



DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN THE SAARLAND

The department of the Ministry of Education and Culture in Saarland is responsible for this topic. Its goal is to work closely with non-governmental organizations active in development policy.

Together with the non-governmental organizations, global responsibility is assumed: Partnerships with developing countries are cultivated and development policy information and education work as well as civic engagement for the „One World“ are promoted.

Dialogue with non-governmental organizations active in development policy

The development policy of the Federal Republic of Germany is the joint responsibility of the federal, state and local governments. With this in mind, the Saarland state government committed itself in its coalition agreement to expanding and further developing Saarland's development cooperation.

The coalition agreement for the 16th legislative period of the Saarland (2017-2022) states, „The state government has drawn up guidelines for Saarland's development cooperation in a broad-based dialogue with all non-governmental organizations involved in development policy. We will consistently pursue the fields of action formulated there, oriented to the guiding principle of global sustainable development. We have also created a solid and improved basis for promoting the committed work of non-governmental organizations and will continue to support the work of the initiatives on this basis.

Significant of the existing focal points and competencies in the Saarland are in the areas of „global learning“ and „fair trade/sustainable procurement.“ We have started with fair and sustainable procurement as well as advanced global learning and education for sustainable development nationwide in an exemplary way.

Since May 2018, Saarland has therefore also had a „State Coordination Office for Education for Sustainable Development“, which is responsible for ensuring that education for sustainable development is anchored in school education. With the State Coordination Office, the Ministry of Education is systematically and structurally anchoring Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the education sector. In order to link global interrelationships and individual behavior, the aim is to sensitize schoolchildren to sustainable development.

There are also far-reaching efforts in the area of fair trade/sustainable procurement. For example, the coalition agreement states: „The Saarland is to become the first fair federal state. To achieve this, we want to gradually switch public procurement to fair and regional products and further promote globally responsible educational work.“ To this end, a project group meets regularly and the individual criteria to be met are jointly examined with the various interest groups.

Goals and priorities

Since development cooperation is above all a task for society as a whole, the successful work of private initiatives, the churches and other non-governmental organizations in particular receives financial and non-material support. Together, we want to make a concrete contribution to fighting poverty worldwide, securing peace, realizing democracy and making globalization fairer.

Guidelines on development cooperation

The Saarland Development Cooperation Guidelines were adopted by the Saarland Parliament in March 2017 and are the result of a development process with the active participation of civil society and Saarland non-governmental organizations. They represent the framework of Saarland's development cooperation and are intended to strengthen existing structures, initiatives and activities. They serve as orientation and form the basis for Saarland's future development policy relevant engagement.

The fields of action of Saarland's development cooperation are:

- development policy information, advisory and educational work
- science, research and teaching
- international exchange
- economy, enterprises, public administrations and municipalities
- international trade and agricultural policy
- North-South partnerships/cooperations
- impact of European policy on countries of the global south

Guidelines for development cooperation

The guidelines of the Ministry of Education and Culture for the granting of subsidies for the promotion of projects within the framework of development cooperation - based on the guidelines of development cooperation - also provide for the possibility of promoting domestic projects in addition to the promotion of foreign projects in the Global South. The prerequisite is that the projects must be school, vocational and university education projects, extracurricular education projects for children and young people, continuing education and adult education projects or development policy measures and events for the broad civil society.

The Advisory Council for Development Cooperation

The Advisory Board for Development Cooperation plays a key role in supporting the Ministry in approving applications for development policy project and program activities. The projects to be included in the funding are selected in partnership with the development policy initiatives represented on the Advisory Board for Development Cooperation.