

Services

IWO takes care of a smooth organisation, implementation and support for your trip or (series of) meeting(s):

- Compilation of a thematically and logistically suitable programme
- Inquiry, settlement and organisation of local meetings, visits and events
- In consultation with the client: flight, hotel and local transfer bookings, ensuring mobility (e.g. bus rental, maps, directions)
- Support / advice on necessary visa applications
- Organisation of catering or recommendations and reservations for restaurants
- Ensuring translation where necessary (booking of experienced local interpreters)
- Guidance of the group by an IWO representative who is familiar with the country and typically also speaks the language
- Follow-up: forwarding of contact details if required, observing data protection requirements; electronic compilation and provision of the presentations held and relevant information received
- Upon request: booking of local photographers or other relevant services

In the course of more than 22 years of project and consulting activities in Eastern Europe, IWO has built up a reliable and competent network of experts and has profound knowledge of the countries and housing markets as well as the political and social situations in Eastern Europe.

Benefit from our experience in organising expert and high-level delegation trips, seminars, conferences and dialogue events.

Get inside the housing markets in Eastern Europe - they are so close despite all the differences.

About us

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 field of energy transition and sustainability in the European context, we and our members see it as our task and duty to make the experience that 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 now facing comparable challenges. The countries of Eastern Europe are facing particularly extensive challenges – including social ones – in these sectors.

We would be pleased if our offer and services around travel and meeting formats as well as the regions of our activities meet your interest, and we would be happy to answer your questions and start exchanging with you.

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Initiative Wohnungswirtschaft Osteuropa (IWO) e.V. – Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe

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Study Trips & Meeting Formats

East-West Encounters in the housing industry

Plan your field visit to Eastern Europe – IWO will be happy to guide you!

Regions & countries

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 in industrially during Soviet times – usually have as many owner parties as housing units. The often energetically and technically inadequate construction of the buildings results in poor and sometimes precarious living conditions for today's residents.

IWO e.V. offers travel and meeting formats for the following countries:

- Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia
- Romania, Bulgaria and the states of the West Balkans
- Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary
- Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic
- Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan
- Ukraine, Moldavia, (Belarus)

More exchange of experience between the housing industry in Germany and in Eastern Europe can make important contributions to more sustainability in the European housing and building sector and thus to international climate protection. In the GdW and as a member of the board of IWO e.V., we will be increasingly involved in this exchange.

Axel Gedaschko, GdW President



Topics

The countries of Eastern Europe are concerned with the same issues as their Western and Central European neighbours – it is worthwhile to start or deepen the dialogue on these issues through encounter and meeting formats in order to find better solutions to common challenges. Fields for furthering a mutual exchange include:

- Urban planning and urban development
- Housing market structures and management of residential (owner-occupied) property
- Dialogue in the housing industry within the framework of city partnerships
- Digital solutions and approaches in urban development and housing management
- Energy efficiency and renewable energies
- Refurbishment and modernisation strategies
- Neighbourhood development/renewal, neighbourhood management
- Funding landscape (EU, national, international)
- UN Sustainability Goals, Leipzig Urban Charta, European Energy and Climate Goals

We would be happy to take on your suggestions for topics and needs for information to design a tailor-made programme.

Participants

IWO offers meeting formats and study trips for all players in the housing and building industry in Western and Eastern Europe, e.g. for representatives of

- housing companies, housing management companies, and their associations,
- housing (construction) cooperatives,
- public institutions,
- homeowner associations (HOA),
- energy supply and service companies in the housing sector.

Programme elements

According to your request, requirements and after a mutual consultation we will arrange a suitable programme for your trip or another desired format. Programmes usually cover two to five days. Depending on the destination and scope of the trip or format, the following programme elements can be combined, for example:

- Visits to housing and management companies, owners, housing associations and service companies
- Meetings/discussions with local and national decision-makers
- Seminars and workshop formats
- Networking and match-making formats
- Visits at productions and manufacturers
- Social / cultural programme, city walks and similar activities

Depending on the occasion and the time for preparation upfront the trip, the programme can be organised

- as a targeted study trip,
- as a market research and fact-finding trip,
- as an event format such as a round table, trade fair or conference,
- with a focus on industry talks/meetings, B2G or political dialogue formats.

The programme of our study trip with BBA and IWO to Riga in September 2018 had just the right balance between expertly and perfectly guided tours (around redevelopment projects, housing estates and art nouveau houses) and highly interesting discussions with political representatives. We learned a lot about the country and the regional market. Great impressions remained and we took many suggestions with us. Another similar trip is more than likely.

Uwe Emmerling, eG Wohnen 1902