

# Berliner Morgenpost

## Global Summit of Women in Berlin

These Berlin companies have the most female bosses

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By Iris May



Summit of Power Women in Berlin: Among others, Ertharin Cousin (Supervisory Board Member, Bayer AG), Irene Natividad (President of the Global Summit of Women), and Ann Sherry (Director, National Bank of Australia). B.M. Global Summit of Women

A brand-new report reveals which countries have the most women in leadership positions worldwide. Which companies in Berlin are leading.

On Wednesday, a report by the organization Corporate Women Directors International (CWDI) was presented at Bertelsmann Unter den Linden, showing the status of women's power in the most successful companies worldwide. The occasion is the Global Woman Summit, which takes place in Berlin from July 3 to 5, 2025. Around 1000 women from over 60 countries are in the capital this week for the event, also known as "Davos for Women." The initiator of the mega-event is the literary scholar, activist, and feminist Irene Natividad. The 76-year-old lives in Washington and has been organizing prominent women's forums since 1990.

Report shows: Australia leads in equality



In Berlin, many German companies with a high proportion of female executives were presented: Allianz, the DB, and the Mercedes Benz Group.

The report is a current, worldwide inventory of equality (as of January 2025). The study examined the 500 most profitable companies in the world, which are determined annually by the business magazine Fortune. The analysis is initially encouraging: Only six of the top ten companies are led by women: Coop Group, Woolworths, Best Buy, TIAA, JD.com, and Citigroup. At least the proportion of female board members in Germany, at 34.4 percent, is slightly above the global average of 28.9 percent.

But Germany is not leading in promoting women in leadership positions: Australia is at the top with an average proportion of women of 50 percent. France is in second place with 45.6 percent, followed by five other European countries that have already taken early initiatives to promote women on boards. Canada (37.9 percent) and the USA (34.2 percent) are close behind and are beginning to catch up with Europe.

These Berlin companies have women in leadership positions:

- Bayer (11 women in leadership positions) - Bayer employs around 5,000 people in Berlin. Of these, about 2,000 are in research and development and 1,600 in product supply. Bayer Health Care is located in Wedding.
- Mercedes Benz Group (9 female executives) - Around 1,900 employees work at the Mercedes-Benz plant in Berlin. It is the oldest production site of Daimler AG and an important industrial employer in the Berlin/Brandenburg region.

- Siemens Energy (9 female executives) - Siemens Energy has opened a factory for electrolyzers in Berlin and employs around 400 people in production, with a growing trend.
- Volkswagen (8 female executives) - According to Volkswagen Automobile Berlin, Volkswagen has a significant location in Berlin with over 1,000 employees and 250 trainees in technical and commercial areas. Volkswagen Automobile Berlin GmbH, a subsidiary of Volkswagen AG, has been active in the capital region for over 30 years. The locations cover the brands Volkswagen, SEAT, Cupra, SKODA, and Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles.
- Deutsche Bahn (7 female executives) - Deutsche Bahn has its headquarters at Potsdamer Platz and employs nearly 12,000 people in Berlin and Brandenburg.