Guide for Asylum Seekers in the Erzgebirgskreis



erzgebirgskreis
mein zuhause – meine zukunft

Foreword

Hello, or as we say here in the Erzgebirgskreis, “Glück auf!”

Your journey from your homeland has brought you to Germany, to the Erzgebirgskreis district in the state of Saxony. Saxony is one of the 16 states that make up the Federal Republic of Germany and is situated in the east of the country. The Erzgebirgskreis is one of Saxony’s ten districts. The district’s administrative seat is the town of Annaberg-Buchholz.

In Germany, the right to asylum is a fundamental human right. We therefore have an obligation to provide accommodation for you. There are several central accommodation facilities in the Erzgebirgskreis, as well as a number of apartments spread throughout the entire district.

One of these will be your new, temporary home. How long your stay with us will be has not yet been decided.

This brochure is designed to help you settle into these new, unfamiliar surroundings. You will find important information and contact details for representatives at various authorities, institutions and information centers, as well as other guidance you may find useful.

Your local contact will also be happy to answer any questions you may have.

For further information on this topic, and on the development of accommodation for asylum seekers in the district, please visit www.erzgebirgskreis.de.

Contents

1. Life in Germany 5
1.1 Political and legal order 5
1.2 Political participation and parties 6
1.3 Freedom of religion 7

2. Life in the Erzgebirgskreis 8
2.1 The Free State of Saxony and its districts 8
2.2 The Erzgebirgskreis 8
2.3 Border areas 10
2.4 Buses and trains 10
2.5 Accommodation options for asylum seekers in the Erzgebirgskreis 12

3. District administration contacts 13
3.1 The lower accommodation authority 13
3.2 Contacts at the lower accommodation authority 14
3.3 Commissioner for Integration/Foreign Nationals in the Erzgebirgskreis 14
3.4 Commissioner for Foreign Nationals in the Free State of Saxony 15
3.5 Contacts at the Central Authority for Foreign Nationals 15

4. Local advice centers and contacts 16
4.1 Annaberg-Buchholz region 16
4.2 Aue-Schwarzenberg region 16
4.3 Marienberg region 16
4.4 Stollberg region 17

5. Contact details for church representatives 18
5.1 Annaberg-Buchholz region 18
5.2 Aue-Schwarzenberg region 18
5.3 Marienberg region 18
5.4 Stollberg region 18

6. Hospitals and emergency medical care 19
6.1 Annaberg-Buchholz region 19
6.2 Aue-Schwarzenberg region 19
6.3 Marienberg region 20
6.4 Stollberg region 20

7. Emergency services 20

8. Accommodation and distribution of asylum seekers in Germany 21

9. Asylum procedure – residence title and exceptional leave to remain 22

1. Life in Germany*

1.1 Political and legal order

All residents of Germany must abide by the central, fundamental principles of the country's political and legal order. The most important legal foundation for life in Germany is the *Grundgesetz* (Basic Law). This is the constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Fundamental rights
Articles 1 to 19 of the Grundgesetz define the fundamental rights of the individual against the state. Some of the most important of these fundamental rights include:

- Protection of human dignity
- Right to life and physical integrity
- Equality of all people before the law
- Freedom of belief
- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of assembly
- Occupational freedom
- Right to property and inheritance
- Freedom of the press

Article 20 describes the key concepts upon which the political system of the Federal Republic of Germany is based:

- Federal state
- Democracy
- Constitutional state
- Social state

Federal state
Germany is a federal state that consists of 16 individual states:

- Baden-Württemberg
- Bayern
- Berlin
- Brandenburg
- Bremen
- Hamburg
- Hessen
- Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- Niedersachsen
- Nordrhein-Westfalen
- Rheinland-Pfalz
- Saarland
- Sachsen
- Sachsen Anhalt
- Schleswig-Holstein
- Thüringen

*Source: www.bamf.de

Democracy
Germany is a democratic state. This means that all state authority is derived from the people. It is exercised through:

- Elections
- Votes
- Legislative bodies (parliament)
- Executive bodies (government and administration)
- Judicial bodies (courts)

The *Bundestag* (parliament) is the assembly elected to represent the people.

Constitutional state
Germany is a constitutional state. Decisions made by the state (the government) are bound by its laws. The state's actions can be controlled by the courts. For example, the Federal Constitutional Court can check whether newly approved laws conform with the constitution. This protects the fundamental rights of the country's citizens and regulates the actions of the state.

