



# Enhancing institutional cooperation: DAAD's Programme „Strategic Partnerships“

**ACA/DAAD/SIU – Internationalisation matters!  
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**DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

# Strategic Partnerships and Thematic Networks

## Programme Line A: Strategic Partnerships

- Cross-disciplinary partnerships
- Encouragement of comprehensive partnerships at the level of HEIs

## Programme Line B: Thematic Networks

- Research-oriented, multilateral networks
- Inclusion of non-university research institutes
- Establishment of competence centres

# Strategic Partnerships and Thematic Networks

Short-term visits  
and guest  
lectures

**Flexible and  
combinable  
funding  
instruments**

Personnel costs  
for coordinating  
or managing the  
partnership

Participation at  
conferences

Workshops

Study and  
research visits

Summer Schools

Exchange of  
Administrative  
Staff

Expenses for  
joint scientific  
publications

Cost of materials  
for advertising,  
presentations,  
etc.

Strategy  
Meetings

# Strategic Partnerships and Thematic Networks

## Programme Goals

Support the strategic internationalisation of German HEIs

Establish competence centres

Enable and foster exchange

Strengthen cooperation between the best researchers  
(build sustainable networks beyond individual contacts)

Identify “best-practice models/partnerships” and factors of success



## Key findings of the evaluation accompanying the first round of projects:

- Positive effects of the programme extend beyond the individual projects and can be observed university-wide
- Adequate cooperation structures have been established
- Success in terms of quantitative performance indicators: Substantial increase of third party funding, publications, exchange and mobility, organised events, qualification works etc.
- Flexibility of the programme allows for the realisation of very different forms of cooperation and goal-setting

# Strategic Partnerships and Thematic Networks

- The programme Strategic Partnerships and Thematic Networks combines both **inclusion** of all types of HEI (classical comprehensive universities, universities of applied science, Schools of Art and Design) as well as **excellence**
- The framework is **highly flexible** (with regard to partner countries, partner institutions, subjects of cooperation, funding measures, goal alignments...)
- The programme allows for the realisation of **innovative and digital teaching and learning concepts**
- The programme helps building up **joint study programmes** (dual degree programmes have been hardly institutionalized though, a longer funding period is recommended)

