The international relationships maintained by the City of Dresden range from twin city partnerships to cooperation within the framework of European city networks and EU-supported programmes. In addition, diverse specialist contacts and projects are cultivated in the individual offices of the city administration. The European and International Affairs Division, which is integrated into the Mayor’s Office, coordinates the international activities. This booklet gives a brief overview of Dresden’s twin cities, outlines its contributions to international city networks, and describes the services offered by the European and International Affairs Division.

### Twin cities

The emergence of twin-city partnerships illustrates how individual communities are able to contribute actively to international developments. Such cooperative agreements became popular after the Second World War, to enable people to come together at local level, to overcome prejudices and to re-establish friendships after the dreadful experiences of the war years. Dresden has signed agreements with 13 twin cities since 1959. Each of these partnerships has its own history, and each places a different focus. The manifold relationships are characterised by exchanges in the most varied fields: School and youth activities, culture and sport, technical and scientific exchanges, and cooperation between associations, companies, universities and research institutes. Details of the activities which make up the individual twin city partnerships can be found on the City of Dresden website at www.dresden.de/europa. Here, we would like to allow the committed supporters of twin city projects to themselves present the broad scope of public involvement.

![Map of Dresden's twin cities](image)
Sister Edith Haufe, Evangelical-Lutheran Deaconess’ Hospital, Dresden:
“When a group of young people from the Cathedral in Coventry came to us in 1965 to help their local contemporaries from the Action Reconciliation/Service for Peace in the reconstruction of a hospital which had been destroyed in 1945, that was a venture of faith and an act of reconciliation between England and Germany. The German Luftwaffe had already bombed the city of Coventry in November 1940 and had devastated their cathedral. We received a cross of nails from Coventry in 1965. In February 1991, the German Cross of Nails Community was founded at our hospital. Through the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation, we are joined in prayer with the worldwide community every Friday. The Cross of Nails challenges us to live reconciliation at the place which God has chosen for us.”

Coventry/Great Britain
www.coventry.gov.uk
Twin city since 1959
Population: 306,700
Area: 98.64 km²
Prof. Boris Wager, FIDE master from St. Petersburg, participant at the European Senior Team Chess Championship held annually in Dresden:  
“For the St. Petersburg veterans’ team, the European team championship in Dresden is an event we have looked forward to eagerly every year since 2002, because the organisation is simply excellent. The friendly atmosphere during the tournaments promotes the development and strengthening of chess contacts with fellow seniors across Europe as a whole, and between St. Petersburg and Dresden in particular. The tournament reputation has grown from year to year – the best evidence of that is the annually increasing number of teams taking part.”

Maria Frank-Banaszewska, teacher at the 13th General Lyceum in Wroclaw:  
“The programme of exchanges between our school and the Vitzthum Secondary School in Dresden is not only the longest in the history of the 13th Lyceum, but also in the city of Wroclaw as a whole. For my pupils and myself, Wroclaw and Dresden, Lower Silesia and Saxony have for many years symbolised partnership and friendship. In a united Europe, it is an example of fantastic cooperation. Such school exchanges show our young Europeans the common path to understanding.”

St. Petersburg/Russia  
http://eng.gov.spb.ru  
Twin city since 1961  
Population: 4.6 million  
Area: 1,439 km²

Wroclaw/Poland  
www.wroclaw.pl  
Twin city since 1959  
Capital of Lower Silesia  
Population: 650,000  
Area: 293 km²
Kristina Kocevska, holder of a scholarship of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation from Skopje: “I had the opportunity to gain practical work experience in Dresden through the twin city partnership and with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. During my three-month stay, I gathered many valuable and constructive insights which I can put to good use in my future career in Skopje. The analysis of work in the various city departments provided a detailed impression of how a developed democratic administration functions. Overall, the work was for me both a challenge and very, very interesting.”
Ostrava/Czech Republic

www.ostrava.cz

Twin city since 1971
Population: 315,614
Area: 214 km²

Zdenek Sladovnik, head of the Department for International Relations at the City of Ostrava:
“We have been presenting Ostrava at the Dresden Travel Fair for many years now, so as to attract as many Dresdneners and other fair visitors as possible to their Czech twin city. The cooperation functions very well indeed, and we are glad to be able to contribute to the successful partnership between our cities.”
Brazzaville/Congo
Twin city since 1975
Capital of the Republic of Congo
Population: 1.1 million
Area: 100 km²