Social state
Germany is a social state. This means that every citizen must work to earn money to pay for the things they need. However, the state helps people who cannot do this or can only do so to a limited extent. A range of state benefits are available. The most important of these include compulsory social security, unemployment benefits and child benefit.

1.2 Political participation and parties

Every citizen has the opportunity to participate in political life in Germany and to influence politics – locally, statewide, nationally and on a European level.

They can do so by joining political parties, interest groups, citizens' initiatives and trade unions. The parties present candidates for election to local, state, national and European parliaments. These include:

- Municipal and town councils
- District councils
- State parliaments
- The *Bundestag*
- The European Parliament

Germany's political parties have a wide range of different positions and political programs. You can find out more about their positions on individual topics on their websites.

Elections
Elections in Germany are general, direct, free, equal and secret. This means:

- *General:* All men and women who are German citizens can vote and be elected, provided that they are at least 18 years old.

- *Direct:* People elect their representatives directly or from a list, and not via electors.

- *Free:* No one may put pressure on voters to select a particular candidate. Voting is not compulsory.

- *Equal:* Every vote has equal value.

- *Secret:* Only the overall result is published. The decisions of individual voters remain secret.

1.3 Freedom of religion

The *Grundgesetz* (the constitution) guarantees religious freedom for every person in Germany. Religious freedom includes the right to choose your religion freely and to practice it with others, as well as the right to have no religion at all. The *Grundgesetz* states that there is no state church. The state must be neutral toward all religions. It cannot favor or discriminate against any religion. However, the state and religious groups do work together.

Religious groups
The overwhelming majority of people in Germany are Christians: around 26 million people in Germany belong to the Catholic Church, and there are around 25 million Protestants. But Orthodox Christians, Muslims, Jews and Buddhists are all also part of German society. Islam is the third-largest religion in the country with around four million believers.

2. Life in the Erzgebirgskreis

2.1 The Free State of Saxony and its districts

The fundamental principles of Germany's values and laws also apply at a district level. The Free State of Saxony is divided into ten districts and *three urban districts*:

- Bautzen
- *Chemnitz*
- *Dresden*
- Erzgebirgskreis
- Görlitz
- Landkreis Leipzig
- *Leipzig*
- Meißen
- Mittelsachsen
- Nordsachsen
- Sächsische Schweiz-Osterzgebirge
- Vogtlandkreis
- Zwickau

2.2 The Erzgebirgskreis

The administrative seat of the Erzgebirgskreis is Annaberg-Buchholz. The highest point in the Erzgebirgskreis, and the whole of Saxony, is Fichtelberg at 1215 meters.

District council
The district council makes decisions on all matters within the district. It consists of 98 members, who are elected by the citizens of the district. The chairperson of the district council is the district administrator. The Erzgebirgskreis district council was elected on 25 May 2014 for a five-year term.

Economy
The Erzgebirgskreis' rich supply of natural resources generated a huge economic boom in the area over 800 years ago. This helped the district to develop into a strong industrial center. A large proportion of the companies based here operate in the toolmaking, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering industries. The mining industry also led to the emergence of regional Christmas traditions, handicrafts and customs that live on to this day in the Erzgebirge. This is why the Erzgebirgskreis is also known as "Christmas Land".

Religion
The Erzgebirgskreis is a predominantly Christian region.



Städte und Gemeinden des Erzgebirgskreises zum 01.01.2015
Verwaltungsgrenzen©Staatsbetrieb Geobasisinformation und Vermessung Sachsen 2015

2.3 Border areas

Asylum seekers can move freely throughout the federal territory of Germany once a three-month period has elapsed. You may only enter and stay in the EU state in which you have applied for asylum – i.e. the Federal Republic of Germany (see also section 55 and the following of the Asylum Procedure Act). Leaving the country is therefore an offense and is punished accordingly.

Part of the border of the Erzgebirgskreis is also the national border between Germany and the Czech Republic. Border crossings are clearly indicated and must not be crossed by asylum seekers for the reasons above.

2.4 Buses and trains

The Erzgebirgskreis is the largest district in Saxony by area. Having a well-organized, comprehensive public transport system is therefore very important here.

