



EUROPEAN UNION

European Regional
Development Fund

Senate Department
for Economics, Energy
and Public Enterprises

BERLIN



Europe makes Berlin – fit for the future

innovative | climate-conscious | integrative | sustainable

In order to promote joint development, the EU Regional Fund (ERDF) supports regions across the EU. Berlin, its companies and people also benefit from EU funding policy. By 2027, EUR 680 million will be allocated to the Berlin ERDF programme, which, together with the necessary national co-financing, will grow to around EUR 1.7 billion.

These funds are used specifically to promote sustainable growth, strengthen future-oriented industries and further expand our city as a hotspot for highly innovative startups. With more than a third of the budget, climate protection and energy efficiency are stronger than ever in the ERDF programme. An additional focus lies on implementing measures to develop disadvantaged urban areas.

Exciting ERDF projects can be discovered everywhere in the city!

Berlin cemeteries become green oases

Due to demographic change and a decrease in burials, an increasing number of cemetery areas are becoming redundant for burials. The project of the Evangelischer Friedhofsverband Berlin Stadtmitte, the Protestant Cemetery Association Berlin Stadtmitte, “GrüneF – Green reuse of cemeteries” aims at converting cemeteries into additional open and green spaces. The conversion of the cemetery areas actively contributes to protecting the climate and the health of local residents. Several model projects have been implemented, including a cemetery park in Berlin Kreuzberg and the creation of green spaces and school gardens at a cemetery in Berlin Neukölln. In addition, a central recycling yard is set up at a cemetery in Neukölln.

“Cemeteries are first places of remembrance culture; however, they are also important places of biodiversity and offer shade and cooling for their neighborhoods.”

Bettina Neff, Project Manager “Ecological & Social Reuse” of the Evangelische Cemetery Association Berlin Stadtmitte

The project “GrüneF” is funded by the Berlin Programme for Sustainable Development (BENE), which utilizes ERDF funds to promote CO₂ reduction, as well as the enhancement of nature and the environment in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.



The communal garden on the Neukölln cemetery grounds

A THOUGHTFUL STEP FORWARD

In economically disadvantaged urban areas, such as the Neukölln action area, there are limited green spaces available for recreational use. This is where the “GrüneF” project comes in: by reusing the freed-up cemetery areas such as the St. Jacobi cemetery, urban gardening areas, a garden cafe and a garden area are created with the participation of the residents. These are green recreational spaces, that serve the dual purpose of providing cooling and protecting urban biodiversity.

THE ERDF PROMOTES NEW DIVERSITY

Through the revitalization of old cemetery areas, the “GrüneF” project not only enhances the city’s green spaces, but also contributes to improving the climate and air quality in Berlin. Furthermore, the project creates community gathering places for residents to exchange ideas and relax. But the benefits are not limited to humans, as it also creates shelters for animals and plants.

THE ERDF IN ACTION IN BERLIN

The Berlin Programme for Sustainable Development (BENE) promotes innovative measures, projects and initiatives that contribute to Berlin becoming more climate-neutral and environmentally friendly. The objective is to reduce CO₂ emissions in order to reconcile economic growth and resource conservation. Adaptation to climate change is supported by the de-sealing of areas, the expansion of green and recreational areas as cooling and relief rooms, and the conversion from Berlin to a rainwater-storing sponge town. The reduction of ecological problem factors with the consideration of economic aspects benefits the quality of life in Berlin.

The ERDF makes Berlin fit for the future by

- actively redesigning unused land to create ecologically and socially acceptable spaces.
- creating new open and green areas in Berlin neighborhoods, as well as the preservation and better networking of existing green spaces
- contributing to cooling the urban environment and mitigating the effects of climate change

FUNDING

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Sustainable Urban Development

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Berlin Program for Sustainable Development - BENE Environment

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The community garden is part of the “Prinzessinnengarten”



The garden cafe at the new St. Jacobi cemetery



The new St. Jacobi cemetery



The neighborhood and volunteers are preparing for winter by preparing beds