

SDG-Partnerships (2023-2026)

1. Programme objective

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) supports the programme "SDG Partnerships" using funds from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Funding is provided for establishing partnerships between German higher education institutions and higher education institutions in developing and emerging countries (DEC) (Belarus is excluded; see note under "11. Application"). The programme focusses on planning, developing and realising higher education partnerships that give rise to a sustainable promotion of structures at partner institutions in DEC in teaching as well as research, and in the areas of higher education and research management.

The overall long-term programme objectives are to contribute to sustainable development according to the 2030 Agenda, to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to establishing high-performing internationally networked higher education institutions in the partner countries

More specifically, the programme shall achieve the following long-term **development effects (impacts)**:

Impact 1: The programme contributes to the development and consolidation of the cooperation structures between the participating universities and institutions.

Impact 2: German universities have acquired expertise on global contexts and challenges as well as on developing and emerging countries.

Impact 3: The programme contributes to the internationalisation of the participating universities.

Impact 4: The programme contributes to the structural strengthening of teaching and research at the partner universities.

In order to achieve these long-term effects (impacts), the programme pursues the following programme objectives (outcomes):

Area of activity: teaching

Project objective (outcome) 1: Graduate training structures have been improved at the partner institutions (BA and in particular MA or equivalent).

Project objective (outcome) 2: Students from developing and emerging countries are qualified to take up professional activities in these partner countries.

Project objective (outcome) 3: The partner institutions offer study and qualification programmes related to SDGs that are appropriate to the local context and reflect the state of the art in science.

Project objective (outcome) 4: Established methods are in place for transferring course offerings to other higher education institutions.

Area of activity: research

Project objective (outcome) 5: Research results regarding topics related to global circumstances and challenges are part of the content taught at the institutions involved.

Project objective (outcome) 6: Topics related to global circumstances and challenges are established research focusses at the institutions involved.

Project objective (outcome) 7: Methods for the distribution and transfer of knowledge and research findings are in place.

Area of activity: higher education management

Project objective (outcome) 8: The organisational structures at the partner institutions have been reinforced, expanded or developed.

Project objective (outcome) 9: Central governance and management structures have been improved at the partner institution.

Project objective (outcome) 10: Methods for realising the third mission have been created for the area of higher education management at the partner institution.

These programme objectives should be achieved by means of the following direct **results (outputs)** of measures/activities:

Area of activity: teaching

Result (output) 1: Curricula/teaching modules that relate to the SDGs and suit the local context while reflecting the latest developments in science have been jointly developed/advanced.

Result (output) 2: Lecturers at the partner institutions have obtained further discipline-specific and didactic qualifications.

Result (output) 3: Structural prerequisites for courses of study have been established.

Result (output) 4: Non-university players are actively involved in education development and teaching.

Result (output) 5: Further (non-)university players are involved in the partnership.

Result (output) 6: Methods for making study opportunities more widely available have been created.

Area of activity: research

Result (output) 7: Researchers have taken part in training regarding research methods.

Result (output) 8: Researchers have realised research endeavours in subject areas related to global circumstances and challenges.

Result (output) 9: Non-university players are involved in the research activities.

Result (output) 10: The structural conditions for research have been improved at the partner institutions.

Result (output) 11: Further (non-)university players are involved in the partnership.

Result (output) 12: Methods for spreading knowledge and communicating research results have been created.

Area of activity: higher education management

Result (output) 13: The administrative staff at the partner institutions have obtained (further) qualifications.

Result (output) 14: Processes and structures for improved university management are in place.

Result (output) 15: There are established processes and structures for communication with and knowledge transfer to the general public.

The focus areas defined can vary from project to project. A project does not necessarily need to contribute to all programme objectives. However, it is essential that at least one programme objective from the activity fields teaching or higher education management is addressed. While there is some room for flexibility when it comes to wording project objectives and to the ways to achieve these, the project objectives must be in line with the programme objectives. The project objectives must be specified based on the programme's results framework. Measurable project objectives and results and related indicators must be specified. These must be outlined in the application and in the project planning summary. Regarding the instructions for results-oriented project planning, the results framework and the list of indicators, please refer to **Attachment 1** 'Guide to Results-oriented Monitoring'.

