

The audit of integration assistance in the Free State of Saxony (GER)

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The audit of integration assistance in the Free State of Saxony (GER)

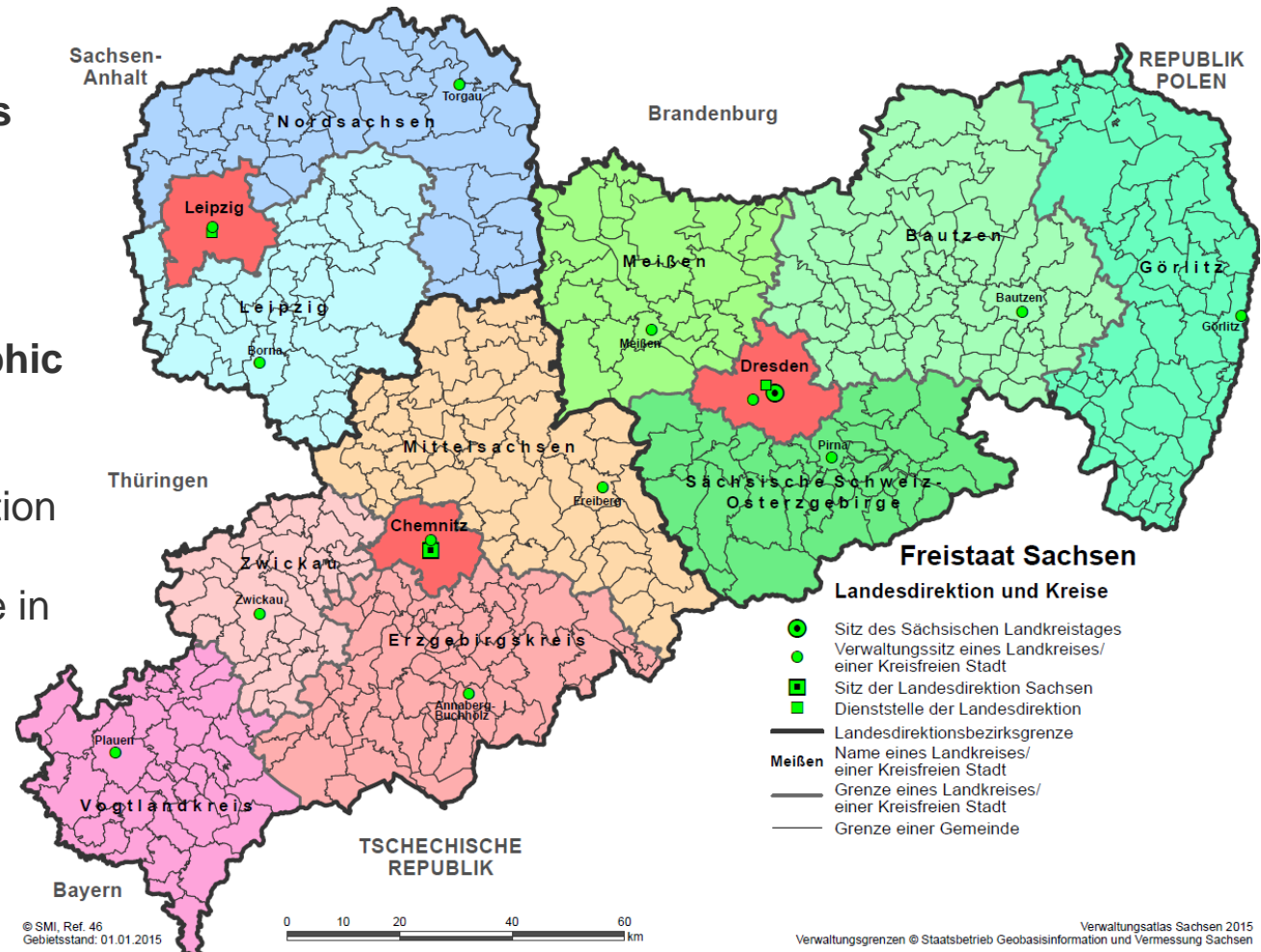
Agenda

- Introduction
 - situation in the Free State of Saxony
 - social benefits, welfare and integration assistance
- Audit methodology and audit findings
- Audit recommendations

Free State of Saxony

Overview

- 4 million residents
- state budget 17 billion €
- intense demographic change
- diminishing population
- population increase in large cities
- aging population



