

Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (GGCE) for the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management – UN-GGIM

Offer from the Federal Government of Germany



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(cover image: Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy)

1. Statement of Interest

The government of the Federal Republic of Germany hereby submits its offer to establish the office of the **Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence for the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in Bonn** and to support its work as described here.

Changes in the Earth – especially those influenced by human activity – have consequences for our environment and must be continually observed. The natural disasters that are occurring ever more frequently must be understood better so that in emergencies we can protect people as well as cultural treasures and natural resources. This kind of Earth observation needs data, for example, to describe changes in sea levels or movements of the Earth's crust. Such observations require a precise basis as well as high-accuracy positioning, which must be available at the same level of quality in all United Nations member states. This is the only way UN member states and aid organisations can act efficiently and effectively in disaster situations without falling short due to different government jurisdictions, heterogeneous data sources or differences in calculation methods. Providing the foundation for Earth observation and positioning – as well as conducting Earth observation and positioning itself – is a global challenge and is of key importance for socially relevant issues such as stable living conditions, climate change and land use. Earth observation and positioning are the tasks of geodesy, the science of measuring and mapping the Earth's surface. Without basic geodetic data, effective action is impossible, especially in the areas of civil protection, weather forecasting and planning.

Through the establishment of the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (hereafter GGCE), the government of the Federal Republic of Germany supports the development of a globally coordinated public geodetic infrastructure enabling all countries to work together in a coordinated manner. The Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG), which is an executive agency of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, helps to shape these tasks worldwide on behalf of Germany within the scope of the United Nations, working in a network of cooperation partners.

Through this offer, the government of the Federal Republic of Germany is showing its intention to help implement the United Nations' 2030 Agenda in an effective and efficient way. The UN member states have recognised, at both political and expert level, the geospatial dimension of the sustainability goals as well as the significance of high-accuracy global geodetic infrastructure for recording current conditions and of long-term surveillance of changes in the Earth.

Being established within the UN Campus in Bonn the GGCE will be embedded in a working system of some 20 UN organisations and 150 non-governmental organisations as well as six of the federal ministries located in Bonn. Many of these institutions are located in close proximity to the UN Campus. Both, active cooperation and potential

synergies are possible, amongst others, with the programme of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). Bonn's proximity to the European Union's headquarters in Brussels offers additional connections, for example to its Galileo programme, its strategic goals and the European network.

The offer of the government of the Federal Republic of Germany is endorsed by the city of Bonn, the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia, and specialist international organisations. The UN member states Argentina, Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan and Norway have submitted letters of support. By offering to host the GGCE in Bonn, the Federal Government seeks to meet Germany's increased international responsibility and declares its willingness to step up its UN involvement.

By establishing the GGCE in Germany, the government of the Federal Republic of Germany will assume a key role in providing the basic data that is needed to work on issues that are of global social relevance. The globally recognised specialist expertise of the BKG in Frankfurt can, given its proximity to Bonn, provide useful and efficient specialist support to the GGCE and its tasks.

2. Description of the Offer

2.1. Executive Summary

For the years 2021 to 2025, the Federal Government commits to:

- make annual contributions to the GGCE of up to 875,000 US dollars as well as annual contributions to the common costs of the GGCE of up to 24,000 US dollars, to ensure that the head of the GGCE and three staff positions are provided for in this period.
- provide suitable office space for six people on the UN Campus in Bonn.
- provide furnishings and technical equipment for the office at the UN Campus in Bonn.
- provide the usual infrastructure (energy, water, waste removal, data lines, communication systems, etc.) at the UN Campus in Bonn.
- provide up to two employees of the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy to offer staff support to the GGCE (by means of national secondment).

Commitments going beyond this are not currently envisaged and would require a special agreement. For the period from 2026 onward, the Federal Government will, at the appropriate time, examine long-term prospects for the GGCE at the UN Campus in Bonn.

Profiting from Bonn's world-class Infrastructure

The GGCE and its entire work force will be able to begin their work immediately. The facilities on the UN Campus include around 500 offices and modern conference rooms with interpreting booths for all UN languages. With the World Conference Centre Bonn (WCCB), the UN Campus has a world-class meeting facility located in its immediate vicinity. Over the past 10 years and more, Bonn has built a sound reputation as a conference and dialogue venue for the global debate of sustainability and development issues. Major international conferences and events have been held in Bonn, including the World Climate Summit COP23 in November 2017. The city supports major conferences in a variety of ways and encourages sustainable conference management practices.

Working in a UN City located in the Heart of Europe

Bonn is a vibrant hub for international organisations, hosting about 20 UN institutions and more than 150 NGOs all working in different sectors of development cooperation, geospatial innovation and Earth observation. Various federal ministries, such as the Federal Foreign Office (AA), the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), still maintain a significant presence in the former federal capital. Located within easy reach of many important European cities, including Brussels, Strasbourg and The Hague, Bonn offers plenty of networking and collaboration opportunities for the GGCE.

Living in a cosmopolitan City with excellent Services

Bonn is a growing medium-sized city of roughly 330,000 inhabitants situated in the heart of Europe. It is one of the cities with the highest quality of life in Germany. This excellent standard can be enjoyed at moderate living costs. This makes the city an attractive place to live for qualified experts and staff, service providers and young scientists.

