

A location for the future  
with competence(s!)



Remscheid

Solingen

Wuppertal



## A location for the future with competence(s)

### Competence<sup>3</sup> in the "Bergisches Städtedreieck" (The "Bergisch City-Triangle")

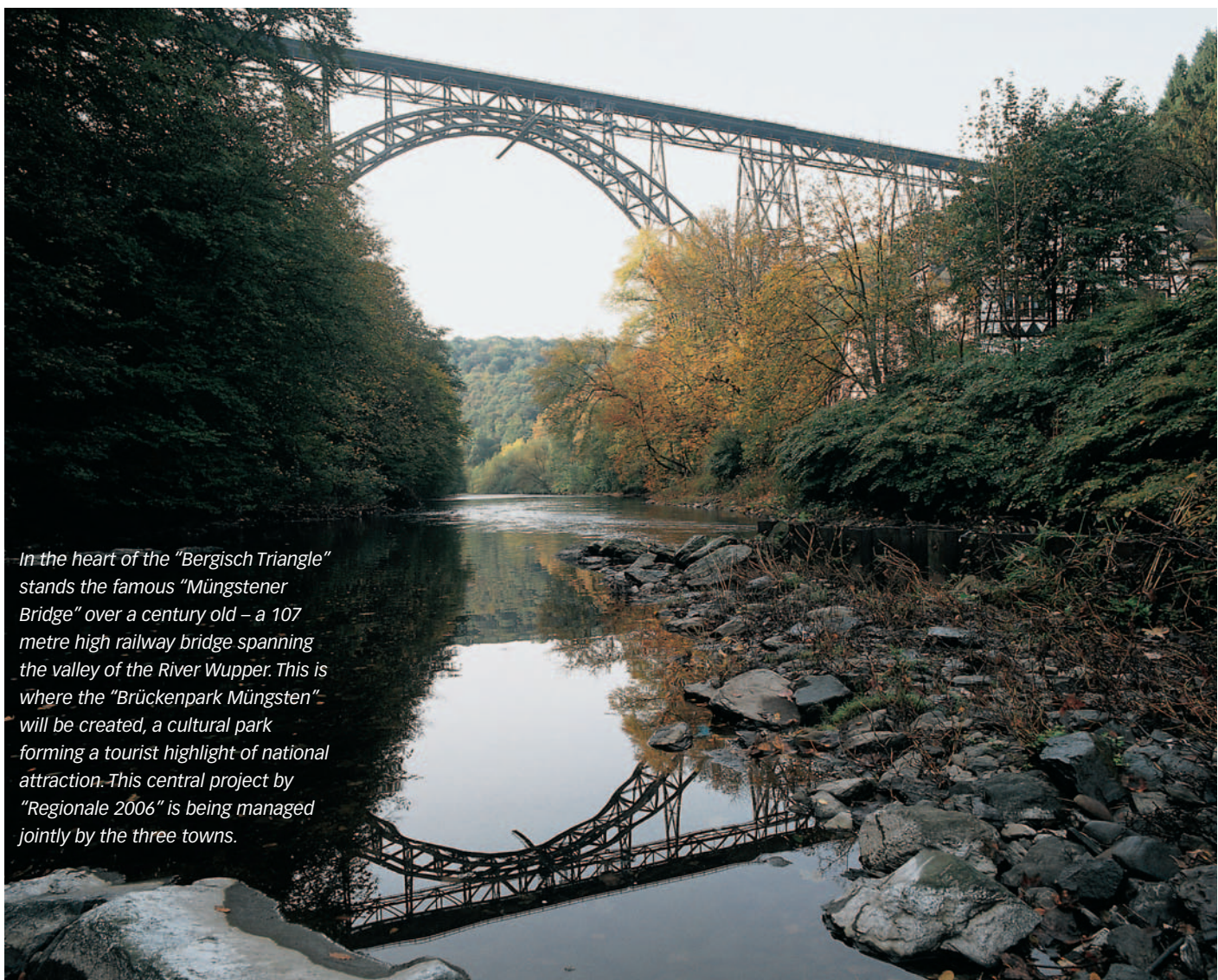
**The towns of Remscheid, Solingen and Wuppertal have come together to form the economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle". This will enable the area to push ahead with a uniform structural development above and beyond the town boundaries, in order to establish its position successfully amongst the regional competition.**

Das "Bergisch City-Triangle", with around 650.000 inhabitants and 30.000 companies, is located centrally in Nordrhein-Westfalen between the Rhine and the Ruhr. Nestling in a charming landscape with a lively cultural scene and good connections to all major transport and traffic routes, the region is positioning itself deliberately as an exciting future residential and economic region.

