

## Project description

Title	Initiation of structured postgraduate programmes in research methods education – A German-Tanzanian partnership in the Social Sciences (InSPiRE)
Funding	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Duration	01/2012 – 12/2015
Partner institution	St. Augustine University of Tanzania, Mwanza
Team Vechta	Prof. Dr. Harald Künemund (co-ordinator & project director) Prof. Dr. Yvette Völschow Nele Marie Tanschus Monica Merkel
Team Mwanza	Dr. Thadeus Mkamwa (co-ordinator) Dr. Eustard Tibategeza Masui
Aims and Scope	<p>Well educated graduates in the social sciences are highly appreciated employees in academic, business, industrial and social services sectors – they are in demand in public, private and non-profit areas. In many countries a shortage of highly qualified employees is a well-known problem. This holds true for European countries like Germany, but it is an especially urgent matter in Sub-Saharan countries like Tanzania. St. Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) is among the leading universities in Tanzania that trains students for this upper segment of the labour market. However, due to a very small number of professors and PhD holders, SAUT has a lack of experienced supervisors and has to rely on education abroad on the PhD level. The aim of the subject-related Partnership is to develop and implement sustainable structures to improve both education and research.</p> <p>It is the aim of the University of Vechta and SAUT to jointly initiate structured postgraduate programmes in research methods education for their postgraduate students in the social sciences. It is planned to begin the education at the master's level, so that students embarking on a doctorate can gain additional skills and knowledge for the doctoral thesis while avoiding a start "from scratch". To successfully implement the programmes, five goals are to be achieved within the subject-related partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT: We jointly develop a cur-</li> </ul>

riculum for a structured education at master and PhD levels in social sciences meeting the needs of students in both Tanzania and Germany. The curriculum aims at helping students to acquire competencies to write a successful research proposal, to do their own research and to write their doctoral theses.

- LECTURER TRAINING: Training by experts in social sciences shall qualify prospective lecturers to teach the contents of the structured programmes on the level of postgraduate education. This aims especially at overcoming the shortage in PhD supervisors at SAUT.
- MA/PhD WORKSHOPS AND EXCHANGE: The subject-related partnership in social sciences strives for offering workshops, as well as individual exchange and further training to MA and PhD students of both universities.
- EVALUATION: We plan to carefully evaluate and revise the structure and curriculum developed for the special needs of PhD students at SAUT and the University of Vechta. This helps to steadily improve the research education.
- SUSTAINABILITY: In a long-term perspective, we achieve to implement self-sustaining structures of postgraduate education in both universities and the perpetuation of the partnership.

In a nutshell, the partnership aims at structures that help to constantly qualify master students for participation in the PhD programmes, support the most promising among them as later PhD students during this important step of further qualification, and to finally train those who are striving for a scientific career so that they are able to teach in the programmes and to further develop its structures.

Contact

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