acquisitions for conservation purposes.

"Biologische Stationen" are rooted in private initiatives for the conservation of nature. Today, these facilities serve as an important link between private and official efforts. The network of "Biologische Stationen" in North Rhine-Westphalia is unique nationwide and plays an important role in the implementation of the conservation work on site. Cooperation with agriculture, forestry and official authorities provides comprehensive support for the existing network of protection areas. Eligible activities also include voluntary conservation projects on site, implementation and support of wildlife conservation projects and education with regard to issues of environmental protection.

Through land acquisitions for conservation purposes, highly valuable areas are protected from intensive economic exploitation in order to allow for a more environment-friendly development (e.g. heath or moorland, grassland, arable, and forest land in protection areas). These parcels of land can serve as "stepping stone habitat areas", allowing for unimpaired wildlife and strengthening the network of areas with favourable conservation conditions.

- **Flood protection and river restoration EUR 56.7m**

Budget item # 10 050 title group 66 56.7m

Early and environment-friendly flood control is essential in the densely populated and highly industrialized State of North Rhine-Westphalia, especially for the river Rhine, but also for many other waters. The flood prevention concept of the State ([Hochwasserschutzkonzept](#)) offers solutions for a wide range of possible flood events on large or small waters. The State's approach features concepts of technical assistance and water retention as well as planning instruments for flood prevention purposes, e.g. designation of floodplains. Natural watercourses and their floodplains can cache sprawling water, thus reducing the wave crest. Ecological restoration of streams and rivers can restore this property and thus contribute to flood prevention.

[www.umwelt.nrw.de/umwelt/umwelt-und-wasser/gewaesser/hochwasser](http://www.umwelt.nrw.de/umwelt/umwelt-und-wasser/gewaesser/hochwasser)

- **Responsible agriculture and rural development EUR 51.1m**

#### *Responsible agriculture*

Budget items # 10 080 683 11 and 683 31 13.8m

In the context of the national task to improve the agricultural structure and to protect the coastline, as set out in Section 91a of the Federal Constitution, the State supports measures to preserve and improve the living conditions of endangered animals and plants in North Rhine-Westphalia, to reduce the use of fertilizers and plant protection products and to protect soil and water. Additional goals are the protection of pasture land and cultivated landscapes, animal-friendly farming processes and an increase in the use of organic farming techniques to satisfy the growing demand for ecologically produced groceries.

The positive trend in organic farming is clearly reflected in the development of the share of organic farms and ecologically managed land. While there were only 450 organic farms in Germany in 1980, there were already 25,000 organic farms in 2017 working an area of 1.1m hectares. Towards the end of 2018, around 2,100 agricultural and horticultural businesses in North Rhine-Westphalia alone - that is around 7% - were operating according to the rules of organic farming. This means that around 5.9% or approximately 85,000 hectares of the State's agricultural area are organically farmed.

[www.oekolandbau.nrw.de](http://www.oekolandbau.nrw.de)

#### *Improvement of animal welfare*

Budget item # 10 010 title group 88 (partially) 5.0m

In the interest of a swift implementation of better keeping conditions for animals, the programme to cope with the consequences of the corona pandemic and to strengthen the future viability of the State supports the improvement of animal welfare in North Rhine-Westphalia. In addition to promoting animal welfare, this also gives animal owners a perspective to meet social expectations in this area.

#### *European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development – EAFRD (State's share)*

Budget item # 10 090 title group 60 32.3m

The State's plan of campaign for rural areas ([NRW-Programm Ländlicher Raum 2014-2020](#)) implements the European Union's support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) in North Rhine-Westphalia. The funding aims to preserve and develop liveable rural areas and to develop sustainable, rural agriculture. The funding policy addresses the challenges faced by the rural regions of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Agricultural structural change requires adaptation of the agricultural sector. It is also important to reduce the impact of intensive agriculture on the environment and to promote environmentally friendly and resource-efficient practices. In addition, the increase of animal welfare in livestock farming and the marketing of regional food are becoming more and more important. The programme puts special emphasis on support programs dedicated to the European priority for the restoration, conservation and improvement of biodiversity, land management with high nature value and improvement of the state of European landscapes.

