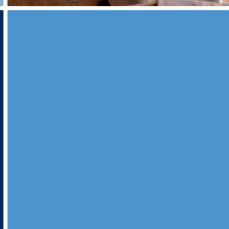
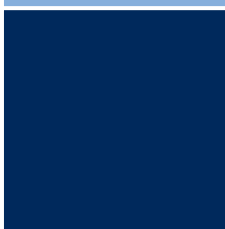
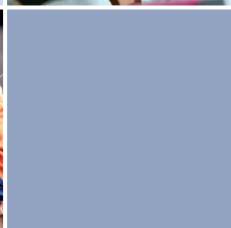
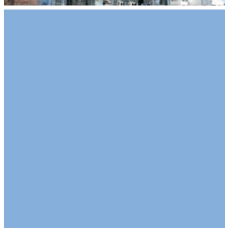
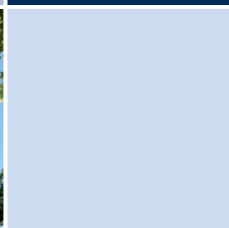




City of
Düsseldorf

Economic Development Düsseldorf

Offers and Services





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Economic development in Düsseldorf

The state capital Düsseldorf is one of the most successful cities in the world and the center of the economic region of Rhine-Ruhr with 11.5 million inhabitants. 5,000 foreign companies, including numerous global players, are located in this region, running their European affairs from here.

The Düsseldorf International Airport is Germany's third largest air traffic hub. From there all major European cities can be reached by plane in approximately one hour.

75 different airlines operating from Düsseldorf service a total of 180 destinations worldwide. The Messe Düsseldorf is a leading trade fair venue in Germany with 23 leading fairs - including Drupa, Interpack, K, Medica and Boot.

Düsseldorf is Germany's top location for service providers: telecommunications, advertising, financial services, legal and business consultancy – an ideal infrastructure for successful business is available here. With around 50,000 workplaces, Düsseldorf is also the second largest industry location in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The unique combination of branches and participants - services, trade, industry, large global players and strong SME's - characterises the dynamic and successful business location Düsseldorf.

Our economic development services meet the needs of both areas: International acquisitions and maintenance of global business contacts, together with company services and support for local companies, ensure that new businesses can be welcomed to Düsseldorf and that existing businesses can take advantage of the city's development opportunities.

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Company support and real estate services

Location consultancy

We show you important location advantages and future developments in the state capital and support you in selecting the right location. Whether you need information about office space development, the retail trade situation or are looking for contacts in institutes and businesses - the Office of Economic Development can advise and support you in all these areas.

Real estate service

We can provide you with an overview of the Düsseldorf real estate market, together with all essential data and facts. Property on offer by public and private property brokers is held and continuously updated in our own database. A particular service is providing support during the search for suitable office spaces and industrial estates. We not only enable you to contact the brokers, we can also view potential properties with you.

Administrative scouting

You can take advantage of our expertise with regards to all official permits, issues or queries that need to be clarified with the municipality or other authorities. We will support you on your way through all administrative steps.

Industry master plan

Administration, CCI, industry and trade unions are represented in the working group "Industry master plan". They develop and implement targets, concepts and measures for safeguarding and developing Düsseldorf industry. Topics include land use provisions, infrastructure, image building, qualified personnel development.

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The virtual SME office

The virtual SME office, www.duesseldorf.de/mittelstand, is an internet portal where a company can access all city services without bureaucracy. The Office of Economic Development controls product coordination, maintains the website and continually develops it further.

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SME support / Economic statistics

Start-up support

New, innovative companies bring added dynamism to an economic location. That is why we support new businesses on their way to professional independence with personal consulting, coaching, intensive workshops, as well as by helping them access subsidies. We coordinate the Düsseldorf Start-up Network, an alliance of 21 institutions which organises over 180 events every year which focus on all topics relevant to professional independence.

NUK New Entrepreneurship Rhineland, Düsseldorf

branch: This regional association for new entrepreneurs supports high-quality business ideas by means of business plan competitions, mediating contact with private capital investors and specialist training courses for new businesses. Since 2004 NUK has been represented with a branch office at the Office of Economic Development in Düsseldorf.

Three key sectors in particular are supported by the Office of Economic Development in Düsseldorf:

Key sector Creative Industry

In addition to fine arts with the Art Academy and numerous artists, museums and galleries, Düsseldorf also holds a top position in Germany with regards to the sectors of advertising and fashion. A multi-talented scene full of small enterprises in the creative sector, first and foremost the design industry, also exists here. Düsseldorf is one of the strongest locations for the fashion sector in Germany and is very important throughout Europe due to its fair and showroom businesses. The Office of Economic Development supports this sector with specific consultancy offers and networking.

