

IN FOCUS:
EU COUNCIL
PRESIDENCY
IN CHALLENGING
TIMES

Brussels

#EU2020DE

Dear reader,

At present the coronavirus continues to affect large parts of our everyday life. Not only Germany and Europe, but the entire world is facing turbulent times.

Amidst all this, one thing remains very important: hope. The motto of the German EU Council Presidency, which began on 1 July of this year, inspires hope: 'Together for Europe's recovery.' The global pandemic and its varied effects have shaped this Council Presidency, not least in terms of international cooperation. The search is on for global responses to global challenges. In presiding over the Council of the EU at this critical point in time, Germany bears a great responsibility – and expectations are high. What is now required to resolve the current crisis in the best possible way is a holistic look at all pressing questions.

This newsletter is dedicated to the German EU Council Presidency in 2020. Through its work, GIZ contributes to implementing the goals of German and European development policy. Here, we provide you with an insight into GIZ's cooperation with the EU. At the same time, we outline the questions we encounter in many countries and on various topics and how we try to solve them.

Whether it is climate change, human rights, forced displacement or supporting economic growth and employment – the projects we present here have one thing in common: They, too, inspire hope.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of the GIZ compass.

Stay healthy,

Your GIZ compass editorial team

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In focus

Libya: Hope in dark times



Photo: © GIZ / Theresa Kuschka

Civil war has been raging in Libya since 2011. Despite the current ceasefire, Libyan society continues to suffer from the consequences of war. To spread hope, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ) commissioned a programme in 2017, co-financed by the EU, to support and strengthen 17 Libyan communities. This reaches potentially more than 1.4 million people. Among other measures, a women's centre was established right in the middle of Tripoli. It is the first of ten planned centres that will enable Libyan women to continue their professional development, by, for example, taking part in vocational courses and learning how to build

their self-confidence at work.

» For more on this project, see [GIZ's Integrated Company Report](#)



Video: Libyan women at the InterTEX Tunisia



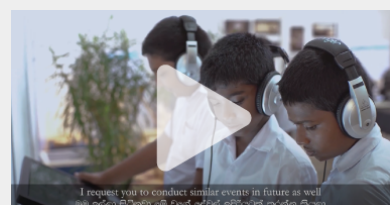
Sri Lanka: Time for reconciliation



Photo: © GIZ

The 2019 Easter bombings showed just how fragile the peace in Sri Lanka is, even ten years after the end of the civil war. To foster dialogue and understanding between the different religious groups, GIZ runs a reconciliation project on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office. The project is co-financed by the EU. Memorial events, art and cultural projects as well as moderated discussions contribute to coming to terms with the past and strengthening peace in Sri Lanka. A mobile museum takes its guests on a journey through various chapters of Sri Lanka's history since independence.

» For more on this project, see [GIZ's Integrated Company Report](#)



I request you to conduct similar events in future as well
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Global: Supporting climate action



Photo: © Unsplash / Pawel-Czerwinski

Large economies are responsible for about 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Climate protection is an important task. SPIPA, a programme jointly financed by the EU and the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, encourages and assists non-European major economies in achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change. To find out more about SPIPA and other projects with the EU, check out the current issue of the GIZ magazine *akzente*.

- » [akzente, issue 02/2020](#)
- » [More on the programme 'Strategic Partnerships for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement \(SPIPA\)'](#)



Africa: Laying the groundwork for a new strategy



Photo: © GIZ / Apsatou Bagaya

Africa has great potential in the field of renewable energies. The EU is currently working on a new Africa strategy to support the continent in its green, digital upswing and to offer partnership-based proposals that both sides benefit from. 'The existing strategy is out of date,' explains Siegfried Leffler, Director of the GIZ Representation in Brussels. In an interview with the GIZ magazine *akzente*, he also describes GIZ's cooperation with the EU and what role GIZ plays in Brussels.

- » [The conversation in full](#)
- » [Interview opportunity with Siegfried Leffler on the occasion of Germany's EU Council Presidency](#)



Interview with Siegfried Leffler



In brief

Photo series: Impressions and stories from everyday project life



Photos: © GIZ / Qudra Programme

- » [Photo series](#)



The online EU special with analyses, facts and emotions



Photo: © Unsplash / François Genon

Did you know that GIZ's business volume with the EU has more than doubled since 2015 to €375 million? What can we accomplish with such an amount? Discover more facts, voices, background information and reports and pictures on our special page of akzente online. We follow the German EU Council Presidency and provide competent, varied and surprising insights.

» [More on the akzente Special](#)



Europe and GIZ in the year of Germany's EU Council Presidency



Photo: © Unsplash / Frederic Köberl

In recent years, the EU has gained enormously in importance for the work of GIZ. Now, GIZ supports the German Government in the implementation of the Council Presidency, for example, by providing technical advisory services to the BMZ and by planning and holding events on behalf of the BMZ, the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry of Health. Overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic plays a major role in this respect.

» [More information here](#)



Curious for more?



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Curious about the results of GIZ's work with the EU? Want to hear from voices in and on Europe? Interested in stories and experiences from projects around the world? Follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn and stay abreast of our most important news – concise and to the point.

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Partnership with the EU and events in Brussels

You can find more information about GIZ's partnership with the EU and on the latest events and news from Brussels online at www.giz.de/eventsbrussels and in the context of Germany's EU Council Presidency at www.giz.de and <https://akzente.giz.de/en>.



About GIZ

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a global service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development and education work with 22,199 employees in around 120 countries. GIZ is a public-benefit federal enterprise. It supports the German Government and many public and private sector clients such as the European Union in a wide variety of areas, including economic development and employment, energy and the environment, and peace and security.



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