

PROGRAMME (DRAFT VERSION 09/2024)

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, Mont des Arts, 1000 Brussels](#)

Open to the *wider public*

13.30 h **Registration**, welcome coffee and networking

14.00 h **Official welcome**
Dr Kai Sicks, Secretary General, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

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

14.30 h **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 (tbc)
- 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 (tbc)

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

16.00 h Coffee break

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 Bormann, University of Tübingen
- European 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 Tuyl, Nuffic

Moderator: Elizabeth Colucci, Director of International Projects, OBREAL

18.00

Poster session and evening reception

hosted by VLIR-UOS

Wednesday, 13 November 2024

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

09.00 h

Opening of Day 2

09.15 h

Interactive breakout sessions (I)

Start in plenary, followed by 4 parallel workshops and/or World Café

10.30 h

Coffee break

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

- Mykhailo Vynnytskyi, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine
- 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 Kokodyniak, Executive Vice President, Programme Development and Partner Services, Institute of International Education
- N.N., World Bank Group

Moderator: Dr Ursula Paintner, Director Communications, DAAD

12.30 h Lunch break

14.00 h **Interactive breakout sessions (II): Regional developments**
Starting in plenary with short input statements, followed by 4 parallel discussion rounds

14.45 h **Breakout sessions (III)**
Option to start new session or to continue the first session (e.g. for longer workshops)

15.45 h Coffee break

16.15 h

Panel discussion: 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)

18.00

End of Day 2

19.00

Conference dinner

Accommodation information

For those attending the S-DHG Forum, a block of rooms has been reserved at the **NH Grand Place Arenberg until 25 September 2024.**

- 11.11.2024: 165.40€/per night
- 12.11.2024: 194.10€/per night

Please book via the following link: [Event-EU VENUE FINDERS 1 \(nh-hotels.com\)](#)

Please note, each guest can book only one room at once.

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