



Institutional design and development of universities and scientific institutions

Advisory service

The challenge

By driving socio-economic development, higher education and research can help foster prosperity. Developing countries and emerging economies therefore increasingly view universities and scientific institutions as key partners in achieving national development goals. These countries are systematically expanding their university sector and build their innovative capacity in key sectors. The establishment and expansion of universities is also often linked with structural policy, developing industrial zones, and promoting social, youth and labour market policies. In this way, the higher education sector becomes an integral part of holistic policy approaches. In many partner countries, demographic pressure on universities is increasing. A growing number of young people strive for university education, and high demand is driving the expansion of the sector. Simultaneously, there is an increasing trend among universities towards enhancing their own institutional profiles with their offers being aligned to the needs of different target groups. Although strengthening universities and scientific organizations is high on the political agenda in many partner countries, there is often a lack of capacities and resources for establishing, expanding or modernising these key institutions.

Our approach

For many years now, German development cooperation has been advising and supporting its partner countries in establishing and expanding universities and research institutions. Although such projects are sometimes stand-alone in nature, they more often form an integral component of programmes in other sectors. German development cooperation supports:

- » establishing institutional structures for new universities

- » reforming and expanding existing universities
- » establishing specialized institutes and centres of excellence (e.g., for digitalisation, green innovation centres)
- » establishing or modernising research institutions

We, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, support many higher education projects in partner countries. We tailor each project to the particular context in the country or region. Capacity building is a core element of every measure. We link all university projects with key sectors. One of our most important aims is preparing university graduates for the labour market. As a result, we frequently work together with the private sector, policymakers and civil society. Above all, we also support the establishment and maintenance of international partnerships with universities and research institutions abroad.

Our services

Our advisory approaches focus on the following issues:

- » Organisational development
- » Strategy and profiling
- » Professionalisation of management and administration
- » Modernisation of study courses and teaching
- » Establishment of research and structures for innovation systems and technology transfer
- » Customised technical infrastructure (e.g., laboratories and laboratory equipment, digital media)
- » Cooperation with industry
- » Partnerships and academic exchange with universities and scientific institutions

Our cross-cutting issues are:

- » Quality assurance
- » Digitalisation



- » Transition of university graduates to the labour market or self-employment
- » Internationalisation and/or regional integration
- » Sustainability

Overview and background information:

We provide information on trends in the sector, modern solutions for establishing institutional structures for higher education and other scientific institutions and examples of good practice.

Networking:

We support our partners in networking with universities and scientific institutions at the national, regional, and international level. One of our priorities here is supporting dialogue platforms and networks with stakeholders from industry, the political arena and civil society.

The benefits

GIZ supports partner countries in establishing, expanding and reforming universities and research institutions. This helps to improve the quality of universities and scientific institutions and make them more relevant, resulting in the following benefits:

- » Universities and scientific institutions are able to make a significant contribution to national and international development goals and to build capacities in key sectors.
- » They train experts and managers who drive development in their countries.
- » They generate and share knowledge, competencies, and skills.
- » They pave the way for innovation and, in this way, support socio-economic progress and regional competitiveness.
- » High-quality universities and research institutes with

close international links contribute to social prosperity.

An example from the field

As part of the Sustainable Natural Resources Management in Mongolia programme, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has provided overall funding of EUR 11.7 million (between 2013 and 2022) to support the German-Mongolian Institute for Resources and Technology (GMIT). KfW provides a further EUR 7 million to support campus development. As a high-quality university with an international focus, GMIT aims to provide know-how for natural resource-based economic development and to train experts and managers in this field. GMIT offers students engineering courses that are geared to the labour market and that meet international quality standards. Its offering is geared to the needs of Mongolian companies that operate in the natural resources sector and of downstream industries. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is a cooperation partner in this programme. All alumni from the first two graduation years (2018 and 2019) either found an appropriate job in a Mongolian company shortly after obtaining their bachelor's degree or signed up to further study. The development of GMIT pursues a sustainable approach. The teaching and administrative staff receive ongoing training. A university structure and development plan are in place, along with a research strategy and a quality management system.

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Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15

E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Responsible/Contact:
Dr. Michael Hollaender and Britta Lambertz
Competence Centre Education, Vocational Education and Training, Labour Markets
Division Economic and Social Development, Employment
E: bildung@giz.de

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Ahmad Daghlas

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