## **F      Sustainable Urban Development 3,576.6m**

### ***Principal goals:***

**SDG 3** – *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*

**SDG 9** – *Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*

**SDG 11** – *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*

### ***Secondary goals:***

**SDG 10** – *Reduce income inequality within and among countries*

**SDG 12** – *Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*

The policy of urban development in North Rhine-Westphalia focuses on urban and rural areas with significant structural difficulties. In cities and municipalities, nature and free space can enhance the quality of life through environmental and health benefits as well as through a positive influence on social cohesion. Other important goals include energetic modernisation of the social infrastructure and barrier-free access to public spaces and buildings.

For the Sustainability Bond, the sub-programmes "Urban Reconstruction in the West" ([Stadtumbau West](#)) and "Social City" ([Soziale Stadt](#)) were selected. Under both programmes, eligible projects must be based on an integrated urban development concept outlining the objectives and measures of the project in question. Such concepts must be implemented with the participation of the citizens.

[Overview of all projects funded in 2020](#)

### **• Urban renewal EUR 112.3m**

*Urban development programme Urban Reconstruction in the West*

Budget item # 08 500 883 11 (partially) 53.3m

The programme "Stadtumbau West" (Urban Reconstruction in the West) focuses on the problems of a shrinking population and a stagnating economic development. Urban districts with a severe loss of functions or a high degree of abandoned or vacant property (residential, commercial, military or railway) are eligible for support under this programme. The goal is to stipulate new initiatives for sustainable urban development. Relevant issues range from urban planning and housing to economic development and social and environmental policies.

*Social City*

Budget item # 08 500 883 11 (partially) 59.0m

The programme "Soziale Stadt" (Social City) tackles various challenges for local communities with regard to urban renewal, labor market development, economic structure and growth, housing, social and cultural infrastructure, integration and inclusion, schools, promotion of health, prevention of crime and public relations. Most projects start with concrete measures to improve conditions of living and the social environment, such as renewal of playgrounds, schoolyards and parks.

### **• Village renewal EUR 10.0m**

*State programme for village renewal*

Budget item # 08 700 title group 75 10.0m

The rural regions in North Rhine-Westphalia are facing particular challenges in terms of demographic development and their effects on services of general interest, their accessibility and the overall infrastructure. This is reflected, among other things, firstly in the increased need of the rural population for community-building places of encounter and exchange and secondly for region-specific and thus identity-creating internal development. Funding is provided for community facilities, village squares, streets and paths as well as green spaces in public spaces, measures for the maintenance and design of buildings that define the townscape and the associated courtyard, garden and green areas,

the demolition of internal structures and measures that contribute to securing basic services for the rural population.

- **Health, geriatric care and demographic change EUR 3,243.0m**

*Health expenditures to deal with the coronavirus pandemic*

Budget items # 06 010 682 88, # 11 020 title group 60, # 11 010 title group 88 (partially), # 11 010 636 88 823.9m

These funds are used to finance additional health needs to cope with the coronavirus pandemic. This includes additional material costs in university clinics, maintaining the functionality of the medical and nursing infrastructure, especially in hospitals, the procurement of respirators and protective equipment for hospitals and care facilities, as well as the State's share for the corona premium for employees in the care of the elderly.

*NRW special programme for university hospitals*

Budget item # 06 010 title group 88 (partially) 1,000.0m

To finance construction measures and investments in capital goods of the university hospitals, funds are provided as part of the programme to cope with the consequences of the corona pandemic and to strengthen the future viability of the State. Among other things, this is intended to create additional intensive capacities, especially through new buildings, to adapt the structures to the increased hygiene requirements and to maintain existing capacities. In addition, proportional funds are available for the acquisition of laboratory equipment and medical technology. With the modernisation of laboratory equipment and medical technology, necessary investments to maintain the security of supply for the population at the highest level are made possible.

*Investment programme for hospitals and nursing schools*

Budget item # 11 010 title group 88 (partially) 1,270.0m

For hospitals, investments such as modernisation and energetic refurbishments or structural redesigns such as patient and bathroom facilities are important. In order to ensure good medical and nursing care also in terms of personnel, investment measures in nursing schools to expand training capacities and for urgently necessary modernisations are of decisive importance.

In addition, funds are made available for the State's share in the federal government's "Hospitals Future Programme". The importance of the university clinics for care are also taken into account.

These measures are carried out as part of the programme to deal with the consequences of the corona pandemic and to strengthen the State's future viability.

*Hospital structure fund (State's share)*

Budget item # 11 070 title group 82 95.0m

A structural fund was set up to promote the necessary structural change in the hospital landscape and the quality of inpatient care. With this fund, the adjustment of existing supply capacities to the actual supply needs as well as the improvement of the efficiency and quality of hospital care is promoted. In addition, the use of digital applications that lead to structural improvements in in-patient care, such as telemedicine, is also supported.

