

Centres of African Excellence

Capacity building for future highly skilled professionals in Sub-Saharan Africa



African Excellence

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



By setting up Centres of Excellence at African universities, the DAAD promotes the education of highly skilled professionals in Sub-Saharan Africa, while enhancing academic teaching, research, and cooperation on crucial aspects of sustainable development.



14
projects



8 currently receiving funding



6 with completed DAAD funding

Focus on sustainable development



The Centres of Excellence contribute to
15 of the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda

We promote South-South cooperation



75 % involve multiple African countries



34
participating institutions

11
in Germany

23
in Africa



3.0
million euros



65
teaching offers have been newly developed or further enhanced since the start of projects

43 %

57 %

CURRICULA
TEACHING
MODULES

Supported by:



Federal Foreign Office

The analysis takes into account the projects funded in 2025: CEGLA, CEMEREM, CERM-ESA, DIGI-FACE, Pro-RUWA, SCO, UKUDLA, and WAC-SRT. Data source: DAAD funding statistics and annual reports provided by universities. Budget: expenditure for 2024.

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Find out more about
the Centres of African
Excellence:
[www.daad.de/
african-excellence](http://www.daad.de/african-excellence)



RELEVANCE

Strong higher education institutions are key to **training skilled professionals** and **building excellent research capacities**. They also play a pivotal role in **developing local solutions to global challenges**. The “Centres of African Excellence” programme, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, supports African universities in **enhancing the quality and relevance of higher education, strengthening research, and expanding North-South(-South) cooperation**. This approach helps position African academic institutions as strong partners for German universities and enables them to take on a more active role in global knowledge production. Close collaboration with stakeholders from politics, business, and civil society ensures **relevance, long-term sustainability, and regional impact**.



1,232

individuals participated in
professional development
and training events of the
Centres in 2024

1,019

including
individuals
received
funding in 2024



51.6%



35.3%



5.9%



7.2%

STUDIES, TRAINING/PROFESSIONAL COURSE
SUMMER/WINTER SCHOOL, WORKSHOP
RESEARCH AND TEACHING ACTIVITY
OTHER

GOALS AND ACTIONS

The programme enables **outstanding talents** from Sub-Saharan Africa to access **high-quality, practice-oriented higher education** and facilitates their adequate integration into the labour market. At the same time, **teaching and supervisory services** are (further) developed jointly with German university partners, **research capacities** are strengthened, and **networks** with relevant stakeholders are expanded.

- The German-African cooperations contribute to ensuring that
- highly qualified graduates have been trained and hold **key positions**
 - the Centres of Excellence operate sustainably and competitively, and **teaching and research capacities** at the participating universities are enhanced
 - successful **transfer of current research findings** to politics, business, and civil society is encouraged
 - the implementation of the **2030 Agenda** and the **German Federal Government's Africa Policy Guidelines** is supported

Funding measures include **scholarships** for master's and doctoral programmes, the **development of (digital) teaching and training programmes**, the organisation of events and initiatives to strengthen **research infrastructure**, as well as international **study, research, and teaching stays**.



93

publications,
55 % of which
underwent peer review



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