Model
Capital Region Berlin-Brandenburg
Legal Notice

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Potsdam, August 2006
Foreword

Berlin and Brandenburg Issue a Model

We Complement Each Other

In the Midst of Europe

We Are Cosmopolitan

A Strong Capital for the Region

Knowledge is Our Raw Material

Our Economy is Innovative and Flexible

We Live Culture

Quality of Life is Our Strength

We Take Responsibility

Developing the Model
The Capital Region Berlin-Brandenburg has already become reality in many of the sectors that hold great potential for the future. Both states are already reaping the benefits of networking in science and advanced technologies, in the film and media industries and in the health-care sector. They have strong international appeal and are perceived as one unified region. Berlin and Brandenburg have been working together for some time, not only in business development, but also in many other administrative areas. Together we are a high-growth knowledge and science region with a high quality of life for all its residents. This is largely the result of our mutual efforts in recent years.

Now both governments have resolved to implement a model for our next years of co-operation in developing the Capital Region. It was created with broad public participation and will serve as a guideline for everyone grappling with the future challenges facing the Capital Region Berlin-Brandenburg. We know that we can only hold our own in the national and international competition for jobs and investment, for chances for development and the future, by facing them together. This is why we intend to use the respective strengths of both states to combine our forces and to create the future of the Capital Region by involving the people who live there.

Historical experience has shown that Berlin cannot be a metropolis without the region. And in this constellation Brandenburg, with its own economic, scientific and cultural development, profits from the strong appeal and internationality of Berlin at its centre.

Everyone is invited to make an active contribution to the future of the Capital Region Berlin-Brandenburg.

Berlin and Brandenburg: Together we are stronger.

Klaus Wowereit
Governing Mayor of Berlin

Matthias Platzeck
Premier of the State of Brandenburg
Together, Berlin and Brandenburg are stronger. That is why we are combining forces to develop the Berlin-Brandenburg region into a strong, competitive European metropolitan region.

Berlin and Brandenburg have a shared future, ideally in one state. They must work together to develop strategies and to master the coming economic and demographic changes.

We want to strengthen our strengths. We want to support the existing potentials in all areas of the region and apply them to the sustained development of the entire region.

Work is the essential prerequisite for quality of life. We are lobbying to secure existing workplaces in the region and to create new employment.

We want to offer women and men equal opportunities, to improve conditions for women to pursue careers and to place a high priority on reconciling the career with the family.

As a modern region, Berlin and Brandenburg want to co-operate as closely as possible to devise an efficient administration that is in touch with the people. The citizens assume responsibility for themselves and for their community.

We call ourselves “Capital Region Berlin-Brandenburg”, because we are convinced that the federal capital at our centre will open up special opportunities for the entire region.

This model is to serve as a mutual framework guiding all citizens, politics, administration, business, the organizations supporting education, science and culture, and all public and social organizations. They are the ones who will bring the model to life.
We Complement Each Other

We are ...

- a region full of diversity and vitality. The differences between Berlin and Brandenburg, and also those within the two states, are appealing and combine to make us strong.

- a region whose parts complement each other. The cultural landscapes, the cities and villages of Brandenburg and the metropolis of Berlin shape the countenance of the region.

- aware that the development of Berlin and its environs, along with the state capital of Potsdam, serves the welfare of the entire region.

- a networked region. Good communication and transport connections hold the various districts together, safeguard our general interests and are a prerequisite for economic development.

We want ...

- to support the development of Berlin and the area that surrounds it as the driver of growth in the region.

- to safeguard and exploit the poly-centrality of Berlin-Brandenburg as one of the region’s special qualities.

- to develop perspectives for the rural areas.

- to link our strengths more strongly with each other.

Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam
We will ...

- concentrate economic development geographically, bundle the development of settlements and traffic infrastructure, and thus reinforce the existing strengths in all areas.

- secure the cities as geographic anchors and support new forms of co-operation between localities and regions. The purpose of this is to safeguard mobility and the general interest even in the sparsely settled areas.

- support the rural areas in developing new economic spheres like tourism, the use of sustainable raw materials and renewable energy sources.

- preserve the high accessibility of the metropolises and the other centres, better link the traffic carriers and more strongly network the chains of transport.
In the Midst of Europe

We are ...

- the metropolitan region located at the frontier western Europe shares with the growing markets of northern, central and eastern Europe.

We want ...

- to develop the region of Berlin-Brandenburg as a link to the growing regions in northern, central and eastern Europe, while picking up on and benefiting from historical relationships.

- to position the Capital Region as a dynamic European metropolitan region for business and knowledge, for research and innovation, as well as for communications and culture.

- to be easy to get to from Europe and the rest of the world.

- to take advantage of long-range transit traffic to develop the region into a high-quality logistics location.
We will …

■ expand co-operation with the European metropolitan regions and with northern, central and eastern Europe.

■ deepen co-operation in the Oder region in order to exploit mutual economic opportunities.

■ take advantage of the geographical proximity to the business centres of Saxony, to the metropolitan region of Hamburg and to the Baltic ports to direct additional economic stimuli into our region.

