We are proud that renowned and experienced players support the commitment and project work of IWO through their membership — and we would be very pleased to welcome you as a member as well.

In addition to the companies listed below, many individuals from Germany and the Baltic States engage in IWO as full or sustaining members.

- B&O Group, Germany
- Berliner Bau- und Wohnungsgenossenschaft von 1892 eG, Berlin
- German Energy Agency (dena), Berlin
- Deutscher Verband für Wohnungswesen, Städtebau und Raumordnung e.V., Berlin
- EBZ European Training Centre for the Housing and Real Estate Industry & EBZ Business School – University of Applied Sciences, Bochum
- EiEnS Effiziente Energie Systeme GmbH, Berlin
- GdW Bundesverband deutscher Wohnungs- und Immobilienunternehmen e.V., Berlin
- Ingenieurbüro für Projektentwicklung und Baubetreuung GmbH, Berlin
- Ingenieurseelschaft BBP Bauconsulting mbH, Berlin
- insar consult, Berlin
- ista international GmbH, Essen
- LUNOS Lüftungstechnik GmbH für Raumlüftungssysteme, Berlin
- PERL, Paris
- Verband der Immobilienverwalter Deutschland (VDIV) e.V., Berlin
- VEGIS Immobilien Verwaltungs- und Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH, Neu Isenburg
- VIESSMANN WERKE GmbH & Co.KG, Allendorf
- European Federation for Living, Amsterdam
- Senior Experten Service, Erfurt Office
- Wohnen im Eigentum e.V., Bonn
- Thüringer Ministerium für Infrastruktur und Landwirtschaft, Erfurt

Initiative Wohnungswirtschaft Osteuropa (IWO) e.V. — Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe was founded in 2001 on the initiative of the then Federal Ministry of Construction. Since then, our non-profit organisation has been concerned with sustainable development and the energy-efficient, climate-friendly modernisation of the housing and building sectors in Eastern Europe.

Engaged in the energy transition and in sustainability in the European context, we and our members see it as our task and duty to make the European experience Germany gained from the transformation of the housing sector in the new federal states after the fall of the Berlin Wall available to other countries whose housing and building sectors are facing comparable challenges. The countries of Eastern Europe are facing particularly extensive challenges — including social ones — in these sectors.

We are pleased if our activities meet your interest and are gladly at your disposal for your questions and a further exchange.

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as per 03/2020
Regions & countries

Not comparable? Not quite right...
The housing and building sectors in Eastern Europe are in transition. The countries in the region have committed themselves to the same goals in terms of climate protection and sustainability as their Western and Central European neighbours and the international community. Their conditions and challenges, however, sometimes differ considerably. The large-scale privatisation of dwellings in the 1990s led to the deformed housing markets of today. The average home ownership rate is around 90 percent. As a result, multi-family buildings – most of which were built industrially during Soviet times – usually have as many owner parties as housing units. The often energetically and technically inadequate building stock results in poor and sometimes precarious living conditions for today's residents.

IWO is currently mainly active in the following countries through various projects funded by German Federal ministries and programmes as well as by the EU:
- Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia
- Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary
- Ukraine, Belarus, Moldavia
- Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan
- Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan

Why Eastern Europe?
It's literally so close: Eastern Europe and the residential building stock in the countries of the region, which urgently requires modernisation, have an immense potential to make significant contributions to more energy efficiency and increased climate protection in and beyond the region. In turn, the negative impact on international efforts to reduce global warming should not be underestimated if the structurally poor and energy-inefficient building stock in Eastern Europe is not given further attention and higher priority.

Our topics & expertise

In the course of more than 18 years of project and consulting work in Eastern Europe, IWO has built up a reliable, competent network of experts and has profound knowledge of the countries and housing markets as well as the political and social conditions in Eastern Europe.

The countries of Eastern Europe are concerned with the same issues as the countries of Western and Central Europe – it is worthwhile to start or deepen the dialogue on these issues through projects and events in order to find better solutions to the common challenges. IWO's fields of activity and expertise cover the following areas:
- Urban planning and urban development
- Structure of the housing market and management of residential (owned) property
- Housing industry dialogue within the framework of city partnerships
- Digital solutions and approaches in urban development and housing management
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Refurbishment / modernisation strategies
- Neighbourhood development/renewal, neighbourhood management
- Funding landscape (EU, national, international)
- UN Sustainability Goals, Leipzig Urban Charta, European Energy and Climate Goals

There are good reasons to support IWO.
- You participate in the urgent social and climate-relevant task of modernising the housing sector and management in Eastern Europe, making it energy-efficient and climate-friendly.
- At the same time, you contribute to economic development and to better and increasingly harmonious living conditions in the countries of the region.
- You become part of a multilateral network of experts from committed companies, politics and civil society.

Our board

Our board consists of renowned experts and players who support our work and the fields of activity with lots of commitment and courage.

Chairman of the Board
Klaus Leuchtmann
CEO, European Training Center for the Housing and Real Estate Industry (EBZ)

Deputy Chairman of the Board
Hans-Jürgen Gaudig, PhD
Ingenieurgesellschaft BBP Bauconsulting mbH

Executive Member of the Board
Knut Höller
IWO e.V.

Further members of IWO’s board:
- Axel Gedaschko, President, GdW Bundesverband deutscher Wohnungs- und Immobilienunternehmen e.V.
- Andreas Kuhlmann, Chief Executive Officer, German Energy Agency (dena)
- Ulrich Fischer, Managing Director Global & Developing Markets, ista international GmbH

Questions about the organisation and the possibilities of how you may support IWO are gladly answered by

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Help us make a change: Join us as a member or donate
For our commitment and work. Thank you!