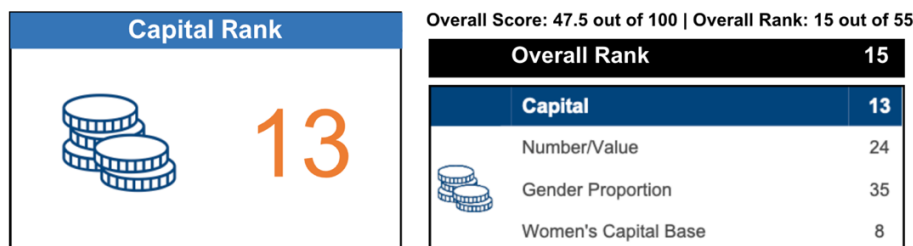


Berlin Funding Blueprint



Global
Invest Her

Berlin Funding Blueprint



Funding Snapshot

- Up until Q1 2025, Germany has seen €10.6 Billion of capital invested over 2,386 deals. (Pitchbook Q1 Germany Dashboard 2025)¹.
- However, female-only founder teams only received €243M over 133 deals, vs. Female and male founder teams accounting for €5.2 Billion over 862 deals. (Pitchbook European VC Female Founders Dashboard 2025)².
- In 2024, female-only founder teams only received 1% of VC funding investment volume, down from 2%, despite making up 4% of funded startups. (EY Startup Barometer 2025)³.
- In 2024, continuing the decline from the past few years, the percentage of startups created by women entrepreneurs in Germany fell from 20.7% to 18.8% (Deutscher Startup Monitor 2024).⁴
- According to the Dell Technologies WE Cities 2023 Report Berlin is ranked the N°15 city in the world for women entrepreneurs (out of 55) and 13th when it comes to access to capital. (Dell Technologies / S&P 2023)⁵.
- According to Pitchbook, the total amount of Capital invested in Berlin to May 2025 is €5.5 Billion over 995 deals, maintaining Berlin as the N°1 city in Germany for funding. Munich comes in second (€1.9 Billion invested, 327 deals) and Hamburg (€376M, 188 deals) (Pitchbook European VC Female Founders Dashboard 2025)⁶.
- In comparison, Berlin ranks 3rd in Europe behind Paris (1,724 deals) and London (5,031 deals)(Pitchbook European VC Female Founders Dashboard 2025)⁷.
- The Berlin ecosystem is ranked 15th worldwide (Startup Genome 2024)⁸.
- Berlin is ranked 10th in the world when it comes to Unicorns, with 17 to date (Deutscher Startup Verbund 2024)⁹.
- In 2024, Berlin saw 542 deals in startup funding, and 74 lead by female-only founding teams, accounting for only 12% of total startup funding that year. (EY Startup Barometer 2025)¹⁰.

¹ <https://pitchbook.com/news/reports/q1-2025-germany-market-snapshot>

² <https://pitchbook.com/news/articles/the-european-vc-female-founders-dashboard>

³ <https://www.ey.com/content/dam/ey-unified-site/ey-com/de-de/newsroom/2025/02/ey-praesentation-startup-barometer-2025-gruenderinnen-und-gruender.pdf>

⁴ https://startupverband.de/fileadmin/startupverband/mediaarchiv/research/dsm/Deutscher_Startup_Monitor_2024.pdf

⁵ <https://dwen.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/WE-Cities-Report.pdf>

⁶ <https://pitchbook.com/news/articles/the-european-vc-female-founders-dashboard>

⁷ <https://pitchbook.com/news/articles/the-european-vc-female-founders-dashboard>

⁸ <https://startupgenome.com/ecosystems/berlin>

⁹ https://startupverband.de/fileadmin/startupverband/mediaarchiv/research/dsm/Deutscher_Startup_Monitor_2024.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.ey.com/content/dam/ey-unified-site/ey-com/de-de/newsroom/2025/02/ey-praesentation-startup-barometer-2025-gruenderinnen-und-gruender.pdf>

Overview of Funding Landscape in Germany

In Q1 2025, VC deal value rose to €2.1 billion as deal count fell to 199 from Q4 2024 figures. Both figures align with recent quarters as a general slowdown in dealmaking has occurred in Europe. With current market conditions making funding tricky, we do not expect new records to be set in the near term. Dry powder in German VC funds (cash reserve that's waiting to be invested) sat at a record high of €9.1 billion as of Q3 2024 and could be used in the coming quarters. Q1 VC exit activity was sparse, with a value of €0.1 billion from 21 exits. Given market volatility because of US tariff uncertainty, companies eyeing an exit will likely postpone plans. However, the number of unicorns in Germany remains healthy at 21. Q1 2025 VC fundraising reached €0.4 billion, primarily driven by the €386.6 million Hitachi Ventures Fund IV.¹¹ According to Deutscher Startup Monitor 2024, 20.8 percent of German startups are headquartered in Berlin and 13.4 percent are based in Munich¹². 26.4% of social enterprises are based in Berlin.¹³

Interventions from the German government to foster competitiveness

The Growth Fund Germany, a \$1.76 billion fund of funds to invest in German VCs, launched in 2023. The DeepTech & Climate Funds initiative also launched in 2023, allocating \$1.76 billion to growth-stage companies in the two sub-sectors. In late 2023, the German government reported that 45% of its \$32.3 billion startup strategy had been implemented. The initiative features 10 points to strengthen the country's position as a startup hub, including improving the availability of venture capital, tackling a shortage of skilled workers, and removing bureaucratic hurdles. (Startup Genome 2024)¹⁴

“Despite the steady growth of the European VC market, we are still lagging behind other global players. This gap is particularly visible for late-stage financing, especially in clean tech, quantum computing and AI. To meet our investment needs, we need to channel more money into the EU capital market. We need bigger funds with more firepower, and we need to attract more investors into venture capital.”

