

An aerial photograph showing a large-scale mining operation in the background, characterized by terraced earth and various colored waste piles. In the foreground, a lush green forest borders a winding river that flows through the landscape. The scene illustrates the intersection of industrial activity and natural environment.

FUTURE IS OUR SUBJECT

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(Regional Development Agency for the Rhineland Mining Area)



www.rheinisches-revier.de

KEY FACTS: RHINELAND MINING AREA



2,4 million inhabitants = 15% of the state North Rhine Westfalia



Capacity of lignite-fired power plants: 10.111 megawatts



50.000 employees in energy-intensive industries;
14.000 jobs depending on lignite mining directly or indirectly



700 million € gross wages or salaries



800 million € p.a. order volume concerning 3.400 companies



Quelle: RWE Power AG

WHAT IS ZUKUNFTSAGENTUR?



Regional Development Agency for the Rhineland Mining Area



Headquarter in Jülich



More than 50 staff members, most of them specialised academics



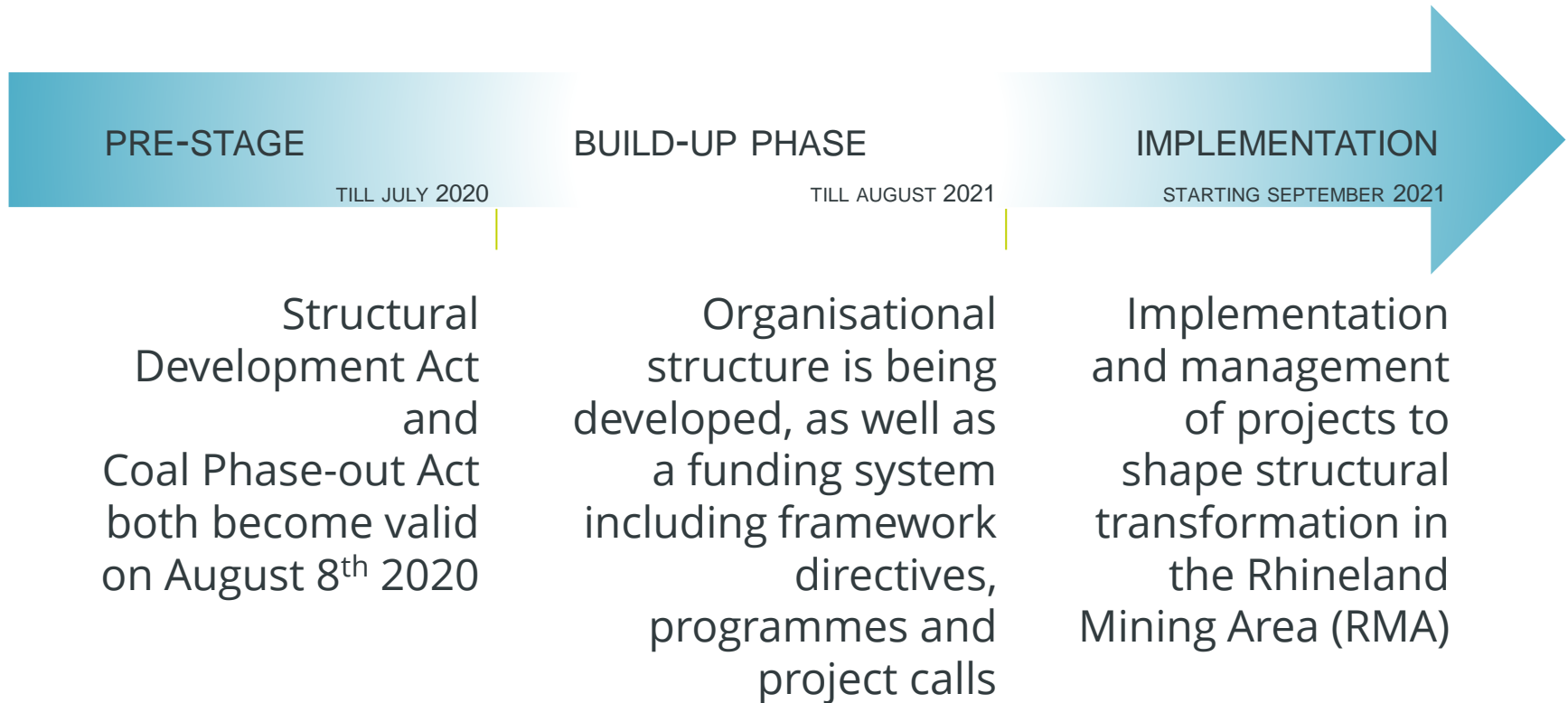
18 shareholders:
6 district administrations plus the independent city of Mönchengladbach
3 regional managements
3 Chambers of Industry and Commerce
3 Chambers of Crafts
2 labour unions



