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Welcome

Welcome to the district of Vechta

Interesting facts about the district of Vechta

The district of Vechta is located in the Oldenburger Münsterland region of Lower Saxony. It is approximately 60 kilometres long from north to south and 20 kilometres wide from east to west. Vechta lies between the cities of Bremen and Oldenburg on the one hand and the city of Osnabrück on the other.

Vechta is a special district. It was the first district to be founded in 1945, after the end of the Third Reich in Germany. In the 1970s, many districts in Germany were reorganised or dissolved. However, the people of Vechta fought for their district to remain. They defended their district for nine years. With success.

Today, the district of Vechta is known for its good financial situation. There is good co-operation between the companies and the local authorities. Another feature is its strong agricultural sector.

Towns and municipalities - District of Vechta

The following ten rural and urban communities belong to the district of Vechta. Here is a brief description of each place and how to reach the administration. For more information you can visit the websites of the individual towns.

Bakum

The municipality is characterised by its scenic diversity. Magnificent estates are reminders of the long farming, aristocratic and ecclesiastical history. A modern infrastructure with a business park on the A1 motorway also characterises the image of the municipality. Bakum is well worth a visit. The municipality has been honoured several times in the "Our village should be more beautiful" competition.

Municipality of Bakum

📍 [Kirchstr. 3, 49456 Bakum](#)

🌐 [Bakum website](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 4446890](#)

📠 04446/8933

Damme

Damme is characterised by its high quality of life. The economic development is excellent. Companies from the metal, wood, plastics and agricultural machinery industries can be found here. Trade and services are also flourishing. Lake Dümmer and the Damme mountains provide a high residential and recreational value.

Town of Damme

📍 [Mühlenstr. 18, 49401 Damme](#)


🌐 [Website Damme](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 54916620](#)


Dinklage


Dinklage is one of the oldest communities in the region. The town was mentioned as early as 1231 as "Thinlage". The town's most famous son is Cardinal Clemens-August Graf von Galen (1878-1946), also known as the "Lion of Münster". Today, the town is an excellent business location. It has excellent transport connections. It is also home to an important moated castle.

Town of Dinklage

 [Am Markt 1, 49413 Dinklage](#)

 [Dinklage website](#)


 [+49 \(0\) 44438990](#)

 04443/899250


Goldenstedt


Goldenstedt is a popular holiday resort. It is located in the "Wildeshauser Geest" nature park and has the "Hartensbergsee" recreation park. There are numerous places of interest here. Examples are the Arkeburg castle and the "Goldenstedter Moor". They not only offer the locals a high residential and recreational factor. The municipality is also an attractive business location.

Municipality of Goldenstedt

 [Hauptstr. 39, 49424 Goldenstedt](#)

 [Website Goldenstedt](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 444420090](#)

 04444/200977

Holdorf


The village is charmingly situated on the northern slope of the Damme mountains. It is located in the "Dümmer" nature park. There are many leisure activities. These include swimming, surfing and fishing at the Heidesee lake. Tennis and horse riding are also possible. The town is also an impressive business location. It has good transport connections. In addition, the commercial areas are fully developed.

Municipality of Holdorf

 [Große Str. 19, 49451 Holdorf](#)

 [Website Holdorf](#)


 [+49 \(0\) 54949850](#)

 05494/98599


Lohne


Lohne is known as a medium-sized centre and main town. It is the second largest town in the district. The town has a business-orientated infrastructure. It offers optimal transport connections. Lohne has a wide range of schools and educational facilities. There are various medical and social facilities. The town is also known for its excellent industrial infrastructure. It has a strong economy. The cultural and urban offerings in Lohne are also impressive.

City of Lohne

 [Vogtstr. 26, 49393 Lohne](#)

 [Lohne website](#)


 [+49 \(0\) 44428860](#)

 04442/886245


Neuenkirchen-Vörden


The town is fresh and friendly for families. It is open to people from all over the world and offers many opportunities for leisure activities and culture. There are also many specialised clinics. The town is conveniently located for transport and has good facilities for people's needs. It is therefore also a good place to do business.

Community of Neuenkirchen-Vörden

 [Küsterstr. 4, 49434 Neuenkirchen-Vörden](#)

 [Website Neuenkirchen-Vörden](#)


 [+49 \(0\) 549398710](#)

 05493/987199


Steinfeld


The town is easily accessible from the B 214 road and the A1 motorway. It is known worldwide as an important centre for show jumpers. The area has many forests, meadows, small lakes and streams. Many companies have also settled there. The town is easy to reach. It has good transport connections.

Municipality of Steinfeld

 [Am Rathausplatz 13, 49439 Steinfeld](#)

 [Website Steinfeld](#)


 [+49 \(0\) 5492860](#)

 05492/8637


Vechta


The town of Vechta has more than 31,000 people living there. It has very good facilities for business and transport. That is why it is the most important economic centre in its region. Vechta is one of the largest locations in the oil and gas service sector in Germany. Vechta is a university town with an excellent educational programme. The cost of living is comparatively low. This makes Vechta a family-friendly location with a high quality of life.

City of Vechta

 [Burgstr. 6, 49377 Vechta](#)

 [Vechta website](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 44418860](#)




 04441/886199

Visbek

The town has developed into a modern business location thanks to ideal location factors. These factors include a convenient location on the A1 and B69 motorways. The extremely low trade tax rates also play a role. At the same time, the municipality located in the "Wildeshauser Geest" nature park offers a high level of living comfort. It also has a varied cultural and leisure programme. These include the largest megalithic tombs in northern Germany.

