



University (sector) reform

Advisory service

The challenge

An ever-increasing number of young people strive for higher education. The pressure on universities is increasing as a result and developing countries and emerging economies in particular are not prepared for the huge demand. Although new higher education institutions are being established, the quality of education leaves much to be desired. Universities in our partner countries face many problems. They are poorly equipped, staff are not sufficiently qualified, and the curricula and teaching methods used are outdated and not suited to preparing students for current socio-economic challenges or for the labour market. Graduates therefore face the threat of not being able to find a job. Many of our partner countries have no partnership arrangements in place with the private sector or with universities abroad. These problems hamper development there, as universities are a key catalyst for socio-economic growth and technological innovation. Development cooperation therefore provides targeted support for expanding the university sector as a cornerstone of national transformation processes. This support aims to ensure that universities train managers and experts who drive development in their countries. Expansion of the higher education sector is also often a key component of structural and economic policy. In rural regions and emerging industrial zones in particular, universities are a location factor for economic development. The quality of teaching and research – and not just the number of universities – is vital, however. University systems need to reform. Many governments and higher education institutions need advice on introducing and implementing reforms. This advice ranges from university legislation, strategies, and financing to administrative tasks. Academic staff require better training and universities need to be managed more professionally. Advice is also needed on

reforming the contents and structure of study courses, as well as on quality assurance issues. Comparable standards for academic achievement and qualifications need to be introduced to ensure that universities are able to engage in academic exchange at the regional and international level and participate in funding programmes. Successful reform also requires cross-sectoral dialogue as well as cooperation with both society and the private sector. Digitalisation is a cross-cutting theme of university (sector) reform. This includes above all state-of-the-art university information systems, internet security and data protection.

Our approach

Development cooperation supports partner country governments in all core areas of university and higher education sector reform. GIZ's advisory services strengthen capacities of universities and of the sector in general. Objectives include supporting high-quality teaching, learning and research, fostering international compatibility and facilitating equal opportunities for accessing university education. Our advice is based on a holistic approach and ensures that all the proposed measures are purposeful. Our advice covers the following issues:

- » Quality assurance in all areas
- » Higher education policy, strategies, governance, legal framework conditions
- » Reform of study courses and the structure of studies, modernisation of teaching and learning (particularly in relation to dual approaches, transfer of competencies and e-learning)
- » Transition from university to the labour market
- » Professional training of lecturers, researchers, young academics, and university managers
- » Research policy, technology transfer and innovation sys-



tems

- » Cooperation with the private sector and with civil society
- » International cooperation and regional integration of the university sector
- » Digitalisation (information and communication technology (ICT), ICT infrastructure, internet security, data protection)
- » Modern university administration and information systems

Our services

We provide broad knowledge and background information on all issues related to university (sector) reform in the development cooperation context (global and regional trends, reform approaches, policies, strategies, standards, examples of good practice, further information sources). We offer specialist advice on all the thematic areas mentioned above and support networking of the university sector and its stakeholders with business and society, at national and international levels.

The benefits

GIZ supports its partner countries in expanding and reorganising their university landscapes and reforming their higher education systems. The quality of teaching and research is being improved and universities are gaining influence and reputation, both nationally and internationally. Reforms enable university systems to contribute to national and global development goals and build capacities in key sectors. The reformed universities educate experts and managers who can contribute to socioeconomic development and boost their countries' competitiveness. They can also play a vital role in regional integration.

An example from the field

GIZ's Sustainable Training and Education Programme (STEP) in Ethiopia aims to increase employment among university and vocational training college graduates in selected locations and in growth sectors. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) provides funding of EUR 12 million for the programme, which builds on several predecessor projects that have already helped to sustainably modernise and systematically expand the higher education sector in Ethiopia. The reform initiatives by STEP support Ethiopia's national development plan and are closely coordinated with the vocational training sector. GIZ advises Ethiopia's Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MoSHE), among others. STEP supports pilot projects for cooperative, practice-, and labour market-oriented tertiary education. For example, it focuses on cooperating with companies and supports planning that is based on substantiated data and geared towards the requirements of the labour market. Training of key stakeholders ensures that these new approaches are disseminated throughout the Ethiopian higher education system. The establishment of a higher education management information system (HEMIS) accompanies the programme's activities.

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