Social benefits

Federal law determines the scope of benefits

– Implementation through federal states

- in the Free State of Saxony through municipalities

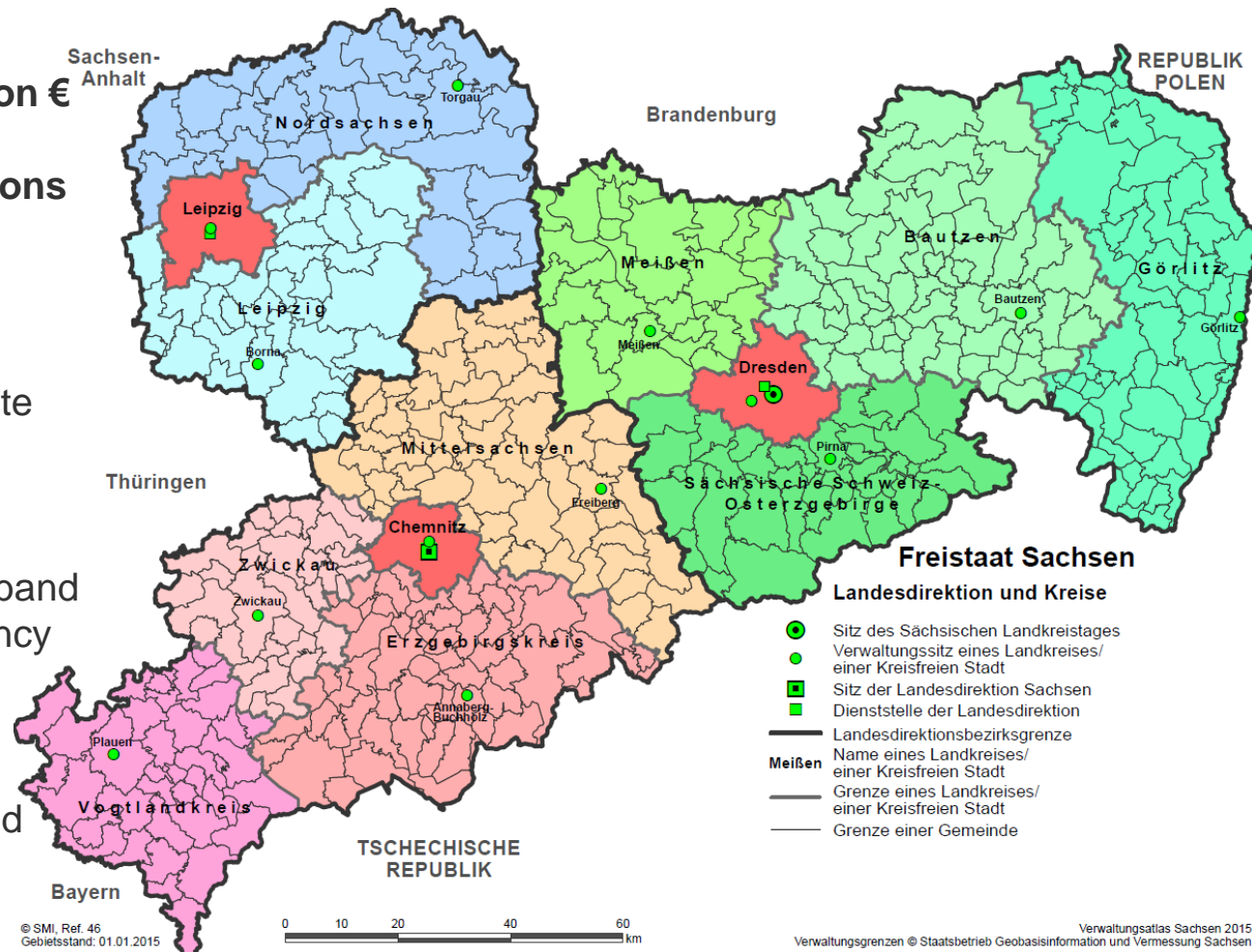
total budget of all municipalities 12 billion €

