



1.2.2 The Federal Republic of Germany as a "social state"

The term "**social state**" has both a normative and a descriptive element:

- **Used as a normative term**, "social state" designates a state based on social justice as a constitutionally enshrined goal (Basic Law):
 - "The Federal Republic of Germany is a democratic and social federal state." (Article 20 [1] Basic Law)
 - "The constitutional order in the Länder must conform to the principles of a republican, democratic and social state governed by the rule of law within the meaning of this Basic Law." (Article 28 [1] Basic Law)
- **As a descriptive term**, "social state" refers to the structures arising from this normative basis and the extent of public measures and programmes to realise greater social justice (social security and social balance).