The following companies operate within the region:
Bus: Regionalverkehr Erzgebirge GmbH (www.rve.de)
Train: Erzgebirgsbahn (www.erzgebirgsbahn.de)

⇨ *Timetables can be found on the companies' websites. Alternatively, please ask your local contact.*

How to use public transport

⇨ You need a valid ticket in order to use public transport (e.g. trains, buses). Tickets are often sold by the bus driver. Travelling without a ticket is normally punished with a fine of 40 euros.

⇨ Be at the bus stop at least five minutes before the scheduled departure time. Indicate to the approaching bus that you would like it to stop and have not just stopped at the bus stop for a rest. This gives the driver time to recognize that you are waiting for them.

- If you have to change buses at some point during your journey, tell the driver when you board. They will make sure that you do not miss your stop.

- Find a place to sit or something secure to hold on to. The driver will always attempt to drive carefully and considerately, but even typical, expected movements of the bus could cause you to fall and injure yourself.

- Once you get off the bus, only cross the road when the bus has departed and you have a clear view in both directions.

- Please respect other passengers. Eating and drinking are not permitted on buses.

2.5 Accommodation options for asylum seekers in the Erzgebirgskreis

Asylum seekers assigned to the Erzgebirgskreis are accommodated in central shared accommodation facilities or in apartments spread throughout the entire district.

There are five central accommodation facilities in the Erzgebirgskreis:

Asylbewerberwohnheim Aue-Alberoda
(Aue-Alberoda Home for Asylum Seekers)
Siedlerstraße 1
08280 Aue
Telephone: 03771 340464

Asylbewerberwohnheim Drebach
(Drebach Home for Asylum Seekers)
Talstraße 48
09430 Drebach
Telephone: 037297 49443

Asylbewerberwohnheim Olbernhau
(Olbernhau Home for Asylum Seekers)
Grünthaler Straße 115
09526 Olbernhau
Telephone: 037360 660087

Ehemaliges Lehrlingswohnheim Zschopau *(zeitweilig)*
(Former Hostel for Apprentices, Zschopau) *(temporary)*
Johannisstraße 58 c
09405 Zschopau
Telephone: 03725 449756

Asylbewerberwohnheim Marienberg OT Hüttengrund *(ab August 2015)*
(Hüttengrund Home for Asylum Seekers, Marienberg) *(from August 2015)*
Hüttengrund 8
09496 Marienberg

3. District administration contacts

3.1 The lower accommodation authority

The lower accommodation authority for the Erzgebirgskreis is responsible for enforcing the Residence Act, the EU Freedom of Movement Act, the Asylum Procedure Act, the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act and all relevant ancillary and state laws.

The lower accommodation authority for the Erzgebirgskreis is therefore responsible for:

1. Regulating the residence of foreign nationals in line with the intended purpose of their residence, in accordance with the Residence Act and the regulations regarding the residence of recognized refugees

2. Verifying EU residents' right to freedom of movement, and that of their dependants, in accordance with the EU Freedom of Movement Act

3. Receiving commitments to invite foreign nationals to the Federal Republic of Germany and following the approval procedure prior to their arrival in accordance with section 31 of the Residence Ordinance

4. Regulating asylum seekers' residence in accordance with the Asylum Procedure Act, admitting asylum seekers into the Erzgebirgskreis and arranging accommodation for them, and regulating the residence and departure of former asylum seekers and foreign nationals with exceptional leave to remain

5. Providing benefits to foreign nationals entitled to them in accordance with the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act

6. Working with various authorities to enforce the relevant laws regarding foreign nationals

The lower accommodation authority for the Erzgebirgskreis is based in Annaberg-Buchholz, the district administration's administrative seat. There is an additional branch in Aue.