Sarah Kräß, project coordinator at ‘arche noVa e.V.’:
“The humanitarian organisation ‘arche noVa’ has been active in Brazzaville since 2006. We are currently reconstructing a secondary school in Nganga Lingolo, a suburb of Brazzaville, with our local partner, the ‘Forum pour la Promotion des Groupes Ruraux’. Together with the pupils’ initiative ‘Jeunes en action pour Brazzaville’ at the Romain Rolland School in Dresden, we are now working to build up longer-term partnerships between Congolese and German schools. I was already able to establish the first points of contact on a project trip to Brazzaville in 2010. The people I met there were all very friendly, open and interested in our work.”
Dott. Simona Bellini, Italian lecturer at the Institute of Romance Studies at TU Dresden, member of the board of the Italian Centre at TU Dresden:

“As a native of Florence, I have grown increasingly thankful for the partnership between my home city and Dresden – which already earned the epithet ‘Florence on the Elbe’ over two centuries ago – and I always look forward to the new projects which emerge from this cooperation. In 2010, I took my students to Tuscany for the second time. At the Italian Centre, too, we attach great importance to development and cultivation of the intensive contacts which exist especially to the city of Florence.”
Wolf-Dieter Müller, chairman of the Dresden-Hamburg Friendship Association:
“Our association concentrates on strengthening the contacts between the citizens of Hamburg and Dresden. Our Saxon-Hamburg evenings, in particular, have in the meantime attained a certain cult status. They enliven the twin city partnership, and we can also count on the trustful cooperation and support of representatives of the local governments on both sides.”
Frank Eckhardt, director of ‘riesa efau. Kultur Forum Dresden’, organiser of the International Dresden Summer Academy: “Artists from Dresden’s twin cities, often also from Rotterdam, teach at the International Dresden Summer Academy for the Fine Arts each year. They present their works to the Dresden public in a lecturers’ exhibition, and pass on their knowledge in the academy courses. We are really happy that this has become a regular tradition, and hope that it will remain so in the future.”
Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Gerald Staib, Chair of Building Construction and Design, TU Dresden: “The exchanges between architecture students from TU Dresden and the École Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture de Strasbourg began in 1996. The French and German students work together on joint project ideas. We are especially pleased that, since the winter term 2008/09, it has furthermore been possible to obtain a double German-French degree. Five Dresden students are currently making use of this opportunity and can in this way get to know our partner city even better.”

Strasbourg/France
www.strasbourg.eu
Twin city since 1990
Population: 272,123
Area: 78.26 km²

Dr. Reinhard Köhler, deputy chairman of the ‘Singakademie Dresden’: “The Singakademie Dresden, with a 125-year tradition, and the Salzburger Liedertafel, which was founded in 1847, have shared a close friendship and musical ties since 1992. We began with a joint performance of Brahms’ “A German Requiem” at the Salzburg Mozarteum. That has since been followed by many other joint concerts in Dresden and Salzburg, and even a concert tour to Hungary, for example with Haydn’s “The Creation”, Mendelssohn’s “Elias” and “Paulus”, and Orff’s “Carmina Burana”. To mark the 20th anniversary of the twin city partnership between Dresden and Salzburg in 2011, we are preparing a joint performance of the requiems by Mozart and Salieri.”

Salzburg/Austria
www.stadt-salzburg.at
Capital of the Federal State of Salzburg
Population: 147,571
Area: 65.678 km²
Dr. Malte von Bargen, chairman of the association “Chinese Pavilion in Dresden”: “Dresden and Hangzhou are linked, among other things, by a special building: The Chinese State Pavilion from the International Public Health Exhibition in 1911, the only original Chinese building on German soil. Our association is currently restoring the building as a future venue for German-Chinese exchanges, with the support of countless donors and helpers, and not least architects and monument preservation experts from our twin city. Their assistance is very welcome, as it is no easy task to restore this unique building to its original glory. We are planning to reopen in the centenary year 2011.”

