Games Industry
in the Capital Region Berlin-Brandenburg
Diverse games cluster

In the capital region, we set trends, but also scout out and support new developments. This is a place where startups work alongside established game developers and where political institutions, federal associations and networks have their headquarters. International industry conferences and events attract professionals in the creative fields, investors and specialists from around the globe. We are also home to a pool of young talent, trained in the region.

With around 200 companies, Berlin has the highest number of games companies in Germany. These develop, publish, distribute, market and advertise video games and contribute to the successful production of console, online and mobile games, as well as cross-platform content and branded entertainment, made in Berlin-Brandenburg. More and more international companies such as Ubisoft, King, Epic Games, Riot Games and wargaming.net are establishing branches here. With Freaks4U, Riot Games and the ESL League for Legends, Berlin is one of Europe’s eSports locations. Companies such as Wooga, Bigpoint and King contribute to the international success of online, social network and browser games. They now export their games to over 50 countries worldwide. GameDuell has developed one of the largest game websites in Europe, with over 125 million members. Distributors specializing in online and mobile games, such as HitFox, reach gamers from over 180 countries. Award-winning indie studios such as Mad about Pandas, Spaces of Play, LudInc and the Saftladen Indie Games Kollektiv are headquartered here, and game developers such as YAGER develop computer and console games.

Game - the German Games Industry Association, the Entertainment Software Self-Regulation Body (USK), the foundation Digitale Spielkultur and the games:net berlinbrandenburg initiative are also located in the capital region.

“We feel very welcome in Berlin and are enthusiastic about the positive response in the city. It’s already obvious that Berlin was the right decision for us. There is a lot of potential for a large international team. The future in Berlin will be exciting, as we are going to work on some of the biggest game productions of the industry here.”

István Tajnay
Studio Manager Ubisoft Berlin

> Berlin is a unique city where creativity and diversity meets international professionals and digital skills. Indie studios as well as big publisher – companies benefit from the strong developer scene and the ongoing change which is characteristic for Berlin. We enjoy empowering the interests of the game branch, connecting it with other branches as politics and science and seeing how Berlin gains more potential and maturity. «

Maria Wagner
Branch Coordinator Games
media:net berlinbrandenburg e. V.

“Monkey Swag” – Tiny Crocodile Studios
Berlin’s higher education landscape provides the ideal conditions for the growing games industry. Highly specialized degree programs with partly affiliated research centers are very sensibly underpinned by numerous offers for vocational games training.

DE:HIVE Institute, HTW Berlin – University of Applied Sciences

»Berlin was a great choice due to the vast amount of talent available from both established companies and start-ups. Also, the city offers great quality of life making it easy to attract and retain people from all over the world.«

Paw Linnemann Larsen
Managing Director, European Publishing
Epic Games

Excellent training
Almost no other region in Europe provides such an extensive spectrum of educational opportunities as Berlin-Brandenburg. At universities such as HTW Berlin and the Berlin University of the Arts, students can take degree courses that focus on games. The Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF offers classes in animation, sound and creative technologies. Research institutes such as the Digital Games Research Center in Potsdam and the DE:HIVE Institute at HTW Berlin – University of Applied Sciences are active in games research. Private institutions such as GAMES ACADEMY, SAE Institute, Macromedia University for Media and Communication, BTK (University of Applied Sciences Europe), Mediadesign Hochschule and the School for Games all offer training courses.

Leading German games location, European location for international games companies, international location for eSports

Around 200 companies with 2,100 employees and annual revenues of around 255 million euros in the games industry*

Location of successful companies such as Bigpoint, GameDuell, Epic Games, Fluffy Fairy Games, King, Riot Games, Ubisoft, wargaming.net, Wooga and YAGER

Home to key institutions, associations and networks such as game, Stiftung Digitale Spielekultur, USK and games:net berlinbrandenburg

Excellent training opportunities for games, 3D animation and media management as well as a scientific centre for computer game research

International industry meeting place: gamesweekberlin with Quo Vadis developer conference, A MAZE. / Berlin and Gamefest, WOMENIZE!, making games TALENTS, EGX and Unite Berlin

International games industry meeting place
Numerous events make the capital region one of the most important meeting places of the international games scene. In 2018, gamesweekberlin attracted more than 15,000 participants. It has evolved into a major industry platform featuring the Quo Vadis developer conference, the A MAZE. / Berlin video game festival and Womenize!, the program for women in games and tech.

As part of International Games Week Berlin, the German Computer Game Award – the most highly endowed games award in Germany – is presented in Berlin every other year. The unique Computerspielemuseum (computer games museum) organizes Gamefest and presents the cultural history of the medium in a permanent exhibition.

games:net berlinbrandenburg, the Gamestorm game design community, the Invisible Playground collective and the Game Science Center also host a multitude of events.

* © Die Computer- und Videospielindustrie in Berlin I 2017 Forschungs- und Kompetenzzentrum Audiovisuelle Produktion der Hamburg Media School

»Berlin’s higher education landscape provides the ideal conditions for the growing games industry. Highly specialized degree programs with partly affiliated research centers are very sensibly underpinned by numerous offers for vocational games training.«

DE:HIVE Institute, HTW Berlin – University of Applied Sciences

Education | Research
BTK (University of Applied Sciences Europe)
DIGAREC Zentrum für Computspieleforschung
design akademie berlin,
Institute of Ludology
DE:HIVE Institute, HTW Berlin – University of Applied Sciences
GAMES ACADEMY
Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF
Macromedia University for Media and Communication
MD.H Mediadesign Hochschule
SAE Institute
S4G School for Games
Universität der Künste

Events | Exhibitions
A MAZE. / Berlin
Computerspielemuseum
Deutscher Computerspieelpreis
Game Science Center
EGX
gamesweekberlin
Invisible Playground
Making Games Talents
MEDIA CONVENTION
Quo Vadis
Womenize!
Unite Berlin

Associations | Networks
Berlin Games Forum
Bundesverband Interaktive Unterhaltungssoftware (BIU)
eSports Bund Germany
game – Verband der deutschen Games-Branche
games:net berlinbrandenburg
interface/berlin
Projekt Zukunft
Stiftung Digitale Spielekultur
Self regulation Body (USK)

Dreadnought, © Grey Box, YAGER

„Trüberbrook“ - btf
Support and financing

- Dense support in the form of consulting, financing and subsidies provides the perfect environment for inward investment, startups and innovative projects.

- Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg supports the development of digital games within the audiovisual content category as well as regional projects for networking the games industry on national, international and cross-sectoral levels.
  
  medienboard.de/en

- To invest in startups during their initial and growth phases, the investment banks in Berlin and Brandenburg have set up venture capital funds.
  
  ilb.de | ibb.de

- Two regional economic development agencies, Berlin Partner for Business and Technology and Brandenburg Invest (WFBB), provide information about the range of support and financing options.
  
  businesslocationcenter.de/gamescapital | wfbb.de/en

- The Berlin Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises and the Brandenburg Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy assist the industry with subsidies or loans for capital investment, salaries and technology-oriented R&D projects, as well as with infrastructure projects, competitions and trade show presentations.
  
  Projektzukunft.berlin.de/en | mwe.brandenburg.de