



# Saxony (DE)

## Flood Risk Management



## First Results for the Saxon Part of the Elbe River Basin

### Renewable Energy Sector:

Within Saxony, a main energy cluster has established around Freiberg, a former mining city in the Ore Mountains. The city is home to a number of innovative companies working in the renewable energy sector. The two biggest players are SolarWorld ltd. and Choren, but there is also a host of smaller companies such as Soli fer, which produces solar thermal heating systems.

The Siemens Fuel Gasification Technology GmbH is also headquartered here in addition to the German centre for gasification technologies working to simplify the gasification of coal, biomass and waste. Backing up this success story is the Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg. Although the smallest of the technical universities in Saxony, the Bergakademie has achieved an excellent reputation.

### Action on Climate Change:

Saxony has extensive experience in the diagnosis and prognosis of regional climate change and is working on corresponding adaption strategies for forestry, agriculture, economics and nature protection. Therefore it is a partner in many EU and national projects dealing with climate change. One question is also the potential impact of climate change on flood frequency.

Saxony suffered severe damage in the 2002 Elbe River flood and has therefore decided to totally reinvent its flood protection philosophy, from a legal and a technical point of view as well as concerning land use.



### Speaker:

#### **Prof. Dr. Martin Socher**

Professor for Environment Technologies in the Water Sector  
Saxon State Ministry of Environment and Agriculture

Tel: +49 351 564 2273

Fax: +49 351 564 2063

E-mail: [Martin.Socher@smul.sachsen.de](mailto:Martin.Socher@smul.sachsen.de)

Population: **4 250.000**  
Area: **18 415 66 km<sup>2</sup>**  
Population density (inh/km<sup>2</sup>): **231**  
GDP per capita EU27: **85.8%**  
[www.sachsen.de/en/index.html](http://www.sachsen.de/en/index.html)

The Free State of Saxony is the easternmost [federal state](#) of [Germany](#). Located in the country's southeast, it is the tenth-largest in area and sixth-largest in population among Germany's sixteen states. The region's countryside rises gradually from north to south, culminating in the mountain ranges along the Czech border. The [Ore Mountains](#) extend from Bavaria to the Elbe River, which itself has cut a majestic gorge in the mountains of the [Elbsandsteingebirge](#), better known as [Saxon Switzerland](#). Further east, the mountains form a hilly countryside called the [Lusatian](#) Mountains.

Saxony has been observed to possess the most vibrant economy among the former [GDR](#) states and is the fastest growing region in Germany. This, amongst other things, is due to the establishment of a chip producing economy around Dresden. As a result, the region was given the nicknamed "Silicon Saxony".

Tourism in the region is developing, notably in the lake district of [Lusatia](#). The publishing industry and porcelain factories are well known and particularly attractive to visitors. The chief beauty spots are the ones shared with [Czech Republic](#), including the [Lusatian Mountains](#), [Ore Mountains](#), [Saxon Switzerland](#), and [Vogtland](#). In Germany, Saxony offers an above-average number of very well preserved historic small towns, including [Meißen](#), [Freiberg](#), [Pirma](#), and others.

The Saxon museum landscape is multi-faceted, with paintings and etchings, jewels and porcelain. It also witnessed mining and the first technological revolution, and with 400 museums, is the most densely populated in Germany. The architectural attractions of Saxony's castles, such as Kriebstein, Augustusburg, Moritzburg and Königstein, as well as its stately homes and fortresses, are also enticing to tourists.