Bonn is beautifully situated on the banks of the river Rhine and in idyllic green surroundings. The city is a hospitable place with many cultural offerings, a cosmopolitan flair and open-minded citizens – a multicultural city where people from around 180 nations live peacefully together.

Catch the spirit of Bonn:

<https://youtu.be/L2WrHKjtoXM> (Source: Bundesstadt Bonn)

The former German capital and now UN city is characterised by cosmopolitan charm. Educational opportunities range from bilingual nursery schools to international schools and high-ranking universities. The cultural scene is diverse, including the opera, several theatres, the Beethovenfest and a vast array of restaurants and cafes. The excellent public transport system and good infrastructure for bicycles makes getting around Bonn very easy.

Benefiting from Privileges and Immunities

Germany will grant the GGCE, as a member of the UN family, the customary level of privileges and immunities. GGCE staff members and their family members will be entitled to a protocol ID card through the Liaison Office of the Federal Foreign Office in Bonn. This protocol ID card serves as proof that the bearer does not require a residence or work permit in Germany. In addition, the protocol ID card along with the national passport allows the bearer to travel visa-free in the Schengen area.

2.2. Technical Proposal

The following proposal of the Federal Government underscores how the establishment of the GGCE as a central point of contact will support the development of worldwide geodetic infrastructure while also coordinating measures and overseeing their implementation.

2.2.1. Opportunities for the Implementation of the GGCE

Earth observation and high-accuracy positioning are currently conducted in an international network of non-governmental organisations and are not satisfactory because the usable data is not collected and maintained for the long term according to binding standards. In particular, prosperous countries in Europe and elsewhere must contribute to supporting lower-income countries more efficiently. That is why it is essential to establish a UN organisational unit to coordinate and monitor a globally harmonised geodetic infrastructure.

The GGCE's planned coordination and oversight tasks are not yet being carried out by any institution or UN member state. At technical level, specialist organisations from multiple UN member states have already pledged their support for the establishment of a GGCE in Germany. These institutions' letters of support are listed in chapter 3.

The GGCE is meant to support UN member states in improving their national contributions to the global geodetic infrastructure and to foster an open exchange of the observation data and the findings.

The GGCE's tasks are being defined in the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy (SCoG). The following reference materials for the GGCE have been developed in the SCoG and are to be adopted by the UN member states at the 10th meeting of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts in August / September 2020:

- Position Paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame
- Concept Paper on Establishing a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence

The adoption of these reference materials should not pre-empt the substance or timing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Host Country Agreement (HCA)

named in them. The GGCE should invite the UN member states represented in the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts to participate in and contribute to the tasks of the GGCE. The Work Plan 2021–2025 should make it possible to assign concrete packages of tasks to partner institutions. Cooperation agreements will be made between the GGCE and the partner institutions.

Mobilising mentor utilities for the GGCE

The **International Association for Geodesy (IAG)** has existed for more than 150 years as an international organisation bringing the necessary geodetic institutions together. All positioning, georeferencing and navigation technology, products and developments are based on a global infrastructure of terrestrial and satellite-based methods. For this technology to work, a network of government institutions is needed that cooperates internationally to ensure both reliable and permanent availability of basic components and further development in the field. The IAG in its present form is indispensable to the coordination of global geodetic tasks, but it is a framework that does not allow for binding agreements among UN member states, only arrangements and understandings between specialist organisations. Under the umbrella of the IAG, a variety of international services have been established over the years, which are dedicated to the different subfields of geodesy and could also be used to develop a globally harmonised geodetic infrastructure. The German Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG) plays a highly active role in the IAG's services. The IAG will be represented in the advisory body of the GGCE.

The **Fédération Internationale des Géomètres (FIG)** is a global umbrella organisation of surveyors who work as civil engineers. The FIG was founded in 1878 and primarily fosters international cooperation in geodesy and its professional associations, interdisciplinary collaboration between geodesy and other geosciences, and technological progress. It also advocates for common standards in professional practice and in training at institutions of higher education. This umbrella organisation is a UN-recognised non-governmental organisation and contributes to UN development programmes. The FIG will be represented in the advisory body of the GGCE.

The **space agencies** (e.g. NASA, ESA) actively participate in the IAG's services and operate parts of the current global geodetic infrastructure (ground stations). The space agencies also contribute to the operations and further development of satellite positioning systems (e.g. GPS, Galileo). The space agencies will be represented in the advisory body of the GGCE.

The **Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG)** operates with partners three observatories and plays a leading role in developing the network of global geodetic infrastructure at the following ground stations: the Geodetic Observatory Wettzell (GOW) in Wettzell, Germany (BKG with Technical University Munich); the Argentinian German Geodetic Observatory (AGGO) in La Plata, Argentina (BKG with CONICET, the Argentinian National Scientific and Technical Research Council); and the German

Antarctic Receiving Station O'Higgins (GARS) in Antarctica (BKG with DLR, the German Aerospace Center). The BKG is a reliable partner in the evaluation of global Earth observation data. It holds a key position due to its operation of data centres for satellite navigation, for determination of Earth rotation parameters and for measurement of the Earth's gravitational field. With its globally recognised specialist expertise, the BKG can usefully and effectively contribute technical support to the GGCE's tasks and help to shape these tasks.