– Kerstin Jorna, Director General at the European Commission.
(European Women in VC Report 2024)¹⁵

According to PitchBook senior analyst Navina Rajan, the increased volatility in global economies due to the uncertainty around tariffs will lead to investor caution in Germany. Institutional allocators may shift away from higher-risk asset classes like VC into safer havens like bonds and real estate, which could hurt startup funding. A trade war between the US and EU would extend fundraising timelines and suppress valuations on both sides if risk appetite reduces. As you will see in the next sections, the federal and Berlin government have many resources to support Berlin startups in their funding and growth.

Berlin and Funding for Female Founders

The gender investment gap remains a persistent challenge across European startup ecosystems, with Germany facing particularly stark disparities. The UK, France, and

¹¹ <https://pitchbook.com/news/reports/q1-2025-germany-market-snapshot>

¹² https://startupverband.de/fileadmin/startupverband/mediaarchiv/research/dsm/Deutscher_Startup_Monitor_2024.pdf

¹³ https://www.send-ev.de/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Datengrundlage-DSEM_2024.pdf

¹⁴ <https://startupgenome.com/ecosystems/berlin>

¹⁵ <https://www.europeanwomenvc.org/resources/european-women-in-vc-report-2024>

Germany lead in funding for female-founded companies, while Finland and Denmark have the highest proportion of venture capital allocated to them.¹⁶ After five years of steady growth, the proportion of female founders in Germany's startup ecosystem has dropped to 18.8%.¹⁷ The downturn in consumer spending has hit business-to-consumer (B2C) startups particularly hard – a sector where women are more strongly represented. According to the EY Startup Barometer 2025 for Germany, female-founded startups received just €43M in 2024, a 58% decrease from €102M in 2023. Meanwhile, startups with all-male founding teams secured €6.2B, representing a €1.3B (25%) increase from 2023. A steep decline for female founders alongside significant growth for male founders highlights a widening gender investment gap. Female-founded startups now represent just 1% of total investment volume, down from 2%, despite making up 4% of funded startups.¹⁸

Key growth sectors in Germany include Deeptech, Cleantech and AI. The top 3 sectors in Germany where women founders are most represented are Agtech, E-Commerce and Education, whereas in Europe, health, fintech, and food continue to attract the biggest amount of venture capital investment going to female-founded companies. Three European female-founded companies – France's Newcleo and Pigment, and Germany's Cardior Pharmaceuticals—achieved unicorn status in 2024, joining 22 other female-founded companies in surpassing the €1bn valuation mark.¹⁹

Berlin is a city of reinvention and progress. Thirty-five years after reunification (1990), the capital of Germany is home to free thinkers and known for its artistic spirit. As one of 15 European cities featured in the WE Cities Index, Berlin ranked 15th in the 2023 Dell WE Cities ranking of 55 global cities. Berlin ranks ahead of fellow German cities of Munich, ranked 36th overall, and Hamburg, ranked 44th. In 2024, Berlin saw 542 deals in startup funding, with 74 led by female-only founding teams, accounting for only 12% of total startup funding that year. (EY Startup Barometer Germany 2025)²⁰

The city publishes its own [Gender Data Report annually](#), gathering sex-disaggregated data since 2009 in cooperation with the Department responsible for Women's and Equality Policy and the Berlin-Brandenburg Statistical Office. This Gender Data Report is available to all those who are committed to gender equality in politics, administration, media and science as well as to the general public. An international market with residents from over 186 different nationalities and 49% of all startup employees being non-German citizens, Berlin has one of the most diverse workforces in the world. (Startup Genome 2024)²¹

¹⁶ <https://tech.eu/2025/03/04/the-state-of-gender-diversity-in-european-startups-female-innovation-index-2025/>

¹⁷ https://startupverband.de/fileadmin/startupverband/mediaarchiv/research/ffm/2025FemaleFoundersMonitor_KeyFindings_English.pdf

¹⁸ <https://techfundingnews.com/female-founders-receive-only-4-of-funding-in-germany-experts-explain-why/>

¹⁹ (<https://tech.eu/2025/03/04/the-state-of-gender-diversity-in-european-startups-female-innovation-index-2025/>)

²⁰ <https://www.ey.com/content/dam/ey-unified-site/ey-com/de-de/newsroom/2025/02/ey-praesentation-startup-barometer-2025-gruenderinnen-und-gruender.pdf>

²¹ <https://startupgenome.com/ecosystems/berlin>

General Sources of Funding in Berlin and Germany

Dilutive



Non Dilutive



There are many diverse sources of funding for startups and scale ups in Berlin and Germany including VC funds, angel networks, funding platforms, accelerators and strong government programs supported by the German government and diverse grant-making bodies. Despite a common tendency for entrepreneurs to focus on venture capital funds and angel networks, women entrepreneurs are encouraged to explore both non-dilutive (where you retain equity, such as grants, debt) and dilutive (equity) options to fund and scale their businesses. Most startups build their headquarters from Berlin, whose funding ecosystem is quite well developed, with government bodies specifically focusing key resources to support Berlin-based startups and scale-ups. Overall, Berlin still captures the majority of funding in startups, with Munich and Hamburg hot on its tail. The Growth Fund Germany, a \$1.76 billion fund of funds to

invest in German VCs, launched in 2023. The DeepTech & Climate Funds initiative also launched in 2023, allocating \$1.76 billion to growth-stage companies in the two sub-sectors. In late 2023, the German government reported that 45% of its \$32.3 billion startup strategy had been implemented. The initiative features 10 points to strengthen the country's position as a startup hub, including improving the availability of venture capital, tackling a shortage of skilled workers, and removing bureaucratic hurdles. (Startup Genome 2024)²².