Municipality of Visbek


 [Goldenstedter Str. 1, 49429 Visbek](#)


 [Visbek website](#)
 [+49 \(0\) 444589000](#)
 04445/890077

Living together in Germany

The Basic Law

In every country, there are rules that everyone must abide by. The most important law for Germany is the Basic Law. It is a collection of 146 articles. Each article stands for a law, i.e. a rule. These rules determine how we live together in Germany. The basic rights protect the freedom of each individual. They are set out in Articles 1 to 19 of the Basic Law.

 Here you can find the Basic Law in 11 languages: * [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Italian](#), [Persian](#), [Polish](#), [Russian](#), [Serbian](#), [Spanish](#), [Turkish](#) and, of course, [German](#).

 How the German constitutional state works is vividly illustrated in this film vividly in this film: [German](#), [Dari](#), [Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Pashto](#), [Urdu](#).

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Human rights are important rights that always apply to all people all over the world. Human rights are rights that every person has by virtue of being human. They protect the dignity of every human being. They apply equally to all people. No distinction is made between people on the basis of

- skin colour
- gender
- language
- religion
- political or other views
- national or social origin
- property
- birth
- other status

This is stated in Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This was published by the United Nations on 10 December 1948.

There are 30 rights. The most important are:

- All human beings are of equal value.
- Everyone is entitled to their own opinion.
- Everyone has the right to peace and security.

Children's rights

Children need special protection and therefore also special rights. The individual rights of children are set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It was adopted by the UN

General Assembly in 1989 and subsequently ratified by 196 states. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child comprises a total of 54 articles.

🌐 The 10 most important children's rights are clearly explained here: [German/Arabic](#) and [German/Persian](#).

About Integreat

Integreat is a guide that supports you in your everyday life. You will find important addresses, contact persons as well as tips and tricks that can help you find your way around.

This guide has several chapters. Each chapter deals with a different topic. Among other things, you will find information on doctors, schools, German courses or other institutions. There is also a chapter with ideas on what you can do in your free time. The information and leisure activities change. Your municipality updates them regularly. That's why it's very good if you check your mobile app often. You will always be informed about current activities and events. You can rely on the information in Integreat.

Download Integreat from your [app store](#). You can also use this app offline if you don't have internet access. When you are back online, the app will update itself.

Sharing information

You can download and share important information, for example, as a PDF in the web app. In the mobile app, you can share interesting content directly, for example via WhatsApp, Facebook or email.

Latest news

With the Integreat smartphone app you can also receive push notifications. You can agree to receive them in the app's settings. Important or short-term information is sent to you via push notifications.

Feedback

You can contribute to the development of the Integreat app in your municipality. You can give feedback using the smiley icons. This feedback ends up with the people who create the content. You can praise or criticise. If you have ideas or criticism, write down as many details as possible.

Read aloud function

The content of the Integreat app can also be read aloud. To do this, the read aloud function must be switched on in the settings of the smartphone. This works in all languages.

We very much hope that we can simplify your life in Germany with this app.


Advice and help


Migration advice centres for adult immigrants (aged 27 and over)

Arriving in a new country is not easy. Language, housing, work and culture: all these issues are important for your future life in Germany. Are you or your family new to Germany? Are you over 27 years old? Then you can seek advice from organisations. To do so, you must be authorised to live in Germany. You need a residence permit. Counselling is free of charge. Help, support, information and clarification are available on the following topics:

- Where can I learn German?
- How do I apply for a German course?
- How do I find a flat?
- Where can I apply for financial aid?
- Who can help me find a job?
- Can my degree be recognised in Germany?
- Which doctor can I go to?
- Who will help me during my pregnancy?
- How can my family also come to Germany?
- If necessary, accompaniment to offices and authorities by volunteers
- Information on migration and integration measures

Counselling is available in German and many other languages. It is free of charge. And support is provided regardless of your origin, religion or nationality.


 There is a separate counselling service for teenagers and young adults between the ages of 12 and 27: [Youth Migration Services](#)

 The [asylum counselling](#) service primarily supports you in local shared accommodation.

Caritas-Sozialwerk St. Elisabeth Migration Counselling (MBE)

 [Neuer Markt 30, 49377 Vechta](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 44418707628](#)

 04441/8707610

 @athemann@caritas-sozialwerk.de

Youth migration services

The Youth Migration Services (JMD) support young immigrants between the ages of 12 and 27. They help you to settle in Germany as quickly as possible and support you with the following topics:

- Questions about general orientation
- School, training, career
- Personal questions
- Support in dealing with authorities
- Financial and legal issues


The aims of the JMDs:

- Improve opportunities for integration (linguistically, socially, at school and at work)
- Promote justice and participation

- Promote fair treatment of each other and strength in dealing with discrimination
- Promote participation in all areas of social, cultural and political life

Do you have a child between the ages of 12 and 27? Then you can also contact a JMD with questions about your children's education.


Caritas-Sozialwerk St. Elisabeth Youth Migration Service (JMD)

 [Kirchplatz 18, 49401 Damme](#)

 [Website](#)

Petra Sieve

 [+49 \(0\) 549190555527](tel:+49(0)549190555527)

 [+49 \(0\) 15208995385](tel:+49(0)15208995385)

 [@sieve@caritas-sozialwerk.de](mailto:sieve@caritas-sozialwerk.de)

Svenja Winkelmann

 [+49 \(0\) 549190555526](tel:+49(0)549190555526)

 [@winkelmann@caritas-sozialwerk.de](mailto:winkelmann@caritas-sozialwerk.de)

Appointments by appointment at the office in Damme, Lohne or Vechta. Home visits are possible throughout the district.

