

**PROGRAMME** (DRAFT VERSION 10/2024)

# **Building alliances for development in higher education and research**

Forum of the Cooperation for Sustainable Development in Higher Education Group (S-DHG)

**12 - 13 November 2024**

*Brussels (Belgium)*

# Overview

## About S-DHG

The [Forum of the Cooperation for Sustainable Development in Higher Education Group](#) (S-DHG) is an annual gathering of prominent agencies, international organisations and associations dedicated to supporting and funding higher education in international cooperation.

The objectives of the S-DHG Forum are to share expertise and experiences, to enhance cooperation among funding and implementing agencies of capacity development and cooperation programmes, and to provide a networking platform for relevant resource organisations in the higher education and research sector. Initially DHG (former name) was set up to bring the Paris Declaration (2005) into practice, hence the reference to the aspect of donor harmonisation. However, at the first meeting in Scheveningen, the Netherlands in 2010 that objective proved to be unrealistic, as most educational cooperation programmes had a strong reciprocal benefit policy. However, the ambition to prevent overlap in activities, to find ways to collaborate with each other, and to share expertise and experiences continued to guide the annual meetings since then. The organisation of the forum rotates between the different participating organisations, as no permanent structure or secretariat was established.

## S-DHG Forum 2024

In **2024**, the S-DHG Forum gathers in **Brussels, Belgium on 12-13 November**. This 14th gathering will be convened by the **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**, the **European Commission**, **VLIR-UOS** and the **Association of Commonwealth Universities**.

In the course of two days, the theme “**Building alliances for development in higher education and research**” will be explored. **Day 1** will focus on the role of higher education and research in the **Global Gateway strategy of the European Union**. Together with partners from different sectors and regions as well as the wider public, we will discuss how, together, we can shape international cooperation and development. The day will be concluded with an evening reception and poster session that will offer networking opportunities between S-DHG members and the public.

**Day 2** will focus on the S-DHG network development and address the topic of **higher education in emergencies**. We will discuss ways to provide academic support in these contexts and take a deep dive into academic support for Ukraine. In addition to this lead topic, Day 2 will offer various opportunities to share practical knowledge and learn from one another. The day will start with interactive breakout sessions/a world café, where participants can bring in their own questions or ideas and co-develop them with other S-DHG members. During the day, there will be several workshop sessions addressing Global Gateway in practice, regional developments, higher education in emergencies, monitoring and evaluation, equal partnerships, and other practical aspects of the S-DHG member activities.

## Tuesday, 12 November 2024

Venue: *SQUARE Brussels, Coudenberg 3, 1000 Brussels*

Open to the *wider public*

13.30 h **Registration**, lunch snack and networking

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14.00 h **Official welcome**

Dr Kai Sicks, Secretary General, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

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14.10 h **Keynote address: Unpacking the higher education and research component of the Global Gateway**

- Koen Doens, Director-General for International Partnerships, European Commission
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**Panel session: Team Europe in practice**

- Koen Doens, Director-General for International Partnerships, European Commission
- Marianna Knirsch, Deputy Head of Section 103 – Education, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
- Ilze Saleniece, State Secretary (acting), Latvian Ministry of Education and Science, Latvia (tbc)
- Ulla Næsby Tawiah, Director, Danida Fellowship Centre, Denmark
- Peter Maassen, Professor in Higher Education Studies, University of Oslo, Norway
- Anne Weyembergh, Vice-Rector for External Relations and Development Cooperation, Université Libre de Bruxelles – CIVIS University Alliance, Belgium

Moderator: Erica Gerretsen, Director Human Development, Migration, Governance and Peace, DG INTPA, European Commission

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16.00 h Coffee break

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16.30 h **Panel session: A Global Gateway for Higher Education and Research? Perspectives from partner countries and regions**

- Advanced Infectious Diseases Research and Training, Africa – Europe Clusters of Research Excellence (CoRE):  
Peter Kojo Quashie, Deputy Director, West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens, University of Ghana and Professor Steffen Borrmann, University of Tübingen
- European Union Mobility Programme for Myanmar (EMPM):  
Sebastian Gries, Project Leader and Stefan Hase-Bergen, Senior Responsible Officer EMPM, DAAD
- EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package - Higher Education Programme (SCOPE-HE): Rodora T. Babaran, Director of Human Development, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department of the ASEAN Secretariat and Peter van Tuijl, Director, Nuffic Southeast Asia

Moderator: Elizabeth Colucci, Director of International Projects, OBREAL

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18.00 **Poster session and evening reception**

hosted by VLIR-UOS

Speaker: Melanie Schellens, Director Governmental Cooperation, Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGD), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium

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## Wednesday, 13 November 2024

Venue: [SQUARE Brussels, Coudenberg 3, 1000 Brussels](#)