Increase Awareness and Appreciation of the GGCE

The GGCE can draw on the BKG's international network of experts to raise awareness and appreciation of its work. The Federal Agency will support the GGCE as a reliable partner in geodesy. It could initiate or support direct forms of cooperation and the organisation of international workshops and conferences within the scope of the IAG. The proximity of Frankfurt to Bonn is also highly conducive to such events.

The city of **Bonn** has established event formats providing visibility, outreach and networking opportunities to resident international organisations. UN Day is hosted annually as an open day on the market square in the centre of Bonn, while UN Talk highlights emerging topics for an audience of catalysts for change. Together with Bonn-based partners from academia, businesses and NGOs, Bonn supports lecture series on sustainability-related issues. SDG Days, established since 2018, encourage individuals and communities to engage with the SDGs.

Co-creating and sharing Knowledge and Tools among Operators

The BKG is offering to include the GGCE in IAG knowledge-sharing and experience-sharing activities. The Federal Agency is highly active in the IAG's services, including through its operation of geodetic observatories, its data analysis and storage, and its provision of products. The Research Group Satellite Geodesy is a collaboration between BKG, the Technical University of Munich and the University of Bonn. The Research Group Satellite Geodesy operates the Geodetic Observatory Wettzell and is expanding it internationally, using the latest technologies and methods. It provides high value measurement series via the scientific services of the IAG; analyses, combines and interprets data; and develops relevant methodological and theoretical foundations as a contribution to geodetic Earth system research. It thereby helps to guide international activities and scientific progress in these fields.

The state of **North Rhine-Westphalia** offers a dense concentration of research institutions and technology companies. Bonn is part of North Rhine-Westphalia's metropolitan region in the Rhineland, which features the most intense research area in Europe. The area known as the 'ABC research triangle', comprising the cities of Aachen, Bonn and Cologne, counts over 150,000 students, around 20,000 scientists and more than 50 renowned science and research institutions. The University of Bonn, for example, is a leader in the field of geodesy. With a total of 34,000 students from around 140 countries, it cooperates with Bonn-based international organisations in numerous ways to address

future-oriented issues related to the UN Agenda 2030 such as human security, climate and water research, biodiversity and food security.

Along with the University of Bonn, the city is home to six universities of applied sciences, six Fraunhofer Institutes, three Max Planck Institutes, the German Aerospace Center (DLR), the Center of Advanced European Studies and Research (caesar), and many other institutions.

By launching the Galileo programme, the **European Union (EU)** has initiated its first global satellite navigation system. This is the first civil and civilian-controlled system that provides precise timing and positioning information. Galileo is meant to ensure Europe's independence from other satellite navigation systems and its strategic autonomy in matters of satellite navigation. The BKG took part in the technical implementation of Galileo. The GGCE and the proximity of the European Union's headquarters offer connections to the Galileo programme, the EU's strategic goals and the European network.

UN-SPIDER is a programme of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) with offices in Vienna, Beijing and Bonn. The Bonn office systematically compiles relevant information on the uses of Earth observation, satellite communications and satellite navigation in disaster management and emergency response. This information is made available on the UN-SPIDER knowledge portal. Through workshops, expert advising and training measures, the programme fosters knowledge exchange and capacity building regarding access to space-based information and its uses, especially in developing countries. The GGCE will be able to identify potential synergies and take advantage of opportunities to cooperate with the UN-SPIDER programme.

2.2.2. Partner Institutions

As part of the expansion of the **Geodetic Observatory Wettzell (GOW)**, a Competence Centre for satellite geodesy is to be established. This centre's aims include hosting technical, scientific and organisational workshops, meetings, conferences and training at the GOW within the scope of the UN's GGRF resolution. Regularly held training also fosters exchange of knowledge in keeping with the GGRF Resolution. The GOW is a prime example of a geodetic observatory that is part of the global geodetic infrastructure.

Germany provides strong support for the development of geodetic infrastructure. Together with national and international partners, the BKG operates geodetic observatories in **Wettzell, Germany**, and **La Plata, Argentina**, as well as the **O'Higgins Station in Antarctica**. The main office of the International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS) within the Federal Agency provides the relevant reference systems and data about the Earth's rotation and helps in calculating Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

Other institutions in Germany also contribute to developing global geodetic infrastructure: the German Research Centre for Geosciences in Potsdam (GFZ) and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) operate satellite laser ranging stations in Potsdam and Stuttgart.

The **European Space Operations Centre (ESOC)** in Darmstadt, Germany is the ESA's nerve centre – “Europe's gateway to space”. Since 1967, it has been responsible for operating all ESA satellites and for maintaining the global network of ground stations that this requires. To date, the ESOC has overseen operations for more than 60 ESA satellites, including Huygens, Mars Express, Rosetta, Envisat, GOCE and Herschel/Planck. The Centre has also supported numerous missions of other national and international organisations.

Many universities in Germany offer **English-language courses in geodesy** – not only the University of Bonn, but also universities in Berlin, Hanover, Munich and Stuttgart.