DAS RHEINISCHE REVIER
Landkreise und kreisfreie Städte



STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION – ROUGH TIMETABLE



ECONOMIC AND STRUCTURAL PROGRAMME 1.1

This 228 pages long publication is a guideline for the structural change. It also defines the procedure and indicators for the qualification of projects.



This QR-Code leads you directly to the full publication; it's only available in German though

PRE-PROGRAMMES SHORTLY EXPLAINED

SOFORTPROGRAMM 2019

- financed either from federal funds or from state funds
- federal funding for projects in the RMA: € 88.8 million
- state funds: € 3.9 million
- last project close-out required in 2023

SOFORTPROGRAMMPLUS (SINCE 2020)

- priority projects from the key issue paper on Structural Strengthening Act, and from the Act itself, and continued projects from Sofortprogramm 2019
- by resolution of the Zukunftsagentur supervisory board: verification of eligibility for funding by specialist departments (state government), supported by Projektträger Jülich (PTJ)

UNTERNEHMEN REVIER

- financed from federal funds
- projects ongoing since 2017
- € 2 million p.a. for projects in RMA
- extension planned consequent upon Structural Strengthening Act
- thus also admission to the core programme

STARTERPAKET KERNREVIER (SINCE 2020)

- particularly for 20 municipalities in the direct neighbourhood to opencast mines, plus three opencast mining environment initiatives
- a total of 23 project proposals

PROJECT QUALIFICATION PROCEDURE

We have developed a three-star pre-qualification process, which has to be passed through before funding applications can be submitted. That's how we advise federal/state authorities how to make sure that funding money supports only projects advancing structural change.

Idea providers submit outlines on the basis of defined criteria



Experts evaluate the outlines and align them with defined indicators and/or criteria



 **The project idea will benefit structural change? Yes = 1st star**

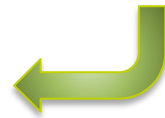


 **Outline is developed further and fulfills all requirements for funding? Yes = 2nd star**



 **Access to funding is identified? Yes = 3rd star**

Application for funding



PROJECT QUALIFICATION PROCEDURE

Please note: The general procedure of awarding project ideas with three stars in order to qualify them for the actual application for funds is the same for the preliminary programmes and the core programme which started in April 2021. But based upon experience made during the development of the preliminary programmes, the assessment criteria differs slightly as it was evaluated and optimised. The following pages present the updated criteria that apply primarily to the core programme. What remains unchanged is the meaning of the stars.



1st star: “substantial project idea”



2nd star: “viable project”



3rd star: „future project of structural change“



A. Economic and Structural Programme for the Rhineland Future Region (as a RMA follow-up)

A contribution to the Economic and Structural Programme is a mandatory requirement for any application for project funding.

Developing topics concerning the fields of action defined by the Economic and Structural Programme is a mandatory requirement for successfully shaping the structural transformation in the Rhineland Mining Area. The contribution to becoming a pioneering region in terms of development towards a sustainable economy in the context of the Green Deal is to be evaluated.

Projects relevant to this/these field(s) of action:

- energy and industry
- resources and agribusiness
- innovation and education
- spatial development and infrastructure



B. Creating and preserving jobs and apprentice positions

Projects will contribute to an adequate compensation for the loss of jobs and apprentice positions as well as the loss of value added

The number and quality of the jobs and apprentice positions created and preserved, as well as the contribution to new and preserved added value, are taken into account:

- employment subject to social security contributions (full-time equivalent)
- number of jobs
- collective wage agreement coverage
- robustness (as distinct from criterion D)
- contribution to new and maintained value added

3 points: major contribution
2 points: average contribution
1 point: minor contribution
0 points: no contribution



C. Diversification of economic structure, and enhancement of the attractiveness of the economic location

Contributing to the diversification of the economic structure: improving business structures, increasing number and quality of start-ups, or contributing to the stabilization, and further development of industrially sustainable value chains.