Dilutive

Let us examine the different dilutive general sources of funding available in Berlin and across Germany. A helpful place to start when looking for the main VC firms in Berlin is the [Gillion VC Mapping of Berlin](#) as well as the [Waveup](#) list of top VC firms in Germany. The [High-Tech Gründerfonds \(HTGF\)](#) is Germany's largest seed investor, focusing on high-tech startups, from AI, SaaS and deep tech to biotech. [IBB Ventures](#) is an early-stage venture capital firm investing in Berlin-based companies across consumer, software, industrial tech, and healthcare. Their focus is on pre-seed and seed stages, with initial tickets ranging from €200k to €1 million. In May 2024, Berlin introduced the BIG ([Berlin InnoGrowth](#)) program, allowing IBB Ventures (the venture arm of the main Business Bank of Germany) to co-invest alongside private investors in Berlin. This initiative focuses on green and digital innovation, offering equity investments and convertible loans to startups, reinforcing Berlin's position as a leading startup hub.

"At IBB Ventures, 29% of our portfolio companies currently have at least one female founder – well above the Berlin average of 19%. This reflects our conviction that entrepreneurial talent knows no gender and our commitment to backing visionary founders from all backgrounds. We're dedicated to actively supporting female entrepreneurs in shaping the future of Berlin's startup ecosystem – and we're determined to raise that 29% even higher."

– Clarissa Rossbach, Investment Analyst, IBB Ventures

As reflected in its 3rd place in Europe's funding scene, there are many VC funds in Berlin and Germany, investing in German and European startups. [Global Founders Capital](#) have made 995 investments, and other leading VC firms in the top 10 list include [HV Capital](#), [APX](#), [Early Bird Capital](#) and one of Europe's most established VCs, [EQT Ventures](#). An early-stage venture capital firm, [Cherry Ventures](#) supports bold founders across Europe, including women-led startups, and [Fly Ventures](#) invests mainly in AI and machine learning startups. [La Famiglia](#) focuses on data and machine learning driven business plans and the future of work. [Lakestar](#) has just closed a recent \$600M fund to inject in the next generation of European Startups, and [Point 9 Capital](#) and [Speedinvest](#) are major players in the Berlin and German funding scene, as are [Wellington Partners](#) and [WestTech Ventures](#). [Project A](#) offers both capital and operational support, making them unique in the Berlin VC landscape. [Capnamic](#) focuses on early-stage investments in outstanding teams in the German-speaking regions, including women-led startups. [WorldFund](#) is Europe's largest climate tech vc with a €300M fund, [AENU](#) invest in intentional and ambitious founders who are building climate impact technologies and [Leanox Impact Capital](#), co-founded by Paulina Jänsch is a leading impact VC. [HPI Ventures](#) (founded by one of the founders

²² <https://startupgenome.com/ecosystems/berlin>

of SAP) invests in outstanding teams, [Helena Capital](#) invest in hybrid software+hardware solutions that modernize legacy industries such as aerospace, automotive, agriculture, space and defense and [Tiny VC](#) invest in ambitious tech startups at early stage, as do [Coparion VC](#), a special public/private vc consortium. Last and certainly not least, [Identity VC](#) is the world's largest fund backing LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs in all sectors across Europe, including Germany.

While VC as an asset class is very well developed in Germany, it is a different story when it comes to Angel funding. If you are looking for Angel investors in Berlin, the first place to start is the [Business Angels Club Berlin Brandenburg \(BACB\)](#).

"The BACB does not see itself as a stage for symbolic decisions or female washing, but as a platform for real progress. Since 2025, every pitch participation requires a soft commitment from our angels - to ensure that the time of investors, but above all of startups, is not wasted. The focus is not on show or political staging, but on real connections, meaningful investments and sustainable development. Somehow we have managed to achieve a 50-50 ratio - without artificially intervening and that's great!"

– Angelika Knopf, Head of Startup Dealflow, BACB (Business Angels Club Berlin-Brandenburg e.V)

[Business Angels Netzwerk Deutschland \(BAND\)](#), Germany's national association for business angels, actively promotes female angel investing through initiatives like the "Women Angels Mission '25" and the "Golden Aurora Award" for Europe's Female Angel Investor of the Year. [Spoti Angels](#) is a syndicate of former Spotify managers, investing in early-stage startups in Berlin and you should also explore [EBAN](#), the European Business Angel Network.

Given the lack of angel funding, Berlin has many excellent accelerators available to help you scale your company offering investment for equity, such as [Carbon 13](#), Germany's climate tech hotspot, with their signature Venture Builder programme. [Antler](#) has a Berlin program, [EWOR](#) is a place where the most extraordinary people find mentorship, network, and capital to solve the world's toughest challenges and [Techstars Berlin](#) focuses on Deeptech startups. A key player in the Berlin landscape, [Hubraum](#) is Deutsche Telekom's tech incubator and also be sure to check out [Wayra](#) (Munich-based). Although [Plug and Play](#) have now finished their Berlin Accelerator with Axel Springer, their programs in Hamburg, Munich and Stuttgart are still very well worth taking a look at. Finally, [Spinlab](#), the HHL Accelerator based in Leipzig, supports eHealth, energy and smart-city startups.

Other dilutive sources of funding to explore include equity crowdfunding websites such as [Crowdcube Germany](#), [Funder Nation](#), [Invesdor](#), [OneCrowd](#) (formerly Seedmatch), [Companisto](#) and [Startnext](#), the largest crowdfunding platform in the German-speaking world. Finally, [Mittelständische Beteiligungsgesellschaft Berlin-Brandenburg \(MBG\)](#) is a hybrid debt funding /private equity financing partner, also well worth investigating. They participate in financing SMEs in Berlin and Brandenburg by providing loans, capital and guarantees to secure or further expand their market position.

Non Dilutive

There are several general non-dilutive sources of funding available in Berlin and Germany. [Unite Berlin](#) is a resourceful public-private partnership consortium of science and research and strong business and societal partners, with ambitious goals to support entrepreneurship in Berlin. They offer diverse services to support the Berlin startup and research ecosystem. The [Berlin Innovation Agency](#) is a great one-stop-shop to access many different innovation services the city has to offer, helping you curate your own unique initiative with building blocks including Innovation Hubs, Bootcamps, startup partnering, project acceleration, event, community and more.