*Health economy, telematics, further development of the health campus*

Budget item #11 080 title group 75 11.3m

Digitization is a strong driver of innovative care structures and at the same time one of the greatest challenges for the healthcare system in the coming years. For the healthcare sector, this means the consistent alignment of electronically supported products and services to the needs of patients and all those involved in the treatment process. Projects to set up the telematics infrastructure in the healthcare sector in North Rhine-Westphalia and telemedicine are funded. Furthermore, the co-financing of projects from the OP ERDF NRW 2014-2020 as well as the funding of projects in the health economy take place. With more than a million employees, the health industry is the branch with the

most jobs and the greatest growth dynamic in North Rhine-Westphalia. Above all, it must also meet the future requirements for high-quality medical care in the interests of the patients.

In addition, the funds serve to strengthen networking within the healthcare system.

The budgeted funds are intended to check current projects (e.g. laws, pilot projects, etc.) for effectiveness and efficiency in order to be able to carry out a structural further development of the health system on the basis of valid, evidence-based results. In addition, the development of innovative concepts and measures for health care and measures for the further development of the health campus are financed.

*Health aid, health protection, hygiene action plan, disease control*

Budget item # 11 080 title group 81 8.0m

The State is responsible for policy-making in self-governing health care. It is committed to a wide range of different measures to reduce life and work-related risks and to promote general health resources and skills of people. These include the State's initiative "Health Promotion and Prevention", the State's programme "Recognized movement kindergarten with the plus point nutrition", with which the health-threatening increase in overweight and obesity is to be countered, and the State campaign "Addiction always has a story", with which children and adolescents are motivated to deal critically with tobacco consumption and thereby prevent the use of addictive substances as far as possible.

*Measures to ensure medical care*

Budget item # 11 080 title group 82 2.5m

To prevent a deterioration in medical care the State also needs to take measures. To this end, incentives for doctors to settle in areas threatened by undersupply have to be created. In addition, the establishment of the Central Office for Foreign Education (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen ZAB) in Bonn as the central expert office for health professions (academic medical professions and health professions) will be financially supported.

*Combating the dangers of addiction*

Budget item # 11 080 title group 71 14.3m

There are more than four million addicts in North Rhine-Westphalia. They are mostly dependent on alcohol, tobacco or medication. Less than one percent of addicts are addicted to illegal drugs. The motto "Addiction always has a story!" stands for the cause-oriented addiction and drug policy of the State, the aim of which is to prevent substance abuse and prevent the emergence of addiction. The associated preventive measures are intended to help strengthen personal and social skills and to develop and expand health-promoting structures.

The support offered for addicts and their relatives must be at least as diverse as the causes of an addiction. The help for those at risk of addiction and those suffering from addiction includes measures for advice, support and treatment as well as professional and social integration. The primary goal of the aid is abstinence.

*Psychiatric care*

Budget item # 11 080 title group 83 1.8m

The challenges of our modern society have an impact on mental health and emotional well-being. Mental health is an essential building block if you want to ensure a healthy life for all people of all ages and promote their well-being. The main goal of psychiatry planning at the State level is to further develop the care structure that is oriented towards the needs of those affected, integrated and coordinated in the community, and to promote the participation of mentally ill people in all areas while implementing the UN Disability Rights Convention. The State promotes model projects for better cross-sector and cross-aid system networking of prevention and help offers, for the person-centred flexibilisation of in-patient, day-patient and out-patient psychiatric treatment offers as well as measures to maintain and improve the mental health of children and adolescents.



*Development plan geriatric care*

Budget items # 11 090 title group 90 and 11 010 547 17

16.3m

The State's Development plan geriatric care is based on the consensus that demographic development places considerable demands on the social infrastructure of the State and, in particular, on the quantity and quality of care and support services for elderly and people in need of care.

As part of the State's Development plan geriatric care ([Landesförderplan Alter und Pflege](#)), the State supports projects that can be assigned to the following five superordinate goals:

- Support structures
- Promote knowledge / disseminate knowledge
- Promote quality and transparency of advice
- Support with (digital) technology / Enable access to (digital) technology
- Promote participation

• **Broadband expansion / Digitalization EUR 211.3m**

Budget items # 14 500 title groups 64, 71, 73 and 74 and # 06 100 title group 77

211.3m

The funds are used to co-finance the federal programme "Funding for Broadband Expansion".