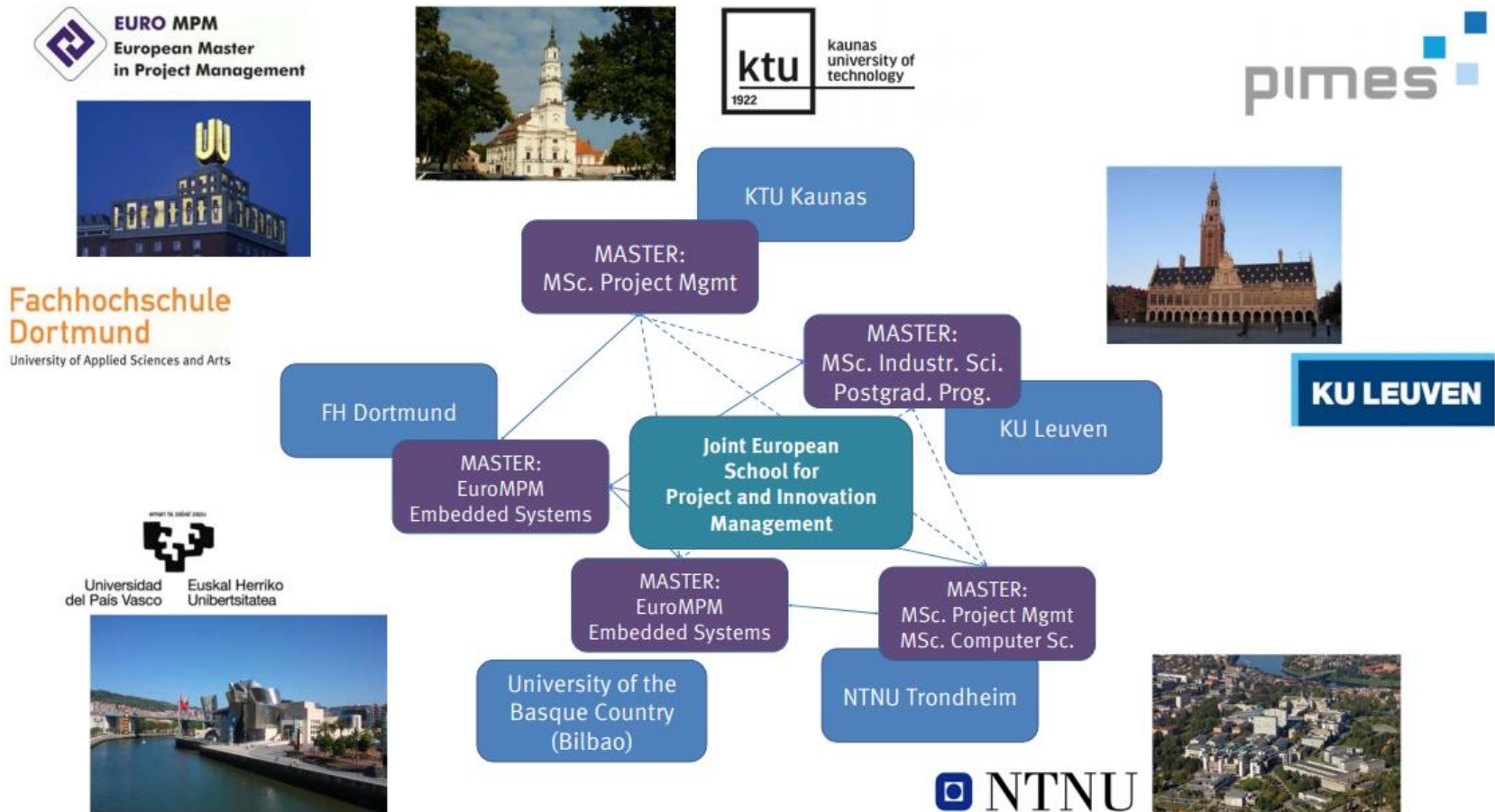


# Example Strategic Partnership: U4 Network





# Example: European Partnership for Project and Innovation Management - EuroPIM



# Strategic Partnerships and Thematic Networks



Dr. Birte Seffert, Coordinator, “Strategic Partnership RWTH – Tsinghua”, RWTH Aachen

- **First:** A relationship to the partner university built on trust, respect and mutual benefit.
- **Second:** Regular – and binding – communication with all stakeholders within the university community; this should include “face-to-face” time.
- **Third:** Willingness to invest time, energy and manpower in advocacy, lobbying, networking and relationship building with the goal of establishing new joint projects or expanding existing projects in an innovative way.



“Our strategic partnership works because the universities in the network have similar profiles but are different enough to inspire and enable collaborative research.”

*Dr. Uwe Muuss, Project Lead, “Strategic Partnership U4 University Network”,  
Universität Göttingen*

# Strategic Partnerships and Thematic Networks

“The key is having highly engaged and open-minded researchers and staff at both locations who are interconnected via a strong network, and who share a common vision. Sufficient resources to realise project goals are essential; and it’s important to allow creative leeway and recognise joint efforts.”

*Nataliya Butych,  
Coordinator “Strategic Partnership with SPbSPU, Russia”, Universität Hannover*



**Anne-Sophie Lohmeier, Coordinator, “AWARE”, TH Ingolstadt**

- *Every university must recognise lasting value in the profile/offering of the partner institution.*
- *Project coordinators with a strong understanding of the partner universities and their cultures is a prerequisite for avoiding misunderstandings and building a collaborative relationship based on trust.*
- *When selecting a partner, attention should be paid to a university’s joint research needs. An important success factor for us was to make sure our focus issues – mobility and sustainability – match up with current social issues and thus have political support.*



# Thank you for your attention!

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For more information:

[www.daad.de/strategische-partnerschaften](http://www.daad.de/strategische-partnerschaften)

Internationalisation Programmes

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