IBB, the business development bank of the Federal State of Berlin, offers very helpful grants and supports to tech, digital, creative or sustainable startups based in Berlin including: [Gründungsbonus](#) & [Pro FIT](#), and the [CoachingBonus](#). Often the Gründungsbonus is a gateway to accessing other supports in Berlin, so it's well worth exploring. A key scholarship available to Berlin startups is the [Berlin Startup Stipendium](#) awarded at the Berlin School of Economics and Law (HWR Berlin). This scholarship is funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) as well as the State of Berlin (Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises). In addition to financial support, each scholarship includes the use of the infrastructure of the Startup Incubator Berlin and the HWR Berlin. The [EXIST](#) Business startup grant supports university graduates, scientists and students to prepare tech-oriented and knowledge-based startups.

When it comes to debt financing including loans, the [Berliner Sparkasse](#) offer business and other financing instruments for your startup. The [IBB Berlin Start Loan](#) offers very early stage companies a low-interest loan even if you don't have a lot of collateral, to help you get started. When you are further on your funding and scaling journey, the [Berlin Innovativ PLUS](#) from IBB offer loans up to €3M at a low interest rate to finance investment and working capital. [KfW also offer Startup Loans](#) and the Sparkasse also offers lines of credit via their [KK-Linie](#) offering. [Re:cap](#) empowers the digital economy to make better financial decisions with one platform for debt funding, financial operations, and liquidity management and [Gillion](#) also offer different types of loans and an excellent market insights via their improved platform.

Accelerators that do not take equity include [The Drivery](#), a mobility accelerator that helps startups in the mobility sector scale, [K.I.E.Z](#) accelerator focuses on accelerating AI startups, and the [Impact Hub Berlin](#), supporting and accelerating impact startups for the last 10 years. [Motion Lab](#) is Berlin's premier innovation hub and makerspace for Hardtech, art and creativity and the [Merantix AI](#) campus aims to become Europe's leading central hub where AI innovation happens.

Some key annual startup events in Germany and Berlin where entrepreneurs can connect with potential investors and partners include: [DeGut](#), Germany's largest trade fair for entrepreneurship and startups, now in its 40th year, [E-Commerce Berlin Expo](#) for e-commerce startups and [Deeptech Momentum](#) for deeptech startups. [Bits and Pretzels](#) (based in Munich but Germany & Europe-focused) is also a key event. [The North Star event at Gitex](#) is Europe's largest inaugural tech, startup and digital investment event, is held in Berlin with a Founders Summit, Venture and Corporate

Innovation Summit. The [K5 Female Circle](#) is a major event for women in the retail world in Germany.

Top Sources of Funding for Women Entrepreneurs in Berlin/Germany

Dilutive



Non Dilutive



As you will have read in the stark statistics at beginning of this report, Berlin and Germany still has a long way to go when it comes to funding women entrepreneurs, with only 1% of VC going to all female-founder teams in 2024. Despite Berlin being the 3rd biggest funding ecosystem in Europe, female-founder focused sources of funding are still very rare. However, there are some beacons of light in the ecosystem.

Dilutive

[Auxxo](#) is the Berlin-based only German VC fund dedicated to investing in female-founded pre-seed and seed stage startups across Europe.

"We must create a world where our daughters don't just dream of leading publicly listed companies – they see it as entirely within reach. The most powerful way to make that future a reality is by investing in the women who are building the next generation of industry-defining companies."

– Dr. Gesa Miczaika , General Partner at Auxxo Female Catalyst Fund

Although based in Vienna, [Fund F](#) also invests extensively across the DACH region including Germany. The key angel networks focused on investing in women founders are [The Evangelistas](#), [Female Investors Network \(FIN\)](#) by Gateway Ventures (awarded the Female Finance Award from FOCUS MONEY in 2023) and newcomer [Encourage](#)

[Ventures](#), a Berlin-based investor network focused on supporting female founders through funding and mentorship.

Non Dilutive

[Grace Accelerator](#) in Berlin is the first ever 8-month, equity-free program specifically designed for early-stage female founders and mixed-gender teams. It provides a €2,200 monthly grant, mentorship, and a supportive community, making it a significant initiative promoting female entrepreneurship in Berlin, operating for a few years now.

“Dedicated initiatives for women are essential, but lasting change demands a collective shift across the entire startup ecosystem. Only by rethinking access to resources and creating inclusive structures can we unlock the full potential of innovation, ensuring that every founder has the opportunity to thrive. While structural transformation is key, each of us has a role to play by acting as allies and actively shaping a more equitable entrepreneurial landscape.”

– Leonie Moss, Head of Grace Accelerator

[Coco Frauen Grunden](#) is a 12-month program to encourage and support women to turn their projects into reality, through coaching and workshops. The [Berlin Startup Stipendium Women](#) supports female founders and non-binary people who have a prototype and/or an MVP and are in the process of preparing for market maturity. The aim of the funding is to establish the company and launch the startup on the market. 1-4 female founders/non-binary persons per team receive 2,200 euros (gross) per month per person for 9 months as well as access to the Startup Incubator Berlin workshops, prototype workshops and other resources. The [Cartier Women's Initiative](#) is a gold standard annual international entrepreneurship program that aims to drive change by empowering women impact entrepreneurs. Founded in 2006, the program is open to women-run and women-owned businesses from any country and sector that aim to have a strong and sustainable social and/or environmental impact. The winners receive up to a €100,000 grant as well as other excellent resources and access to a powerful global network of fellows. Lastly, the [Goldrausch Frauennetwork](#) offers interest-free microloans to women entrepreneurs, particularly those over 45 or with migrant backgrounds.

Other Resources for Women Entrepreneurs in Berlin/Germany



While more sources of funding for women are indeed lacking in Berlin, there are many other communities, networks, accelerators, events and resources available to women founders.

