

The Regional Association of
Westphalia-Lippe (LWL)

What we do.
Who we are.

LWL

Für die Menschen.
Für Westfalen-Lippe.

Dear Reader,

You will encounter the Regional Association of Westphalia-Lippe (LWL) in every city and district. Most likely you are familiar with our hospitals, special schools or museums. They are easy to identify due to the three letters 'LWL' on flags and signs.

We are a reliable partner to the municipalities that fund our activities. We make sure that all citizens in Westphalia-Lippe receive the services they need close to their homes, namely cultural and health facilities, special schools, counselling and other services, which are provided by our roughly 17,000 employees. Our biggest task is to foster inclusion of people with special needs and to reach out and help those afflicted by mental issues. The LWL advocates a society in which people with and without disabilities enjoy equal opportunities. We also believe in a strong and flourishing Westphalia-Lippe, which is among Germany's most powerful economic hubs.

Strict measures are applied continuously to assure and improve on our quality, with a clear focus on efficiency. This brochure provides an initial impression of how we achieve these goals. It also outlines the immense diversity of our work. For more detailed information, visit our website at www.lwl.org.

Yours,



Matthias Löb
LWL Director.

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We do good things

As a municipal association, the LWL takes charge of tasks on behalf of all towns and districts in Westphalia-Lippe which the local authorities are unable to perform or would have difficulty performing alone. It is also among Germany's largest providers of benefits to people with special needs. The LWL now runs approximately 200 institutions in the region, including 35 special schools, 21 hospitals, 18 museums and six forensic clinics. Around 17,000 employees therefore deliver local support, special knowledge resources, counselling and other services to the 8.3 million people living in Westphalia-Lippe. The LWL is financed by the 27 cities and districts sitting on the LWL's political committee, the Regional Assembly.

By operating across city and district boundaries, the LWL nurtures equal living conditions and quality standards throughout Westphalia-Lippe. It represents the interests of the region and its citizens wherever this is purposeful or necessary – also at state or national level. The LWL joins forces with the cities and districts to make Westphalia-Lippe strong.



The LWL invests in training and education. It provides a place for almost 700 apprentices in 35 professions, as well as students completing dual curriculum courses.

Inclusion (from the Latin term 'inclusio') – The LWL has committed itself to the goals of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensures that people with special needs can participate in society as with as much self-determination as possible. To this end, the LWL promotes the integration of children with disabilities in more than 3,000 kindergartens and day-care centres.

Long tradition – Founded in 1953, the LWL emerged from its predecessor organisation, the Provincial Association of Westphalia. The regional association uses the acronym LWL to avoid confusion with other institutions.



Flying the flag: the association slogan flutters in the wind in front of the LWL headquarters in Münster: "We do good things"



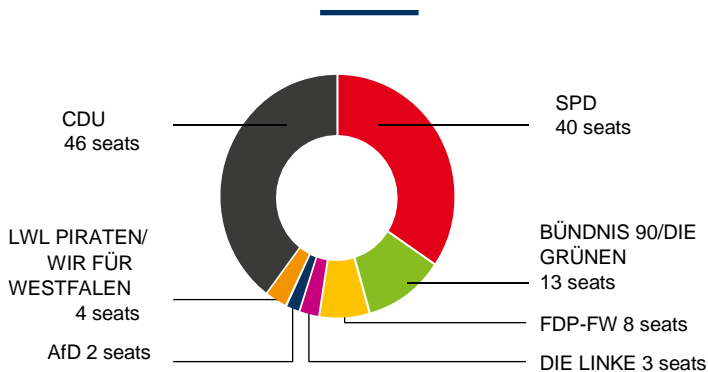
Contact

Matthias Löb
LWL-Director
The Regional Association of Westphalia-Lippe (LWL)
Phone +49 (0)251
591 01 lwl@lwl.org

The Regional Assembly of Westphalia-Lippe

The members of the Regional Assembly are elected by the political representatives of the LWL members – the 18 district assemblies and nine councils of the independent towns. The parties hold seats in the Westphalian Parliament – the alternative name for the LWL's political body – based on their results in the local elections.

14. Regional Assembly of Westphalia-Lippe 2014 until 2020; allocation of seats according to parties/parliamentary groups



In the 14th Regional Assembly (2014 to 2020), 116 local politicians from the district assemblies, councils or local authorities of the cities and districts work together. The Regional Assembly of Westphalia-Lippe defines guidelines for the LWL's work and proceeds in a similar way to a city council or district assembly. Included in this are a variety of committees that are organised in line with the LWL departments. The Regional Assembly makes fundamental decisions, adopts the budget and elects the LWL Director and the heads of the various departments.