Key sector Biotechnology

The Life Science Cluster in the Düsseldorf area now comprises 76 life science businesses and numerous specialised service providers and suppliers. We support this development through the marketing of the cluster at national and international branch events. The Office of Economic Development is a partner in the LifeScienceNet Düsseldorf. In addition, the Office of Economic Development includes Düsseldorf as a location in the activities of the Rhineland biotechnology initiative BioRiver - Life Science in the association Rheinland e.V.



Key sector Information & Communication (ITC)

1,500 companies in the information and communications branch are located in Düsseldorf, employing around 24,000 people. Düsseldorf is Germany's capital city for telecommunications and so ITC is one of the key sectors here. It is specifically supported by us, e.g. through the organisation of fair visits, events, branch-specific publications and the campaign "Mobile Capital Düsseldorf".

Economic statistics, location information

Solid economic information is the basis for successful economic development. This data is compiled and continuously updated to ensure that companies and a broad segment of the public are aware of the numerous advantages Düsseldorf has to offer as a business location.

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International business services

The Office of Economic Development is the main contact for all foreign companies that want to invest in or set up businesses in Düsseldorf. It also provides support to those international companies that are already located here.

Our strength is our individual service tailored to the requirements of international businesses. We can offer written information in 10 languages and our staff can speak English, French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Polish, Japanese and Chinese.

Our services for international companies:

- Information about the business location Düsseldorf
- Information on starting a new business
- Referrals to legal and tax consultation professionals
- Support with preparations for visa applications
- Assistance in finding a suitable real estate
- Referrals to human resources service providers
- Support for newcomers to Düsseldorf from abroad with social and cultural Integration
- Continuous information flow by means of events, newsletters, mailings and other activities
- “After-investment service”: help with all location-relevant issues and questions regarding the employment of foreign workers, administrative requirements, etc.
- Support for international companies in becoming integrated into the city’s business networks.

Together with our partners, we have set up specialist centers dedicated to three of the most significant countries for business in Düsseldorf. These centres of expertise offer intensive support to investors and assist with foreign trade matters.

The **Japan Desk** in the Office of Economic Development offers special services for Japanese investors and the more than 450 Japanese companies that are already located in the Düsseldorf area. Support is provided in close contact with Japanese institutions such as the Japanese Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the General Consulate and the Japanese Club.



The **Düsseldorf Russia Competence Center** (RKD) is a unique entity in Germany and is now firmly established as a point of contact for German and Russian companies. The RKD is located within the Düsseldorf Chamber of Industry and Commerce, and works closely with the Office of Economic Development.

The **Düsseldorf China Competence Center** (CKD) is also a joint venture project, operated together with the Düsseldorf Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Messe Düsseldorf. The CKD is located at the Office of Economic Development and focuses on the establishment and support of Chinese companies.

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International relations, European affairs

Around 80% of the legislation that must be implemented at community level originates from Brussels. The Office of Economic Development therefore forms the link at community level with the European institutes and networks. In addition, we act as the central information point for topics dealing with Europe. We track current developments in the area of EU funding and support community bodies and entities in applying for and implementing EU projects.

International relations

It is important for an international city such as Düsseldorf to seek dialog across countries and borders. Important elements in international relations are exchanges regarding business, culture, education and sport.

An important pillar of international engagement is represented by town twinning with Reading in Great Britain, Haifa in Israel, Warsaw in Poland, Moscow in Russia and with Chongqing in China. Friendly relations also exist with Palma de Mallorca, Toulouse, the prefecture of Chiba and Shenyang.

Within the framework of the Local Agenda 21, there are also North-South Agenda partnerships with Belo Horizonte in Brazil and Mbombela in South Africa.

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Press and public relations

Our routine press releases keep the public informed on news and developments regarding the business location: new companies setting up operations, interesting financial data, and announcements of upcoming events supported by the Office of Economic Development, etc.

The Office of Economic Development magazine is published on a quarterly basis with a circulation of 12,000 copies. It keeps local companies up to date on business development activities and other relevant news from the Düsseldorf business scene.

A comprehensive array of current publications is always at hand: a rich source of information for potential investors – domestic and foreign – and visitors from abroad, as well as details on international activities of the NRW capital city.

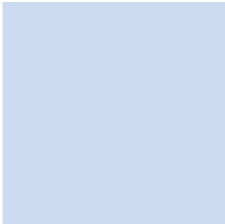
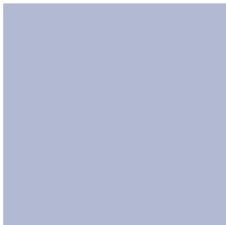
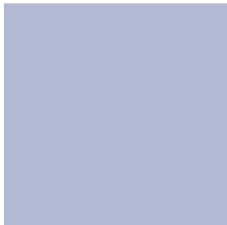
We make use of the international financial print media to raise the profile of the business location Düsseldorf by placing ads and publishing special supplements..

The Office of Economic Development puts the spotlight on Düsseldorf: we have a comprehensive archive of film and photographic material, which is available upon request.

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