In the knowledge of the local strengths of the economy, the major towns of the "Bergisches Land" have formed

themselves into a regional co-operative for the fields of location and economic development under the overall slogan of "Competence<sup>3</sup>". This is focussed on thematic priorities concentrating on the distinguishing features of the region. The economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle" has set out to bring together the many initiatives and projects within the region at a strategic level, thereby establishing itself as a joint brand, both within the region and outside.

The competence portal of the economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle" can be viewed under [www.kompetenzhoch3.de](http://www.kompetenzhoch3.de). Here, companies and investors can obtain an overview of the region – from company profiles, to research and development opportunities and on to the key projects in the field of location development.



*In the heart of the "Bergisch Triangle" stands the famous "Müngstener Bridge" over a century old – a 107 metre high railway bridge spanning the valley of the River Wupper. This is where the "Brückenpark Müngsten" will be created, a cultural park forming a tourist highlight of national attraction. This central project by "Regionale 2006" is being managed jointly by the three towns.*

## Invention and development

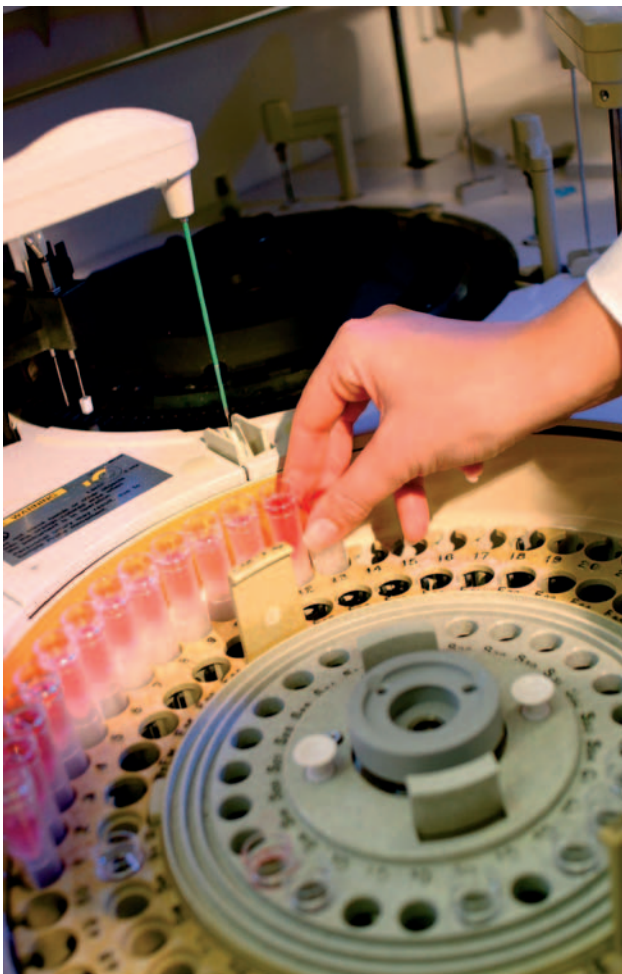
**The businessmen of the "Bergisches Land" and its major towns of Remscheid, Solingen and Wuppertal were and still are justly proud of their achievements.**

Names such as Bayer, Edscha, Vaillant, Vorwerk, Wilkinson and Zwilling can be quoted here as just a few examples of a whole range of equally traditional and innovative companies. Added to this group are many, sometimes highly specialised, young companies, as well as branches of many worldwide concerns, such as the German head offices of Delphi Automotive, General Electrics Health Care or Wal-Mart.

### The cradle of industrialisation

The economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle" was the cradle of industrialisation of the European mainland! The basis of this development was created not only by businessmen such as Friedrich Engels, Carl Duisberg, Friedrich Bayer or the Mannesmann brothers, but above all by products of the highest quality, which were exported from here to every corner of the globe: Aspirin from Bayer, seamless tubes from Mannesmann, Röntgen's discovery of X-rays, Erfurt's rough-textured wallpaper and many other patented tools produced by local companies...

The name of a town as a registered brand is unique in Germany, and the honour goes to the trademark "Made in Solingen".



