



Health, Education, Social Protection

Strong institutions in education and science

The challenge

A country's economic and social development is closely linked with the quality of its education system. Besides basic education, secondary and tertiary education – in other words, post-primary schools, universities and other higher education institutions – play an important role. High-quality education and research at tertiary level are the basis for development and innovation in politics, technology, economy and society.

However, many higher education institutions in developing countries and emerging economies suffer from quality deficits such as a lack of relevance to practice, inefficient management, outdated curricula, inappropriate use of human and financial resources, and a lack or poor quality of teaching materials.

Our approach

We aim to achieve sustainable improvements in the quality and performance of higher education and academic institutions. In order to achieve this objective, we provide advice to decision-makers and stakeholders on the introduction of quality and change management, with a view to improving the efficiency of management and organisational processes. Creating the requisite structures involves providing training and professional development for staff in higher education. Improving the quality of teaching and research and enhancing the relevance of higher education to practice is number one priority. As a further important element of our approach, monitoring tools are applied to identify and rectify areas of weakness. In the long term, improved structures and enhanced capacity in higher education will establish an important basis for social reform processes which will have a positive impact on the overall development of the country or region concerned.

Our services

Our aim is to foster our partners' potential so that they can harness it on their own initiative to maximum effect. GIZ's services are tailored to the specific situations and needs of our partners.

Our services include:

- Baseline analyses and needs assessments
- Training for decision-makers and experts in the ministries, public authorities and other relevant institutions
- Development of organisational and network structures, as well as infrastructure
- Promotion of national and regional networks in order to exchange experience and knowledge among higher education institutions, including the utilisation of information and communication technologies
- Launch of pilot projects
- Introduction of quality and change management tools
- Provision of advice to political decision-makers
- Strengthening linkages between higher education institutions and the private sector.

Our aim is always to develop the sustainability and practice orientation of all measures and also to promote career prospects for graduates. To this end, we attach great importance to networking our services with a view to achieving maximum impact. We support international initiatives and forge links with German development projects and programmes and with other education institutions.



The benefit

You benefit from our role as a neutral partner and our many years of experience in advising higher education institutions and the academic community. Our services are structured in such a way that technical staff and teachers are trained as mediators and multipliers as well as becoming familiar with key aspects of management and quality assurance. This facilitates the development of more efficient processes and increases the relevance and quality of education and research. Thanks to the practical training they receive, future experts and managers will enhance their competitiveness at both national and international level. Strategic links between the academic community and the private sector make a contribution here, creating a win-win for all partners involved.

An example from the field

In Latin America, GIZ, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is supporting regional higher education networks. Our role is to advise the participating universities on ways of improving their teaching, research and outreach services (linkages) in core areas of development.

In conjunction with the Central American Council of Higher Education (CSUCA) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), we have introduced modern methods of quality and change management via the regional training network programme UniCambio XXI since 2003.

The training programme produced tangible successes in higher education management and in teaching and research at 19 universities in nine Central American countries. Quality management structures as well as monitoring and evaluation tools have been introduced, for example, allowing weaknesses to be identified on a targeted basis and remediation measures to be adopted. Some of the UniCambio alumni have also taken over as managers of newly established quality management programmes at their own universities.

As a follow-up initiative from UniCambio XXI, GIZ supported PUEDES, a pilot approach focusing on linkages between universities and the private sector. Linkages between higher education, civil society and the business community are becoming increasingly relevant from a sustainable development perspective. Within the framework of PUEDES, GIZ supported cooperation projects between 14 universities and almost 30 partners from the private sector in 6 Central American countries. The projects document the high potential of university linkages with the private sector as well as the great benefit for both in various fields of cooperation, including regional marine research, SME development and national policy formulation. The projects were complemented by a baseline study on university linkages with the private sector in Central America as well as by a series of capacity building workshops.

Contact

Werner Wasmuth
E werner.wasmuth@giz.de
T +49 6196 79-1279
I www.giz.de

Imprint

Published by:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de