

The Regional Association of Westphalia-Lippe (LWL)

What we do.
Who we are.

1250 Jahre
Westfalen

LWL
Für die Menschen.
Für Westfalen-Lippe.

INTRODUCTION

Dear Readers,

You will encounter the Regional Association of Westphalia-Lippe ("Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe - LWL") in every community, town and district in the region. You are probably familiar with our hospitals, special schools and museums, which can also easily be identified by the three letters "LWL" on flags and signs.

Our most significant task is to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities and to help people with mental health issues. A strong Westphalia-Lippe region, which is one of the most important business locations in Germany, is also important to us.

In order to achieve our goals, we work in an exemplary and reliable manner and keep a keen eye on current and future challenges. One of these is climate change, and we are doing everything possible to counter this. The Regional Assembly ("Landschaftsversammlung"), our political body, has adopted an ambitious and integrated climate protection concept which is now being implemented by the administration: we aim to become climate-neutral as early as 2030, and we will invest significantly for this purpose. The same applies to another theme that will occupy our society for a long time to come: digital transformation. We are driving this forward intensively for our work processes and are thinking progressively and constantly anew in this regard.

As part of this, we keep a responsible eye on economic viability and ensure the quality of our work, and the citizens rightly expect all of this from us. This brochure provides a first impression of how we do this and how diverse our work is. You can find the brochure as well as more details on our website www.lwl.org.

Sincerely,



Dr. Georg Lunemann
Director
Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe

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We do good – today and in the future

As an association of municipalities, the LWL assumes tasks for all communities, towns, cities and districts in Westphalia-Lippe that the municipalities could not do or could only do with difficulty themselves. To date, the LWL operates around 200 facilities in the region, which include 35 special schools, 21 hospitals and 18 museums as well as two visitor centres. Thus **more than 20,000** employees and staff offer the 8.3 million citizens of Westphalia-Lippe care and support, specialised knowledge, advice and other services close to home.

As a result of demographic change and medical progress, the number of people for whom the LWL works will increase in coming years. Examples of this are people with disabilities, people with mental illnesses and pupils at the special schools. However, in order to be able to continue to provide them with high quality and individual care, the need for investment and, above all, the need for personnel is also increasing. This is a major challenge, in particular due to the **shortage of labour**.



The LWL invests in training and education, employing more than 750 trainees in around 35 different training vocations and dual courses of study.

One building block for efficiently performing these tasks is **digitalisation** of the work processes. Since 2015, the LWL has increasingly been working with electronic files. In this regard it is not only important to utilise the potential of digital transformation but also to accompany our employees on this path.

The LWL also aims to become **climate-neutral by 2030**. To this end, the association has drawn up a climate protection roadmap with over 60 measures. Among other things this includes new mobility concepts, climate-neutral new buildings with regenerative energy and the energy-efficient refurbishment of existing buildings.

All this costs a lot of money, most of which is provided by the nine independent cities and 18 districts that are members of the association of municipalities. The members of the Regional Assembly, the political body of the LWL, are made up from the **27 member organisations**. The LWL represents the interests of the region and its people wherever it makes sense and is necessary – also at state and federal levels. Together with the municipalities, districts and cities, the LWL makes Westphalia-Lippe strong.

In total, around **9.1 billion** euros will be activated by the LWL in 2025. In addition to the around 4.65 billion euros in the LWL budget, the association also spends around 2.7 billion euros directly from the state and federal budgets. More than 2 billion euros flow into the day-care sector, and a further 1.3 billion euros are managed in the economic plans of the hospitals, nursing schools, housing associations and youth centres.



Contact

Dr. Georg Lunemann

Director

The Regional Association of Westphalia-Lippe (LWL)

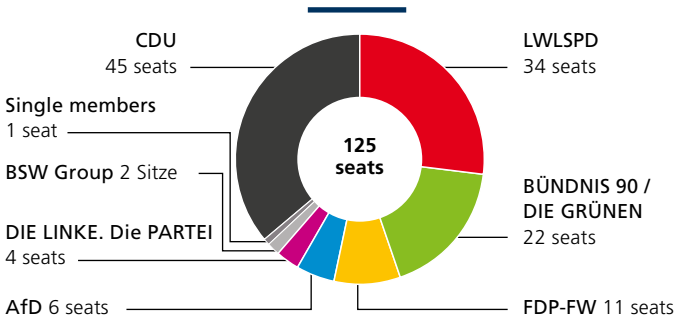
Phone + 49 (0)251 591-211

lwl@lwl.org

The Regional Assembly of Westphalia-Lippe

18 districts and nine independent cities are members of the LWL. The political representatives of these, the county councils and city councils, make up the composition of the Regional Assembly. In the **Westphalia Parliament**, as the political body of the LWL is also called, the parties are represented in the same proportion as they performed in local elections.