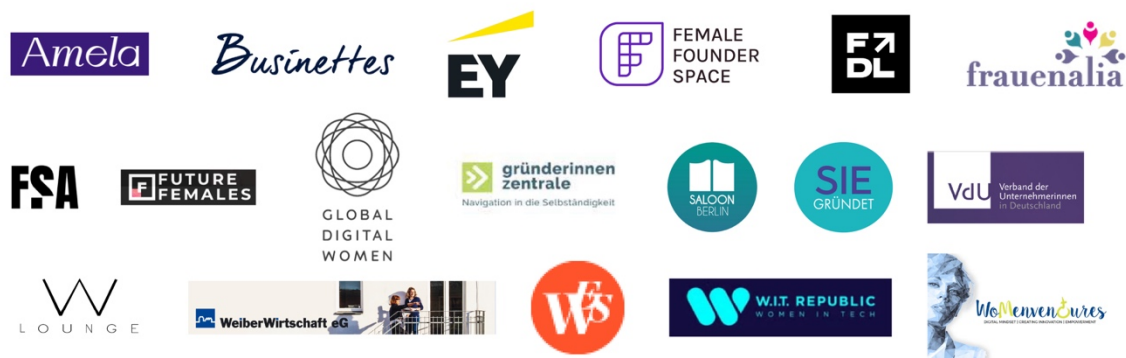
Let's begin with general communities and platforms that can be useful to help you network and grow your business. If you want to start a company in Germany online, [Startbereit](#), fueled by Berliner Volksbank, helps set you up in days, with both a business and a bank account. [Ahoy Berlin](#) is Berlin's One-Stop Solution for startups, offering a vibrant hub for growth, collaboration, and innovation and a great place to start. [The Berlin Partner Business Location Center](#), the Berlin economic development agency also advises companies, start-ups and scientific institutions on how to set up in Berlin. [Foundersphere offer the Female Founders Hub](#) as a resource in Berlin and Germany-wide helping make more female founders visible and the [Ministry of Business and Climate](#) have created a federal funding database that is worth looking at, as is the [Gillion VC mapping of Berlin](#). [The Female Switch women-first startup game](#) is a very interesting serious game to help women entrepreneurs get guidance from real entrepreneurs and AI to move forward. And lastly, [Venture Café Berlin](#) connects a community of innovators and entrepreneurs with free high-impact programming and events.

There is a large selection of excellent accelerators in Berlin and across Germany. [REAKTOR Berlin](#) is the leading 6 month accelerator program for pre-seed startups. [Projekt Zukunft](#) supports women in the digital, media, and creative industries through networking events, funding programs, and visibility campaigns, aiming to increase female representation in these sectors. [Startup Incubator Berlin](#), open to students and

graduates of the HWR Berlin as well as Berlin residents with an academic background, offers the BSS scholarship to help develop startup ideas into market-ready products. [EXIST Women @UdK](#) is a program by the University of the Arts Berlin supporting female entrepreneurs with or without a concrete startup idea. [Grow F](#) is a 5 week investment readiness program by Female Founders and [Founders Foundation](#) train the next generation of successful founders in family businesses in the heart of the German Mittelstand. [Stealth Mode](#) from the Factory Network is a 4 month program for FLINTA (female, lesbian, intersex, non-binary, trans, agender) and women of colour and [Give Out Germany Circle](#) is a community supporting members of this community. [Get Started](#) is a program by Bitkom, Germany's digital association. Founded 1999 in Berlin, they represent more than 2,200 companies of the digital economy. [Science & Startups](#) offer the Exist Women Program aimed at graduates, scientists, students, and women with professional qualifications who want to found businesses. [HPI Engine](#) fueled by the Hasso Plattner foundation, is a leading student accelerator, equipping the next generation of tech leaders with the skills, mindset and experience needed to launch successful tech products while driving economic and societal impact. [Charité](#) – Digital Health Accelerator of BIH a dedicated digital health program within a leading hospital, to empower clinicians and researchers to turn their visionary ideas into impactful digital solutions. [Vision Health Pioneers Incubator](#) guide you through the key phases of product development and go-to-market launch, through coaching and mentoring. [1.5 degree Ventures](#) offer everything needed to successfully launch and scale effective climate tech start-ups including access to markets and the [ProVeg Incubator](#) is the world's first and leading accelerator for plant-based, fermentation, and cultivated food startups. They invest in your startup for equity.

Looking expand to new markets in Berlin and Germany? The following resources should be helpful. [The German Accelerator](#) help German companies internationalize and scale into leading innovation hubs in the U.S. Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe. [AmCham Germany](#) (American Chamber of Commerce in Germany) helps German companies access the U.S market and have been running Female Founders Award for the past 6 years. [Chambers of Commerce and Industry \(IHK\)](#) – offer programs and networks specifically for women entrepreneurs, and the [French Tech Berlin](#) have a great community, regularly organising events to help members meet. [ESDP](#) (European Supplier Diversity Program) empowers ethnic minority businesses across European Markets, helping them access corporate supply chains. They certify ethnic minority businesses in Germany as well as other countries and [WeConnect International](#) have a Europe/Mena program to certify women owned businesses and help them access corporate supply chains. Startups looking for co-working or office spaces should consider the following options: [Betahaus](#) , [Mindspace](#) and [Scaling Spaces](#) offer co-working or private offices to startups in Berlin. Located in Berlin's Mitte district, [CoWomen](#) is Berlin's first coworking space specifically geared towards women's requirements.

Prominent Communities for Women Entrepreneurs



Even if there is a lack of actual female-founder focused sources of funding in Berlin and Germany, there is a number of prominent communities for women entrepreneurs, that can help female founders build their network, both locally and internationally. Most organize events, give more visibility to women founders and help build certain key skillsets through tailored support.