Central return counselling

You have submitted an application for asylum to the Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)? The BAMF has not yet decided on your application for asylum? Would you like to return to your home country now? Do you still have **questions**?

- How do I get my passport back?
- Where can I get money for the return journey?

The Central Return Counselling Service (ZRB) can help you. It will advise you. You will find out how to return to your home country. The counselling is open-ended. You can therefore decide for yourself after the counselling. Do you want to leave voluntarily or stay on?

When can you contact ZRB?


- If you are seeking asylum in Germany and would like to find out about returning to your home country voluntarily.
- If you know or look after someone who is interested in voluntary return.
- If you know or look after someone who is obliged to leave the country.

You must make an appointment. You can discuss your situation at the appointment. You will receive information about your options at the appointment. You can then make a decision.

State counselling centres:


State Reception Centre of Lower Saxony (LAB NI)

Osnabrück location

 [+49 \(0\) 541668880](tel:+49(0)541668880)

 [@rueckkehr-os@lab.niedersachsen.de](mailto:rueckkehr-os@lab.niedersachsen.de)

Location Braunschweig


 [+49 \(0\) 53161843380](tel:+49(0)53161843380)

 [@rueckkehr-bs@lab.niedersachsen.de](mailto:rueckkehr-bs@lab.niedersachsen.de)

Non-governmental return counselling centres:

Raphaelswerk - Counselling in Hanover


 [Vordere Schöneworth 10, 30167 Hannover](#)


 [+49 \(0\) 51170052060](tel:+49(0)51170052060)

 [@hannover@raphaelswerk.net](mailto:hannover@raphaelswerk.net)

 [Website](#)

AWO District Association Hildesheim-Alfeld (Leine) e.V.

 [Osterstr. 39 A, 31134 Hildesheim](#)


 [+49 \(0\) 5121179000](tel:+49(0)5121179000)

 [@info@awo-hi.de](mailto:info@awo-hi.de)

 [Website](#)

Caritas - Association for the district of Emsland


 [Kuhstr. 42, 49716 Meppen](#)


 [+49 \(0\) 593198420](tel:+49(0)593198420)



0593198305

Caritas - Association for the district of Emsland

 [Am Markt 9, 49751 Sögel](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 595293700](tel:+49(0)595293700)




05952937030

 [Website](#)

SKM Meppen e.V.

 [Kolpingstr. 4, 49716 Meppen](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 593193110](tel:+49(0)593193110)




05931931118

 [@info@skm-moppen.de](mailto:info@skm-moppen.de)

 [Website](#)

DRK District Association Leer e.V.

 [Am Nüttermoorer Sieltief 9, 26789 Leer](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 491929230](#)




04919292350


 infos@drk-leer.de

 [Website](#)

Migration Centre for the City and District of Göttingen


 [Neustadt 18, 37073 Göttingen](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 55138905150](#)

 igratio.nszentrum.goettingen@evlka.de

 [Website](#)

Integrationslotsen im Landkreis Cloppenburg e.V.

 [Auf dem Hook 11, 49661 Cloppenburg](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 44718820936](#)




044718820934

 Verein-clp@integrationslotsen.com

 [Website](#)

Caritas - Association for the district of Peine e.V.

 [Am Amthof 3, 31224 Peine](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 5171700376](#)





05171700344

 sander@caritaspeine.de

 [Website](#)

Caritas - Association for Bremen-North, Bremerhaven and the districts of Cuxhaven and Osterholz e.V.

 [Kirchenpauerstr. 15, 27472 Cuxhaven](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 4721690280](#)




047216902829

 [Website](#)

AWO District Association Stade e.V.

 [Near the island 11, 21680 Stade](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 414153440](#)



04141534421

[Website](#)

AWO District Association Harburg-Land e.V.

[Mozartstr. 10, 21423 Winsen/Luhe](#)

[+49 \(0\) 41717694947](#)



041717694943

Protestant welfare organisation Diakonisches Werk Graftschaft Bentheim gGmbH

[NINO-Allee 4, 48529 Nordhorn](#)

[+49 \(0\) 59218111179](#)

[@kgoedecke@diakonie-graftschaft.de](mailto:kgoedecke@diakonie-graftschaft.de)

[Website](#)

Online counselling

mbeon - Multilingual counselling in the chat

There are many local counselling centres in Germany. If the counselling centre is closed or far away from where you live, digital chat counselling can help.

Finding information online and getting advice via chat is very easy with mbeon.

mbeon enables counselling via chat. All counsellors are qualified specialists from the Migration Counselling Service for Adult Immigrants (MBE). They are guaranteed to respond within 48 hours and help with all questions and problems that life in the new environment entails. Counselling is anonymous, data-secure and free of charge.

The app also contains extensive information on topics such as work and career, health, learning German, housing, family and residence. In addition, mbeon puts you in touch with migration advice centres and other important contact points.

The app is available in German, English, Russian and Arabic. You can receive counselling in more than 19 different languages.

The app has many advantages:

- The app is flexible. It can be used anywhere and at any time.
- Counselling is provided in your native language.
- The app is data secure. Documents can be sent quickly and securely.
- The app and counselling are free of charge.
- Counselling is anonymous.

