

# The GLS Bank

## An ethical bank in Germany aiming at developing creative solutions for society



Project author or developer:  
**The GLS Bank**

Where:  
**DE / Germany / Arnsberg**

Website:  
**[www.gls.de/](http://www.gls.de/)**

The GLS Bank (DE) (full name GLS Gemeinschaftsbank eG) is a German ethical bank that was founded in 1974 as an anthroposophical initiative. It was the first bank in Germany that operated with an ethical philosophy. According to GLS Bank, its focus is on cultural, social and ecological initiatives, initiated by people, and not anonymous interests seeking capital or maximum profit. The name stands for Gemeinschaftsbank für Leihen und Schenken which translates as Community bank for loans and gifts. With the main focus on cultural, social and environmental ventures, GLS tries to deal with challenges in the society by developing creative solutions. The bank is based in Bochum, Germany and is a co-operative.

