

## Thuringia



▼ **Information about Thuringia**

▼ **Business Related Sites in Thuringia**

▼ **Point of Single Contact in Thuringia**

### Information about Thuringia

The Free State of Thuringia is situated in central Germany and borders the federal states of Niedersachsen, Saxony-Anhalt, Saxony, Bavaria, and Hessen. The Free State has a population of 2.3 million inhabitants and its capital city is Erfurt, where bio- and solar technology is flourishing.

Thuringia lies at the heart of Germany and Europe. Its cultural fame derives from the Weimar poets, Goethe and Schiller, but its craftsmanship is equally valued and far-reaching. The mountains in the Thuringia Forest offer a backdrop for the German wonderful trails, the 160-kilometer long Rennsteig, which is ideal for hiking, cycling, and skiing in the winter.

The town of Jena is the birthplace of the modern optics

industry and was chosen as a "City of Science 2008" for its expertise in lens manufacturing, medical and biotechnology, photovoltaic production, and software engineering. Other major economic focuses are engine construction, the tools industry, and the automotive supply sector.

Thuringia has had impressive economic momentum since Germany's reunification. In 2006, its economy grew by over 3 percent, and the manufacturing sector often attains growth rates of up to 10 percent. Its universities and research organizations put Thuringia's businesses on the cutting edge of innovation and supply them with the skilled workers needed to stay there.

Medium-sized businesses, in particular, thrive in Thuringia, and the state's government is making major investments over the coming years to build bridges between these businesses, research centers, and universities. Moreover, the region devotes significant resources to logistics to keep products flowing out, and to bring the world to the region's majestic forests dotted with castles and palaces.

### **Business Related Sites in Thuringia**

Foreign entrepreneurs will find many state level institutions that offer helpful support for business operations.

#### **The State of Thuringia**

The official website of the State of Thuringia is a first source of information on local matters.

► <http://www.thueringen.de>

### **Invest in Thuringia - LEG Thüringen**

As a state development corporation for the state of Thuringia, LEG is responsible for marketing the region and attracting new investors from Germany and abroad. Companies can turn to LEG to meet all their relocation needs.

▶ <http://www.leg-thueringen.de>

### **Serviceportal Thüringen (German only)**

The service portal of the state government provides citizens, enterprises and institutions with information on public services and administrative procedures and guides them to the competent authorities.

▶ <http://portal.thueringen.de>

### **Startup in Thuringia (German only)**

The state government provides information on startups in Thuringia.

▶ <http://www.thueringen.de>

### **Thüringer Aufbaubank (TAB; German only)**

The Thüringer Aufbaubank (TAB) has undertaken numerous assignments in business development and the promotion of housing construction for the Free State of Thuringia, and offers qualified advice and financial support.

▶ <http://www.aufbaubank.de>

### **bm-t**

bm-t is the universal investment company for the state of Thuringia.

▶ <http://www.bm-t.com>

### **Tourist Office Thuringia**

Online travel guide of the state of Thuringia.

► <http://www.thueringen-tourismus.de>

### **Point of Single Contact in Thuringia**



In Thuringia, company founders and entrepreneurs from all EU Member States can complete formalities in a straightforward way. The Points of Single Contact located at the Chambers of Industry and Commerce and the Chambers of Skilled Trades and Crafts in Thuringia. They may be contacted for information about the legal requirements and the conditions applicable for offering services in the state.

► <http://www.ea.thueringen.de/>

The service of the Points of Single Contact is optional. Entrepreneurs may always contact the relevant authorities directly, if they prefer. Moreover, there are many institutions at the state level that may be addressed for further support.

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