2.2.3. Host Location's SDG Engagement

Incorporating national geospatial data/information into the European and international environment is increasingly taking centre stage. A uniform global geodetic reference frame and global, regional and national geospatial data management are necessary for effective Earth observation and long-term development. To date, however, many UN member states have shown a low level of understanding of the use of geospatial data for sustainable development and to meet the UN 2030 Agenda - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The **Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG)**, in cooperation with the **Federal Statistical Office**, contributes to Germany's achievement of the SDGs by using geodata to calculate SDG indicators, making particular use of remote sensing. For example, the BKG supports national calculation methods for SDG indicators 11.7.1, average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use by all, 15.1.1, forest area as a proportion of total land area, and 15.4.2, Mountain Green Cover Index.

The United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) initiative is devoted to coordinating global geospatial information management. Important topics for UN-GGIM include the integration of statistical and geographical information, especially regarding their significance for the 17 SDGs.

The UN-GGIM resolution for a Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development (GGRF) can be considered a significant success for UN-GGIM. The United Nations General Assembly, the highest-ranking UN body, adopted it on 26 February 2015. The GGRF is the first geoscience-related resolution. The BKG played an active role in shaping this resolution in its current form, thereby making an important contribution to it. The Agency is also playing a major role in the further organisation of the resolution

and in shaping the path to its implementation, especially as part of the work of the newly established UN Subcommittee on Geodesy.

2.2.4. Host Location and Infrastructure

Having served as the first seat of the parliament and government of the Federal Republic of Germany after its founding, Bonn possesses sound infrastructure and a wealth of international expertise. It has retained these features following the relocation of the parliament and parts of the government to Berlin in 1999. In accordance with the Berlin/Bonn Act, six federal ministries and a large number of superior federal authorities have retained a significant presence in Bonn, and a total of 30 diplomatic missions and consular representations are also still in the area. Twenty UN organisations and more than 150 international NGOs and national, international and supranational institutions all contribute to the city's rich cosmopolitan life.

Discover the city of Bonn in this short film:

<https://www.dpa-video.com/secret/54141187/9bc8bc51ab341dea84bb780ff5473716>

Information about Bonn's sustainability strategy: <https://youtu.be/tcvzz7FBXR0>

Connectivity

Bonn, as a former German capital, is a national and international hub for air, rail and road travel. Bonn thus presents great structural advantages as a compact city without the conurbation problems known to large cities.

Bonn is near three **international airports**: Cologne/Bonn, Düsseldorf and Frankfurt. The journey times from Bonn to these airports range from 30 to 90 minutes, with numerous direct flights providing links between Bonn and the capitals of Europe and the world. New York, Nairobi and Delhi can all be reached within 7.5 hours.

Cologne/Bonn Airport, with its underground ICE railway station, offers flights to almost 130 international destinations, operated by over 25 airlines. The number and frequency of direct flights each week, as well as the short flight times, reflect Bonn's excellent travel connections.

Düsseldorf Airport can be reached from Bonn by ICE train or by car in less than an hour. Düsseldorf, too, offers a wide range of direct flights to destinations both within and outside Europe.

Frankfurt Airport is Germany's largest airport and also one of the busiest aviation hubs in the world. By ICE train, Frankfurt Airport can be reached from Bonn's main train station in approximately 90 minutes.

High-speed trains connect Bonn to European water policy hubs such as Amsterdam, The Hague and Brussels. Brussels, for example, can be reached in 2.5 hours.

Bonn has an excellent **public transport** system at its disposal. UN Bonn and public utility Stadtwerke Bonn offer a job ticket to their staff. This inexpensive and climate-friendly travel pass allows round-the-clock use of all public transport in the entire Bonn/Cologne area. A dedicated “UN Campus Bonn” stop, opened in 2017, links the GGCE’s proposed new location directly to Bonn’s main train station. From there, Cologne is just 30 minutes away by public transport, while the journey to Düsseldorf takes 60 minutes. Underground and metropolitan rail networks, trams and buses all run frequently. Bonn has a comprehensive local transport network, which is constantly being optimised. Moreover, the city of Bonn provides adequate safe infrastructure for cyclists and is committed to further investing in its expansion.

Infrastructure on the UN Campus

The GGCE will be hosted at the UN Campus in Bonn. Situated in a **park-like setting** right next to the river Rhine and hosting 1,000 UN staff, it embodies sustainable development. The addition of the GGCE will expand the Campus’s role as a think tank for global issues.

The Campus is surrounded by a security fence. At one end is the World Conference Centre Bonn, run by the city of Bonn, and at the other end Deutsche Welle, Germany’s main public international broadcaster.

The UN Campus, encompassing and grouped around the **29-floor main building** known as the Langer Eugen (“Tall Eugene”), is located in the former government district of Bonn. This landmark building, which formerly housed the offices of members of the German Bundestag, contains some 450 workstations. The GGCE will be located in this building, along with twenty UN entities that have already made it their home in the UN City of Bonn.

The UN Campus offers the excellent communication technology infrastructure needed for smooth operation of the GGCE. Trained staff members under the supervision of the UNV Common Services Unit are available to assist with any technical matters that may arise.

The Federal Ministries for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and Education and Research (BMBF) stand ready to offer institutional support to UN entities’ programmes and projects. The **Federal Foreign Office’s Liaison Office** in Bonn is the first point of contact for the UN in Germany. It takes care of the political and technical coordination of the UN Campus, its protocol issues and all legal questions in connection with the establishment and status of international organisations in Germany.