Peter Stephan, head of the Dresden Graphic Workshop: “During the annual five-week stay of American artists from Zygote Press, an annual tradition since the 1990s, joint practical work using intaglio, lithographic and relief printing techniques provides a basis for intensive intellectual and technical exchanges, and often enough enables us to determine an astounding similarity in our approaches. No less remarkable are the extremely interesting discussions on the most varied topics under the sun, through which many a preconcept must be revised. The Graphic Workshop is for those weeks truly an international workshop.”
### International partners

In some cases, for various reasons, the bilateral relationships between towns and cities develop into a closer friendship without this being documented in an all-embracing twin city agreement in the classic sense. Dresden, for example, describes the Polish town of Gostyń and the city of San Antonio in Texas/USA as “international partners”, reflecting the contact and cooperation which has evolved in specific fields.

**Gostyń/Poland**
www.gostyn.pl
The catalyst for the partnership with Gostyń was an explicit historical fact. In 1942, members of a Polish resistance group, the so-called “Black Legion”, were executed by the National Socialists on Münchner Platz in Dresden. The attachment of the survivors and descendants of the victims to Dresden has fostered numerous friendships and joint projects.

**San Antonio/USA**
www.sanantonio.gov
The Mayor of Dresden signed a declaration of intent regarding cooperation with the Texan city of San Antonio in the fields of science, culture and the economy in February 2009. This partnership is still in its infancy and is to be intensified as suitable project ideas emerge.

### City networks

European integration is becoming ever more influential for the work of local governments. In the meantime, a large proportion of European regulations are actually implemented at municipal level. It has thus become indispensable for the local governments and their municipally-owned enterprises to voice their interests and to become involved in European opinion-making. To ensure the effective representation of municipal interests, and at the same time as a platform for European cooperation, individual cities are pooling their resources in a diversity of networks. Dresden, too, is contributing actively to such efforts.

**Euroregion Elbe/Labe**
www.euroregion-elbe-labe.eu
The Euroregion Elbe/Labe, founded in 1992, is a cross-border initiative of two local government associations: the municipal agency “Euroregion Upper Elbe/Eastern Erzgebirge”, with offices in Pirna, on the German side, and the regional corporation “Euroregion Labe”, with offices in Ústí nad Labem, on the Czech side. The City of Dresden has been a Euroregion member from the very beginning and is involved in a number of projects funded under the so-called “Objective 3” support programme. The head of the Dresden City Department for Economic Affairs, deputy mayor Dirk Hilbert, has been president of the municipal agency since 2009.

**EUROCITIES**
www.eurocities.eu
Dresden has been a member of the EUROCITIES network, which unites more than 140 major cities in 36 European countries, since the beginning of 2004. EUROCITIES devotes itself to expansion of the role played by local governments in the European context, and as a multi-national network bundles the specific
concerns of the individual cities to strengthen their representation in dealings with the EU. EUROCITIES enables the cities to participate actively in the shaping of European policies, while at the same time providing a platform for its members to share their experiences and develop specific projects. Dresden contributes to the work of the network above all in the areas of urban planning and electronic data processing.

**CEMR German Section**
www.rgre.de
The German section of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) brings together some 600 German towns, cities and rural districts. The City of Dresden joined the CEMR family in 2004. The three central local government associations (German Association of Cities, German Association of Towns and Municipalities and German Association of Rural Districts) are also members. The CEMR German Section represents municipal interests at European level, promotes the sharing of opinions and knowledge (both nationally and internationally), provides information on relevant aspects of European policymaking, encourages municipal partnerships, and supports development cooperation. Mayor Helma Orosz is a member of the policy committee of the German Section, and also represents the German Association of Cities on the Council’s European policy committee.

**POLIS**
www.polis-online.org
The City of Dresden has been a member of the European POLIS network since 2004. POLIS is an initiative of around 70 European cities, regions and transport providers, who are together committed to the promotion of innovative transport and mobility solutions. It was founded in 1989 and has its offices in Brussels. Dresden is contributing its specific experiences in the field of “Mobility and traffic” and took on presidency of the network in 2010.

**Mayors for Peace**
www.mayorsforpeace.org
Dresden is a member of the global “Mayors for Peace” network, whose worldwide activities are geared to furthering nuclear disarmament.

