



Dorfbewegung Brandenburg e.V. *Netzwerk Lebendige Dörfer*

Member of ERCA; participant of ERP 1 and 2 and of preparing ERP 3

Sustaining rural services and infrastructure

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Short Report

Comparable results of the Participation of Village Movement Brandenburg e.V. in the multinational Project “Sustaining rural services and infrastructure” in Preparation of the 3. European Rural Parliament

Village Movement Brandenburg joined the project later and prepared the participation in May 2017. The online-survey took place in June 2017 in rural communities of the German Federal State Brandenburg, based upon the common questionnaire, translated into German and completed partly, and as well utilising the power of SurveyMonkey. As result we received data of 62 rural communities (villages¹), which belong to 54 municipalities in

¹ As a “Village” we understand a “small rural settlement and easily overlookable local community”, not to be confused or mixed up with a rural municipality. A village is a historically grown local entity, a municipality is an administrative body, shaped and to be changed by state decisions. (After two “municipality reforms” in Brandenburg the most villages, who before normally were their own municipality, have been forced to join or to unite to bigger municipalities. Nowadays in the average to each municipality belong 4-5 villages, in some cases 10-15, which all lost their former

12 rural districts, scattered over the whole country. In that sense the results may be typical for the very differed villages of Brandenburg.

(1) Infrastructure

Q 3: Which of the following types of infrastructure are important in your rural community? Please rank in order of importance

Q 3 In relation to Q 5 and Q 6

Type of infrastructure	Please rank in order of importance from 1 to 10 Here (1+2) in % Complete table 3 see appendix)	In general terms what are the condition, sustainability and access to each in your rural community? (very good – good) in %	Please state who is the <u>MAIN provider</u> of the infrastructure: central Government, members of the community or another provider?
1 Drinking Water supplies	87	97	Local administrative union (82%)
2 Electricity supplies	86	98	Private (50%)
3 Broadband and telecommunications	79	61	State (33%), private (33%)
4 Sewerage provision	72	76	Local administrative union (65%)
5 Public lighting	64	80	Municipality (97%)
6 Roads	62	43	Municipality (80%)
7 Transport	62	43	Municipality (50%)
8 Pavements	50	47	Municipality (96%)
9 Rural economy related infrastructure (banks, markets and business facilities which could include cold storage and milk collection)	35	25	Private (33%)
10 Irrigation Water supplies	14	25	private

Statements:

Broadband mostly too less and too week in rural areas – hindrance for rural economy!

Sewerage becomes the more expensive for private households the less the exploitation.

(2) Rural Services

Q 8: Which of the following services are important (and really present) in your rural community?

Q 8 in relation to added question and Q ..

	Please rank in order of importance from 1-12 (here "very important" = 1+2+3) in %	In addition: Really existing within the given village In % of the survey villages	Main providers
Place to meet (village hall or centre)	96	74	Village community, local associations, municipality
Education facilities- infant, kindergarten	95	53	Municipality
Health – Doctor and hospitals Youth services	89 87	8 41	Government, Private Municipality, Village Community, Youth organisations
Shops	85	22	Private, koop. and community
Education facilities –primary school	83	13	Municipality. Government
Social care – baby clinics, chiropody & other services	83	26	Municipality, private
Dental provision	77	13	Private
Education facilities - higher education and secondary school	69	7	Municipality, Government
Libraries	58	25	Municipality associations
Banks and financial services Highschool, University	55 33	12 0	Private. Cooperative Government

Comments: growing need for village centres and other communication points; good examples for local initiatives to create or re-create village shops, to maintain creches and kindergarten.

For the Country lead organisation:

Please provide the information below together with your summary of the information collected in Questions 1 to 6 above.

(3) Settlements	Please state the % of population for each of these settlements in your Country?	Do you regard this category of settlement as rural? Please state yes or no
Cities		no

Large towns		No
Small town sometimes called a Market town	10 - 25	yes
Villages	20 – 25 %	yes
Scattered residences/hamlet	2 – 3 %	yes
State other		
Total		

Note that for the purposes of this survey a small town or village should not have a population of more than £10,000.