The **city of Bonn’s Department of International Affairs and Global Sustainability** offers numerous services to support and promote the UN Campus in Bonn. Along with rendering support during the relocation process, the city provides dedicated services for the organisations and their staff on site. It organises official functions and compiles

suitable, event-related supporting programmes for conferences at the location. It also offers services and advice for formalities and official matters of all kinds, as well as inviting newcomers to regular expat activities and drawing attention to foreign-language events in the city.

Conference facilities and hotels

Bonn and its surroundings offer a large number of conference facilities that feature state-of-the-art technology and equipment and are available for conferences of all sizes. Bonn has gained considerable experience with hosting large international conferences on future-oriented issues – some of them attended by more than 15,000 participants.

For visitor accommodation, Bonn offers a wide range of excellent hotels of all categories at reasonable rates. The Bonn Tourist and Congress Office offers all kinds of conference services, including help with booking accommodation for large numbers of visitors. Bookings via the local [Bonnhotels.de](https://www.bonnhotels.de) website include public transport. A guide to sustainable conference organisation lists all available services in Bonn and the region, e.g. the Sustainable Bonn Hotels, which have made their management more sustainable.

International Community

Bonn's English website provides the information newcomers need not only to successfully deal with formalities and official matters but also to meet other expatriates and enjoy cultural events in Bonn. The city has extensive experience with the services that international professionals and senior staff and their families require. In this regard, employees arriving in Bonn will benefit from the fact that UN entities have been located there for decades. The city offers, for example, welcome packets and events for all new employees in English: <https://international.bonn.de/>

Newcomers will not only benefit from the strong presence of international stakeholders – they will also find an international, multicultural, tolerant and safe environment. Bonn's international community appreciates the city's low crime rate, which is well below the national and international average. The cost of living in Bonn is moderate compared with other European cities.

Bonn offers an exceptionally skilled workforce with many well-educated, multilingual local residents. This is thanks to Germany's excellent education system and also to the presence of several multinational corporations and the many non-profit organisations located in the region. Wages and salaries paid by the UN are significantly higher than those currently paid in Germany, which makes it relatively easy for international organisations to recruit suitable employees.

Education

With some 55,000 children and adolescents aged under 18, Bonn is a city with a young population and a **family-friendly reputation**. Right next to the UN Campus is the International Kindergarten, which provides excellent early childhood education and care. Bonn offers several international schools, such as the Bonn International School

(BIS) and the Independent Bonn International School (IBIS). In Bonn, pupils have the option of taking the *Abitur*, the German version of A-levels, which grants access to German universities, or of studying for another internationally recognised qualification (such as the International or French Baccalaureate).

Bonn also offers numerous opportunities for taking foreign language classes or receiving additional tuition in one's mother tongue. The universities of Bonn and of Cologne offer the entire range of humanities and sciences, as well as bilingual and bi-national study programmes. As part of the welcome service, the city offers assistance with placing children in schools and child care.

For more information regarding child care, visit:

<https://international.bonn.de/services/children-and-family/>

Medical Care

Bonn offers an unusually broad range of inpatient and outpatient medical care. The city has a total of more than 20 hospitals, outpatient facilities and day clinics, providing the full spectrum of modern medical diagnostic and therapeutic services. The supply of hospital beds is outstanding, with more than 1,300 beds per 100,000 inhabitants.

Moreover, with its four university clinics in Aachen, Bonn, Düsseldorf and Cologne, the region has a high level of expertise in clinical care. In the outpatient sector, Bonn and the surrounding area are home to over 1,000 medical, dental and psychotherapy practices as well as more than 10 medical care centres and medical specialist centres for almost all medical disciplines. These include almost 50 specialists in paediatrics and adolescent medicine. On the whole, Bonn offers exemplary medical care and excellent facilities to international patients. Most German and international doctors in the Bonn area speak English.

Detailed information about medical care in Bonn, including emergency phone numbers, and lots of useful information about local hospitals, doctors, pharmacies, self-help groups and welfare associations, can be found here:

<https://international.bonn.de/services/medical-care/>

Housing

The city offers housing in every category – from one- and two-room flats to detached houses with large gardens and park-like surroundings. In central Bonn, many residential buildings date from around 1900 and feature the distinctive flair of the Art Nouveau style. Many houses and flats are available in village-like suburbs, many of which are only a short commute from the city centre. Bonn is a compact city and its suburbs offer the peace and quiet of the countryside. Bonn's municipal villages on the outskirts also offer Rhenish regional traditions and an active community. New housing developments with excellent access to public transport tend to appeal especially to young families with children.

Bonn and the surrounding region offer flats and houses for all requirements – from urban to rural. Rents and purchase prices for owner-occupied flats and houses correspond more or less to the average levels in other international conurbations and cities. In Bonn the rental prices per square metre (sq m) range from 9,50 Euro for a normally equipped apartment in a standard location to 17,50 Euro for an apartment in a very good location (source: current Bonn rent index). When purchasing an owner-occupied home, one can expect to pay on average, depending on the residential location and the floor space, between 2,000 Euro/sq m and 4,000 Euro/sq m (source: real estate market report).

2.3. Financial Proposal

The GGCE will be an entity of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in New York. The Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy's contribution to the UNSD is a contribution to an international organisation outside Germany.