*The historical production facilities of the firm of C. Rob. Hammerstein GmbH & Co. KG in Solingen. Constructed in 1880, and converted in 1999 into a modern administration building. The company was awarded a prize for the preservation of the building as part of the regional project "Living Company Culture".*

### Innovations with and for the future

The tinkering with unconventional solutions is a tradition in this part of the world. Not without good reason is the number of patents applied for from the region far above the national average. Many small local firms are world leaders in special sectors: Dosing systems in the nano-gram range, surgical pincers, flat ball bearings etc. Ever new innovations are continually under development, such as in surface technology, where research institutes and the "Bergische Universität" work hand-in-hand with companies in the development of new processes. This leads to improved production processes, substantial product benefits and greater economy.

The economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle" is also developing into a leading location in the field of plasma technology. The traditional textile industry is also moving rapidly in the direction of the future – today, fibres are being used for the manufacture of membranes, and composite fibre materials for the production of technical textiles and components.

And last but not least – the fuel cell, where a highly qualified research and development team is working on this ecologically and economically ingenious solution for the future production of heat and electricity with energy from the fuel cell.



### Living company culture

The key to the development of the region lay, and still lies, in the involvement of companies "on their own doorstep". In order to document this and promote further involvement, "Regionale 2006" and its partners initiated in 2001 the campaign "Living company culture in the Bergisch City-Triangle". The 5<sup>th</sup> May each year is now the "Day of living company culture" – when as part of the celebrations, entrepreneurial involvement is acknowledged and honoured, accompanied by the publication of documentation describing the companies recognised and their projects.

### No chance without new blood

The competences and talents of the region are based on a single resource: the know-how of the businesses and their employees. And this must also be preserved in order to remain successful in the future. Professional training, qualification and research thus enjoy top priority in the economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle". This includes Germany's best foundation university, the "Bergische Universität Wuppertal", with its unconventional and creative mixture of faculties. Institutes in the planned competence centres of the region will in future ensure that university skills and training can be used even more effectively than before in the region.

*The Wuppertal suspension railway in a new light as the landmark of the town. The concept of the firm of Dinnebler Licht GmbH for the permanent illumination of the railway was realised with the aid of donations from local citizens and industry.*



Here the "Technische Akademie Wuppertal" (Wuppertal Technical Academy), the "Berufsbildungszentrum der Bergischen Metall- und Elektroindustrie" (Professional Training Centre of the Bergisch Metal and Electronics Industry) in Remscheid, the "IHK-Lehrwerkstatt" (Chamber of Trade and Industry Training Workshop), the "Zentralfachschule der Deutschen Süßwarenwirtschaft Solingen" (Solingen Central School of the German Confectionery Industry) and others hard at work with the aim of providing the regional economy with well-trained new blood. Qualification and further training institutes work in direct co-operation with the regional companies.

## A future location with competence(s!)

Local strengths are brought together and networked by the focus on the five areas of competence. The regional economy will thereby be given additional opportunities for the

- optimum exploitation of the existing value-addition processes
- creation of co-operations and synergies
- establishment of new facilities in the field of research and development – including universities
- involvement in the development of the location and shaping of the environment
- identification with the economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle" – derivation of new marketing approaches



### Automotive – without us, there would be no cars!

The economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle" is home to the research, development and production facilities of international automotive suppliers.

A competence network that together manages research and training projects and – at least in theory – would itself be capable of manufacturing vehicles.

In fact, the locally based global players / companies dispose of every facility required for automotive production, from

raw material processing right through to marketing.

Added to this are co-operative efforts with research institutions. Thanks to this co-operation, innovative systems are developed, which are used even under the most extreme conditions, such as motor sport for example. The aim is to extend this regional co-operation in the form of project associations in production, further education and training, purchasing, sales and logistics.



### Events & communication – professionally choreographed

Numerous events honoured by national and international awards have one thing in common: they have to be conceived, developed, organised and prepared in the economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle"! This is the Mecca of event marketing – the segment of the marketing mix relying on direct communication and emotion.

For this is the base of service providers for companies who want to communicate new messages both in public and within the group. In addition to major companies who always feature in the Top 10, the region has also become home to a tightly-knit network of other agencies, suppliers and specialists. This mixture has produced the event stronghold of Europe – the "Bergisch City-Triangle". As a competence centre, the Media Park, the NRW Event Centre is now being established in Wuppertal, with event areas, a founders' centre and an academy.