15th Westphalia-Lippe Regional Assembly 2020 to 2025, distribution of seats by parliamentary groups



The 15th Regional Assembly (2020 to 2025) is made up of 125 local politicians coming from the district assemblies, councils and administrations of the cities and districts. The Regional Assembly sets the guidelines for the work of the LWL and functions in a similar way to the council of a city or a district assembly. This also includes various committees set up according to the LWL's areas of work. The Regional Assembly makes fundamental decisions, adopts the budget and elects the Director of the LWL and the Regional Councillors.



Contact

Klaus Baumann

Chairman of the Regional Assembly
of Westphalia-Lippe

Phone + 49 (0)251 591-213

klaus.baumann@lwl.org

The family of municipalities

Together with the LWL and the Landschaftsverband Rheinland (LVR), the cities, municipalities and districts form a strong communal family in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). The regional associations are always requested upon to act if tasks go beyond what individual municipalities are able to perform, and they offer specialised knowledge which they bundle in a single source. In addition, they can balance the burdens between the individual cities and districts and ensure an equal, close-to-home level of care.

The municipalities, districts and cities as well as the regional associations share the work according to the **principle of subsidiarity**: each task should, as far as possible, be taken over by the lower level. If, for example, municipalities belonging to a district cannot provide services financially or organisationally, they first pass on the tasks to the next largest partner, the district. Only then does it become the turn of the LWL, which works for its members in this way.

Municipal economy and participations

The LWL also fulfils its tasks in the areas of social welfare, psychiatry, correctional services, youth and schools, culture and municipal economy partly through institutions in private legal form. Its municipal economic responsibilities include economic activity and management of municipal pension funds.

The LWL is therefore involved in the Provinzial insurance group and RWE AG among others. It can participate in utility and transport companies of regional importance. A side effect of the corporate holdings: they generate income that flows into the work of the LWL.

In order to support the municipalities, the LWL has founded companies or has become a shareholder in them. These were essentially founded to provide services of public interest.

Living in a self-determined way

Everyone would like to decide themselves where they live or work. For people with disabilities though, this freedom is not always a matter of course and often can only be realised with assistance. To achieve this for as many people as possible, almost 90 percent of the LWL budget goes towards financing assistance services.



The LWL supports people with disabilities to live and work as far as possible in a self-determined way.

Work for all – the LWL Inclusion Office for Work aims to ensure that people with disabilities can participate in working life. The LWL supports more than **36,000** people in their work in workshops for disabled people. The association launched the LWL budget for work for those who want to change to the general employment market or who are already working there. This programme and its predecessor forms have so far enabled over 2,600 people to take this step.

In addition, the LWL supports around 17,000 companies in Westphalia-Lippe with more than 115,000 employees with disabilities to design inclusive workplaces. An important target group are young people with special educational needs, whose start into working life is particularly supported. More than 3,500 pupils with this need are annually supported in their vocational preparation through a special programme.

Self-determined living – helping people with significant disabilities to live in their own homes – is one of the tasks of the LWL Inclusion Office for Social Participation. It supports **40,300** of such people to live independently.

The advantages: most people feel more comfortable in their own four walls and their quality of life increases. The LWL also supports the **22,000** people in Westphalia-Lippe who live in a special form of housing (previously known as residential homes). It also pays benefits such as blind and deaf allowances.



Being provided for – the LWL Office for Social Compensation Law helps people who have been victims of an act of violence or war or who have been harmed by a vaccination. The LWL specialists take care that the health of these people can be improved or even completely restored, as well as their economic support. Loss of earnings is also compensated in accordance with the provisions of the Infection Protection Act, for example when people are subject to quarantine or banned from working.



Contact

Takis Mehmet Ali

Director of Social Affairs

LWL Department of Social Affairs

Phone + 49 (0)251 591-237

soziales@lwl.org

Help that is close to hand

The LWL-PsychiatrieVerbund Westfalen is a cornerstone of psychiatric care in Westphalia-Lippe. The objective is to accompany people on their path towards mental health. The LWL offers local help for mental illnesses and cognitive impairments such as depression, dementia and anxiety disorders, as well as in cases of alcohol, drug and medication addictions. The 15 clinics, ten residential associations, six care centres and other specialised facilities such as rehabilitation facilities ensure reliable and individual psychiatric care – inpatient, semi-residential and outpatient. As well as comprehensive treatment and care, the association also operates nursing schools at four locations to train nursing staff for Westphalia-Lippe. With expertise, humanity and proximity, the team of over **13,000 employees** stands ready to help – for mental health and quality of life.