The initial planned running time is five years (2021–2025), after which an evaluation will assess the GGCE's performance. The evaluation will be used to decide whether it will continue. For the period starting 2026, the Federal Government will, at the appropriate time, examine the GGCE's long-term prospects at the UN Campus in Bonn.

The common costs will be charged directly to the UN office by the Common Services Unit (CSU) of the United Nations Volunteer Programme (UNV) as the UN manager of the Campus in Bonn.

Generally, the role of the trust fund proposed by the UN Subcommittee on Geodesy remains to be defined. Doing so will provide transparency in the use of funds and will facilitate performance evaluation.

The Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy's contribution to the GGCE's operations on the UN campus in Bonn encompasses the following components:

Annual Commitments

1. The Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy's (maximum) annual contribution to the GGCE:

875,000 US dollars (800,000 Euro)

legal basis: agreement under international law

2. The Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy's (maximum) annual contribution to the common costs:

24,000 US dollars (22,000 Euro)

legal basis: agreement under international law

The staff costs are based on United Nations information ('Salary scale for the Professional and higher categories showing annual gross salaries and net equivalents after application of staff assessment', effective 1 January 2020). The following UN staff are to be hired for the GGCE:

- 1 x Chief of Centre, P5 level
- 1 x Technical Expert, P4 level
- 1 x Technical Expert, P3 level
- 1 x Administrative Expert, G5 level

The staffing needs have been discussed with the UN-GGIM secretariat of the UNSD. The annual commitments also take into account possible additional costs for things such as post adjustment, marital status, children, etc. The payments will be made in the exchange reserve, US dollars.

Support Services for the GGCE (utilities, legal framework, etc.)

The German government will apply the established arrangements on the UN Campus to the GGCE. It will offer the GGCE rent-free office spaces and in-house facility management through UNV's Common Services Unit. The high standard applicable to federal ministries as the country's supreme federal authorities will be the basis for the office facilities. Their equipment and the existing United Nations' office space in Bonn will be the benchmark.

The German government will assume all settlement expenses of the GGCE at the UN Campus during the first five years of its establishment. It will cover all costs for the one-time furnishing and equipping of offices and meeting rooms – including furniture, IT and communications systems. This will include the coverage of all relocation costs of permanent GGCE staff moving to Bonn, including the moving of their private belongings.

The Federal Foreign Office's Liaison Office in Bonn is the first point of contact for all international organizations based in Germany. It provides assistance regarding the issuing of visas for staff members of international organizations, their family members and domestic staff, and for delegates and experts.

The GGCE will be integrated in the legal structure of the UN Campus, which is formed by the UNV agreement of 1995, the premises agreement of 1996 and also the exchange of letters between the Federal Government and UNV as the UN representative of the Campus regarding the two extension phases of the Campus in 2006 and 2013. From the moment of the settlement of the GGCE, the UN Convention of 1946 will immediately be applicable in terms of privileges and immunities, with regard to both the GGCE itself and its staff members.

Against this background GGCE staff members and their family members are entitled to be issued a protocol ID card through the Liaison Office of the Federal Foreign Office in

Bonn. This protocol ID card serves as proof that the bearer does not require a residence and working permit in Germany. In addition, the protocol ID card allows its bearer to travel visa free in the Schengen area.

A seat agreement fully adapting the UNV agreement to the GGCE can be arranged through the Federal Foreign Office on behalf of the Federal Government.

Contributions to GGCE staffing

The Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy will provide two of its own employees to offer staff support to the GGCE for a period of up to five years (by means of national secondment). The Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy will assume the resulting costs.

3. Letters of Support from relevant Partner Institutions

Letters of support from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan and Norway are included with this offer as annexes.

4. Documents of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy

The Position Paper and Concept Paper of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy (SCoG) are included with this offer as annexes.

5. Additional Information

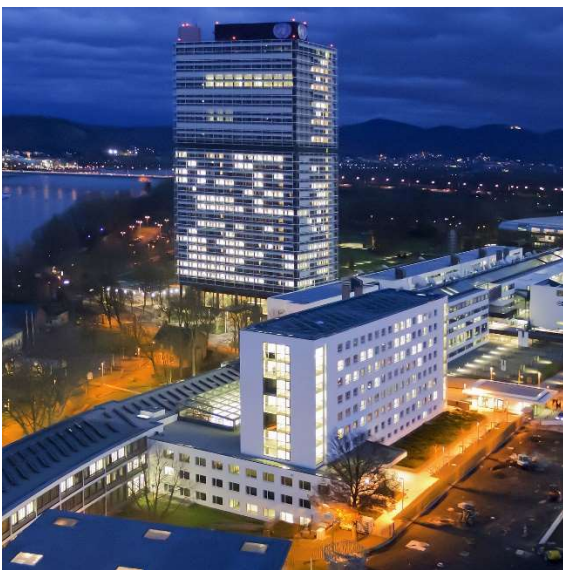
5.1. Pictures of Office Facilities at the UN Campus in Bonn



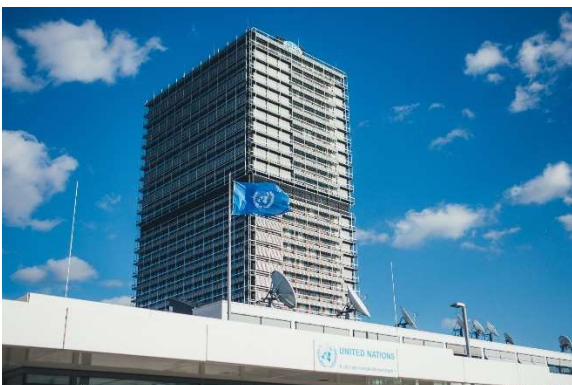
Source: Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, Thomas Ruffen



Source: Press office of the city of Bonn



Source: Press office of the city of Bonn



Source: Press office of the city of Bonn

5.2. Certification of Security Standards for the UN Campus in Bonn

The 2019 Certification for the UN Campus Bonn is attached to this offer.