[The VdU \(Verband Deutscher Unternehmerinnen\)](#), founded in 1954, has a longstanding history of advocating for women entrepreneurs in Germany. With over 1,800 members across various industries, VdU offers a robust platform for networking, mentorship, and business development and have regional and localized support for the Berlin/Brandenburg region. [Gründerinnenzentrale](#), a Berlin-based advisory center provides women with resources, counseling, and networking opportunities to start and grow their businesses. It serves as a vital first point of contact for aspiring female entrepreneurs. [Businettes](#) was created in 2019 by founders for founders, offering the largest community (6000+), business academy, and events such as an annual Female Founders Summit. [Female Founders Space](#) has organized over 300 events, including workshops, webinars, networking, and co-working days in 13 European cities across 9 countries. [Amela](#) is a global network and support platform for women entrepreneurs. They regularly hold Morning Club meetings in Berlin. [Women in Tech Berlin](#) provides all the content and networking opportunities needed to flourish in the tech sector and [Global Digital Women Berlin](#) create impactful events such as Female Empowerment Day and more. [Women Ventures Berlin](#) offer a community-driven platform with workshops, talks and networking events to support nascent women entrepreneurs in Berlin's startup ecosystem, reduce barriers and provide practical tools for business development. [WLOUNGE](#) is a Berlin-based organization that serves as a connector, enabler, and empowerment for women in business and technology. With over 20 years of experience in founding companies, fundraising, and early and growth-stage investment, WLOUNGE has become a key player in the German Tech ecosystem and globally. Check out the regular [Female Startup Aperitivo](#) events organised by the BACB (Berlin Brandenburg Business Angel network) and Hamburg Investors Network.

The [Women Entrepreneurs in Science \(WES\)](#) network is located in the Start-up Centre of the University of Wuppertal and supports female students, graduates and university staff with innovative formats, workshops and targeted networking. [Future Females](#)

[Berlin](#) hosts regular themed events where entrepreneurs have a chance to learn, connect and get inspired by industry experts and serial entrepreneurs. They have a global network of +100,000 entrepreneurs, chapters in 56 cities around the world, and have helped over 2000 entrepreneurs start their businesses through their Business School programme. The excellent [EY Entrepreneurial Winning Women EMEA program](#) gathers scaling, high growth women from all over Europe into a powerful global network, to help them continue to scale even further. [Frauenalia Germany](#) connect women from around the world who inspire and support each other on their professional development journey and [Founderland](#) are building the fastest growing community of women of colour founders across Europe. [WeiberWirtschaft](#) is Europe's largest women's cooperatives, hosting over 60 women-led businesses in Berlin-Mitte. It offers office spaces, a daycare center, and access to microloans, fostering a supportive environment for female entrepreneurs. [SIE gründet](#) connects international female entrepreneurs in Germany and [SALOON Berlin](#) is a network for women in the art scene, including curators, artists, and cultural workers. It facilitates professional exchange and visibility for women in the creative industries.

Areas for Improvement

Even though Berlin is a thriving hub of diverse and multicultural talent, in the top 3 ecosystems for funding and N° 15 worldwide in the ecosystem and best cities for women entrepreneurs rankings, there are still opportunities for improvement. When looking for funding, it is good to use Berlin as a springboard, but it's equally important to connect with federal schemes, EU-level funds, and international angel syndicates, as there simply aren't enough angel networks in Germany yet. Given the current Berlin and German funding landscape, women founders are advised to target the general sources of funding mentioned, not only the tiny number of resources focused on funding women entrepreneurs. It is also worth looking at other more developed funding ecosystems such as London and Paris, where women-focused sources of funding may invest Europe-wide. Also explore the non-dilutive sources of funding and accelerators. Even though Berlin ranks n°1 worldwide on culture in the Dell WE Cities 2023 Report and is well known for its diverse talent and population, there is so much more to the city than its breathtaking array of Museums and 3 UNESCO world heritage sites. Berlin as a startup hub is truly alive and kicking – let's encourage the city to foster even more funding resources tailored to women entrepreneurs, so it can continue its momentum in the startup funding ranking ecosystem.

Please see the following pages for links to all the sources of funding and information sources quoted in this document.

General Sources of Funding

Organization	Type of Resource	Funder Type	Website
AENU	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://www.aenu.com
Antler - Berlin	Source of Funding	Accelerator (that invests money for equity)	https://www.antler.co/residency/germany
APX	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://apx.vc
Berlin InnoGrowth programme (IBB)	Source of Funding	Government funding body, Bank	https://www.ibbgruppe.de/en/sustainability/meaning-for-customers/venture-capital/venture-

			capital.html#:~:text=Launch%20of%20the%20BIG%20program,in%20May%202024
Berlin innovation agency	Other type of network	Does not provide funding	https://www.berlin-innovation-agency.com/climatex-startup-accelerator
Berlin Innovativ PLUS (IBB)	Source of Funding	Bank	https://www.ibb.de/en/foerderprogramme/berlin-innovativ.html
Berlin Startup Stipendium	Source of Funding	Grant organization, University	https://www.startup-incubator.berlin/berlin-startup-scholarship/?lang=en
Berliner Sparkasse	Source of Funding	Bank	https://www.berliner-sparkasse.de/fi/home/branchen-und-berufe/gruendung-und-nachfolge/gruendungsfinanzierung.html
Business Angels Club Berlin-Brandenburg e.V. (BACB)	Source of Funding	Angel Network	https://bacb.de/en/
Business Angels Netzwerk Deutschland (BAND)	Source of Funding	Angel Network	https://www.business-angels.de/en/
Capnamic Ventures	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://capnamic.com/
Carbon 13 Venture Builder Berlin	Source of Funding	Accelerator (that invests money for equity)	https://carbonthirteen.com/programmes/venture-builder-berlin/
Cherry Ventures	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://cherry.vc
Companisto	Source of Funding	Equity Crowdfunding	https://www.companisto.com/en/version-b
Coparian VC	Source of Funding	Government funding body, VC Fund	https://www.coparion.vc/en
Crowdcube Germany	Source of Funding	Equity Crowdfunding	https://www.crowdcube.eu/explore/how-it-works
Earlybird Venture Capital	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://earlybird.com
EQT Ventures	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://eqtventures.com/
European Business Angel Network (EBAN)	Source of Funding	Angel Network	https://www.eban.org/
EWOR	Source of Funding	Accelerator (that invests money for equity)	https://www.ewor.com
EXIST Business Start-up Grant	Source of Funding	Grant organization	https://exist.de/en/
Fly Ventures	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://fly.vc
FunderNation	Source of Funding	Equity Crowdfunding	https://www.fundernation.eu/?lang=en
Gilion	Source of Funding	Debt Funding Provider	https://www.gilion.com/de
Global Founders Capital (GFC)	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://www.globalfounderscapital.com
GründungsBONUS Plus - IBB Business team	Source of Funding	Grant organization	https://www.ibb-business-team.de/en/gruendungsbonus-plus/
Helena Capital	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://helenacapital.vc
High-Tech Gründerfonds (HTGF)	Source of Funding	VC Fund, Grant organization	https://www.htgf.de/en/venture-capital-investor-2/
HPI Ventures	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://www.hpiventures.com/