The option to combine different areas of activity allows for a flexible strategy, depending on the respective project's demands and framework conditions. Smaller projects that relate, for example, to a specific course of study in the developing country can be eligible for funding, as well as larger endeavours that can also be an expansion of existing partnerships. Smaller projects should explicitly not be cooperations that are still being established. The DAAD programme Fact Finding Missions is available for this goal.

Administrators/disseminators that are relevant to higher education management and/or other participants (such as political decision-makers) can be involved, depending on the objective of the project and the combination of areas of activity.

In line with the impacts listed above, it must also be taken into account that cooperation between German higher education institutions and partners in developing and emerging countries should be a key medium and long-term objective of any project. In the sense of the 2030 Agenda, such cooperations should contribute substantially to sustainable development of higher education institutions as well as society. This also means that partnerships that allow for a longer-term connection between the institutions and a stabilisation of South-South contacts, as well as promoting dialogue and communication, are considered particularly worthy of funding. The use of further funding instruments for higher education cooperation with developing countries is advisable and desirable in this context to create synergies (e.g. Alumni and Material Support Programme).

The focus areas addressed can vary from project to project, due to the option to combine different areas of activity.

2. Eligible measures

Eligible measures / activities are:

- Development and revision of teaching/learning materials relevant to the implementation of the project.
- Organisation of events
- organisation of further and advanced training
- Implementation of project-related stays (research, specialised course/workshop, internship, study, teaching)
- Realisation of target group-oriented public relations
- Carrying out SDG-relevant research

When choosing the form in which individual measures/activities are realised, it should be checked, whether a digital format might be suitable and possible in pursuit of sustainability.

The following measures are **not** eligible for funding:

- Applications focussing on research funding only;
- Activities for which funding is already provided by other organisations (e.g. DFG, BMZ, GIZ);
- Representational trips without academic interests and excursions;
- Applications for a funding volume of less than EUR 10,000 per year;
- Extended (i.e. more than five months) research stays of researchers and students (please refer to the general scholarship and research funding programmes for this type of endeavour);
- Trips for the purpose of contract initiation. **The Fact Finding Missions programme** with its own call for applications is available for those seeking to initiate cooperation.

3. Expenditure eligible for funding

See **Annex 2**

4. Forwarding

It is possible to forward the grant for project funding (in whole or in part) if this is necessary to achieve the purpose of the grant.

In the financing plan of the application for project funding at the DAAD, the expenditure items that are to be forwarded must be marked accordingly.

If, at the time of the application for project funding (prior to conclusion of the contract), the intended forwarding is not yet known in concrete terms, the expenditure that may be forwarded can initially be shown in the financing plan as separate expenditure. In the event that the forwarding of the grant only becomes concrete after the contract has been concluded, the DAAD's approval must be obtained by means of an amendment application (adjustment of the project description and the financing plan).



Onward transmission shall take place on the basis of a onward transmission contract.

The forwarding recipient's proof of use and the corresponding audit certificate must be enclosed with the proof of use submitted to the DAAD.

5. Type of financing

Funding takes the form of **deficit financing**.

6. Funding period

The funding period begins on 1 January 2023 at the earliest and ends on 31 December 2026 at the latest.

A follow-up application for another four years can be submitted if there are plans to expand the project. Please note that extensions are usually only eligible for funding, if planning provides for the original project to be expanded substantially. This can mean, for example, that further areas of activity are included.

7. Amount of funding

The maximum amount of DAAD funding for a partnership between a German and a foreign higher education institution is EUR 300,000, split into budget years as follows:

2023: EUR 75,000
2024: EUR 75,000
2025: EUR 75,000
2026: EUR 75,000

For multilateral cooperation (one German and two or more foreign higher education institutions that are usually located in different partner countries), the DAAD grant can be increased by up to EUR 25,000 for activities related to South-South exchange.

8. Discipline(s)

Regarding the disciplines, the programme comprises two funding lines:

Funding line I

is open to all disciplines with a clear SDG connection - including interdisciplinary applications - except those that take into account the 'health approach' specified in funding line II. Interdisciplinary applications are also welcome.