5.3. Privileges and Immunities of UN Offices and their Staff in Bonn

The legal framework for the United Nations in Germany is stipulated by the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (1946) and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (1947). The host country agreement concluded in 1995 between the Federal Government of Germany and the United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV) serves as a blueprint for all further headquarters agreements between the Federal Government and United Nations offices based in Germany. The privileges and immunities granted by the UNV agreement to UN offices and their staff reach even further in some respects than those accorded by the two UN conventions.

Bonn-based UN offices enjoy the following privileges and immunities: inviolability of the headquarters district; inviolability of archives and documents; immunity of funds, assets and other property; exemption from tax liability; exemption from customs duties, import and export prohibitions and restrictions in respect of articles for official use; inviolability of official communications and correspondence; right to use codes and to dispatch and receive correspondence by courier or pouches, endowed with the same immunities and privileges as diplomatic couriers and pouches.

UN officials from P-5 level upwards enjoy the privileges and immunities granted under Articles V and VII of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, as well as the privileges, immunities and facilities accorded by the Federal Government to members of the diplomatic staff of missions accredited to Germany. In individual, well-founded cases of officials whose functions justify it, this status can also be granted to P-4 level staff members.

All UN officials, regardless of their nationality, enjoy the privileges and immunities as provided for in Articles V and VII of the General Convention, including: immunity from legal process in respect of acts performed in an official capacity (this immunity is also accorded after termination of employment with the UN); exemption from taxation on salaries and emoluments paid by the UN; immunity from national service obligations; immunity, together with spouses and dependents, from immigration restrictions and local registration; in times of international crisis, repatriation facilities analogous to those of diplomats of comparable rank for officials, spouses and dependents; right to import, free of duties and taxes, articles for personal use; any other privileges analogous to those of diplomats of comparable rank in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961.

Personnel recruited by the UN locally and paid on an hourly basis are granted the following privileges and immunities: immunity from legal process for acts performed in an official capacity (this immunity is also accorded after termination of employment with the UN); such facilities as may be necessary for the independent exercise of their

functions; employment in accordance with UN regulations rather than German labour law.

UN officials' spouses living in the same household do not require work permits and enjoy free access to the local labour market. Insofar as they take up employment not covered by the social security and pension systems of an international organisation, they are subject to the compulsory contributions required under the German social security, pension and long-term care insurance systems. Children up to the age of 21 do not require work permits.

The German government undertakes to issue visas and residence permits, where required, to household employees of UN officials as speedily as possible; no work permit will be required in such cases.

Germany is a signatory of the Schengen Agreement, which has among other things led to the abolishment of border checks between its parties in the European Union and additionally Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. All UN staff members in Germany and their families enjoy the same freedom of movement among Schengen states as do the citizens of those states.

After separation from active service with the United Nations, UN staff and those members of their families forming part of their household (spouses, unmarried children under the age of 21 and other dependents) may apply for a German residence permit. In accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the Federal Foreign Office and the city of Bonn, former UN staff and their families are granted a residence permit following separation from service if the staff member has worked for the UN in Bonn for at least three years without interruption upon separation from service and the general requirements for a residence permit under German law on foreigners are fulfilled.

Bonn's international organisations receive support for the relocation of staff members and their families to Bonn. Special welcome services and individual support are organised by the city's Department of International Affairs to facilitate the integration of staff and dependants in Bonn. Moreover, the city of Bonn cooperates with several partners on site to offer several expat events throughout the year. These informal get-togethers provide first-hand information for newcomers about cultural life in their host city as well as a fine opportunity to socialise and get to know their new surroundings.

5.4. Overview of Organisations, Universities and Hospitals

Organisations of the UN

<https://www.unbonn.org/>

Other International Organisations

Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC)

International Paralympic Committee (headquarters)

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

Environmental Law Centre of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International (FLO)

Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDT), main office

International Renewable Energy Agency, IRENA. The IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre (IITC) was founded in Bonn in 2011 and seeks new scientific pathways to promote renewable energies, especially in developing and newly industrialised countries. The Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century moved its headquarters from Paris to Bonn in 2018.

