



DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN SAARLAND

In Dialogue with non-governmental development organizations (NGOs)

The design of the development policy of the Federal Republic of Germany is a joint responsibility of the federal government, federal states and municipalities. In this sense, the State Government of Saarland has announced in its coalition agreement the intention to enhance and develop its development cooperation activities. Saarland draws the Minister of Education and Culture, Ulrich Commerçon, responsible for this area of action. His goal is to work closely with active NGOs in the field of development cooperation.

Consequently, global responsibility is exercised in Saarland together with development NGOs: Partnerships with developing countries are maintained and development-related educational and information work as well as civic engagement for the „One World“ are promoted. The common goal is the promotion of a globally sustainable and cooperative-oriented development cooperation. Through their direct access to the affected people, civil society actors are very well suited to act locally to mobilize self-help, develop initiatives on site, strengthen global solidarity and alleviate suffering.

Goals and priorities

Since development cooperation is also a task of the society as a whole, the successful work of private initiatives, churches and other NGOs receive particular financial and immaterial governmental support. Together we wish to make a concrete contribution to tackling world poverty, to ensure peace, to achieving democracy and to make globalization fairer.

Hereby joint key areas of activity have been defined: define the “Development Policy Guidelines” for Saarland; promote and implement development cooperation projects; organize professional exchange; plan and execute joint events.

Guidelines for Development Cooperation

The Guidelines for Development Cooperation for Saarland are currently being developed together with NGOs in an open and purposeful dialogue process, following the principles of global sustainable development. Hereby, the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations and the Resolutions of the Minister Presidents of the Federal States of 2008 and 2014 build the programmatic framework.

The Guidelines will define principles of action and will be concretized through the description of measures. Fair Trade, Global Learning and sustainable procurement have been established as essential topics.

The Advisory Board on Development Cooperation

The Advisory Board on Development Cooperation (*Beirat Entwicklungszusammenarbeit*) supports the Ministry significantly in the



approval of applications for development project and program activities. The projects that are to receive financial support are selected by the Advisory Board together with development cooperation initiatives and associations that are represented in the board. The focus is on promoting small and medium-sized projects that serve the satisfaction of elementary basic needs, contribute to the equality of women and take into account environmental aspects.