Improving the attractiveness of the business location contributes to: creation of new quality of life, upgrading of locational factors to advance the region's appeal to population, companies, skilled workers and start-ups, and the improvement of natural livelihoods, i.a. by actions aiming to restructuring the area, contribution to forming a European model region for energy supply and resource security.

The contribution to diversifying the economic structure and improving the attractiveness of the business location is evaluated.

3 points: major contribution
2 points: average contribution
1 point: minor contribution
0 points: no contribution



D. Conformity with sustainability goals set out in the German Sustainability Strategy, and usability with regard to future demographic developments

The aim is to give high credibility to the ambitious approach represented in the Economic and Structural Programme: The Rhineland Mining Area wants to become one of the first regions nationwide to be successfully implementing the Green Deal, and thus also to be reinforcing the economic success of the entire programme.

The contribution to achieving the sustainability goals as a whole (ecological, economic and social dimensions) is evaluated. The contributions to the achievement of individual sustainability goals as well as the possible conflicts with individual sustainability goals are evaluated. An overall assessment of the sustainability impact is to be made.

3 points: major contribution
2 points: average contribution
1 point: minor contribution
0 points: no contribution



E. Impact area: Contribution to the spatial development in the Rhineland Mining Area, taking particular account of the significance for the neighbouring municipalities

The aim is a spatially balanced realisation of projects in the Rhineland Mining Area meeting the challenges of structural transformation. In particular, the opencast mining areas and the municipalities with power plant sites or refining enterprises should be put in a position to successfully cope with structural change.

The contribution to the spatial impact and significance for the neighbouring municipalities is evaluated.

3 points: major contribution
2 points: average contribution
1 point: minor contribution
0 points: no contribution

CORE PROGRAMME – 2ND STAR AWARD CRITERIA



Checklist for obligatory information on projects ready for application within the process of project qualification:

1. General information: contact details of the idea provider (future applicant) and details of the legal form
2. Information on cooperation or association partners with contact details
3. General information on the project
 1. title
 2. place or area of implementation
 3. implementation's timescale
 4. Is funding planned to be passed on to third parties?
4. Meaningful project description including
 1. project or call objectives
 2. points of contact to other projects
 3. milestone planning / work packages
 4. Requirements according to planning law (regional planning / urban land-use planning)
5. Expenditure and financing plan, subdivided according to budget years as well as income and expenditure in accordance with the prescribed "LHO" model



6. Remarks on the necessity of the project:
 1. justification of the necessity and additionality of the project
 2. survey on alternative financing and funding options
 3. explanations on the information under 5, in particular on individual types of expenditure
 4. explanations on income and any follow-up costs
7. Declarations by the applicant on early start of the measure etc.
8. Qualified presentation of the project with regards to
 1. creation and maintenance of jobs and apprentice positions
 2. diversification of the economic structure and improvement of the location's attractiveness (including structural effectiveness, innovative capacity)
 3. usability taking into account future demographic developments as well as the continuation of achieving objectives in the region
 4. consistency with sustainability goals in the context of the German Sustainability Strategy
 5. realising goals of one or more fields of action from the Economic and Structural Programme
 6. the spatial impact and significance for the neighbouring municipalities

CORE PROGRAMME – 3RD STAR AWARD CRITERIA



A project idea is awarded with the 3rd star no sooner than an access to funding is identified. Means, experts (in that case ministerial departments in charge of identifying an access) have found a specific project fund at federal or state level, whereby the project meets the individual funding guidelines.

Funding procedures in Germany differ at federal and state level.

It may also occur that a project has to be divided into sub-projects because different parts of the project have to be funded by different project funds.

A 3rd star enables the project to submit a specific funding application (or, in the case of sub-projects, several applications). This award marks the project's eligibility for funding from the perspective of experts from Zukunftsagentur, involved ministries and PTJ. However, it does not replace the application, and is not a guarantee for the granting of funding.

SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR THREE STAR QUALIFICATION PROCEDURE IN RELATION TO APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The three star qualification procedure is a preliminary procedure preceding the actual application procedure. In charge is the Supervisory Board of Zukunftsagentur Rheinisches Revier

This pre-procedure involves further qualification of the project outlines as well as pre-selection of projects advancing structural change.

This process can accelerate the subsequent application and approval procedure.

But: the qualification procedure does not replace the review of the application and the decision by the approval authorities.

In the three star rating procedure, the Supervisory Board does not yet make a decision on the specific grant for the project, and thus also no decision on the specific allocation of funds.



**THANK YOU VERY MUCH
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**



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