European Forest Institute (EFI)

Overview of National Organisations

German Development Institute (DIE), Bonn

German Institute for Adult Education (DIE), Bonn

German Aerospace Center (DLR), Cologne and Bonn

Deutsches Zentrum für Neurodegenerative Erkrankungen e.V. (DZNE), Bonn

Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), Bonn

caesar research centre, associated with the Max Planck Society

Fraunhofer Institute for Algorithms and Scientific Computing (SCAI), Sankt Augustin

Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Information Technology (FIT), Sankt Augustin

Fraunhofer Institute for High Frequency Physics and Radar Techniques (FHR), Wachtberg and Bonn

Fraunhofer Institute for Communication, Information Processing and Ergonomics (FKIE), Wachtberg

Fraunhofer Institute for Open Communication Systems (FOKUS), Sankt Augustin

Fraunhofer Institute for Secure Information Technology (SIT), Sankt Augustin

Institut für Mittelstandsforschung (IfM), Bonn

Max Planck Institute for Mathematics (MPIM)

Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy (MPIfR)

Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods

University Hospital Bonn

Center for Development Research (ZEF)

Center for European Integration Studies (ZEI)

Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig (ZFMK)

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH), Bonn

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Bonn

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Bonn

Joint Science Conference (GWK), Bonn

German Rectors' Conference (HRK), Bonn

German Academic Scholarship Foundation, Bonn

Wissenschaftszentrum des Stifterverbandes für die Deutsche Wissenschaft, Bonn

For further Information

<https://www.wissenschaftsregion-bonn.de/en/start/>

<https://www.mkw.nrw/hochschule-und-forschung/studium-und-lehre/ueberblick-hochschulen-nrw>

<https://www.hochschulkompass.de/en/study-in-germany.html>

<https://www.mkw.nrw/hochschule-und-forschung/forschung/forschungseinrichtungen>

Universities

The 200-year-old **University of Bonn** is an internationally engaged university oriented to cooperative and targeted research, with a broad range of offerings in some 200 degree courses. The university has around 6,400 employees, including 555 professors. Along with the University Hospital Bonn, it is one of the leading employers in the city and region. It has an exemplary international network, with 80 partner universities around the world. The recent establishment of the Innovation Campus Bonn by the Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research, which receives support from the University of Bonn, the Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences, and four other research institutions, has boosted Bonn as a location for sustainability research and connected it to regional issues. In 2019, the University of Bonn was recognised as one of 11 Universities of Excellence in Germany, which receive special funding.

https://youtu.be/LAozJqHZ_H8

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqHow5mSRL4> (Source: University of Bonn)

Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences with locations in Sankt Augustin, Rheinbach and Hennef

RheinAhrCampus (<https://www.hs-koblenz.de/rac/international-programs>) of the Hochschule Koblenz University of Applied Sciences, Remagen

IUBH University of Applied Sciences, Bad Honnef

Alanus University of Arts and Social Sciences, Alfter

University of the Savings Bank Finance Group, Bonn

Cologne University of Catholic Theology (KHKT), Sankt Augustin

United Nations University – Institute for Environmental and Human Security, Bonn

Hospitals

The city of Bonn has more than 20 hospitals, outpatient services and day clinics with over 5,000 beds. In addition, the specialised university hospitals have more than 30 clinical departments enabling the full spectrum of modern medical diagnostic and therapeutic resources to be provided. The availability of hospital beds is outstanding, with more than 1,300 beds per 100,000 inhabitants. Moreover, with its four university clinics in Aachen, Bonn, Düsseldorf and Cologne, the region has a high level of expertise in clinical care. In the outpatient sector, Bonn and the surrounding area are home to over 1,000 medical, dental and psychotherapy practices as well as more than 10 medical care centres and medical specialist centres for almost all medical disciplines. These include almost 50 specialists in paediatrics and adolescent medicine. Most German and international doctors in the Bonn area speak English or French; many also speak other languages.

Within a 10 km radius there are various clinics and hospitals in addition to the aforementioned outpatient sector, including Bonn's renowned university hospital, which features around thirty individual clinics and an excellent medical department known for its cutting-edge research and teaching and its ultra-modern facilities, such as 'Life & Brain', a centre of excellence in the area of translational biomedicine.

Other examples include the Dardenne and Hochkreuz eye clinic facilities, where world-renowned surgeons offer treatment; the Medeco dental clinic, known for dental, oral and orthodontic medicine and surgery as well as plastic and cosmetic facial surgery; the Johanniter and Malteser hospitals with excellent departments for plastic, hand, and reconstructive surgery; Petrus hospital, well-known for orthopaedic treatments and surgery; and the Neurological Rehabilitation Centre Godeshöhe – one of the world's leading clinics in the area of early neurological rehabilitation.

Overview of Hospitals

<https://international.bonn.de/services/medical-care/hospitals.php>

5.5. Brochure about Bonn

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blueprint/servlet/blob/1217758/1474d3d4abbf9e93983998145581cfef/bonn-en-data.pdf>

5.6. Image Film – City of Bonn

<https://youtu.be/9ouDuNfNq8U> (Source: Bundesstadt Bonn)

6. List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

BKG – Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy

BMI – Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community

DLR – German Aerospace Center

DESA – United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

ECOSOC – United Nations Economic and Social Council

ESA – European Space Agency

FGS – Research Group Satellite Geodesy

GFZ – German Research Centre for Geosciences

GOW – Geodetic Observatory Wettzell

IAG – International Association for Geodesy

IERS – International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service

SCoG – UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy

UN-GGIM – United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management

UNOOSA - United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

UNSD – United Nations Statistics Division

UN-SPIDER – United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response

7. Contact Information

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