Hubraum	Source of Funding	Accelerator (that invests money for equity)	https://www.hubraum.com
HV Capital	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://www.hvcapital.com/
IBB GründungsBONUS	Source of Funding	Government funding body, Bank, Grant organization	https://www.ibb.de/en/foerderprogramme/gruendungsbonus.html
IBB Pro FIT - Frühphasenfinanzierung	Source of Funding	Grant organization, Government funding body, Bank	https://www.ibb.de/en/foerderprogramme/pro-fit-fruehphasenfinanzierung.html
IBB Ventures	Source of Funding	VC Fund, Government funding body	https://www.ibbventures.de/en
Identity VC	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://identity.vc
Impact Hub	Other type of network	Accelerator that does not invest for equity, Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://berlin.impacthub.net
Invesdor	Source of Funding	Crowdfunding platform	https://www.invesdor.com/rounds#/
Investitionsbank Berlin (IBB) - Berlin Start loan	Source of Funding	Bank	https://www.ibb.de/en/foerderprogramme/berlin-start.html
KFW Startup Loans	Source of Funding	Bank	https://www.kfw.de/inlandsfoerderung/Companies/Gründung-und-Nachfolge/
Kiez	Accelerator	Accelerator that does not invest for equity	https://kiez.ai/accelerator/
KK -Linie by Sparkasse	Source of Funding	Bank	https://www.sparkasse.de/fk/produkte/finanzierung/kontokorrentkredit.html
La Famiglia VC	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://www.lafamiglia.vc
Lakestar	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://lakestar.com
Leanox Impact Capital	Source of Funding	VC Fund, impact investor	https://www.leanox.eu
MBG	Source of Funding	Debt Funding Provider, Private Equity Fund	https://www.mbg-bb.de
OneCrowd	Source of Funding	Equity Crowdfunding	https://onecrowd.de
Plug and Play Accelerator	Accelerator	Accelerator (that invests money for equity)	http://www.axelspringerplugandplay.com
Point Nine Capital	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://www.pointnine.com
Project A Ventures	Source of Funding, Other type of network	VC Fund	https://www.project-a.com/
Recap	Source of Funding	venture debt, Debt Funding Provider	https://www.re-cap.com
Speedinvest	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://www.speedinvest.com/blog/german-tech-startups
SpinLab (HHL Accelerator)	Source of Funding	Accelerator (that invests money for equity)	https://www.spinlab.co
Spoti Angels:	Source of Funding	Angel Network	https://spotiangels.framer.ai
Startnext	Source of Funding	Crowdfunding platform	https://www.startnext.com/start-project.html

Techstars Berlin Accelerator	Source of Funding	Accelerator (that invests money for equity)	https://www.techstars.com/accelerators/berlin
The Drivery	Accelerator	Accelerator that does not invest for equity	https://thedrivery.com/startups
Tiny Supercomputer Investment Company (Tiny VC)	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://tiny.vc
Unite Berlin	Local Entrepreneurship network, Other type of network	Government funding body	https://www.unite.berlin/en/
Wayra (Telefonica) Accelerator	Source of Funding	Accelerator (that invests money for equity)	https://www.wayra.de
Wellington Partners	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://wellington-partners.com
West Tech Ventures	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://www.westtechventures.com
World Fund	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://www.worldfund.vc/

Women-Focused Funding Resources

Organization	Type of Resource	Funder Type	Website
Auxxo Female Catalyst Fund	Source of Funding	VC Fund	auxxo.de
Berlin Startup Stipendium Women	Source of Funding	Grant organization, University	https://www.startup-incubator.berlin/berlin-startup-scholarship-women/?lang=en
Cartier Women's Initiative	Source of Funding	Grant organization	https://www.cartierwomeninitiative.com
CoCo - Frauen gründen - Social Business Women e. V.	Local Entrepreneurship network	Accelerator that does not invest for equity	https://coco-frauen-gruenden.de
Encourage Ventures	Source of Funding, Women Entrepreneur Community	Angel Network	https://encourage-ventures.com/en/
Female Investors Network (FIN) by Gateway Ventures	Source of Funding	Angel Network	https://female-investors-network.com
Fund F	Source of Funding	VC Fund	https://www.fund-f.com
Goldrausch Frauennetzwerk	Source of Funding	Debt Funding Provider	https://goldrausch.org
Grace Berlin Accelerator:	Accelerator, Source of Funding	Accelerator that does not invest for equity	https://www.grace-accelerator.de/en/home.html
The Evangelistas	Source of Funding	Angel Network	https://www.theevangelistas.com

Other Resources for Women Entrepreneurs

Organization	Type of Resource	Funder Type	Website
1.5 degree Ventures	Other type of network	Access to Markets/Corporates, Does not provide funding	https://one.five.ventures
Ahoy Berlin	Other type of network	Community Organization (does not fund women founders), Co working	https://www.ahoyberlin.com/welcome