*Constructed in 1908, this water tower stands at the highest point of the district of Solingen-Gräfrath. This national monument has been acquired by Dinnebier Licht GmbH and converted into a lighthouse. The company was awarded a prize for the preservation of the building as part of the regional project "Living Company Culture".*

### Health & Personal Care – Operating worldwide

And in the very truest sense of the word! Because "Made in Solingen" usually means high-quality scalpels, pincers and similar equipment. The economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle" is an established location of the health sector, where many major companies from the fields of pharmaceuticals, medical technology, orthopaedics and hygiene have their main offices or important production or research facilities. Solutions such as ultrasound, tomography and membranes are also produced here, alongside such things as tampons and orthopaedic stockings. Large health insurance companies look after people throughout the whole of Germany from the region. In co-operation with the clinics and universities, further research is going into creating further products and solutions to ensure better health care.

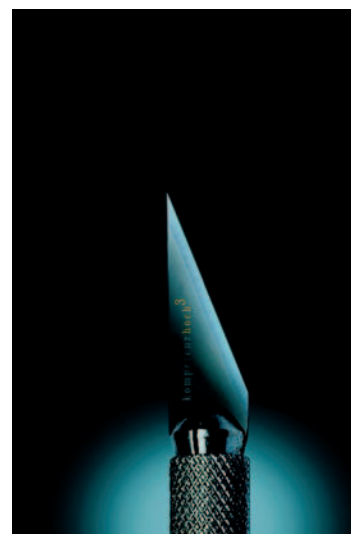


### Metal-processing – Practical problem-solving

The field of metal-processing is at the same time traditional and innovative. Knives from Solingen, tools from Remscheid and Wuppertal – the products originating from the region are a guarantee of quality. Almost every process involved in metalworking is represented here in a unique concentration. The small and medium-sized companies historically rooted in the region are characterised by a pronounced skill in innovation and above-average export competence. Here too there are close ties with the world of research. Co-operation with the "Bergische Universität" and the industrial research institutions is much sought-after. The networking of institutions and companies in the fields of further education and training, testing and research, marketing and recruitment, will be further intensified by the new "Metal-processing Forum" in Remscheid, with its showcase of the economy.

### Product design – turning ideas into reality

Structural change, international competition and high wage costs have led the businessmen of the economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle" to a new solution in order to maintain their place on the world market: Design, development and quality, meaning high-quality and attractively designed products. Major awards in the field of product design are won time and again for example by the traditional blade-making industry of Solingen. Fine cutlery, knives and other kitchen implements are in great demand as products designed to last a lifetime. Designers in general find an attractive environment here, since the wide variety of companies enable products to be developed for whole sectors and manufactured by partners within the region. Industrial research institutions also make an important contribution for small and medium-sized companies, in co-operation with the "Bergische Universität", in adapting product developments to the latest demands of the market. The "Product Design Forum" in the old main railway station in Solingen will not only create a further institute of the University, but will also afford companies from the region the opportunity of exchanging information and presenting their products.



## A region worth experiencing

As part of "Regionale 2006" the three major towns of the "Bergisches Land" will be presenting themselves throughout the state and nationwide as an outstanding economic location between the Rhine and Ruhr areas.

The "Regionale 2006" is a joint project for the "Bergisch City-Triangle", organised by the three towns of Remscheid, Solingen, Wuppertal and sponsored by the state of Nordrhein-Westfalen. In the year 2006, the region will present itself to local residents and visitors from beyond the region in the course of a capabilities demonstration as a unique cultural landscape, a residential location worth experiencing and a high-performance economic location with particular flair. Let the region play host to you, and discover the projects going on in the economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle", setting new standards in city planning, culture and commerce.

### Town development: three gates to the location

Each town is working on its future and a new gate to the location in the form of clearly defined, inner-city development subjects.



### Remscheid and its main railway station

Remscheid is concentrating on the development of the town around the main station. Abandoned railway facilities are being redefined in the form of modern buildings, while the new main station will be enlivened by new retail outlets and leisure facilities. A particular focal point will be the "Showroom of the economy", a showroom of the versatile and varied facets of the Remscheid economy.



### Solingen southern inner city

In Solingen, the southern inner city with its railway and industrial areas and the old station will be redeveloped: the main theme will be living and working close to the city in the new South Park. The development will be centred around the old station, which will be replaced by two new stops, and will be given a completely new function: this will be the home of the Product Design Forum, where research and development for the economy of the region will be brought together under one roof.



