



The subsidiary organisation “**The Center for Women Establishing New Businesses in the WeiberWirtschaft – Navigation towards Independence**” was opened in 2006. This initial contact point offers women in Berlin information, orientation consultation and network opportunities covering all aspects of setting up and managing a business.

See: [www.gruenderinnenzentrale.de](http://www.gruenderinnenzentrale.de)

### On our own

Our women’s co-operative invested € 18.6 million into the site prior to the launch. Business subsidies and a loan from the Berlin urban renewal program helped. A large part however had to be financed through bank loans. Year by year the women in the co-operative have been working on regulating the WeiberWirtschaft debt. This is expressed by the ceremonial naming of “bought off” areas, room for room, after a patroness or celebrated woman.

Hüskes.Boek · Fotos: Fotoflugzeug.de, Die Hoffotografen, Florian Bolk, Miriam Tamajo

### Women’s movement towards a million-euro property

More than 1,700 women all over the world have subscribed to the inspiring idea of a self-reliant women’s start-up and business center since its inception in 1989. Each share costs € 103. What would never have been achieved by one woman alone has been made possible through the motivation of many women collectively.

**WeiberWirtschaft eG** 

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**Finally being able to stand on your own two feet!**

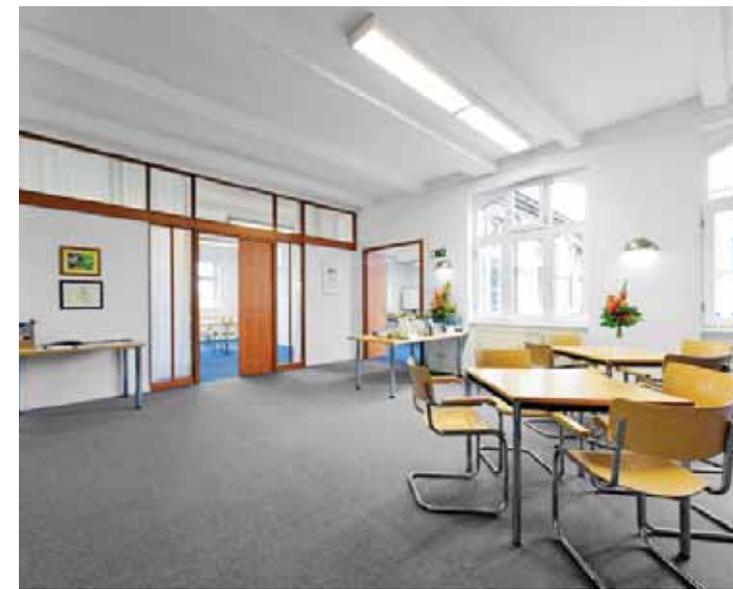


**WeiberWirtschaft eG** 



cludes a children’s daycare facility, conference rooms and a cafeteria. Woman entrepreneurs have been benefiting from comprehensive start-up and business management support, direct communication channels and the opportunities arising from close networking and collaboration made available through this setup. The co-operative also offers a significant rent-reduction to women in the start-up phase.

More than 300 women-headed businesses have been established in the WeiberWirtschaft since its grand opening in 1996.



## WeiberWirtschaft

WeiberWirtschaft has been assisting women in establishing their own businesses for 20 years. It is widely understood that business development was and is – in Germany as anywhere else – firmly in the hands of men. Even today women have more obstacles to overcome on their way towards professional independence than men.

## Business location for women

In 1992 the women’s cooperative WeiberWirtschaft acquired a commercial complex in central Berlin and proceeded to develop the ensemble into Europe’s largest business center for women.

The site offers space for more than 60 businesses headed by women and 13 social housing units covering 7,100 square meters of usable area in all. The attractive infrastructure in-



## Awards

**2011**  
Innovation award  
of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)

**2008**  
The Prize of the Regions of the Congress  
of the Council of Europe

**2007**  
Most Family-Friendly Operation in Berlin-Mitte

**2006**  
One of 365 award-winning locations in the  
“Germany – Land of Ideas” campaign

**2005**  
Berlin State Award in the “Mutmacher der Nation“  
(courage entrepreneurship) contest

**2004**  
Naturschutzbund Deutschland  
(German Society for Nature Conservation)  
Award of Recognition for their ecologically-responsible  
overall concept