The expansion of the broadband network is a basic requirement for digital learning, working and living. North Rhine-Westphalia strives to implement statewide convergent gigabit-capable networks by 2025. Schools and business parks will be connected to gigabit networks by the end of 2022 already. In North Rhine-Westphalia, 95 percent of households are already supplied with 50 Mbit / s and 74 percent with 400 Mbit / s or more. Only 18 percent can access gigabit bandwidths. 92 percent of the approximately 5,400 schools have gigabit-enabled networks or are intended for this. 68 percent of the more than 3,900 commercial areas registered by the municipalities are fully developed with fiber optics or are intended for this purpose, for a further 15 percent partial development has already taken place or is planned. At the universities, measures for digitalization are to be financed in the areas of study and teaching, administration and infrastructure. One focus is on cross-university measures to achieve significant and long-term progress in digitalization in higher education.

In order to achieve this, the State sponsors the development of regional broadband concepts and the expansion of the telecommunications infrastructure in cases where market-based expansion is not taking place due to a lack of cost-effectiveness. The statewide digitalization initiative therefore includes the promotion of Wi-Fi network initiatives, citizens' broadband projects, broadband connections in schools and municipal Wi-Fi hotspots as well as measures for universities. Besides, the establishment of a digital administration and the development of digital model communities and model regions are planned.

## **G      Modernisation of educational and public health facilities EUR 451.5m**

### ***Principal Goals:***

**SDG 3** – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

**SDG 13** – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

### ***Secondary goals:***

**SDG 4** – Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

**SDG 7** – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

**SDG 11** – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**SDG 12** – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Resource-efficient and cost-effective management of public buildings are important contributions to sustainable development. In North Rhine-Westphalia, the management of state-owned real estate has been transferred to the State's Bau- und Liegenschaftsbetrieb Nordrhein-Westfalen ([BLB NRW](#)). BLB NRW has an integrated environmental and quality management system, is certified according to ISO 9001 (quality management), ISO 14001 (environmental management) and the eco-management audit scheme regulation of the EU (EMAS III) and submitted a sustainability report for the first time in 2017. Important environmental goals are the optimization of energy consumption and emissions, the reduction of pollutant levels in the properties and the strengthening of sustainability in the case of new buildings and renovations (energy efficiency, use of renewable energies).

[BLB EMAS environmental statement](#)

An important goal of the State's climate protection plan is a climate-neutral State administration. Since 2016, the energy consumption of all public buildings managed by BLB NRW – 337 gigawatt-hours per year – are covered from renewable sources such as geothermal energy, solar panels, water and wind power or biogas plants, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 200,000t annually. The State aims to renovate and retrofit 2% of the existing stock of public buildings in any given year. Currently the efforts focus on universities and university medical clinics.

### **• Modernisation of university buildings EUR 140.0**

#### *Modernisation of university buildings*

Budget items # 06 110 685 20, 06 110 894 20, 06 100 891 20 140.0m

Numerous educational buildings are being renovated and technically upgraded through the “University modernisation programme” ([Hochschulmodernisierungsprogramm](#)). The legal requirements for energy standards and accessibility that would apply to new buildings are met. The focus is on new buildings at universities, construction work at university clinics and modernisation and refurbishment measures on university buildings. When the “University modernisation programme” expired at the end of 2015, the renovation and modernisation backlog at the universities had not yet been resolved, so that the programme will continue as planned as a “University building consolidation programme”.

[List of approved research structures](#)

### **• Modernisation of university medical clinics EUR 311.5**

#### *Conservation and remediation of existing facilities*

Budget items # 06 102 title group 63, title 891 20 of chapters # 06 103-108, respectively 131.5m

The State plans to modernize all existing university medical clinics by 2020 in order to provide state-of-the-art possibilities for medical treatment, but also with regard to research.

The State's grants for conservation and remediation comprise funds for comprehensive measures to save energy and reduce emissions of existing buildings. Projects include asbestos, CFC and PCB disposal, where necessary, as well as modernization of sewage systems. On a limited scale, small new buildings as well as conversions and extensions for existing facilities are included.

*Enlargement and other investments*

Budget items # title 891 30 of chapters # 06 103-108, respectively 180.0m

The State's grants for enlargement and other investments comprise funds for reconstruction and restructuring of existing buildings and new developments as well as major extensions, including the initial set-up. A detailed list of the individual projects can be found in the explanatory notes on the relevant budget items ([Haushaltsstellen](#)).