



Profile

vhw - Federal Association for Housing and Urban Development

vhw is a non-profit organisation dedicated to training and research in the areas of housing and urban development. It aims to help local authorities act effectively, foster a diverse civil society, and strengthen local democracy.

THE VHW PERSPECTIVE

Our cities are places where society transforms: through immigration and emigration, increasing economic pressure, new technologies and working conditions as well as new lifestyles and family structures. Active citizens, democratically elected decision-makers and responsible businesses shape this dynamic together, creating new possibilities for the future of our cities.

vhw is a partner for political decision-makers and local, regional and national government bodies, as well as commercial operators in the housing sector.

Our main areas of activity are training, research, and knowledge transfer.

TRAINING

vhw develops high-quality, practice-oriented training courses on topics such as building and planning law, awarding contracts, tenancy law, urban development and social law. With over 1900 annual training events attended by more than 53,000 participants, vhw is Germany's largest training provider in the field of urban development. Our courses are continually revised and updated to ensure their quality and relevance.

RESEARCH

vhw strives to answer key questions concerning the future of social cohesion in our increasingly diverse cities and neighbourhoods.

In partnership with academia and local government, vhw researches the changing urban society, shapes and supervises participatory processes, monitors the roles played by different parties, and examines the communication between public bodies and citizens. As part of this, it stimulates debate, including via the vhw city network.

The overriding aim is to strengthen local democracy.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

As a competence centre for housing and urban development, vhw opens up its research findings and experiences to public debate via conferences, lectures and networks. The association also publishes the Forum for Housing and Urban Development („Forum Wohnen und Stadtentwicklung“) magazine six times a year. Each issue has a different central theme and features contributions from a variety of authors.

AIMING TO ANSWER KEY QUESTIONS OF OUR TIME

As of May 2018, vhw has over 1900 members – mainly local authorities and housing companies, but also companies and associations active in other areas. Founded in 1946 as the Volksheimstättenwerk („People's Housing Association“), vhw's first decades were dedicated to major questions of the time such as land law reform and the promotion of owner-occupied residential property. Since the start of the 21st century, vhw has focused its work on the new challenges faced by society.

CONTACT

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