Aim of this brochure

A variety of German actors with broad expertise and a wealth of experience are involved in capacity development in the international water sector - governmental and non-governmental organisations, businesses, scientific institutions and associations. Their involvement is helping to tackle the global challenges faced by the water sector, such as insufficient access to water supplies and sanitation services, water contamination and the overuse of water resources, also helping to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. This brochure gives a broad overview of Germany’s expertise and provides information on the capacity development activities offered by German actors in the international water sector. It is aimed at authorities, water supply and wastewater treatment companies, developer-agencies and (future) experts and managers in the water management sector as a high priority. It is for this reason that Germany is one of the largest bilateral donors on water, with activities in over 60 different countries.

Capacity development in the water sector

Capacity development is a holistic process operating at three levels, which may be interlinked in specific measures - institutional development, organisational development and human resources development.

The water sector in Germany

Germany is well positioned in the water sector. The quality of its water supply and wastewater disposal systems as well as its management of water resources is based on clear legislation and legal standards. The successful transformation of the water sector in East Germany is particularly striking. The transition from a centrally organised water industry to a market-oriented system within a short period of time involved far-reaching institutional, technical and economic changes.

The successes of the German water sector are not only the result of investment and modern technology. Efforts made in the field of capacity development have also helped. These range from comprehensive vocational and academic training to leading-edge university research and, not least, a social consensus over establishing cost-covering tariffs.

German water technology and services are internationally very highly rated. With annual exports worth over EUR 600 million, Germany is one of the world’s leading exporters of water and sanitation technology. In development cooperation, Germany has traditionally viewed the water sector as a high priority. It is for this reason that Germany is one of the largest bilateral donors on water, with activities in over 60 different countries.

Capacity Development in the Water Sector

German experience and services for water management worldwide
Establishing a well-functioning water management is not only a technical and economic challenge, but also a social and political challenge. In many countries, strengthening the capacity of the legal and institutional systems and providing support for the sustainable management of water resources and provide the population with reliable drinking-water and sanitation services.

At a national level, Germany offers advice on policy dialogues. This is done by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and other federal agencies. They work in close cooperation with the German national and international partners. The German Development Cooperation ensures that the interests and knowledge of partner countries are taken into account, and that reforms are supported by local stakeholders.

At institutional level, German international cooperation offers advice on capacity development. One of the German unique characteristics is the good vocational training system in its water sector. In water management programmes, training is in practice closely linked and practically oriented to provide the vocational skills required by operators and service providers. Training curricula and materials are based on years of expertise and are regularly updated to meet current requirements.

Within development cooperation programmes, Germany is supporting the establishment of vocational training systems through activities designed to strengthen training institutions in partner countries (capacity to build capacity).

German water utilities are also involved in continuing education for water sector specialists. For example, Centre of Excellence and Training in Croatia. The Centre is assisted by German experts, who have an extensive international network of alumni, who can set up practice-oriented contacts in order to provide continuing education of best possible continuing education.

EXAMPLE: Young professionals from South-East Asia are also involved in continuing education. For example, the Centre for Excellence and Training in Croatia. The Centre is assisted by German experts, who have an extensive international network of alumni, who can set up practice-oriented contacts in order to provide continuing education of best possible continuing education.

For example, both the DWA and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) has been translated into English and are available from the German website.

EXAMPLE: For example, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the German Federal Technical and Scientific Association for Gas and Water (DVGW) have developed a series of modules, such as the IWRM e-learning module. The IWRM e-learning module is designed to provide training for a wide variety of target groups. It is a comprehensive training package that is designed to meet the needs of partner countries.

Aims: The IWRM e-learning module is designed to provide training for a wide variety of target groups. It is a comprehensive training package that is designed to meet the needs of partner countries.

EXAMPLE: Training in the water sector in the German Association for Water, Waste Water and Waste (DWA) provides training courses for associations and representatives of administrations and governments on the sustainable use of water. The German national and international networks have also been translated into English and are available from the German website.

EXAMPLE: Hydraulics, groundwater management, land usage and water. Young professionals from South-East Asia are also involved in continuing education. For example, the Centre for Excellence and Training in Croatia. The Centre is assisted by German experts, who have an extensive international network of alumni, who can set up practice-oriented contacts in order to provide continuing education of best possible continuing education.

YP TRAINING

Target group: Young professionals from South-East Asia

Academic Training

Academic training in Germany includes internationally recognised bachelor’s and master’s courses as well as postgraduate programmes. German universities have long-standing ties to foreign students in various technical, legal and water-related fields. This facilitates a close link with the local employment market as well as the local knowledge. German universities also maintain close contacts with the private sector, thereby linking training with professional practice.

There are also increasing numbers of multi-year and international courses, which offer students from foreign countries the opportunity to study for two years. A number of universities offer part-time courses as well as foreign partner universities. Typical topics of master’s courses are chosen in the course.

Institutional capacity development at national and regional level

At national and regional level, Germany offers advice on policy dialogues. This is done by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and other federal agencies. They work in close cooperation with the German national and international partners. The German Development Cooperation ensures that the interests and knowledge of partner countries are taken into account, and that reforms are supported by local stakeholders.

EXAMPLE: At a regional level, Germany offers advice on policy dialogues. This is done by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and other federal agencies. They work in close cooperation with the German national and international partners. The German Development Cooperation ensures that the interests and knowledge of partner countries are taken into account, and that reforms are supported by local stakeholders.

EXAMPLE: Water sector reform in Kenya is supported by a new Act. The intention is to improve the quality, efficiency and professionalism must be met through a commercial basis. Such systems have to guarantee the autonomy of responsibility for policy, regulation and supply.

Establishing and developing association structures is also important at national level. One example of this is the German advisory and training resources undertaken for the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA).

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Human resource capacity development

The capabilities of experts and management in the water sector are necessary to have a strong and effective water management system. Comprehensive capacity development is important to meet current requirements. Germany is supporting the development of strategies to improve the implementation of technical and educational and training services at local and national level. Implementation and training services at local and national level. Implementation and training services at local and national level.

EXAMPLE: Germany supports sector reform in Kenya. With the introduction of the Water Act in Kenya, the water sector has become de-regulated. At the same time, new institutions were located to ensure independence, good performance. Such institutions have to guarantee the autonomy of responsibility for policy, regulation and supply.

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