The free app can be downloaded from the Google Play Store and the AppStore.

[mbeon in the Google Play Store](#)

 [mbeon in the AppStore](#)

Further information is available on the [multilingual website](#) and the [Facebook page](#).

Important offices

Equal Opportunities Officer

The Basic Law says that men and women are equal. But it takes a long time for that to really be the case. You have to think differently about it. There is an equal opportunities officer in the district. She is working on it.

Goals and tasks of her work:

- Equal opportunities for all genders in the family, at work and in society
- Reduce and prevent gender-based discrimination
- Reduce structural disadvantages for women

She cannot achieve these goals alone. That is why it provides information on the subject and works with the public. It also organises projects and participates in certain groups.

She is the interface between administration, politics and the public. It is the point of contact for all citizens of the district. Groups, clubs, associations, organisations and institutions can also contact her.

Focal points are the topics

- Education and work,
- compatibility and care work,
- role models and diversity,
- positions of power and decision-making,
- safety and health

Do you have any problems, requests or suggestions? Please get in [touch](#).

Mrs Brokamp

Equal Opportunities Officer

 [+49 \(0\) 44418981025](tel:+49(0)44418981025)

@1025@landkreis-vechta.de

Family offices


A [family office](#) has been set up in every municipality and in the district of Vechta. This means that there is always someone nearby who you can ask if you need help.

Every family office is a central point of contact. You can ask for help here. This can involve all family and social matters.


Your contact points


Bakum Family Office

 [Kirchstraße 2, 49456 Bakum](#)


 [+49 \(0\) 44468925](#)


Damme Family Office

 [Mühlenstraße 18, 49401 Damme](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 549166223](#)

Family office Dinklage

 [Rombergstraße 10, 49413 Dinklage](#)


 [+49 \(0\) 4443899520](#)


Family office Goldenstedt

 [Brunkhorststr. 16d, 49424 Goldenstedt](#)


 [+49 \(0\) 4444204300](#)


Family Office Holdorf

 [Große Str. 22, 49451 Holdorf](#)


 [+49 \(0\) 549498518](#)


Family office Lohne

 [Vogtstraße 26, 49393 Lohne](#)


 [+49 \(0\) 44428865101](#)


Neuenkirchen-Vörden Family Office

 [Küsterstr. 4, 49434 Neuenkirchen-Vörden](#)


 [+49 \(0\) 5493987150](#)

Family office Steinfeld

 [Am Rathausplatz 13, 49439 Steinfeld](#)


 [+49 \(0\) 54928613](#)


Vechta Family Office

 [Burgstraße 6, 49377 Vechta](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 4441886513](#)

Family Office Visbek

 [Bremer Tor 6, 49429 Visbek](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 4445950521](#)

Coordination centre for women and business

The Women & Business Coordination Centre supports employees on parental leave and women returning to work. It is a publicly funded organisation. It is located in Oldenburger Münsterland. Would you like to return to work? The centre will advise you. You can also qualify for certain courses. Please also get in touch if you would like to reorient yourself professionally.

Contact

Office for Economic Promotion and District Development

👤 Nancy Menke
☎ [+49 \(0\) 44418982621](tel:+49044418982621)
✉ [@menke@koordinierungsstellenom.de](mailto:menke@koordinierungsstellenom.de)
🌐 [Website](#)

Health department

Health region

In May 2015, the Ministry decided that the district of Vechta is a special region for health.

More and more people are getting older. This means more work for healthcare providers. The population in Vechta is also getting older and more diverse. Vechta must therefore prepare itself for new tasks.

In order to cope with these tasks, Vechta is now being developed into a special healthcare region. This means that there is money to improve the local organisation. For example, by organising meetings on the subject of health. The establishment of groups that take care of specific tasks. And supporting new ideas on how to better promote the health of the people there. The aim is for everyone in the region to have suitable health services nearby. These services should fit in with local conditions.

Vechta has an important role in this plan to organise and bring everything together. In June 2015, an office was set up at the health authority in Vechta to help coordinate everything.

Contact:

Coordination centre health region district of Vechta
Health authority

👤 Mrs Grützner
📍 [Neuer Markt 8, 49377 Vechta](#)
☎ [+49 \(0\) 44418982202](tel:+49044418982202)
✉ @gesundheitsregion@landkreis-vechta.de

Further information can be found at www.gesundheitsregion-vechta.de

General tasks

The public health service "promotes and protects the health of the population. It works towards strengthening the personal responsibility of citizens and cooperates with other organisations, institutions and associations that are active in areas that are important for health". This is the somewhat dry definition of the tasks in the Lower Saxony law.

In the district of Vechta, the public health department fulfils these tasks. The employees of the health department serve you as citizens of the district. They provide advice and support. They monitor and protect. The public health officer heads the health department.


Their tasks include


- Protecting against infections and defining the Infection Protection Act (IfSG)
- Promoting health and preventing diseases
- Promoting and protecting the health of children and young people

- examining and assessing, for example for integration assistance or to determine fitness for duty
- Social psychiatry and psychosocial support
- Counselling on AIDS and HIV

Opening hours and contact:

 [Neuer Markt 8, 49377 Vechta](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 44418980](tel:+49044418980)

 With and without appointments



Many things can be clarified online or by telephone. Would you still like to speak to us in person? We are happy to do that. However, please make an appointment in advance:

Monday - Friday: 08:30 - 12:30

Thursday additionally: 14:30 - 17:00

Appointments are also possible at other times by prior arrangement.