■ lobby for high-capacity traffic connections and improve intercontinental connections by building Berlin-Brandenburg International Airport.

Above: The GVZ Logistics Centre in Großbeeren
Below: Display panel at Tegel Airport in Berlin
We Are Cosmopolitan

We are ...  
- strong thanks to our internationality, multilingualism and intercultural expertise. Today people from nearly 200 nations live in Berlin and Brandenburg, where they have found a new home.
- proud that our universities, academies and research institutions attract people from all over the world, a disproportionate number of them young people from central and eastern Europe.
- a region with a long, shared history of immigration. Traditionally Berlin and Brandenburg have profited from the ideas of immigrants; the region has cultivated its arts, science and economy in a primarily tolerant, open atmosphere.
- open and self-critical in dealing with our past and the relations to our European neighbours so burdened by history.

We want ...  
- to take advantage of the great number of embassies and international institutions in Berlin, the ethnic networks, the multilingual schools and the diversity of religious denominations, to make the region more attractive for international enterprises and institutions.
- to be a region that offers a home to people immigrating to all of its areas, while also embracing temporary residents from the spheres of business and academics, as well as artists and students.
- cultural diversity, openness, tolerance and interest in what is new and foreign to resume its natural role in all parts of the Capital Region now that the fractures of the twentieth century are behind us.

The Holocaust Memorial in Berlin
We will ... 

- encourage the internationality of the Berlin-Brandenburg region.

- further develop linguistic and intercultural expertise and use them as an advantage of the site.

- entice young people who come to the region to study to stay here for the long term.

The Festival of East European Cinema in Cottbus
A Strong Capital for the Region

We are ...

- the region with the federal capital in its midst. Berlin is the seat of the Federal President, the Federal Parliament, the Federal Council and the Federal Government, and hosts many institutions and associations connected with these functions.
- well aware that Berlin generates national and international attention as the federal capital and opens up major economic perspectives for the entire region.
- a region in which the functions of the capital can be extended through the potential of urban creativity and the cultural and media landscape.

We want ...

- to strengthen the capital functions of Berlin and expand Berlin as a decision-making centre.
- to exploit national and international attention to benefit the development of the entire region.
- to use the designation “Capital Region Berlin-Brandenburg” to distinguish ourselves from the other German metropolises and take advantage of those special development opportunities for the region that are connected with Berlin’s function as the capital.
We will ...

- strengthen the metropolitan functions of Berlin as a centre for politics, business, science, culture, education, sports, commerce and trade fairs in order to improve the competitiveness of our region.

- reveal that a special strength lies in the interaction of these potentials.

- conduct a joint, national and international campaign to promote the Capital Region: as a high-quality location of institutions and umbrella organizations from business and science, and also of German, European and international corporations.
We are ...

- a region with a tradition of basing its successes on knowledge and the organization of knowledge. Names like Leibniz and Humboldt stand for this history.
- a strong knowledge region. Nowhere else in Europe are as many institutions of higher education and of science and research concentrated as in the Capital Region. They serve as a foundation for developing advanced technologies.
- one of the leading regions in the world in the life sciences.

We want ...

- every child to receive the best school education possible according to his or her abilities.
- to make explicit through our activity that the future of our region lies in education, research and innovation.
- to allow sufficient latitude for the development of innovation and scientific progress.
- to develop synergies between science and business and to use the value-added chains built on these synergies more effectively.
- to secure and expand our leading position as a knowledge region in Europe.
We will ...

- lobby for life-long learning: from pre-school through school and vocational education and the universities all the way to continuing education.

- consistently encourage the integration of people with an emigrant background, using education as one of our primary tools.

- support education, science and research in the region, and use the region’s top endowment with educational institutions to increase the already high level of the qualification among the population.

- support the founding of knowledge-based enterprises originating from institutions of higher education and scientific institutions, thus contributing to the utilization of research findings in practice and to the transfer of personnel to the economic sphere.

Top down:
Instruction at a primary school in Berlin
The library of the Brandenburgische Technische Universität in Cottbus
Lecture hall at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
The Philological Library of the Freie Universität Berlin
Our Economy is Innovative and Flexible

We are ...

■ a competitive economic region at the centre of the expanded European economic space with strengths and potentials in all areas, which is also conceived of as a region on the international level.

■ a region that has accumulated an impressive record for its flexibility and willingness to change since the fall of the wall.

■ an region that attracts creative people from all over the world to live and work.

We want ...

■ to be an economic region of strong growth. This growth will allow us to create jobs that are enduring and competitive.

■ to be especially attractive for highly qualified employees and to offer young people perspectives for professional development here in the region.

■ to seize the opportunities of the international market.

■ to use Berlin’s strengths as a motor for growth in the entire region and to support economic development in all areas.
We will ...

- build Berlin Brandenburg International Airport as a central infrastructure project, develop the surrounding areas and, through this, open up growth potential for the Capital Region.

- focus economic development on industries of the future and concentrate each sector in its own geographic centre.