Postal address and visitor address:
Landratsamt Erzgebirgskreis
Paulus-Jenisius-Straße 43
09456 Annaberg-Buchholz

Aue administrative branch
Dienstgebäude Wettinerstraße 61
08280 Aue

Opening and consultation hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
08:00 - 12:00
Tuesday, Thursday
08:00 - 18:00
or by individual appointment

3.2 Contacts at the lower accommodation authority

Department Head
Head of Migration and Registry Office
Email: auslaenderbehoerde@kreis-erz.de

Social Coordinator
Email: auslaenderbehoerde@kreis-erz.de

3.3 Commissioner for Integration/Foreign Nationals in the Erzgebirgskreis

Pastor Johannes Roscher
Kirchliche Erwerbsloseninitiative Zschopau
– Ecclesiastic Initiative for the Unemployed
Geschäftsstelle Johannisstraße 58 B
09405 Zschopau
Telephone: 03725 80522
Email: j.roscher@kez-zschopau.de

Consultation hours:
Tuesdays, 16:00 - 18:00
Paulus-Jenisius-Straße 43
09456 Annaberg-Buchholz

Johannes Schmidt
Deputy Commissioner for Integration/Foreign Nationals in the Erzgebirgskreis
Telephone: 03771 2775520

Consultation hours:
Thursdays, 13:00 - 18:00
Dienstgebäude Wettinerstraße 61
08280 Aue

3.4 Commissioner for Foreign Nationals in the Free State of Saxony

Geert Mackenroth
Geschäftsstelle des Ausländerbeauftragten des Freistaates Sachsen
– Office of the Commissioner for Foreign Nationals in the Free State of Saxony
Sächsischer Landtag (Saxon State Parliament)
Bernhard-von-Lindenau-Platz 1
01067 Dresden
Telephone: 0351 4935171

3.5 Contacts at the Central Authority for Foreign Nationals

Zentrale Ausländerbehörde (ZAB)
– Central Authority for Foreign Nationals
Adalbert-Stifter-Weg 25
09131 Chemnitz
Telephone: 0371 45990

4. Local advice centers and contacts

4.1 Annaberg-Buchholz region



Diakonisches Werk Annaberg e. V.
Untere Schmiedegasse 20
09456 Annaberg-Buchholz
Telephone: 03733 676144

SCHWACH + STARK e. V.
Chemnitzer Straße 64
09427 Ehrenfriedersdorf
Telephone: 037341 169034

4.2 Aue-Schwarzenberg region

Diakonisches Werk Aue/Schwarzenberg e. V.
Hohe Straße 5
08301 Bad Schlema
Telephone: 03772 360120

HELP e. V.
Mobile Sozialbetreuung
Mittelstraße 45
08280 Aue
Telephone: 03771 259335

4.3 Marienberg region

Diakonisches Werk Marienberg e. V.
Goethering 5
09496 Marienberg
Telephone: 03735 609200

Kirchliche Erwerbsloseninitiative Zschopau
Johannisstraße 58 B
09405 Zschopau
Telephone: 03725 80522

4.4 Stollberg region

Help e. V.

Please see 4.2 Aue-Schwarzenberg region for contact address

Note:

⇨ Your local contacts will be able to provide contact details for additional associations.

⇨ **Contacts in the central accommodation facilities**
In the central accommodation facilities (see p. 12 for address and contact details), on-site staff are available to answer your questions during their consultation hours.

5. Contact details for church representatives

5.1 Annaberg-Buchholz region

Evangelical-Lutheran parish of Annaberg
Kleine Kirchgasse 23
09456 Annaberg-Buchholz
Telephone: 03733 25627



5.2 Aue-Schwarzenberg region

Evangelical-Lutheran superintendency of Aue
Pestalozzistraße 9
08280 Aue
Telephone: 03771 704810

5.3 Marienberg region

Superintendency for Marienberg parish
Dresdner Straße 4
09557 Flöha
Telephone: 03726 2343

5.4 Stollberg region

See 5.1 Annaberg-Buchholz region

6. Hospitals and emergency medical care



If you require medical treatment, you can always visit your local doctor. Please speak to your local contacts if you require further details.



In a medical emergency, you can go to the following hospitals in the Erzgebirgskreis.