AmCham Germany	Local Entrepreneurship network	Access to Markets/Corporates	https://www.amcham.de/events/female-founders-award
Berlin Partner - Business Location Center	Local Entrepreneurship network	Government funding body	https://www.berlin-partner.de
Betahaus	Local Entrepreneurship network	Co working	https://www.betahaus.com
Bits and Pretzels event	Other type of network	Event	https://www.bitsandpretzels.com
Chambers of Commerce and Industry (IHK) – Women in Business:	Other type of network	Access to Markets/Corporates	https://www.ihk.de/berlin/
Charité - Digital Health Accelerator of BIH	Accelerator	Accelerator that does not invest for equity	https://dha.bihealth.org
CoWomen	Other type of network	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://cowomen.com/
Deeptech Momentum	Other type of network	Event	https://www.deeptech.build
DeGut	Other type of network	Event, Does not provide funding	https://www.degut.de
Ecommerce Berlin Expo	Other type of network	Event	https://ecommerceberlin.com/?utm_source=startupblink&utm_medium=partner&utm_campaign=startupblink_partner
ESDP	Other type of network	Access to Markets/Corporates	https://esdp-org.eu/about/
EXIST Women @ UdK:	Accelerator	Accelerator that does not invest for equity, Grant organization	https://www.startup-incubator.berlin/exist-women/?lang=en
Factory Network - Stealth Mode - Female Founders	Accelerator	Accelerator that does not invest for equity	https://factory.network/stealth-mode/
Fe/male Switch - startup game	Other type of network	Does not provide funding, Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://femaleswitch.app/
Federal Funding Database	Source of Funding	Fundraising platform	https://www.foerderdatenbank.de/FDB/DE/Home/home.html
Founders Foundation	Accelerator	Accelerator that does not invest for equity	https://foundersfoundation.de/en/
Foundersphere - Female Founders Hub	Local Entrepreneurship network	Does not provide funding	https://foundersphere.io/en/hub/female-founders/
French Tech Berlin	Local Entrepreneurship network	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://www.frenchtechberlin.com
German Accelerator	Other type of network	Access to Markets/Corporates	https://www.germanaccelerator.com
Get Started, by Bitkom	Other type of network	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://www.bitkom.org/Themen/Startups-Scaleups
Gilion vc mapping - Berlin	Other type of network	Deal Platform	https://vc-mapping.gilion.com/venture-capital-firms/berlin
GiveOut Germany Circle	Local Entrepreneurship network	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://giveout.org/germanycircle/
GROW F	Accelerator	Accelerator that does not invest for equity	https://female-founders.org/startup-program/

Gründerinnenzentrale – Navigation in die Selbstständigkeit	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://gruenderinnenzentrale.de/
HPI Engine	Accelerator	Accelerator that does not invest for equity	https://www.engine.hpi.de/
IBB Coaching Programme	Local Entrepreneurship network	Does not provide funding	https://www.ibb-business-team.de/coaching-bonus/
IHK Berlin	Other type of network	Access to Markets/Corporates	https://www.ihk.de/berlin/english/en
K5 - Female Circle	Other type of network	Event	https://www.k5.de/female-circle/
Merantix	Local Entrepreneurship network	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://www.merantix-aicampus.com/event/a-i-startups-in-transition-who-will-win-the-race-in-the-era-of-foundation-model-commodification
Mindspace	Other type of network	Co working	https://www.mindspace.me/c/berlin/
Motion Lab	Local Entrepreneurship network	Accelerator that does not invest for equity	https://motionlab.berlin
North Star event at GITEK	Other type of network	Event	https://www.gitex-europe.com/north-star-europe
Projekt Zukunft – Women Empowerment	Accelerator	Accelerator that does not invest for equity	https://projektzukunft.berlin.de/
ProVeg Incubator	Incubator	Accelerator (that invests money for equity)	https://provegincubator.com/
REAKTOR Berlin	Source of Funding	Accelerator that does not invest for equity	https://reaktor.berlin
Scaling Spaces	Other type of network	Co working	https://www.scalingspaces.com
Science & Startups - Exist Women Program	Accelerator	Accelerator that does not invest for equity, Grant organization	https://www.science-startups.berlin/programs/exist-women
Startbereit	Other type of network	Community Organization (does not fund women founders), Does not provide funding	https://startbereit.com/en/
Startup Incubator Berlin - BSS Scholarship	Incubator	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://www.startup-incubator.berlin/berlin-startup-scholarship/?lang=en
Venture Café	Local Entrepreneurship network	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://venturecafeberlin.org
Vision Health Pioneers Incubator	Incubator	Does not provide funding	https://visionhealthpioneers.de/program/
WeConnect International	Other type of network	Access to Markets/Corporates	https://weconnectinternational.org/europe-mena/

Women Entrepreneur Communities in Berlin

Organization	Type of Resource	Funder Type	Website
Amela	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://amela.club
Businettes - Female Founders Summit	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://www.businettes.com/de/home
EY Entrepreneurial Winning Women	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://www.ey.com/en_gl/entrepreneurial-winning-women-europe
Female Founder Space	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://femalefounderspace.com/about-us/
Female Startup Aperitivo	Other type of network	Event	https://t.rausgegangen.de/tickets/female-start-aperitivo
Founderland	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://www.founderland.org/about
Frauenalia Germany:	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://www.frauenalia.com/
Future Females Berlin	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://futurefemales.co/chapter/berlin/
Global Digital Women Berlin	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://global-digital-women.com/en/
GründerinnenZentrale	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://gruenderinnenzentrale.de
SALOON Berlin	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://www.saloon-berlin.de/
Sie Gründet	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://sie-gruendet.de
Verband deutscher Unternehmerinnen (VdU)	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://www.vdu.de
W Lounge	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://www.wlounge.de
WeiberWirtschaft eG	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://weiberwirtschaft.de/home/
Women Entrepreneurs in Science (WES)	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://www.wes.uni-wuppertal.de/
Women in Tech Republic - Berlin	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://www.meetup.com/women-in-tech-europe/
Womenventures Berlin	Women Entrepreneur Community	Community Organization (does not fund women founders)	https://www.meetup.com/fempreneurship-berlin/