

Erlangen

- Population: 105.000
- Located in northern Bavaria (Bayern) in the region Franconia (Franken) *Franken has distinct cultural and linguistic (dialect is "Süd-fränkisch", not "Bairisch" as in most of Bavaria) characteristics*
- Part of the "European Metropolitan Area Nuremberg" with 3,5 million inhabitants
- The city is traversed by the river "Regnitz"

History

- In the 17th century French Huguenot refugees arrived, leading to an expansion of the city ("Neustadt"=new town)
- 1742: founding of the university, which would be named "Friedrich-Alexander-University" and become a Prussian state university

Economy

- Dominated by local factories of Siemens AG (engineering and electronics) and the university
- One of the most attractive business locations in Germany

Politics

- Council elections 2014 (16.03): Dr. Florian Janik (**SPD**-Social Democrats) elected new mayor **after** a run-off ballot, replacing Dr. Siegfried Balleis (**CSU**-Christian/Conservative Democrats) who was in power since 1996
- City council seats 2014: 17 CSU (34%), 15 SPD (29, 3%), 8 "**Grüne**"-Greens (15, 8%)
- **SPD** and **CDU** (**CSU** sister party in Bavaria) are the two major parties in Germany since the founding of the federal republic
- Those two parties dominated politics in Erlangen throughout the years in Erlangen as well, whereby the Greens emerged as a third power since the 80s. The liberals (FDP) lost voters between the 60s and 70s

Immigration & Integration

- The slogan of the city is "open by tradition"
- Around 25%, 27.000 persons with migration history ("**Migrationshintergrund**", very German expression often used in media and politics. Official definition: immigrated after 1947/born in Germany as foreigner/all Germans with at least one parent that immigrated after 1947 or was born in Germany as foreigner)
- 2008: founding of Coordination Centre for Integration (Koordinationsstelle Integration) to implement the integration strategy of the city and to lead the collaboration of internal and external entities
- Further institutions and programs:
 - Foreigner and Integration Advisory Council (Ausländer- und Integrationsbeirat)

- Deutsch Offensive (promotion and coordination of German language courses)
- Interkulturelles Erlangen (various programs)
- municipal integration program "die begleiter" (companions)

Interesting facts

- Seat of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, FAU (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg)
- „Bergkirchweih“, annual beer festival similar to the „Oktoberfest“ in Munich