Not feeling well?

If you feel unwell, please contact your family doctor or the medical emergency service at  [116117](tel:116117). In life-threatening cases, call the emergency services on  [112](tel:112).

Social psychiatric service

Mentally ill people and their relatives can find help here. Do you suffer from one of the following illnesses?

- depression
- schizophrenia
- Borderline personality disorder
- Personality disorders
- anxiety disorders
- other mental illnesses

Then you can contact our competent staff.

The service is there for you if you ...

- suddenly perceive your environment differently
- cannot find a way out of a mental conflict
- are or have been undergoing psychiatric treatment
- would like to undergo psychiatric treatment
- are looking for a group for those affected or relatives (see [current group offers](#))
- need advice and help

You can ...

- talk about your problems

- look for ways forward together and work out solutions

The counselling and help is ...

- confidential.
- for people of all religions
- possible alone, at home or in the clinic
- free of charge

Contact:

Vechta Health Department

📍 [Neuer Markt 8, 49377 Vechta](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 44418982219](tel:+49(0)44418982219)

Aids counselling

Do you have questions about HIV and other sexually transmitted infections? Then you can get advice here. How is HIV transmitted? How does HIV therapy work? How are other diseases transmitted? You can find out at the AIDS counselling service of the public health department.

The AIDS counselling service provides advice:

- by telephone and in person
- Individuals, couples or groups
- People who are afraid of being infected
- Anyone who wants to know how to protect themselves effectively

It also offers help for people infected with HIV:

- psychosocial support
- Relieving conversations
- help in crises
- Applications for financial support from the German Aids Foundation

It also offers the possibility of testing (HIV antibody test):

- for everyone anonymously and free of charge
- Personal test counselling and test notification

Contact:

Health Department

👤 Mrs Wiechers

📍 [Neuer Markt 8, 49377 Vechta](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 44418982243](tel:+49(0)44418982243)

School examination

The health and development of children is important. Before your child starts school, they will be examined. This is called the school entry procedure. Sometimes it is also called a school check-up. This is important. If your child needs support, this can be determined during the examination. Your child can then be supported at school.

In the district of Vechta, this task is carried out by the [health department](#). The team of the child and youth health service is responsible there.

These are the aims of the examination:

- The children should be able to present their abilities in the best possible way. This is important so that their enjoyment of school is not spoilt. This is why the examination takes place in a pleasant atmosphere.
- The parents/guardians receive an assessment of their child's development. This requires the results of the examination.
- If necessary, they will receive counselling. They are then given information on support options and medical counselling for chronic illnesses. This is useful in view of the change of school.
- The parents and school management receive a medical recommendation. This allows them to decide whether the child should go to school a year later. Or they can submit an application. The application is then used to assess the need for special educational support.

This is how the procedure works:

The doctors will examine your child. They will write down your child's medical history. They will want to know what illnesses your child has already had. Your child will also be weighed and measured. Your child will have a sight and hearing test. There is also a special test. This is called SOPESS - Social Paediatric Developmental Screening. This test will also be carried out on your child.

How long the examination takes varies greatly. This is because children are very different. The doctors take this into consideration.

Your child's teachers can share their observations and experiences with your child with the doctors. You can agree to this. However, you do not have to agree.

The examinations take place from October to June before the start of school. For children with health problems or developmental disorders, the examinations will be early and detailed.

💡 Parents/guardians will be informed in writing about the individual steps of the procedure and will receive invitations in good time.

We need information about your child's development and environment in order to assess them. You will receive a preparatory questionnaire. Please also bring your child's medical check-up booklet, immunisation record and any other medical documents.

You or your partner must be present at the examination. The results of the examination will be discussed in person. The results of the examination will also be summarised in writing and given to the parents. The head teachers of the relevant primary school will also receive

these results reports.

Job centre

Are you unemployed? Do you need help? The job centre pays financial benefits. It also places you in work and training. This depends on your individual needs. Among other things, the job centre will enable you to take part in a language course. It will refer you to a careers counselling service. Or it can help you get your certificates recognised. Would you like to work? Then you can find information and advice here: [Access to the labour market](#)

💡 Job Centre staff are not allowed to pass on any information about customers. Do you have a volunteer to accompany you? Then you must give them a power of attorney. This must be completed in full and signed by both parties.

👤 Is your asylum application still pending? Or your application has been rejected? Then the [Federal Employment Agency](#) is responsible for matters relating to employment promotion.

👤 Steps after a positive decision

You have received a positive decision from the BAMF. This means that the asylum procedure has been successfully completed. You are recognised as entitled to asylum. Or you have been granted refugee protection. These are your next steps:

1. personal interview

- You must go to the job centre during opening hours
- You will be registered as a customer there
- Your background will be recorded
- A counselling appointment will be arranged with the benefits department. An appointment will be made with the job centre
- You are registered as a jobseeker

2. benefits department


Important: There is no counselling without an appointment.


- You can apply for benefits. You need an appointment for this. The person responsible for you will then help you.

3. job centre

- **Important:** There is no counselling without an appointment.
- Have you already attended an integration course? Bring your certificate with you. If not, bring the commitment to the course with you.
- Do you have documents relating to school attendance or training? Do you have job references? Have your foreign qualifications been recognised? Please bring these with you.
- Tell us about any special skills you have (crafts, language skills, etc.).
- Think about which area of work you are interested in before the appointment.