Near to people – mental illnesses often greatly change the lives of those affected. For this reason it is especially important that treatment is provided in a familiar environment.

Thanks to its decentralised locations, the LWL PsychiatrieVerbund offers community-based and wide-ranging psychiatric care.



Contact

Dr. Emanuel Wiggerich
Director of Hospitals

LWL Department of Hospitals and Healthcare,
LWL Psychiatric Association of Westphalia

Phone + 49 (0)251 591-230

lwl-pv@lwl.org

Safety for the people

In the six forensic psychiatric clinics of the LWL, specialists treat mentally ill and addicted people who, as a result of their illness, have committed a criminal offence, and have therefore been committed by the court to a correctional facility. For therapy purposes the LWL makes available a total of around **950 inpatient places** in highly secured facilities in Dortmund, Herne, Lippstadt, Marsberg, Hörstel and Stemwede. The state is currently building a new clinic in Lünen, scheduled for completion by the end of 2026. Another is planned in Haltern, both being provided by the LWL.



The LWL secures and treats mentally ill and addicted offenders in its correctional clinics.

Long-term safety – the clinics are strongly secured both structurally and technically, thus achieving high protection for the population. However, qualified therapy offers the greatest possible security: it protects society from further crimes in the long run. At the same time, patients have the chance, with support, to find their way back into everyday life. The forensic outpatient clinic is involved at an early stage, supporting those affected with regard to safe rehabilitation.



Contact

Tilmann Hollweg

Director of Forensic Clinics

LWL Department of Forensic Clinics in Westphalia

Phone + 49 (0)251 591-231

massregelvollzug@lwl.org

The future: children and young adults

The LWL ensures equal opportunities for all young people throughout Westphalia-Lippe. The **35 special schools** of the LWL support, train and educate almost **6,300** children and young people with disabilities in accordance with their capabilities. This is ensured by four different funding priorities: hearing and communication, vision, physical and motor development and language (lower secondary level). With its expertise the LWL also holistically supports the process of school inclusion. The services of the association also support around **28,400** children and young people with disabilities in early intervention, day care centres, foster families and residential facilities.



The LWL supports children and young people with and without disabilities

The **LWL Westphalia Youth Welfare Office** supports the youth welfare offices of the cities and districts as well as the independent youth welfare organisations in their work for children, young people and families. Services include financial support, professional counselling and further training. The LWL is also responsible for three youth welfare facilities as well as the LWL Vocational College - Hamm Technical Schools and the LWL Jugendhof Vlotho education centre. The LWL Addiction Coordination Office is committed to addiction support and prevention.



Contact

Birgit Westers

Director of Youth Welfare and Schools

LWL Department of Youth Welfare and Schools

Phone + 49 (0)251 591-225

jugend@lwl.org

Committed to culture in Westphalia-Lippe

From archaeology to industrial culture, from crafts and technology to monastic culture and from art to natural history and everyday culture: the LWL offers a high level of diversity via its cultural institutions and foundations – for example with its **18 state museums** and **two visitor centres** spread throughout Westphalia-Lippe which reach around 1,7 million people each year with their permanent and special exhibitions. Digitality, inclusion, diversity, sustainability and protection of the environment are strategic objectives of the work.

The **LWL Cultural Services** advise and promote, secure and develop, research and mediate. Their main areas of activity consist of monument preservation, landscape and building culture, archive management, regional history, museums, media, palaeontology and archaeology. **Six scientific commissions** work in regional research, dealing with archaeology, geography, history, literature, dialect and name research and everyday culture.

The LWL supports cultural and cultural landscape projects with its **LWL Culture Fund, the LWL Mobility Fund, the LWL Nature Fund and the LWL Free Scene Fund**. The LWL also regularly awards significant **cultural prizes** and organises the **Westphalian Cultural Conference**.

The LWL offers cultural programmes throughout Westphalia-Lippe, such as here in the Nachtigallstollen visitor mine at the LWL Museum Zeche Nachtigall.