Other comments:

Different German Federal States have different settlement structures. In Baden Württemberg a village of 1.000 inhabitants may be counted to the small villages. The average population of villages in Brandenburg is about between 50 and 300. A communal reform, which ended in 2003, had difficulties to create municipalities with the mysterious figure 5.000 (may be some politicians assumed this might create urbanisation. So, in many cases small villages which before were its own municipality, have been forced to unite to big municipalities, which now comprise 10 to 15 village settlements; the most serious “sin” in that direction was to force a lot of villages to become local parts of towns which now “govern” the villages.

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- (4) Please provide case studies and examples, positive and negative, in provision of infrastructure and rural services. If appropriate, please name the project and donors if any.**

(Will follow later)

- (5) What does your analysis imply for future action by rural people, service providers, governments and the European institutions?**

A main consequence for the future should be to recognize a growing need and role of community sense, including the need for each rural community to have its own village centre, meeting point, communications centre. This includes the care for sustaining the specifics of villages as rural settlements and local communities and all those features which differ village from town and rural from urban life.

It does not mean a autarc and isolated development or standstill of the village, but cooperation with other villages and close Town-village relations.

It seems to grow tendency which is in the focus of rural movements and rural parliaments: To enable local communities for self-organisation of the village development and village life, which includes the need for self-determination and self-shaping the local quality of life by own potentials and activities (civic engagement) as well as the cooperation, bundling of all local actors, and this in interlocking with – not as a alternative to the LEADER – and othe State promotion and financial support.

General criteria for such an approach are

a) to maintain decentralised structures and to really planning bottom up – from the point of view of the maintaining role of each village and

b) to enable the local communities to organise its own struggle for maintaining the village, to actively meet the demographic change according to the special local situation and possibilities.

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A certain completion of the report will follow later after summarising of texts and translation into English

- a) concerning some diagrams,
- b) comments to some open questions and
- c) some examples

In the following Appendix you will find:

Appendix 1 (Infrastructure)

(2.1) Table to Q 3: Importance of infrastructure

(2.2) Table to Q 5: General quality (condition, sustainability, access) of infrastructure

Appendix 2 (Services)

(2.1) Table to 8: Importance of services

(2.2) Diagram to 8: Importance of services

Appendix 1 to Infrastructure

(1.1) Table to Q 3: Importance of infrastructure

(1.2) Table to Q 5: General quality (condition, sustainability, access) of infrastructure

(1.1)

3. Which of the following types of infrastructure are important in your rural community?

1 is most important and 10 is least important (in % of the surveyed villages).

	Ranking of importance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Drinking water supplies	78	7	3	6	3	0	0	1	0	1
2	Elektricity supplies	77	13	6	1	3	0	0	1	0	0
3	Broadband and telecommunication	63	13	3	6	6	1	0	4	1	1
4	Sewerage provision	59	12	11	5	8	0	1	1	0	3
5	Public lighting	37	26	12	7	7	6	0	1	1	1
6	Roads	40	22	13	6	3	4	4	3	4	0
7	Transport	46	15	12	7	6	3	3	4	1	3
8	Pavements	26	24	15	7	9	3	4	1	4	6
9	Rural economy related infrastructure	24	10	21	15	10	3	1	3	4	9
10	Irrigation Water supplies	7	7	8	13	18	3	0	10	3	30

(1.2)

Table to Q 5: Evaluation of the general quality of infrastructure

In general terms what is the condition, sustainability and access to each of the following in your rural community?

(in % of the surveyed villages)

	Ranking of evaluation	very good	good	less good	not good	Not available					
1	Drinking water supplies	75	20	3	0	0					
2	Elektricity supplies	77	21	1	0	0					
3	Broadband and telecommunication	17	44	14	24	1					
4	Sewerage provision	47	29	11	4	9					
5	Public lighting	39	41	17	3	0					
6	Roads	14	30	27	28	0					
7	Transport	13	29	32	24	1					
8	Pavements	7	41	17	25	10					
9	Rural economy related infrastructure	4	23	16	26	31					
10	Irrigation Water supplies	7	17	17	8	49					

