



I. ver.di – About us

With approximately 2.4 million members, ver.di is the largest independent trade union in the world. As a service sector union we have members in over 1.000 different trades and professions.

Our business environment and our labour market are subject to profound structural changes today, which also means that long-established employees' rights are being challenged. Employees are, thus, more than ever dependent on the support of a strong trade union.

ver.di has a wide range of expertise concerning all types of employment within the different branches of a modern service sector and is able to draw on experience gained from a large variety of wage negotiations. Being committed to social progress, we campaign for social justice, equality and democracy and are independent of political parties and governments. We occupy a powerful position in collective bargaining in many areas and are able to bring our influence to bear on political decision-making.

ver.di has a democratic structure, which means that everyone has a voice in deciding which objectives are to be pursued. A dense network of offices and thousands of staff members ensure that we are always within reach for our members.

Modern objectives rooted in tradition

As a modern trade union, ver.di is nevertheless anchored in the tradition of the Trade Union Movement. Our ultimate aim is a world characterised by social justice in which every individual is afforded a chance for personal and professional development without putting the environment at risk.

- ver.di is committed to the principles of a socially just and democratic state based on the rule of law
- ver.di is independent of employers, political parties, religious communities and state bodies
- ver.di represents and promotes the economic, ecological, social, professional and cultural interests of its members

II. Unity in diversity

ver.di is democratically structured and divided into four levels and 13 sectors. Women and special interest groups possess their own organisational structures and means of action.

In order to be able to work efficiently as a large organisation, a particular division of tasks and responsibilities has been implemented.

Levels

Each individual level deals with political issues – from the pension debate at national level down to the abolition of services at local level.

- National Level (Bund)
- Regional Level (Landesbezirke)
- Districts (Bezirke)
- Local Level (Ortsvereine)

The following regional districts have been established:

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- Baden Württemberg
 - Bavaria
 - Berlin/Brandenburg
 - Hamburg/Schleswig Holstein/Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
 - Hesse
 - Lower Saxony/Bremen
 - North Rhine-Westphalia
 - Rhineland-Palatinate/Saarland
 - Saxony/Saxony-Anhalt/Thuringia

The following districts have been established in Lower Saxony-Bremen:

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- Region Süd-Ost-Niedersachsen (in Braunschweig)
 - Hannover/Leine-Weser (in Hannover)
 - Lüneburger Heide (in Lüneburg)
 - Weser-Ems (in Oldenburg)
 - Bremen-Nordniedersachsen (in Bremen)

Sectors

Each sector is concerned with particular labour and job-related issues.

- Financial services (sector 1)
- Utilities, waste disposal and recycling (sector 2)
- Health, social services, welfare and churches (sector 3)
- Social insurance (sector 4)
- Education, science and research (sector 5)
- Federal government (Bund) and federal states (Länder) (sector 6)
- Local authorities (sector 7)
- Media, art, culture services, printing and paper industries, industrial services and production (sector 8)
- Telecommunications, IT, data processing services (sector 9)
- Postal services, forwarding companies and logistics (sector 10)
- Transport (sector 11)
- Commerce (sector 12)
- Other services (i. e. tourism, estate agents, consultancy services, research bodies etc.) (sector 13)

Groups

The groups promote their specific interests across different sectors.

- Young people
- Senior citizens
- Workers
- Civil servants
- Master craftspersons, technicians, engineers (MTI)
- Freelancers and non-contracted workers/employees
- The unemployed



III. Services and Benefits

ver.di campaigns for improved labour conditions and aims to ensure that these are maintained.

Collective bargaining

Collective bargaining is our core activity. Each sector has its own collective bargaining commission, which has the right to cancel collective bargaining agreements, formulate demands and make decisions on negotiation results. All collective bargaining commissions are subject to collective bargaining principles laid down by ver.di. These principles are put forward by a cross-sector collective bargaining committee and are adopted by ver.di's governing body, the Trade Union Council.

Strike pay

During industrial action, ver.di-members on strike or under lockout conditions receive financial support from us. Benefits are also paid to members dismissed by their employers as a consequence of their active support for union demands.

Legal advice

ver.di-members enjoy legal advice free of charge. We provide advice and legal representation in court in matters of labour law, social law and civil service regulations.

Education and Information

ver.di runs several educational facilities, offering a broad range of courses for members, employee representatives and members of staff councils. Courses are either free or reduced in price for ver.di-members. All members regularly receive a free copy of PUBLIK, our members' magazine, through the post.

Service

Additional offers of support, career advice and consultations on private insurance or simply on everyday life are being developed on a continuous basis.

Membership fees

As a rule, membership fees are one percent of gross monthly wage or salary, disregarding Christmas and holiday pay. The same rule applies to freelancers and non-contracted members. Pensioners, recipients of sick pay and the unemployed pay 0.5 percent of their regular gross income. There is a reduced monthly fee of € 2.50 for students and people running households.