Contact

Dr. Barbara Rüschoff-Parzinger
 Director of Cultural Affairs
 LWL Department of Cultural Affairs
 Phone + 49 (0)251 591-233
 kultur@lwl.org

Planning – building – managing

The **LWL-Bau- und Liegenschaftsbetrieb** [LWL Construction and Property Management], as an internal service provider, independently bundles construction and commercial expertise, and with its employees manages over **1,400 LWL buildings** with a total area of 1.7 million square metres, as well as a further 1,600 hectares of forest and agricultural land. As an organisation similar to an in-house facility, it manages the LWL property portfolio in a tenant/landlord model and contributes to climate protection by generating and utilising renewable energies. With its structural, sustainable and economic standards and ongoing energy monitoring, the LWL ensures that all properties are constructed and operated in a resource-efficient and sustainable way. Through ecologically orientated leasing and sustainable forest management, the LWL annually binds increasing quantities of greenhouse gases.

Pension

The **Municipal Pension Funds of Westphalia-Lippe (kvw)** are service providers for municipalities and municipal organisations in Westphalia-Lippe in the areas of civil servant pensions, allowances, occupational pensions and pension funds. The kvw provide personnel services for their members, consisting of 1,200 districts, towns and municipalities as well as municipal enterprises such as kindergartens and public utilities. This makes them the point of contact for a total of 618,000 municipal employees. With the kvw pension funds, 260 members also provide for their future pension obligations. The LWL is responsible for the treasury, management and staffing of the kvw.