Local welfare institutions

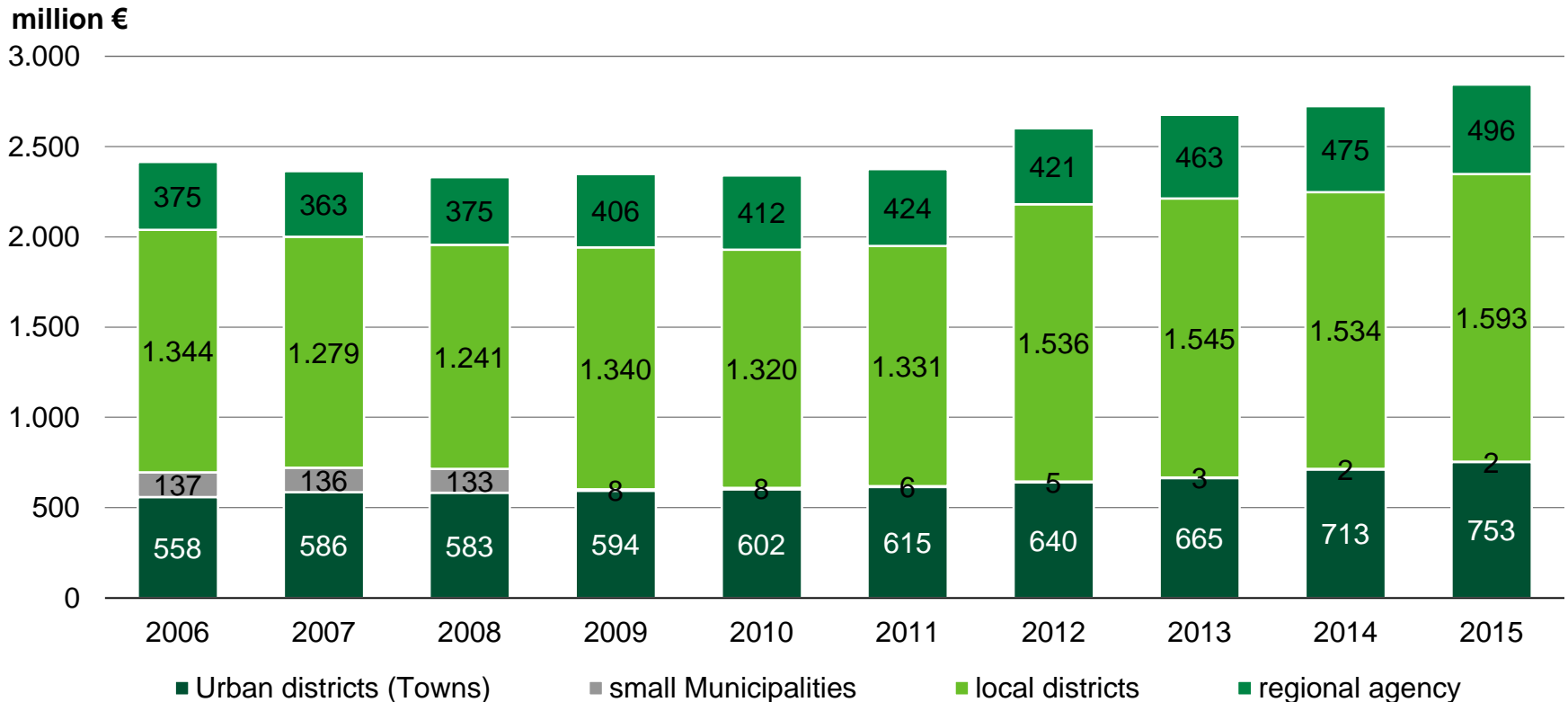
- 10 Landkreise (administrative districts)
- 3 Kreisfreie Städte (urban districts)

1 regional institution: Kommunalverband Sachsen (regional agency for social assistance of Saxony)

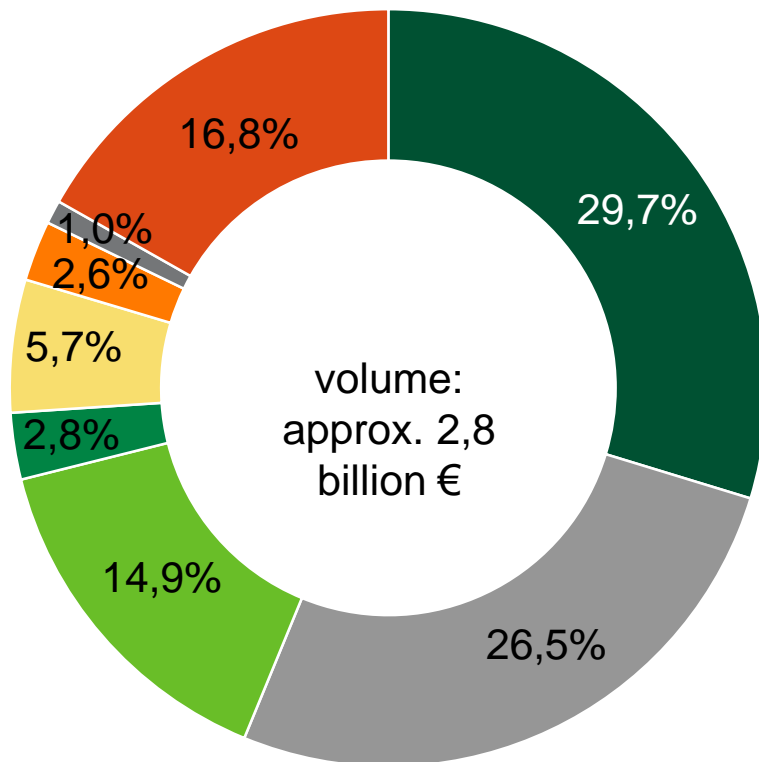
Service usually provided by private agencies