Contact

Dieter Gebhard
Chairman of the Regional Assembly of Westphalia-Lippe
Phone +49 (0)251 591 213
dieter.gebhard@lwl.org

The Municipal Family

Together with the LWL and the Regional Association of Rhineland (LVR), the cities, municipalities and districts create a strong municipal family in North Rhine-Westphalia. Regional associations enter the picture whenever tasks exceed the capacities of individual municipalities. The associations pool special knowledge that they provide from a single source. They are also able to balance the load placed on individual cities and districts-

Municipalities, districts, cities and the regional associations share the workload according to the principle of subsidiarity: the lower level should be in charge of every task whenever possible. If, for example, local authorities in a district are financially or organisationally unable to deliver services, they first transfer the tasks to the next largest partner, the district. The LWL only becomes involved if this is not possible, either. This is the way in which the LWL works in the interests of its members.



View of the LWL Regional Assembly in Münster. The assembly meets in public session.

Self-determination

We all want to decide where we live and work. But this liberty is not self-evident for disabled persons and is often only possible with financial support. This is why almost 90 per cent of the LWL budget is assigned to social benefits.



The LWL helps people with special needs to live and work with as much self-determination as possible.

Working for everyone – the LWL Inclusion Office for Work is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities can participate in working life. Among other things, the LWL supports over 36,900 people in workshops for disabled persons. The association has introduced the LWL Budget for Work to help those seeking employment on the general labour market or who are already working there. Thanks to the programme and its predecessor, 1,300 people managed to make this major step. In addition, the LWL Inclusion Office for Work helps more than 25,000 companies in Westphalia-Lippe with around 96,000 disabled employees to create inclusive jobs. Young people with special educational needs are an important target group, and those affected receive special support to embark on their professional lives.

Self-determined housing – helping people with disabilities to live in their own homes is among the tasks assigned to the LWL Inclusion Office for Social Participation. The LWL assists 31,000 people to live independently. The benefits: most people feel more comfortable

in their own four walls, raising their quality of life. The 22,000 people in Westphalia-Lippe who live in special housing (formerly residential homes) also receive support from the LWL Inclusion Office for Social Participation, which pays disability benefits such as allowance to those with impaired vision and hearing.



Cared for – the LWL Office for Social Compensation helps a special group of people to exercise their claims. They include victims of violence, victims of war, soldiers injured in the line of duty or people who have been harmed by vaccination. The LWL specialists also make efforts to improve or even restore the health of affected persons and to ensure that they receive adequate economic support.



Contact

Matthias Munning LWL
 Director of Social
 Affairs Phone +49
 (0)251 591 237
 soziales@lwl.org

For strong mental health

The 15 clinics, 10 housing associations, 7 care centres and 5 clinical schools organised within the LWL Psychiatric Association of Westphalia step in to help when people experience mental problems such as dementia, depression or anxiety disorders. They also provide assistance to people addicted to alcohol, drugs or medication. Each year, the over 10,500 employees of the health services provider deliver 240,000 treatments to persons suffering from mental illnesses or intellectual impairments. Offering 6,770 beds and treatment places, the LWL Psychiatric Association is a cornerstone of psychiatric care in Westphalia-Lippe.

Always close-by – Mental illnesses change the lives of those affected, often radically. It is therefore all the more important to treat those afflicted in their familiar environment whenever possible. Operating from a variety of decentralised locations, the LWL Psychiatric Association of Westphalia provides blanket psychiatric care close to the individual communities.



Anyone suffering from mental health issues will find the necessary treatment and support in one of the over 130 LWL institutions.



Contact

Prof. Meinolf Noeker LWL
 Director of Hospitals
 LWL Department of Hospitals and Health, LWL
 Psychiatric Association of Westphalia Phone +49
 (0)251 591 230
 psychiatrieverbund@lwl.org

www.lwl-psychiatrieverbund.de

A safe society

Specialists in LWL's six forensic-psychiatric clinics treat mentally ill and addicted patients who have been convicted of criminal offences related to their illness and who have therefore been committed by the court. In total, the LWL offers 870 therapy places in the high-security facilities in Dortmund, Herne, Lippstadt, Marsberg, Rheine and Stemwede. The State of NRW is currently planning three new clinics in Westphalia-Lippe that will be run by the LWL.



The LWL guards and treats criminals who are mentally ill or suffering from addictions in the forensic clinics.

Long-term security – The clinics are built to be very secure and are equipped with state-of-the-art technology to guarantee a high level of protection for the population. But qualified therapy offers the greatest security of all: it offers society long-term protection against the risk of re-offending. At the same time, the patients can earn the opportunity to return to society with the necessary assistance. They enter a programme of forensic follow-up care after their release. This supports the discharged patients in the process of safe rehabilitation.