6.1 Annaberg-Buchholz region

EKA Erzgebirgsklinikum Annaberg gGmbH
Chemnitzer Straße 15
09456 Annaberg-Buchholz
Telephone: 03733 800

6.2 Aue-Schwarzenberg region

HELIOS Klinikum Aue
Gartenstraße 6
08280 Aue
Telephone: 03771 580

Kliniken Erlabrunn gGmbH
Am Märzenberg 1 a
08359 Breitenbrunn
Telephone: 03773 60

Bergarbeiter-Krankenhaus Schneeberg gGmbH
Goethestraße 3
08289 Schneeberg
Telephone: 03772 630

6.3 Marienberg region

Klinikum Mittleres Erzgebirge gGmbH
Zschopau site
Alte Marienberger Straße 52
09405 Zschopau
Telephone: 03725 400

Klinikum Mittleres Erzgebirge gGmbH
Olbernhau site
Krankenhausstraße 1
09526 Olbernhau
Telephone: 037360 100

6.4 Stollberg region

Kreiskrankenhaus Stollberg gGmbH
Jahnsdorfer Straße 7
09366 Stollberg
Telephone: 037296 530

7. Emergency services



Emergency medical services and fire service: 112

Police: 110

⇨ **If you call the emergency services, please provide the following information:**

- Who is calling?
- What has happened?
- Where has it happened?

8. Accommodation and distribution of asylum seekers in Germany

Asylum seeker arrives in Germany

↓

Central initial reception center for the Free State of Saxony
(Chemnitz, with a branch in Schneeberg; Responsible authorities: Saxon State Directorate and the Central Authority for Foreign Nationals (Zentrale Ausländerbehörde, ZAB))

↓

Distribution throughout all districts and urban districts by the ZAB (lower accommodation authorities)

Chemnitz, city	5.98%
Erzgebirgskreis	**8.74%**
Mittelsachsen	7.81%
Vogtlandkreis	5.81%
Zwickau	8.12%
Dresden, city	13.01%
Bautzen	7.65%
Görlitz	6.51%
Meißen	6.04%
Sächsische Schweiz -Osterzgebirge	6.08%
Leipzig, city	12.96%
Leipzig	6.39%
Nordsachsen	4.89%

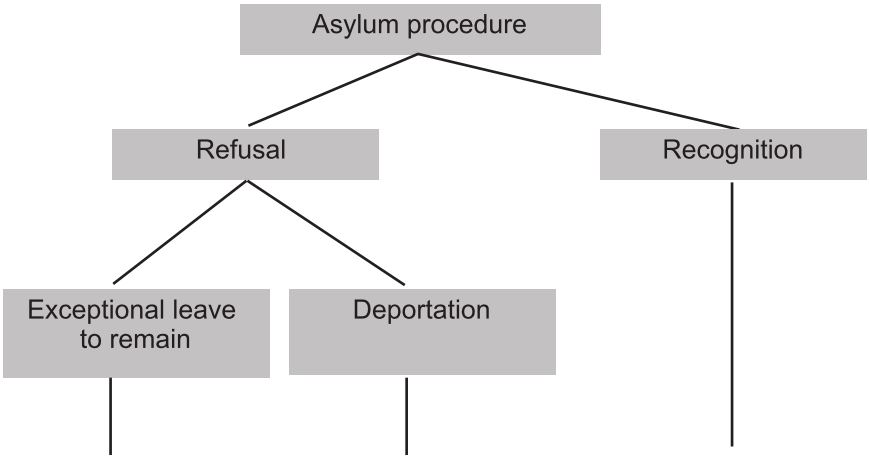
→ Erzgebirgskreis

Asylum seekers assigned to the district are provided with accommodation

Decentralized (in apartments)	Centralized (in shared accommodation facilities)	Emergency accommodation
• distributed throughout the entire district	• see p. 12	• if accommodation cannot be provided or the accommodation is insufficient, the asylum seekers must be assigned to “buffer” accommodation as required by law; • this means that they are assigned emergency accommodation for a limited period

9. Asylum procedure – residence title and exceptional leave to remain

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) decides on asylum cases. The asylum procedure can end in any of the following results:



- residence title is not granted but the asylum seeker is not deported
- granted if the application for asylum is declined
- the asylum seeker is not permitted to travel outside of the country or to return to their home country
- can be extended under certain circumstances

- asylum seeker receives a written notice of deportation from the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
- they must leave Germany within one month

- the application for asylum is assessed
- there are justifiable reasons for the applicant to seek asylum or refuge
  ⇨ the asylum seeker receives a residence permit
- Access to the job market
  ⇨ if they do not find a job, they may claim benefits in accordance with the German Social Code

Publisher:
Landratsamt Erzgebirgskreis
Paulus-Jenisius-Straße 24
09456 Annaberg-Buchholz

Printed:
Druck- und Verlagsgesellschaft
Marienberg mbH

Correct as of: May 2015