- foster modern industries, knowledge-intensive services, creative industries, the health sector and innovative networks.

- provide special support for small and medium-sized businesses and startups.

- provide for an energy supply that can be sustained in the future, utilizing native and regenerative forms of energy.

- intensify the joint marketing of the economic location and support the region’s corporations directly in opening up international markets.
We Live Culture

We are ... 

■ a region with a long, shared tradition in Europe, to which we owe an important cultural heritage.

■ a region with an especially broad palette of culture, an impressive diversity of cultural settings and a major, innovative art and cultural scene. This wealth makes the Capital Region attractive worldwide.

■ a region with varied and appealing landscapes and cultural spaces. The cities and villages, the castles, gardens and avenues, along with the unique cultural landscapes, make for a high quality of life.

■ a region of world-class sports.

We want ... 

■ to conserve and cultivate our cultural heritage and continue to develop it creatively.

■ to use art and culture to strengthen identification with the region.

■ to secure and expand our leading role as a region for sports.

■ to exploit the culture we offer as a location factor.
We will ...

- emphasize art and culture, creativity and innovation more strongly as the hallmark of our region through joint marketing campaigns.

- highlight the quality of the creative activities here and how well they complement our complex natural and architectural landscapes.

- preserve, utilize and shape the landscapes and cultural spaces of the region in all their diversity.
Quality of Life is Our Strength

We are ...

- an attractive region for people of every age. Between the highest levels of urbanity and nearly untouched nature, here there is room for all lifestyles. The direct juxtaposition of these various walks of life is unique in Europe and constitutes a special quality of the Capital Region.

- proud of our many forests, rivers and lakes, and of the high ecological quality of our region.

- a region with diversified health care, ranging from high-performance medicine to general health services, and with a wide range of opportunities to participate in mass sports.

- a region with an outstanding supply of child care institutions.

We want ...

- to be a family-friendly region.

- to maintain our high quality of life for all people in Berlin and Brandenburg, regardless of their ethnicity, sex, religion and philosophy, disability, age or gender identity.

- to boost the quality of life and opportunities for underprivileged groups as a means of securing social cohesion.
We will ...

- confront demographic change with spatially differentiated concepts and measures in all policy fields.
- offer families with children particular support.
- guarantee security as an important component of the quality of life for all residents.
- continue to develop the qualities of the cities and rural areas and do justice to our responsibility to safeguard general interests in all parts of the region.
- lobby for the conservation of an intact environment.
- exploit our potential in medicine, our scientific know-how and the recreational value of our landscapes for a shared region of health.
We Take Responsibility

We are ...

■ a region that is rising to the challenges of the modernization of state and society.

■ well aware of the tendency toward a diminishing sphere of influence for the state.

■ willing to accept responsibility for ourselves and for the community.

We want ...

■ the Capital Region to become a role model for the modernization of society. Our goal is the enabling state, which supports people taking their own initiative.

■ to restrict the state to its core mission and guarantee an efficient public administration that is in touch with the people.

■ to relegate responsibility and decision-making authority to the local level wherever this makes sense. For this devolution, it is important to foster efficient communities and districts.

Firefighter in the Volunteer Fire Brigade of Germendorf
We will ...

- exhaust all possibilities of state co-operation with a view to the aspired fusion of the two states, and align the legal regulations and administrative procedures step by step.

- perform a critical review of all norms and standards and continue with the process of rapidly slimming the bureaucracy.

- increase our efforts to offer our services over the Internet as well, and test which tasks might be administered better by local offices. In this politics and administration will establish new opportunities for citizens to get involved.

- invigorate volunteers and citizen participation to take advantage of all resources for the development of our Capital Region.
Developing the Model

Ingeborg Junge-Reyer, Senator for Urban Development of the State of Berlin

Frank Szymanski, Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Planning of the State of Brandenburg

“Knowledge, Economy and Infrastructure” symposium in Potsdam on 31 March 2006

June 2005  Brief by the heads of government, Wowereit and Platzeck, to work out a model for the joint development of the states of Berlin and Brandenburg

October 2005  Resolution of the Berlin and Brandenburg state governments

December 2005  Kick-off workshop


February 2006  Presentation of the agenda items for the model

March 2006  “Berlin-Brandenburg in Europe” symposium

March 2006  “Knowledge, Economy and Infrastructure” symposium

April 2006  Five regional dialogs in Brandenburg, in conjunction with the Brandenburg District Council and the Brandenburg Association of Cities, Towns and Communities

June 2006  Regional dialog in Berlin, in conjunction with the Brandenburg District Council and the Brandenburg Association of Cities, Towns and Communities

August 2006  Resolution of the model by the state governments of Berlin and Brandenburg

The outline was developed by a working group integrating all departments of both state governments under the direction of the Joint Berlin-Brandenburg Planning Department.

The development of the model was supported by events organized by other parties, including educational institutions of the political parties and of the state of Brandenburg, trade associations, associations of employees, and scientific institutions. Parallel to the process of developing the model of the Capital Region Berlin-Brandenburg, the regional planning communities in the state of Brandenburg began developing regional models.
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