Contact

Tilmann Hollweg
 LWL Department of Forensic Clinics
 LWL Department of Forensic Clinics in
 Westphalia Phone +49 (0)251 591 231
 massregelvollzug@lwl.org

www.lwl-massregelvollzug.de

The Future: Children and Adolescents

The LWL ensures that all young people throughout Westphalia-Lippe enjoy equal opportunities. The 35 special schools run by the LWL promote and educate 6,400 children and young people with disabilities in four different priority areas: Hearing and communication, vision, physical and motor development and language (lower secondary level). At the same time, LWL uses its expertise to foster the process of inclusiveness at school. The LWL services also promote disabled children and adolescents in early childhood development, in day-care centres, foster homes and assisted living facilities.



Children and adolescents both with and without special needs are supported by the LWL.

The LWL State Youth Welfare Office for Westphalia supports the youth welfare offices in 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, counselling and training. The LWL is also responsible for three youth welfare institutions, as well as the LWL Vocational College – Technical Schools Hamm and the LWL Youth Education Centre in Vlotho. The LWL Addiction Coordination Unit is involved in addiction care and prevention.



Contact

Birgit Westers
LWL 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, from art to natural history and everyday culture: The LWL cultural institutions address a wide variety of topics – for instance its 18 state museums and two visitor centres spread across all of Westphalia-Lippe, whose permanent and special exhibitions attract far more than a million visitors each year.

The LWL Cultural Services advise and support, protect and develop, research and communicate. Their priorities include heritage protection, landscape and building culture, archiving, regional history, museums, media, palaeontology and archaeology.

Six scientific committees dealing with archaeology, geography, history, literature, dialect research and onomastics are organised within the State Regional Research Unit. The LWL also supports cultural projects, as well as organising and funding awards and the Westphalian Cultural Conference.



The LWL has cultural programmes throughout Westphalia-Lippe, like here in the LWL Roman Museum in Haltern.



Contact

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

LWL shareholdings

In some cases, the LWL fulfils its tasks in the areas of social affairs, psychiatry, forensic commitment, youth and schools, culture and municipal economy using institutions incorporated under private law. Among the most significant involvements are the shareholdings in the Provinzial NordWest insurance group and RWE AG.

Construction and Services

LWL-Bau- und Liegenschaftsbetrieb (BLB) is an internal service provider that pools construction and planning expertise and, as an architecture and engineering office, takes care of 1,200 buildings and 2,200 hectares of land. The LWL-BLB manages the property portfolio. Among other things, it implements the key real estate policy objectives of the LWL in regard to building standards or energy management.

The Kommunale Versorgungskassen Westfalen-Lippe (kvw) support 1,200 municipalities and municipal institutions from Westphalia-Lippe. The company calculates and pays civil service pensions, allowances, company pensions and state-subsidised, additional annuities to over 550,000 municipal employees. LWL is tasked with managing the kvw.



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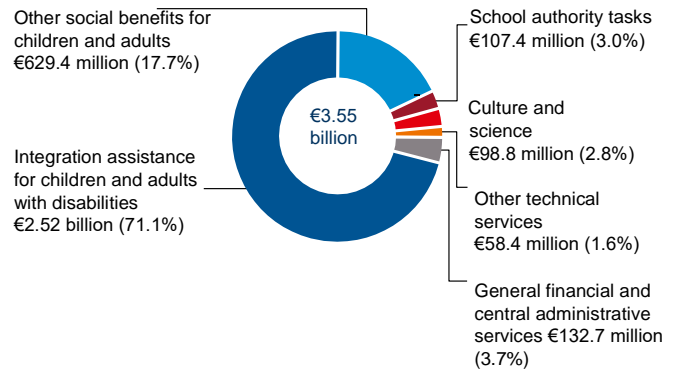
Matthias Löb | LWL Director and Acting Head of the LWL Department of Construction and Pensions
LWL-Bau- und Liegenschaftsbetrieb | Management of the Kommunale Versorgungskassen Westfalen-Lippe
Phone: +49 (0)251 591 01
blb@lwl.org | kvw@kvw-muenster.de

www.lwl-blb.de | www.kvw-muenster.de

LWL budget

The LWL has prepared a double budget for the first time in 2020/2021. In total, the LWL had a budget of around €3.5 billion at its disposal in 2020. The funds come mainly from the districts and independent towns that pay a levy to the LWL. Some of the funding also comes from the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW).

Almost 90 per cent of the budget is assigned by law to social tasks, above all to 'integration assistance'.