Open to **S-DHG** member institutions and invited guests only

### 09.00 h **Opening of Day 2**

Start in plenary, followed by 4 World Cafés

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### 09.15 h **World Café**

- **Higher education & research management and professional development: Towards a Team Europe Approach**  
Elizabeth Colucci, Director, OBREAL  
Marina Larea, Senior Policy Expert , OBREAL  
Jan Kennis, Global Network Manager, VLIR-UOS
  - **Skills Partnerships – fair migration. How to bridge Europe’s need for international talent and our development-oriented approach**  
Maija Airas, Head of Unit for International Higher Education Cooperation, EDUFI  
Finnish National Agency for Education
  - **ACU Measures: Benchmarking Institutional Data on University Infrastructures for research support**  
Beate Knight, Head of Programmes, ACU
  - **Third Mission**  
Dr. Steffen Entenmann, Technical Planner, GIZ  
Dr. Michael Holländer, Head of Competence Center, GIZ  
Friederike Hettinger, Managing Director, TUMint  
Dr. Aline Laucke, Senior Project Manager, TUMint  
Peter de Lannoy, Global Partnerships Coordinator, VLIR-UOS
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10.30 h Coffee break

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### 11.00 h **Panel session: Academic support to Ukraine – perspectives and international alignment**

- Mykhailo Vynnytskyi, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine (online)
- Katharina Fegebank, Second Mayor of Hamburg, Senator for Science, Research, Equality and Districts
- Kai Sicks, Secretary General, DAAD
- Giorgio Guazzugli Marini, Deputy Head of Unit International Cooperation, DG Education and Culture, European Commission
- Jonah Murphy-Kokodyniak, Executive Vice President, Programme Development and Partner Services, Institute of International Education
- Shiro Nakata, Senior Economist, Europe & Central Asia, Education Global Practice, World Bank (online)

Moderator: Dr Ursula Paintner, Director Communications, DAAD

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12.30 h Lunch break

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14.00 h

**Breakout sessions (I)**

Starting in plenary with short input statements, followed by 4 parallel discussion rounds

- **Higher Education in Emergencies – national and European protection programmes | Part I**  
 Hilde Kjølsvædt, Senior adviser, HK-dir  
 Larissa Wagner, Head of Section, Section Third Party Funding, DAAD  
 Nina Knops, Senior Desk Officer, DAAD  
 Sebastian Gries, Project Leader EMPM, DAAD  
 Stefan Hase-Bergen, Senior Responsible Officer EMPM, DAAD
- **How to build more equitable partnerships in higher education – a focus on Africa**  
 Huw Davies, Head of Business Development, Global Partnerships and Innovation – Higher Education and Science | Cultural Engagement, British Council
- **Ensuring continued support for the Ukrainian higher education sector**  
 Ursula Paintner, Director Communications, DAAD  
 Maija Airas, Head of Unit for International Higher Education Cooperation, EDUFI Finnish National Agency for Education  
 Piotr Kępski, Director Department Programmes for institutions, NAWA
- **Interagency Steering Group on Higher Education in Humanitarian and Development Contexts | Part I**  
 Manal Stulgaitis, Higher Education Lead, UNHCR

14.45 h

**Breakout sessions (II)**

- **Higher Education in Emergencies – national and European protection programmes | Part II**  
 Hilde Kjølsvædt, Senior adviser, HK-dir  
 Larissa Wagner, Head of Section, Section Third Party Funding, DAAD  
 Nina Knops, Senior Desk Officer, DAAD  
 Sebastian Gries, Project Leader EMPM, DAAD  
 Stefan Hase-Bergen, Senior Responsible Officer EMPM, DAAD
- **From Ivory Tower to Impact - the Third Mission of Higher Education Institutions (HEI) Unveiled. Realistic Contributions Beyond Education and Research in Partner Countries**  
 Dr. Steffen Entenmann, Technical Planner, GIZ  
 Dr. Michael Holländer, Head of Competence Center, GIZ  
 Friederike Hettinger, Managing Director, TUMint  
 Dr. Aline Laucke, Senior Project Manager, TUMint
- **Interagency Steering Group on Higher Education in Humanitarian and Development Contexts | Part II**  
 Manal Stulgaitis, Higher Education Lead, UNHCR
- **Rethinking Erasmus+ cooperation between higher education institutions in Europe and other parts of the world**  
 Claire Herrmann, Policy Officer, European Commission – DG EAC  
 Adrian Veale, Policy Officer, European Commission – DG EAC

15.45 h

Coffee break

16.15 h

**Panel session: Higher education in Emergencies**

- Muhammad Khaskeia, Head of Section, Government Scholarship Programmes Middle East and North Africa, DAAD
- Ghazala M. Syed, Higher Education Senior Advisor, USAID
- Marianna Knirsch, Deputy Head of Section 103 – Education, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
- Kristien Verbrugghen, Director, VLIR-UOS, Belgium
- Manal Stulgaitis, Education Section, Division of Resilience and Solutions, UNHCR

Moderator: Beate Knight, Head of Programmes, the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)

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18.00

**End of Day 2**

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19.00

**Conference dinner - La Brasserie des Alexiens**

*Rue des Alexiens 63, 1000 Bruxelles*

For any inquiries, please check the [event website](#) or contact [sdhgforum2024@daad.de](mailto:sdhgforum2024@daad.de)