Job centre in the district of Vechta

 [Rombergstr. 51, 49377 Vechta](#)

 Monday - Thursday: 08:00 - 12:30, Friday: 08:00 - 12:00


- Damme branch office -

 [Friedhofstr. 8, 49401 Damme](#)

 Monday - Thursday: 08:00 - 12:30, Friday: closed


Telephone availability for the entire job centre

 [+49 \(0\) 44419467000](tel:+49(0)44419467000)

 Monday - Thursday: 08:00 - 16:00, Friday: 08:00 - 14:00

Digital availability

 obcente@r-vechta.jobcenter-ge.de

 www.jobcenter-vechta.digital

Citizen's income

The **citizen's income** replaced unemployment benefit II (colloquially known as Hartz IV) on 1 July 2023. It is intended to ensure a livelihood for all. There are 2 types of benefits under the Citizen's Income scheme:

- Benefits that are intended to help people get a job (integration benefit)
- Benefits to ensure a livelihood (benefits to ensure a livelihood including rent and heating costs)

Citizen's income ensures that everyone has the things they need to live. Do you have little or no money? Are you unable to cover your living costs? Then you can get citizen's allowance. You must have the correct residence permit for this.


Where do you have to apply for the citizen's allowance?

You can apply for the citizen's allowance at the [Vechta district job centre](#). You can also apply for it digitally [here](#). You can find more information [here](#).

Employment Agency

The Federal Employment Agency is responsible for everything to do with employment. Are you looking for a job? Do you need help choosing a career? Would you like to have your qualifications recognised? Then contact the Employment Agency.

When it comes to employment, who is responsible for you depends on your residence status:

 If your asylum procedure is still ongoing (Aufenthaltsgestattung) or if you are tolerated (Duldung), then the Employment Agency is your contact for job placement, advice on further vocational training and recognition of professional qualifications.

👤 Are you recognised? Then the [job centre](#) is the right contact for you when it comes to employment.

For counselling sessions, an interpreter can be called in by telephone free of charge on request.

Vechta Employment Agency

📍 [Rombergstr. 51, 49377 Vechta](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 8004555500](#) (free of charge)

Telephone availability:

Monday - Friday 08:00 - 18:00

Office for Social Affairs and Integration

General information

Anyone can find themselves in need due to an accident, illness, death of a partner, unemployment or insufficient income. Under certain conditions, he or she can then receive social assistance.

Social assistance is not a handout, but a right guaranteed by law. However, this only applies if you are unable to help yourself and no one else can help you. It doesn't matter how you got into need.

Social assistance is available in various forms:

- in the form of money, both as an ongoing monthly payment and as a one-off benefit,
- as a benefit in kind,
- in the form of personal assistance, for example in obtaining accommodation or a place in a care home,
- through counselling and support for those seeking help.

Do you receive social assistance? Would you like to apply for social assistance? Would you like to find out more about social assistance? Contact the Office for Social Affairs and Integration. Here you can obtain information about the benefits.



Social assistance includes

- Assistance with reduced earning capacity
- Basic security in old age
- Health assistance
- Assistance with care
- Help to overcome particular difficulties
- Assistance in other life situations

All those in need of assistance who are able to work (under 65 years of age) can apply to the [job centre](#) for [citizen's allowance](#) to cover their living expenses.

Asylum seekers receive benefits in accordance with the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act.

Office for Social Affairs and Integration

 [Ravensberger Str. 20, 49377 Vechta](#)
 [+49 \(0\) 44418980](tel:+49(0)44418980)



04441 898 - 1045

Senior citizens and care support centre

The senior citizens and care support centre offers advice. This is neutral, free and personalised. It centres around the topic of old age and help with care. The counselling is aimed at people of all ages. It is also intended for relatives and carers. The aim is to enable people to live in their familiar surroundings. They should be well cared for and safe for as long as possible.



The support centre provides documentation for this. These include the care folder, the emergency card and the emergency box. These documents are handed over free of charge together with a consultation.

Support centre for the elderly

Are you elderly and looking for help? Or would you like to volunteer to help senior citizens? Then contact the senior citizens' support centre. The support centre helps with the following topics:

- Supporting independent living at home
- Advise, help and support in all situations in life
- arrange voluntary senior companionship for older people who would like an hourly companion or support in everyday life
- arranging free and qualified housing counselling
- Introduce and support projects
- Free training to become a DUO senior companion via a training organisation

Contact person:

 Frau Schmidt
 [+49 \(0\) 44418983000](tel:+49(0)44418983000)

Care support centre

Are you in need of help and care? Would you like to find out more? Do you have relatives who need help and care? Then contact the care support centre. Here you will find help on the following topics:

- different types of care, in hospital, at home or partly in hospital
- Filling out applications, for example for assistance with care or disabilities

- Insurance benefits (care and health)
- social benefits
- Advice on special topics such as dementia and preventative measures
- Housing advice as part of care counselling
- Options for care after a stay in hospital or rehabilitation
- Questions about care assessments by the Medical Service (MD)
- Aids and care
- Offers to relieve the burden on family carers

The support centre is always ready to listen to your questions and concerns.