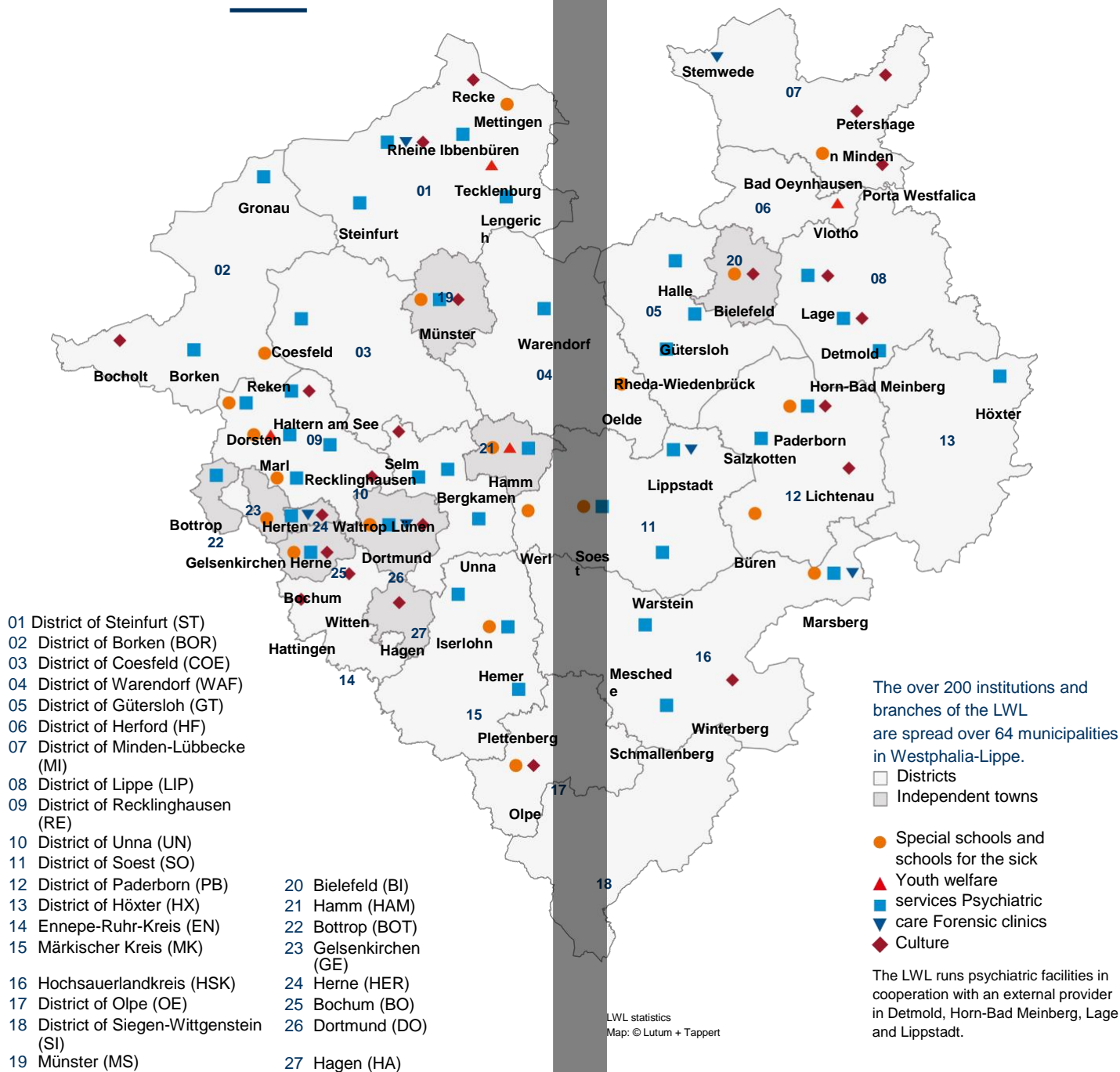
In addition, the LWL generates annual turnover of around €1 billion, also through municipal companies, and manages funds from the Federal Government and the State of NRW amounting to around €2 billion. The LWL is therefore responsible for approximately €6.8 billion per year.



Contact

Dr Georg Lunemann
Chief District Administrator and Treasurer of the LWL
Freiherr-vom-Stein-Platz 1, 48133 Münster
Phone +49 (0)251 591 215
georg.lunemann@lwl.org

Locations of the LWL institutions



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48133 Münster
Phone: +49 (0)251 591 4406
oeffentlichkeitsarbeit@lwl.org
www.lwl.org



**Wir
unternehmen
Gutes.**

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