Spending on social benefits by the municipalities of the Free State of Saxony



Social benefits in 2015

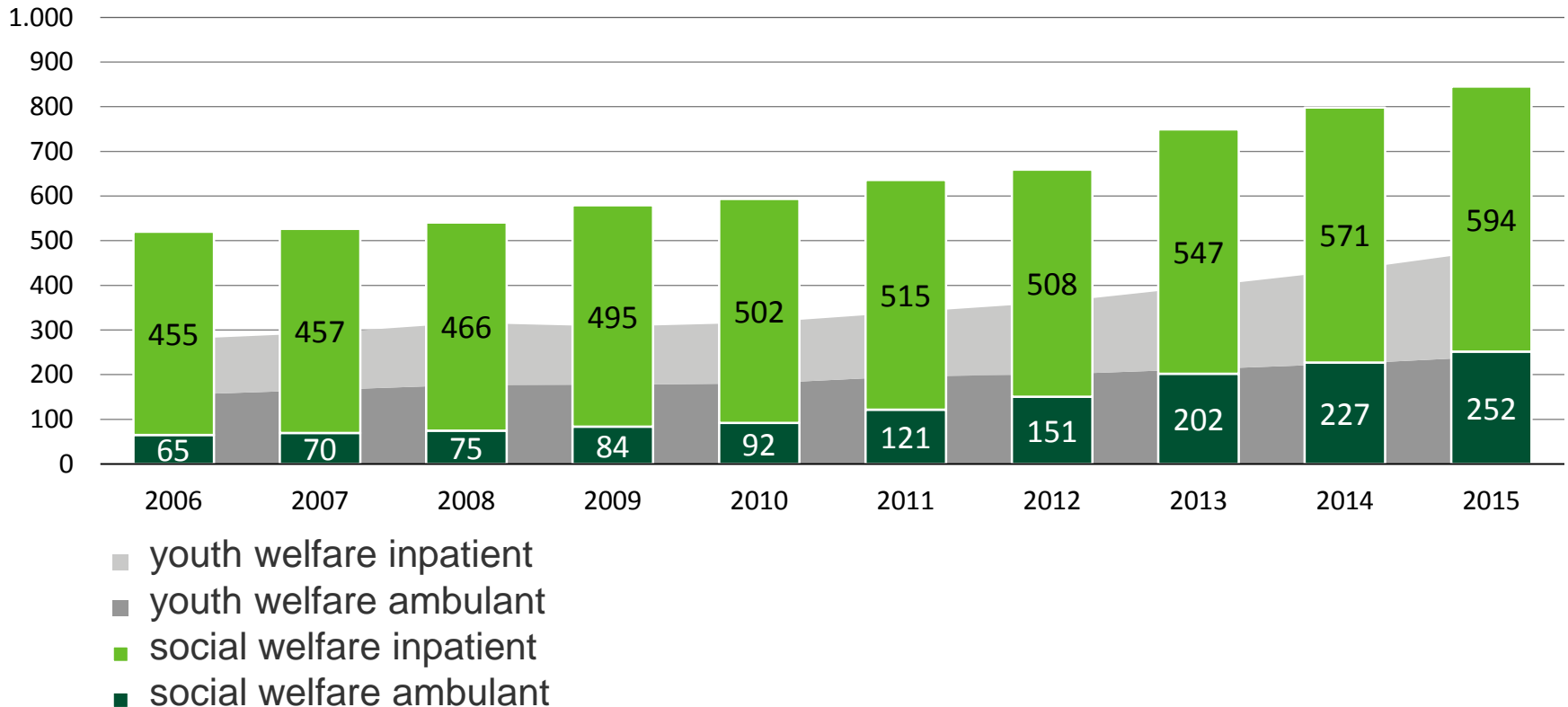


- social welfare, needs-based pension supplement in old age and in case of reduced earning capacity
- benefits for housing and heating of unemployed people
- unemployment benefit II (spec. communities)
- benefits for workintegration of unemployed people
- benefits for asylum seekers
- other social benefits including advances of maintenance payments
- benefits for education and participation
- youth welfare

Increased spending on social and youth welfare

local and regional agencies

million €



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Social welfare – a definition

Social welfare as a **subordinate** benefit shall **guarantee a dignified life** for its recipient and preferably **enable** him to take care of himself without social benefits in the future.