Funding line II

takes into account applications that make a significant contribution to the **topic of health with a focus on pandemic prevention and combating**, including interdisciplinary applications.

It is mandatory that applications are assigned to one of the two funding lines at the time of submission. Applications that are assigned to funding line II must be appropriately justified (see project description).



9. Target group

Academics, students, graduates, doctoral candidates and administrative staff of higher education institutions.

10. Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants are official and officially recognised German universities, university hospitals and non-university research institutions based in Germany that are recognised as non-profit organisations and conduct their own research

11. Application

Note:

Due to Russia's attack on Ukraine, the DAAD has suspended all institutional forms of cooperation with partners in Belarus until further notice. Against this background, no applications for project funding with partner institutions in Belarus are possible.

The application for project funding must be submitted in full and on time exclusively via the DAAD portal (www.mydaad.de).

Follow-up applications must be submitted via the existing project in the project overview using the function "Submit follow-up application" via the DAAD portal.

- Project application with a meaningful project title (in the DAAD portal)
- Financing Plan (in the DAAD Portal)
- Project description, see **form template** (attachment type: project description)
- Project planning overview, see **form template** (attachment type: project description)
- In the case of onward transmission: project description and financing plan of the onward transmission recipient(s) (attachment type: supplementary financial information).
- Clear statement by the foreign partner institution, detailing its own interest in the project (attachment type: programme-specific attachments)
- Signed cooperation agreement(s) on the partnership between the participating German and foreign higher education institution(s) (attachment type: contracts/agreements)
- Endorsement by the university management, see **form template** (attachment type: programme-specific attachments)

After the application deadline, changes to the financing plan, to the project description as well as subsequently submitted or amended documents can no longer be considered. Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection procedure.

In deviation from this, **signed cooperation agreements on partnership(s) between the participating German and foreign higher education institutions can be submitted later until the contract is concluded**, but this must be justified in the timely application (attachment type: contracts/agreements).



12. Application deadline

The deadline for applications is 30 June 2022.

13. Selection procedure

Selection of applications for project funding

The DAAD decides on funding on the basis of the evaluation of the applications by a selection committee.

Selection criteria

- (1) **Relationship of the project to the programme objectives (as per the results framework) and results-oriented planning using indicators that meet the SMART criteria (see Annex 1) (weighting 15%)**
- (2) **Necessity of the expenditure for the implementation of the measures (weighting 10%)**
- (3) **Concrete contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (weighting 20%)**
- (4) **Discipline-specific relevance and quality of the project (weighting 15%)**
 - Demand for the project and its benefits are clearly recognisable
 - Discipline-specific expertise of the applicants
 - Experience of the project coordinator gained from past projects in or with target groups from developing or emerging countries
 - Experience of the German project coordinator in managing international projects
 - Balanced project concept that adequately addresses the fields of activity listed above in line with the respective focus areas
 - Appropriate and balanced calculation (**see Attachment 2**)
- (5) **The project's relevance to development policy (weighting 15%)**
 - Contribution to realising the Sustainable Development Goals
 - Consideration of the principles of development cooperation: Planning, conceptualisation and implementation are based on the requirements of the partner institution(s) and are carried out jointly.
 - Plausible explanation, how the project's discipline-specific and regional focus contributes to the development of the partner institution and/or partner country in general
- (6) **Balance of cooperation measures (weighting 15%)**
 - Coordination and cooperation among the cooperation partners involved
 - Contribution made by the German and foreign higher education institutions/partners
 - Integration and exchange of students and academics on both sides



(7) Sustainability of the intended impacts (weighting 10%)

- Networking with further higher education institutions/partners and stakeholders in the region, South-South partnerships
- Creation of sustainable cooperation structures that will outlast the funding period.

14. Attachments

1. Guide to Results-oriented Monitoring
2. Expenditure eligible for funding
3. Country-specific residence allowances

15. Form-templates

- Project description
- Project planning overview
- Endorsement of the German university management

16. Important Information

- Information on mobility with disability and chronic illness
- OECD DAC list (except Belarus)
- Completion aids for financing plan

17. Contact

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