### Wuppertal City Exhibition

Wuppertal is concentrating its development activities on the valley area of the town along the River Wupper. The whole area between the Wuppertal main railway station and the city will be re-designed, while at the same time, the Wuppertal Media Park with the NRW Event Centre will take shape on the adjoining site of the former railway works.



left: The Presentation Pavilion of the "Regionale 2006" Agency in front of the Remscheid Town Hall.

right: the three central key projects of city development as part of the "Regionale 2006". The Competence Centre at the Remscheid main railway station with its showcase of the economy, the Forum for Product Design in the former Solingen main railway station and the main railway station and traffic hub of Döppersberg in Wuppertal.

### Potentials for companies

The thematic focus on economic competences of the region and the regional-local division of work between the three communities is also demonstrated by the economic property development of the location in general. Theme-orientated commercial estates covering over 200 hectares are in the planning and development stage, offering plenty of room for new ideas.



### In the heart of things and close by

The "Bergisch City-Triangle" offers a host of advantages as a living and residential location. A major city conurbation area with rich and varied cultural and shopping facilities, historical centres with their own local charm right in the heart of the diverse and characteristic landscape of the "Bergisches Land". With its unspoilt nature, which is largely protected by the "Bergisches Land" Nature Park, and is characterised by hills, forests, meadows and lakes, the region offers facilities to meet all relaxation and leisure demands. In conjunction with the favourable strategic location as a junction point between the Rhine and Ruhr areas – Remscheid, Solingen and Wuppertal lie "in the heart of things" and also offer their own independent character!

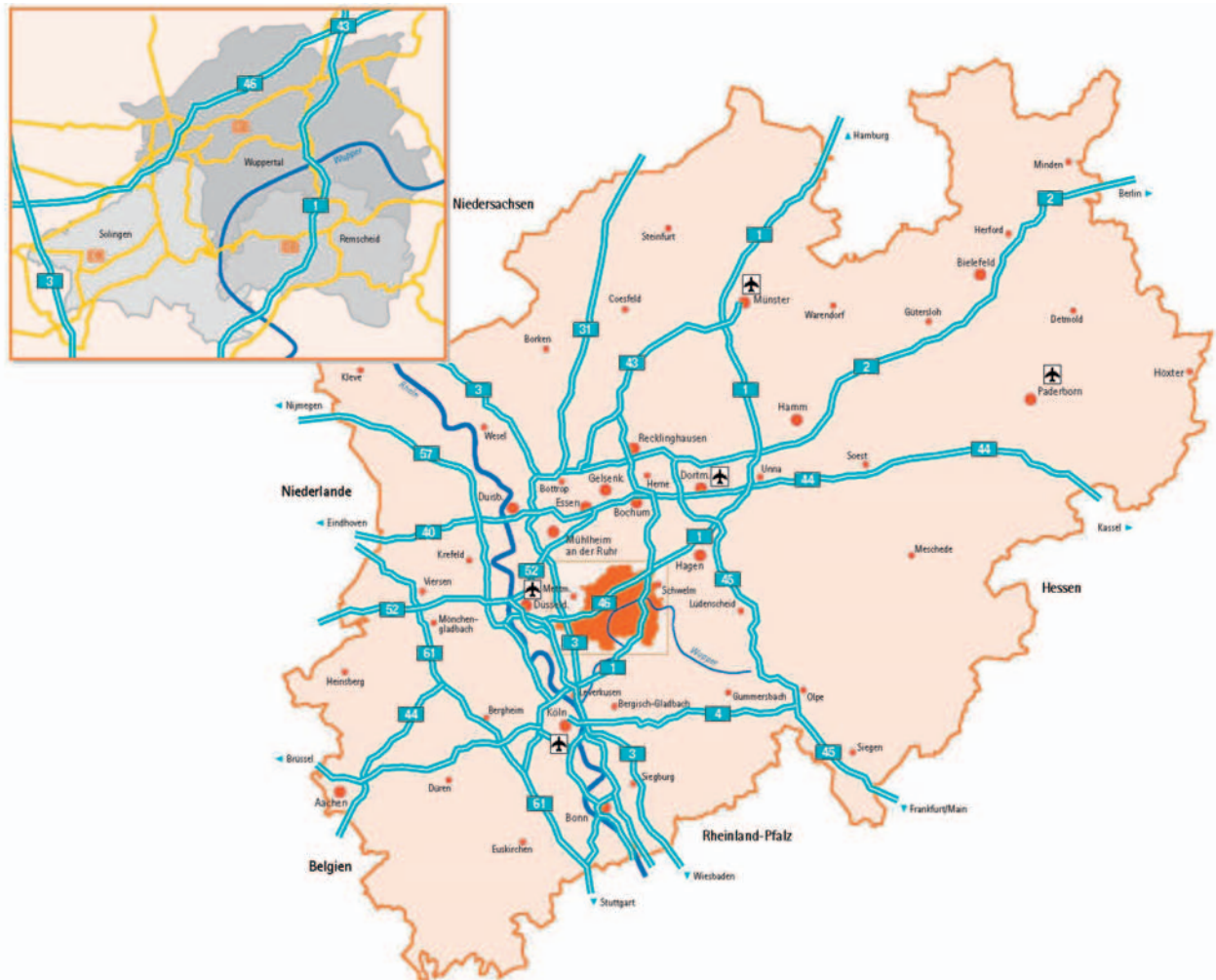
### Culture in the "Bergisches Land"