Social welfare includes the following benefits:

1. subsistence payments,
2. needs-based pension supplement in old age and in case of reduced earning capacity,
3. assistance for health,
- 4. integration assistance for persons with disabilities,**
5. assistance in care,
6. assistance to overcome special social hardships and
7. support in other circumstances

as well as the corresponding counselling and guidance.

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Integration assistance – a definition

Integration assistance shall support persons with disabilities and persons who are at risk of becoming disabled to integrate into society and alleviate the consequences of their disabilities.

Integration assistance (6. Kapitel SGB XII – chapter 6 Social Code XII)

- assistance for medical rehabilitation
- services in recognized workshops for disabled persons
- benefits for participation in life of the community:
 - therapeutic benefits for children
 - assistance in the acquisition of practical knowledge and skills
 - aids for independent living in supported housing
 - aids for participation in community and cultural life
- aids for adequate education
- other services of integration assistance.

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Competency for integration assistance

Local agencies for social assistance:
10 Landkreise (local districts) and 3
Kreisfreie Städte (urban districts / towns)

- for the under-18 year-olds and those who have reached the age of 65 as well as
- for ambulant benefits for 18 to 65-year-olds
(besides ambulant assisted living)

➤ payment transfer to the KSV

Regional agency for social assistance:
Kommunaler Sozialverband Sachsen (KSV)

- all semi-inpatient and inpatient benefits as well as
- ambulant assisted living for 18 to 65-year-olds
- ✓ Support of local agencies for social assistance in their social planning procedures



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Audit methodology

Cross section audit of all 13 local agencies for social assistance

- 2 online inquiries
 - staff, development of number of cases, spending, measures of integration assistance
 - engaged software and controlling
- inquiries in 3 districts

Audit of the regional agency for social assistance (Kommunaler Sozialverband)

Audit objective:

- Do the internal procedures of the social assistance agency allow an appropriate, professional and efficient exercise of function?
- Are there possibilities for economization?

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Audit results (1)

Deficits in the collection of data

- What is a „case“ ?
 - one or more benefits for the same recipient,
 - if applicable more than once a year
- inaccurate bookings / classifications
 - personal budget
 - “other benefits”
 - individual benefits of more than 100,000 € per case
 - sometimes 27 % of the total costs of integration assistance
- date of collection of data
 - Federal statistics
 - inter-municipal benchmarks

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Audit results (2)

Deficits in internal processing

- internal controlling missing
 - no internal collection and analysis of data
 - no objectives determined
- insufficient software solutions
 - no integrated solutions for special processes and budget control
- internal revision / local examination of accounts
 - sometimes not enough staff to execute social audits

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Audit results (3)

Deficient overall planning- need for an interdisciplinary approach

- Objective: improvement of impact (and reduction of costs)
- Co-operation of social assistance agency, doctors, health authorities, Federal Employment Agency, youth welfare office, ... **and the persons concerned**
 - sometimes only 5 % of the measures included in overall planning
 - no case management
 - recipients not involved in the process

Reasons:

- guidelines for overall planning missing
- problems related to staff:
 - high sick leave, high employee turnover (staff under pressure)
 - no expert staff
 - specific training programmes missing

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Audit results (4)

Co-operation of the funding agencies

- complex services: medical, medical-therapeutic, curative pedagogic and socio-pedagogical assistance
 - only a few reimbursement claims examined and forwarded to the insurances
- co-operation of social assistance agency and youth welfare office
 - frequent change of competence (IQ < 69 => social assistance agency; IQ > 70 => youth welfare office)
 - Which kind of disability is relevant for the competence of the agency?
 - sometimes „big solution“ found (fusion)
- Implementation of the right to inclusive education (Art. 24 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)
 - funding for **school escorts** unclear (education authority or social assistance agency)
- age limit of 65 relevant for competence (not the age of retirement)
 - Unnecessary change of competence (regional / local social assistance agency)

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Audit results

Increase in spending requires improved controlling

Improved co-operation of the funding agencies

- improve database
- introduce controlling, train expert staff
- introduce comparison system and benchmarks for social assistance agencies
- define interfaces between assistance providers
- ensure long term financing of social assistance
- **Campaign for coordinated regulations at Federal level**
 - problem: municipalities not represented at federal level
 - Saxon Social Ministry must engage as **coordinator** (not only supervisory body)

Prospects

- new Bundesteilhabegesetz (Federal law on integration of persons with disabilities)



Thank you very much for your attention,
your **questions** and your **remarks**.

Rechnungshofdirektor Peter Teichmann
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