

## **Good for the cause of allotment gardens all over Germany**

### **The innovative construction of the new Federal Centre is making progress**

The BDG as the umbrella organisation of allotment garden associations in Germany is getting a new federal centre in Berlin. This federal centre will be an open house with event rooms and an exhibition on the future development of allotment gardens in the light of climate change. After its completion all interested allotment garden associations are invited to visit the house and the exhibition.



It was foreseeable that the BDG would have to move out of its current premises. Either way, a new location had to be found, which ideally should also go hand in hand with new possibilities for the political representation of interests. The concept that the BDG then developed fell on receptive ears in the budget committee of the Bundestag and could be perfectly combined with the goal of the federal government to establish and promote an innovative timber construction method in Germany with concrete projects. The new Federal Centre has already become an important reference project for other future buildings made of wood, including the planned new construction of parts of the Federal Ministry of Finance.

After the topping-out ceremony on 11 November 2022, the new federal centre of the German allotment garden associations is now entering the decisive phase. If everything goes according to plan, the opening of the new house will take place in autumn this year and in 2024 the exhibition will gradually be ready and the federal centre will be open to the public. The outdoor area will be used by the German Schreber Youth as a "green classroom" for cooperation with schools, for example. All in all, this will open up completely new possibilities for the allotment garden movement in Germany to represent its political interests in the federal capital. In view of climate change and species extinction, it is all the more important to show the contribution of the 900,000 allotment gardens to the preservation of the green infrastructure.

**Thomas Stölting, BDG**

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