Contact persons:

 Frau Bocklage

 [+49 \(0\) 44418983001](tel:+49044418983001)

 Frau Kölker

 [+49 \(0\) 44418983002](tel:+49044418983002)

Contact

District of Vechta

 [Ravensberger Str. 20, 49377 Vechta](#)



[+49 \(0\) 44418981045](tel:+49044418981045)

@spn@landkreis-vechta.de

Opening hours:

Mon - Fri: 08:30-12:30

Thu: 14:30 - 17:00, with appointment until 18:00

Would you like a personal consultation? Then you can also make an appointment outside of opening hours. The staff at the care support centre will also be happy to visit you at home. The senior citizens and care support centre is located on the ground floor of the district building. It can be reached barrier-free.




Coordinator for integration

Integration is important for a good life. The district of Vechta has many offers for integration. Various organisations offer these services. The district has appointed a coordinator for integration. What are the goals? How do we proceed? This is determined by the integration coordinator. She also brings together individual measures and develops them further.

The goal? People with a migration background should be able to participate in social, cultural and economic life on an equal footing. The Lower Saxony Coordination Centre for Migration and Participation is very important in this respect.

Do you have questions about integration? Then you can get in touch with the coordinator. She will be happy to advise you.

Coordinator for integration

 Mrs Behrens
 [Ravensberger Str. 20, 49377 Vechta](#)
 [+49 \(0\) 44418982046](tel:+49(0)44418982046)



04441/ 8981045
@2046@landkreis-vechta.de

Immigration office

Would you like to live in Germany as a foreign national? Then you need a [residence permit](#). This title can be a visa. Or you have a residence permit. As an EU citizen, you will receive the [EU Blue Card](#). You may also have a settlement or permanent residence permit. Go to the foreigners authority. There you can apply for a [residence](#) permit.

What else you can do at the Foreigners' Registration Office:

- Apply for a residence permit([application](#)) or extend your residence permit([application](#))
- Apply for authorisation to settle([application](#))
- Extend proof of arrival
- Issue and extend residence permits and tolerated stay permits (max. 6 months)
- Apply for a work permit
- Inform about matters concerning entry
- Advise on return (voluntary departure with support)
- Advice on the subject of naturalisation

🦋Steps after a positive decision from the BAMF

You have applied for asylum. The BAMF decides on this. This decision was positive. This means that you are allowed to stay in Germany. You can now **apply** for the **electronic residence permit (eAT)**.

(1) Application

- You can obtain the application form at the information desk of the Foreigners' Registration Office (contact details below). Please bring an interpreter with you to submit the application. They can translate the reason for your visit.

(2) Appointment

- The form has been received by the Immigration Office. It has been processed. You will then receive an appointment by post. You will also receive a list of all the documents you need

to bring with you

- Important: Have a certificate issued. This is your temporary replacement document. It is called a fictitious certificate. You will need this for the [job centre](#)


(3) Collection

- You will receive a letter. You can then collect your title.

Office for Order and Road Traffic - Aliens Department

Herr Espelage

 [Ravensberger Str. 20, 49377 Vechta](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 44418981620](#)



04441/8983620

@1620@landkreis-vechta.de

Right of opportunity and residence

Have you been in Germany for some time and only have a tolerated stay permit? Then there is a new option for you with the right of residence. Under certain conditions, you can obtain a residence permit for 18 months.

Please note! Special rules apply during these 18 months. During this time, you must fulfil the necessary requirements for a right of residence with good integration (§ 25b AufenthG) or for well-integrated young people and young adults (§ 25a AufenthG). These are

- Securing a livelihood
- Clarification of identity
- Knowledge of the German language

The requirements for the application are

- On 31 October 2022, you must have been in Germany for at least 5 years without interruption. You must have been tolerated or authorised. Or you must have had a residence permit. You must therefore have been in Germany since 31 October 2017. Without interruption means that you must not have travelled out of Germany during this time.
- You must not have a criminal record.
- You must not have repeatedly and deliberately provided false information about your identity or nationality in order to prevent your deportation.
- You must be committed to democracy in Germany.

Applications for the right of residence according to §104c AufenthG for tolerated persons living at Landkreis Vechta must be made in writing to the [Foreigners' Registration Office](#).

Please provide the following information in the application:

- Name of the applicant
- Date of birth
- Address
- Note "Application for right of residence § 104c AufenthG"

💡 Close family members of the applicant will also receive the residence permit if they have not yet lived in Germany for 5 years.

💡 The right of residence cannot be extended. If you are unable to fulfil the requirements for a continued right of residence, you will again be obliged to leave Germany. At best, you can again obtain a tolerated stay.

Residence status

Everyone in Germany has an ID card. This ID helps to identify people. As an asylum seeker, you also need an ID card. This allows the authorities to recognise your status. Your status determines whether you are allowed to work or not.

There are 5 different documents:

1. proof of arrival

Status: Asylum seeker

Background: You have told the authorities that you need asylum. The authorities have registered you in the system. However, you have not yet applied for asylum. This permit is valid until you submit your application. You submit the application to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF).



2. residence permit

Status: Asylum seeker

Background: You have applied for asylum. A group of people will decide on your application. This often takes a very long time. This permit is valid until the decision is made. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) decides on the asylum application. Has your application been rejected as unfounded? Then you can appeal against it. You can do this at the administrative court. You may remain in Germany until the administrative court has made a decision.

The permit for asylum seekers contains conditions regarding employment, residence and, if applicable, spatial restrictions.

- Would you like to work? Do you need a permit for this? You can obtain this from the [Foreigners' Registration Office](#). Your employer or you as an employee can apply for this.
- Would you like to find work? Go to the [Employment Agency](#)
- Do you need financial help? Go to the [social welfare office](#)



3. fictitious certificate

Status: Recognised refugees

Background: You have submitted an application to the foreigners authority. This application is intended to extend your right to stay. The authority then often issues a certificate. This certificate authorises you to stay. This is important because your application has not yet been processed.