Industrialisation in the "Bergisches Land" began at an earlier date than in almost any other location in continental Europe. Many exciting testaments to this epoch can still be seen, for instance in the "Deutsches Werkzeugmuseum" (German Tool Museum) in Remscheid, the "Rheinisches Industriemuseum" (Rhineland Industrial Museum) in the Hendrichs swage forge in Solingen or in the historical textile factories in Wuppertal. Other attractions include the "Straßenbahnmuseum" (Tram Museum), the "Müngstener Brücke" (Müngsten Bridge) and the world-famous suspended railway. The "Bergisch City-Triangle" also offers a lively cultural scene with enormous potential. From the "Drei-Sparten-Theater" to the "Kleinkunstbühne", the world-famous Pina Bausch Dance Theatre to the "Bergische Symphoniker", besides exhibition forums of national appeal including the Baden Museum, the Von-der-Heydt Museum and the Remscheid Municipal Gallery, which have devoted themselves to the presentation of contemporary art.



Off to the economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle"

## The interface between the Rhine and Ruhr areas



The economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle" lies conveniently in the heart of a dense network of local and national traffic connections. Whatever form of transport you choose, the "Bergisch City-Triangle" can be easily reached from almost anywhere – and you can be with any customer anywhere in the world just as quickly from the region.

Every point in the metropolitan Rhine-Ruhr region – whether Cologne Cathedral, the "Zeche Zollverein" or the international exhibitions in Cologne and Düsseldorf – can be reached in less than an hour. And thanks to the excellent infrastructure, you can reach the Düsseldorf International Airport from the "Bergisch City-Triangle" even quicker than many Rhinelanders.

### By road:

13 motorway junctions offer direct access to the motorways A1, A3, A 43 or A 46, enabling rapid access to all points of the compass.

### By rail:

The "Bergisch City-Triangle" is well integrated into the national and international long-distance network of the German Railways. In addition to direct ICE connections within Germany, the Rhineland and the Ruhr area are also well served by direct Regional Express connections.

### By air:

Three international airports can be reached conveniently within 25 to 45 minutes travelling time by car or rail. Travellers can choose between all the flights available from Düsseldorf International Airport, Cologne/Bonn Airport or Dortmund Airport.

**Competence<sup>3</sup>****The economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle"**

This is the trademark of the co-operation between the towns of Remscheid, Solingen and Wuppertal for the joint future of the economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle".

Competence<sup>3</sup> is the expression of the common strategy and action on behalf of the whole region: emphasising local strengths, supporting regional partnerships and acting in concert is the motto of the many activities for stabilising the company structure of the region and making it viable for the future.

Under [www.kompetenzhoch3.de](http://www.kompetenzhoch3.de) – the competence portal the economic region of the "Bergisch City-Triangle" – you will find a continually updated overview of the location, where you can find out more about the potentials and strengths of the region.

**Competence<sup>3</sup>**

is a joint project of the

- Stadt Remscheid, Wirtschaftsförderung und Stadtmarketing
- Wirtschaftsförderung Solingen GmbH & Co. KG
- Wirtschafts- und Beschäftigungsförderungsgesellschaft Wuppertal mbH
- Regionalbüro Bergisches Städtedreieck
- Regionale 2006 Agentur GmbH

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