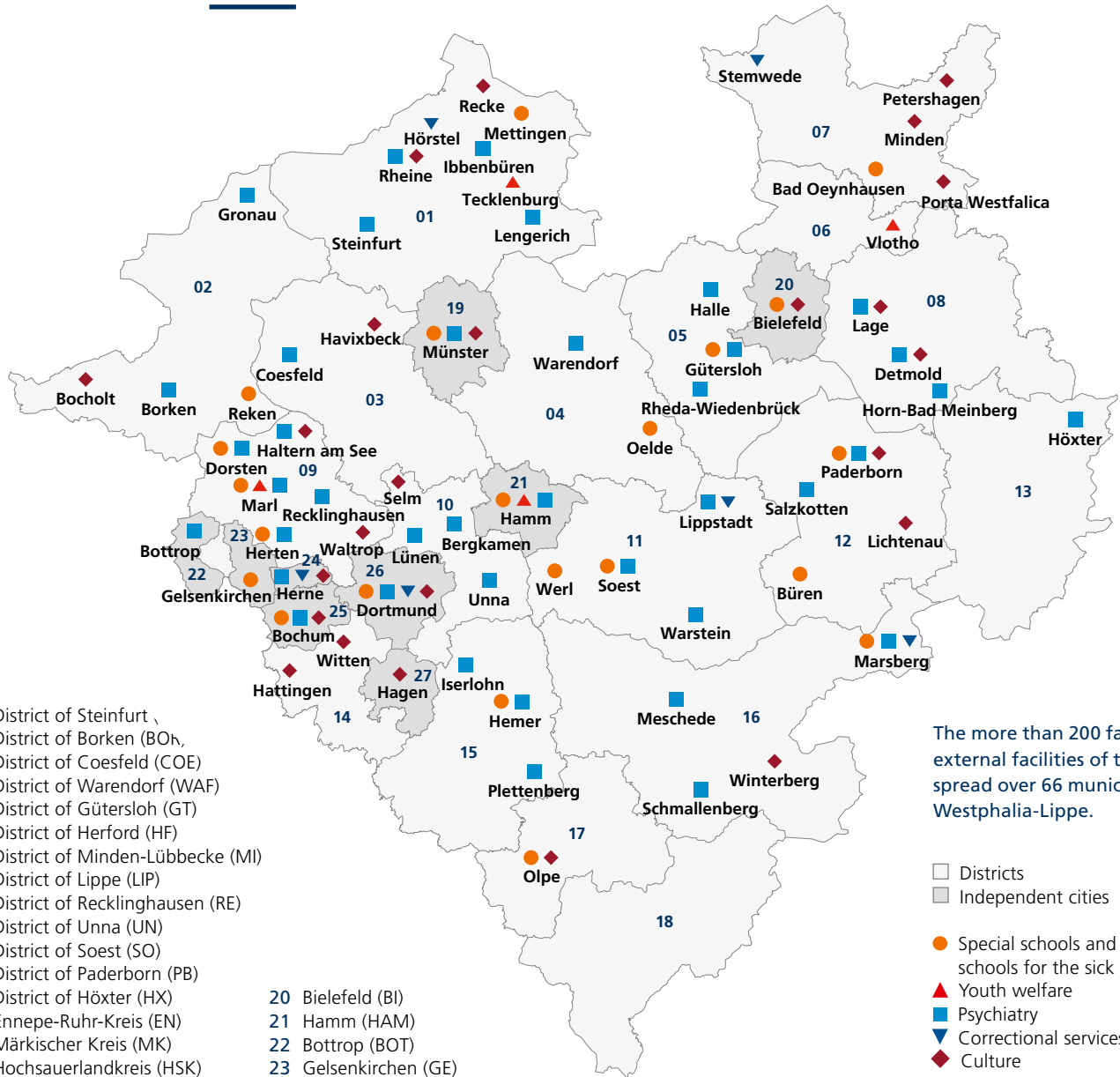


Contact

Urs Fabian Frigger

Acting Head of the LWL Department of Construction and Pensions
 LWL-Bau- und Liegenschaftsbetrieb | Management of the
 Kommunale Versorgungskassen Westfalen-Lippe (kvw) |
 Phone + 49 (0)251 591-3112
urs.frigger@lwl.org | u.frigger@kvw-muenster.de

Locations of the LWL facilities



- 01 District of Steinfurt
- 02 District of Borken (BOk)
- 03 District of Coesfeld (COE)
- 04 District of Warendorf (WAF)
- 05 District of Gütersloh (GT)
- 06 District of Herford (HF)
- 07 District of Minden-Lübbecke (MI)
- 08 District of Lippe (LIP)
- 09 District of Recklinghausen (RE)
- 10 District of Unna (UN)
- 11 District of Soest (SO)
- 12 District of Paderborn (PB)
- 13 District of Höxter (HX)
- 14 Ennepe-Ruhr-Kreis (EN)
- 15 Märkischer Kreis (MK)
- 16 Hochsauerlandkreis (HSK)
- 17 District of Olpe (OE)
- 18 District of Siegen-Wittgenstein (SI)
- 19 Münster (MS)
- 20 Bielefeld (BI)
- 21 Hamm (HAM)
- 22 Bottrop (BOT)
- 23 Gelsenkirchen (GE)
- 24 Herne (HER)
- 25 Bochum (BO)
- 26 Dortmund (DO)
- 27 Hagen (HA)

The more than 200 facilities and external facilities of the LWL are spread over 66 municipalities in Westphalia-Lippe.

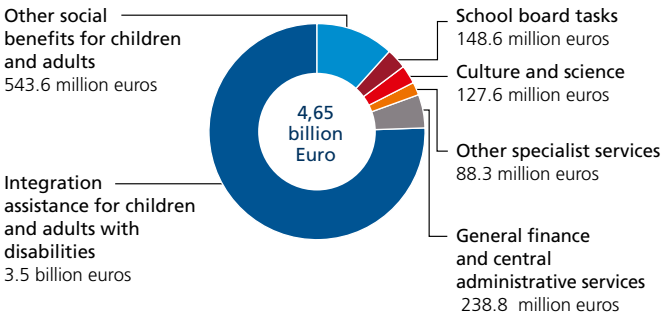
- Districts
- Independent cities
- Special schools and schools for the sick
- ▲ Youth welfare
- Psychiatry
- ▼ Correctional services
- ◆ Culture

In Detmold, Horn-Bad Meinberg, Lage and Lippstadt, the LWL operates psychiatric facilities jointly with another provider.

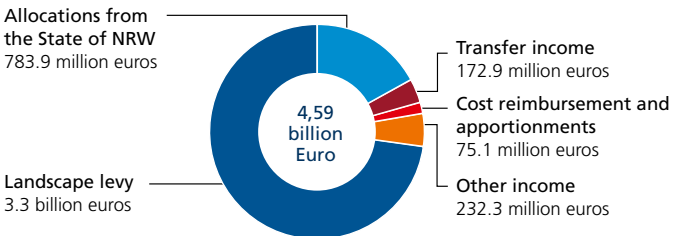
LWL budget

In 2025, the LWL has a budget of approximately 4.65 billion euros. Over 90% of this is channelled into social areas, especially assistance with integration for people with significant disabilities. The income of the LWL mainly comes from the landscape levy of the districts and independent towns as well as from financial contributions from the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Expenses 2025



Revenue 2025



Contact

Birgit Neyer

Chief District Administrator and Treasurer of the LWL
 Departement of Administrator and Treasurer of the LWL
 Freiherr-vom-Stein-Platz 1, 48133 Münster

Phone + 49 (0)251 591-215

birgit.neyer@lwl.org

Der Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL)

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Freiherr-vom-Stein-Platz 1
48133 Münster
Phone + 49 (0)251 591-4406
oeffentlichkeitsarbeit@lwl.org
www.lwl.org



**Wir
unternehmen
Gutes.**

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