

- **No.76**
- **Region in Balance – Development and shaping of a sustainable land-use management system through participation of different actors**

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- **Abstract:**

- With the increased demands for land use for food production set against the demand for a reduction of land use to protect the environment, climate protection and climatic adjustment are challenges for all municipalities and local communities. A sustainable future for Europe rests on good and effective development practice in the regions, particular on handling with agricultural and forest-economical areas. Such areas are the basis for food production, for future energy supply of regenerating raw materials, as CO₂-storage units for climatic adjustment, for the protection of biodiversity, urban settlements or as recreation areas. These various exploitation conflicts will be even more intensified by the development of wind power, biogas plants and housing, which have increased the pressure on rural areas.

Since 2008, a Region of 370.000 inhabitants in the north-west of Germany work together for becoming a “Region in Balance”. In 2010 the co-operation becomes more intensive for developing a land-use management action plan. Until 2013, the region and its communities will work together to realize this program. They do it together with different actors and go new ways for a regional thinking.

As project leader the science shop Bonn creates all included activities and moderates the entire agenda. With future-related workshops, simulation games and PR-activities the Bonn Science Shop brings new ideas and discussion topics into different levels of society.

The overall objective of the project is to develop – by co-operation with local municipalities, stakeholders and citizens – a sustainable regional land use management system as a model from the regions for the regions to solve old and new user conflicts. Such a system would contribute to the preservation of valuable land resources. The co-operation with municipalities will unite different planning levels pro-actively; local planning competence and regional planning together with the interests’ relevant spatial questions of stakeholders, NGOs and individual citizens at can be balanced.