**Climate Alliance and ICLEI**
www.klimabuendnis.de
www.sustainable-cities.org
ICLEI is an international association of local, regional and national authorities committed to sustainable development. ICLEI was founded as the “International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives” in 1990, on the initiative of over 200 local politicians from 43 countries. In the meantime, the name has been changed to “ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability”. The City Environmental Office coordinates Dresden’s membership of the Climate Alliance and ICLEI, and in doing so exploits every opportunity to share experiences and to publicise the results of climate protection activities in Dresden.

**WHO Healthy Cities**
www.gesunde-staedte-netzwerk.de
The Healthy Cities project was initiated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1986. Its objective is to place the health of the local citizens on the political agenda in European cities, and to establish a lobby for public health issues in local government, as a contribution to improvement of the physical, intellectual and social well-being of the population. The City of Dresden was accepted into the German and European networks in November 1991. Dresden’s involvement in the Healthy Cities project is managed by a designated WHO liaison officer in the City Department for Social Services. She initiates and coordinates programmes and campaigns to promote health in Dresden, provides information on health-related topics, and organises contributions to WHO projects.

**EU projects**
The City of Dresden is involved in numerous European projects. This participation permits utilisation of the knowledge and insights of relevant partners, furthermore the tapping of new sources of funding, and last but not least a broadening of our individual experience with international cooperation and project management. In this way, the city is able to sharpen its own European profile and contributes significantly to city marketing efforts. Access to the European Fund for Regional Development (EFRE) for projects in the city districts is managed in the City Planning Office. Information on both current and successfully completed projects can be found at www.dresden.de/europa.
The European and International Affairs Division within the Mayor’s Office of the City of Dresden offers you the following services:

- **Advice and public relations support**
  We offer our advice in the forefront of your planned projects with and in our twin cities. If you are looking for a contact person, we can put you in touch with suitable partners in those cities, or else other internationally involved organisations in Dresden. We are able to support your public relations efforts through press releases or announcements in the city’s official gazette and the newsletter Dresden International.

- **Reception of international guests**
  Whether you are bringing school pupils or a delegation to Dresden, we can support you with corresponding information about Dresden, and can even offer a meeting at the City Hall, where appropriate.

- **Financial support**
  In the case of projects with twin cities, you may submit an application for partial funding of your project. Application forms and the funding guidelines can be found at www.dresden.de/europa.

- **Advice on sources of funding for international projects**
  We are able to provide you with the latest information on possibilities for EU and other international project funding, and can advise you on application procedures.

- **Information on the European Union**
  We can supply a variety of information brochures on the European Union, and answers to your questions concerning European issues. Our division is an associated partner of the “Europe direct” information network of the European Commission.

- **Events**
  A “Dresden European Forum” is organised four times a year to discuss topics of European interest. Further events are held on particular occasions, and are announced in advance at www.dresden.de/europa.

- **Development cooperation and humanitarian aid**
  We offer information on the development cooperation between the City of Dresden and the Dresden humanitarian aid organisation “arche noVa - initiative for people in need” within the alliance “Dresden helps”, as well as similar humanitarian projects. www.dresden.de/europa

The City of Dresden website provides information on all the division’s activities: Twin cities, projects, EU funding schemes and events. In the “Download” section, you will find a selection of foreign-language brochures about Dresden.

- **Dresden International newsletter**
  The monthly electronic newsletter keeps you informed on current international projects and events in Dresden. In addition, we give a summary of the latest information from Brussels. The newsletter can be downloaded from www.dresden.de/newsletter-international, where you can also subscribe to receive the newsletter automatically.

**Addresses**

The contact details of the Saxon members of the European Parliament, foreign diplomatic missions in Dresden, and institutions involved in international exchanges can be found at www.dresden.de/europa or www.dresden.de/auslaenderbeauftragte → Vereine.

- **City of Dresden**
  European and International Affairs Division  
  Dr.-Külz-Ring 19  
  01067 Dresden  
  Germany  
  Telephone (+49 351) 4 88 21 40  
  Teletex (+49 351) 4 88 21 46  
  E-Mail: europa@dresden.de