

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

One euro. One house. One plot. Nordhalben tries a new model

Following WORK.LAND.LIFE, Nordhalben is providing another boost in the fight against vacant property.

Nordhalben/Hof, 11 September 2026 - One euro for a house - with the plot included. What may sound like a joke at first is a genuine offer in Nordhalben, a municipality in Upper Franconia in northern Bavaria, Germany. The municipality is selling two vacant houses it owns for one euro each, including their plots.

Not a sell-off, but a strategy

Behind the unusual price is a new municipal approach to dealing with vacant property. By selling the houses, the municipality aims to bring vacant buildings back into permanent use and attract new residents to the town. It is looking for people who want to renovate, invest and stay. The offer is therefore aimed at applicants with a sound renovation, financing and use plan.

The purchase price of one euro is fixed. The municipality of Nordhalben alone decides on applications, viewings, the selection of buyers and the sale. The conditions for renovation and future use are agreed between the municipality and the future owners and set out in the contract. First Mayor Michael Wunder is personally involved in marketing the properties. The municipality is the direct point of contact for binding information. The houses are presented on 1-Euro-Haus.de.

There is more than one answer to vacancy

Nordhalben is not relying on a single measure. Not every building that has stood empty for years can be preserved at a reasonable cost. In the past, the municipality has demolished individual older houses and used the freed-up areas to open up the densely built town centre and create space for greenery. These open spaces improve the living environment, reduce sealed surfaces and help densely built areas heat up less during hot summers.

But demolition is only one answer. Where location, building fabric and development potential allow, older houses should now be given a new future. This is precisely where the €1-house model comes in.

Work where others go on holiday

Nordhalben brings living and working together. Nordwald Space offers modern coworking and coliving facilities with fibre-optic internet in the heart of the town. Workstations and meeting rooms provide suitable conditions for companies to operate in the Franconian Forest and allow self-employed people and freelancers to live and work there.

The **WORK.LAND.LIFE - Landleben auf Probe** project is aimed at people who would like to try living and working in a rural area for a limited period. Individuals can stay in apartments for several weeks, work at Nordwald Space and experience everyday life in Nordhalben. One former trial resident shows that this can lead to a long-term future: after his stay, he decided to move to Nordhalben permanently. Companies and teams can also book accommodation for one or more weeks and use their stay for collaborative work, workshops or team building.

A setting that supports families

Anyone considering a move to Nordhalben is choosing more than a house; they are choosing an entire living environment. The town has a primary school and kindergarten, both important facilities for families with children. Clubs, cultural activities and volunteering shape community life.

Nordwaldhalle is one of the region's largest sports and event venues. The natural swimming pool provides an additional leisure option during the summer months. The forests of the Franconian Forest and the Ködeltalsperre reservoir are right on the doorstep.

Nature as a municipal responsibility

Protecting biodiversity also plays a special role in Nordhalben. The municipality was one of ten Bavarian model municipalities in the "Marktplatz der biologischen Vielfalt" project and developed its own municipal biodiversity strategy. Nature, biodiversity and municipal development are considered together.

The model: many theme islands, one goal

Nordhalben brings the theme islands described above together into an overall concept. This combination of different approaches fits Nordhalben's established identity as a town with a long tradition of bobbin lacemaking: just as individual threads come together through their interaction to form a larger whole, housing, work, education, digital infrastructure, nature, leisure and community connect here. Step by step, they create a shared plan for the future.

"Nordhalben does not think in just one direction. It takes new paths and combines different approaches into a coherent overall concept. The €1-house model is another building block within it. We at 1-Euro-Haus.de hope that the two houses will find people who are ready to get involved, stay for the long term and help shape Nordhalben," says Jürgen Klausmann, editorial lead for 1-Euro-Haus.de.

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About Nordhalben

Nordhalben is located in the Upper Franconian district of Kronach in northern Bavaria, Germany. Set in the Franconian Forest, the municipality combines living close to nature with local facilities, extensive volunteering and modern options for working remotely.

About 1-Euro-Haus.de

1-Euro-Haus.de is an independent information portal run by TOGETHER GmbH in Hof, Germany. The portal covers municipal €1-house projects, participating municipalities and available buildings. It is neither an estate agent nor a seller. All binding property information, viewings, application procedures and sales are the responsibility of the relevant municipality.

Further information

Municipality of Nordhalben: <https://www.nordhalben.de/>
WORK.LAND.LIFE: <https://www.work-land-life.de/>
Nordwald Space: <https://nordwaldspace.de/>
1-Euro-Haus.de: <https://1-euro-haus.de/en/>