4. residence permit

Status: Recognised refugees

Background: Your application for asylum has been accepted

The residence permit is a temporary residence title. It is issued for a specific purpose.

- You can later obtain an unlimited right of residence (settlement permit)
You have unrestricted access to the labour market
- The [job centre](#) can arrange work and social benefits for you



5. tolerated stay

Status: Tolerated person

Background: Your application for asylum has been rejected

With a tolerated stay you will not be returned to your home country. The tolerated stay is granted for a certain period of time. Sometimes deportation is impossible for legal, factual, humanitarian or personal reasons. There is a general rule. This allows certain groups to be tolerated for a maximum of 3 months. You cannot be returned to your home country for this period.

- A work permit is generally required. You can apply for this at the [Foreigners' Registration Office](#).
- Would you like to find work? Go to the [employment agency](#)
- Do you need financial help? Go to the [social welfare office](#)



Asylum application

If you are registered in Germany and live in shared accommodation, these are the next steps for you.

1. personal application for asylum

- You apply for asylum at the **Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)**
- Asylum procedure counselling can provide you with important information for the asylum procedure. The refugee and integration counselling service is responsible for this
- **Important:** You can only submit your application in person. You cannot send this application by post
- You will receive the appointment and the responsible BAMF office with your proof of arrival. If you have not received an appointment, ask your accommodation manager

2. first interview appointment (asylum application)

You must report to the [immigration office](#) after your first appointment.

3. personal interview

The second interview appointment is the actual interview. The BAMF will then decide on your asylum application and send you a decision. The decision will be explained in detail.

a) The decision is negative

- If the decision is negative and you wish to contest it (i.e. you do not agree with it), go to your asylum counselling centre immediately. They will discuss with you what you can do and can put you in touch with specialised lawyers. For example, you can take legal action against the decision
- If you decide to leave voluntarily, you can receive financial support for your new start in your country of origin

b) The decision is positive, i.e. you are recognised as entitled to protection. The next steps are

Fictitious certificate or electronic residence permit (eAT): Immediately after the positive BAMF decision has been delivered, you must obtain an identity document or its equivalent. You can obtain this from the [Residents' Registration Office \(Foreigners' Registration Office\)](#).

Job centre: You will no longer receive your money from the social welfare office, but must submit an application to the [job centre](#).

Family asylum and international protection for family members

You have been granted asylum in Germany. A member of your family also needs asylum. You can submit an application. The member of your family will be granted the status of a person entitled to protection.

For the purposes of family asylum, members of families include

- Spouses or registered partners,
- unmarried children who are minors,
- the parents of unmarried minor children,
- other adults who have custody of unmarried minor children,
- unmarried minor siblings of minors.

💡 Parents must have custody of their children. They must therefore be able to look after their children.

Do you want to bring your husband or wife to Germany? You must already be married in your country of origin. Then your husband or wife can also be granted asylum. The marriage must be recognised by Germany. The application for asylum must be submitted before or at the same time as your application. You must be entitled to protection.

Born in Germany:

You have already applied for asylum? Have you subsequently had a child in Germany? A separate asylum application can be made for your child. You or your partner must still be in the asylum procedure. Please inform the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees about the birth. The foreigners authority can also inform the Federal Office. The asylum application is then automatically deemed to have been submitted. The parents can submit their own reasons for asylum for their child. If they do not do this, the same reasons apply as for the parents. Here too, an appeal is possible in the event of a negative decision by the Federal Office.

Likewise, and for the protection of the child, underage children will not and must not be returned separately from their parents in the event of a negative decision.

Further information can be found directly at the BAMF.

 [Website Family reunification \(BAMF\)](#)

Youth welfare office

The youth welfare office is the first point of contact for young people and guardians. They can find counselling and support there.

The Youth Welfare Office aims to support young people. It aims to help prevent and reduce disadvantages. Another task is to advise and support parents in bringing up their children. The Youth Welfare Office is also tasked with protecting children and young people from danger. It should create positive conditions for young people and their families. It is also important to establish and maintain a child- and family-friendly infrastructure.

Tasks:

- Support for families and children
- Counselling in the event of separation and divorce
- Guardianships, advance maintenance payments, guardianships and curatorships
- Help for children with special needs
- Services for foster children and help with adoptions
- Support for young people in conflict with the law
- Services and programmes for young people to support and protect them
- Financial help for young people in education (BaföG) and money for parents for their children
- Help with childcare and kindergarten costs.

Opening hours and contact

 Consultation hours:

- with and without appointments -


Despite the internet, correspondence and telephone - some matters are best dealt with in a personal meeting with us. However, please make an appointment in advance if possible:

Monday - Friday:


8:30 - 12:30

Thursday additionally:

14:30 - 17:00

 Would you like to come at a different time? Then please make an appointment in advance.

 [Ravensberger Str. 20, 49377 Vechta](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 44418980](#)

Office for Schools, Education and Culture

The Office for Schools, Education and Culture is responsible for the schools in the district. They also support the schools with IT.

There is an education region and a centre for media skills in the district. They are also part of the Office for Schools, Education and Culture. They provide a wide range of educational programmes for all citizens of the district.

The office organises and supports language support. They do this at schools and educational institutions for people with a migration background and for refugees.

The office also supports cultural and sporting organisations and events.