

Annex to the Funding Policy

Funding purpose: collaborative development projects

1. The following projects are in principle eligible for funding:

a) 'Northern projects' [projects with countries in the northern hemisphere] (domestic project work to advance development policy) satisfying the following criteria:

1. domestic project work to advance development policy (educational, information, cultural and public awareness activities) is to be expanded on a broader level to advance (volunteer) work in the German state of Lower Saxony.
2. Training of volunteers and full-time staff for all project participants in technical issues as well as projects to professionalise the work of non-governmental organisations (NGOs).
3. Project work with countries of the southern hemisphere should form part of the educational and public awareness work of the NGOs of the northern hemisphere.
4. NGOs in the northern and southern hemisphere should be enabled to perform information and lobbying work.
5. The advancement of the training of volunteer educators and propagators. In this way a larger number of students and other target groups can be reached over a long-term period and a permanent knowledge transfer to the educational institutions is achieved. For cooperation purposes, competent institutions, associations and other educational providers who have been actively engaged in the relevant area should be used.
6. Larger projects require the evaluation by independent experts.

b) 'Southern projects' [projects with countries in the southern hemisphere] with the following criteria:

1. Strengthening of political, social and economic emancipation, particularly taking the situation of women and girls into account.
2. Projects should be planned primarily by NGOs from the southern hemisphere in collaboration with NGOs from the northern hemisphere (not solely by northern NGOs).
3. Project work with countries in the southern hemisphere should also form part of the educational and public awareness work of projects in the northern hemisphere.
4. The general social and economic conditions of the country and/or of the project location should be taken into account.
5. In the 'Decision', 'Implementation' and 'Completion' project stages, the Foundation may rely on expert public and non-public bodies.
6. Larger projects require evaluation by independent experts.

c) Generally applicable positive criteria for northern and southern projects:

When selecting their project partners, project ideas and project countries, the Foundation applies, in addition to the quality criteria stipulated in para. 5 of the Funding Policy, the following positive criteria:

1. democratic organisation principle
2. low propensity to corruption
3. public awareness work in Lower Saxony
4. interlinking of the project work with the aim of mutually learning from each other in the southern and northern hemisphere

2. The following projects are in principle not eligible for funding:

- 2.1 School trips.
- 2.2 Projects for which it may currently be expected that the parties involved in the project may suffer reprisals if the results are published.
- 2.3 In countries or regions for which the German Federal Foreign Office has issued a travel warning or partial travel warning, or that are affected by violence, conflict and/or unsafe conditions, the applicant must show how the southern project partner can ensure successful project implementation despite those difficult general conditions.

3. Focal points

Projects should have a sectoral and geographic focus to allow for significant results and to improve the likelihood of the actual achievement of those desired results.

3.1 Climate protection and energy

Developing countries contribute to climate change only to a minor extent, yet they have to confront the consequences of those global processes to a greater extent. The changes that are to be expected must be supported by a transfer of technology, know-how and funding. In addition, residents, authorities, companies as well as other stakeholders must be made aware of the need to use resources sparingly. This can be supported through educational programmes offered in Lower Saxony which focus on this issue, generate awareness and involvement and convey knowledge.

3.2 Food security and maintenance of natural resources and biodiversity

Rural areas account for the largest shares of natural resources, from which the rural and urban population as well as people overseas benefit. One of the generated products are foods. These natural resources must be maintained as the basis for the future security of food supplies through a sustainable cultivation system. The Bingo - Environmental Foundation of Lower Saxony, Germany (NBU) focuses its funding on maintaining, expanding, enhancing and developing the necessary environmental resources and knowledge for handling those resources to secure the food supply. In addition, the allocation, distribution and storage of food supplies must be improved and their shelf life must be increased. At the same time, biodiversity should be maintained and enhanced.

3.3 Improvement of living conditions in rural areas

Another aim is to reduce the pressure to migrate from rural areas. The poverty rate in rural areas is usually very high, and child mortality is frequently above average. Moreover, due to traditions and cultural habits, existing gender inequalities are widespread. Remediation measures provide relief, employment opportunities, educational and social and/or infrastructure facilities as well as empowerment projects aimed at women. Decentralised measures for providing goods, services and resources and/or facilitation of access to the latter may make life easier for many people. Their health improves and the mortality rate drops with an increasing life expectancy, leading to increased economic activity.

3.4 Development policy-based information and educational work

In addition to the engagement of civic society, cooperative project work in and outside schools in conjunction with work on 'Education for sustainable development' with a focus on the 'Orientation framework for the educational field of global development' is advanced.

3.5 Geographic focus (southern projects)

The geographic restriction to countries with a partner region in Lower Saxony, with which the Lower Saxon applicant maintains sustained relations in the field of development cooperation, is a focal point.

Countries with the highest demand for assistance can be identified using indicators such as the Human Development Index (HDI) or the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita. Countries with a low ranking in those lists of indicators present the extended funding focal point in geographic terms.

Irrespective of the aforementioned focal points, the NBU remains entitled to fund innovative and significant projects in Lower Saxony and in all developing countries (see in each case the current DAC List published by the OECD Development Assistance Committee).

When funding projects, reference is made to the respective current resolution of the Conference of Premiers of the federal states.

Hannover, 11 October 2022