

PROGRAMME (DRAFT VERSION 07/2024)

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 an interactive breakout session of world cafés, where participants can bring their own questions or ideas and co-develop these 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 Bruxelles*

Open to the *wider public*

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

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

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*

14.45 h **Panel session: Team Europe in practice**

- Part 1: Respondents from different member states/other EC DGs/organisations/private sector
- Part 2: Representatives from higher education institutions / international cooperation projects

16.00 h Coffee break

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

- Representative from Africa
- Representative from India/South Asia
- Representative from Brasil/South America
- Representative from ASEAN

17.30 **Poster session and evening reception**
hosted by VLIR-UOS

Wednesday, 13 November 2024

Venue: *SQUARE Brussels, Mont des Arts, 1000 Brussels*

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Katharina Fegebank, Second Mayor of Hamburg, Senator for Science, Research, Equality and Districts▪ Dr Kai Sicks, Secretary General, DAAD▪ Arvid Tuerkner, Managing Director for Ukraine and Moldova, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (tbc)▪ Gert Jan Koopman, Director General, DG NEAR, European Commission (tbc)▪ Anna Nalyvyko, Senior Project officer, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (tbc)▪ Jonah Kokodyniak, Executive Vice President, Institute of International Education 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 in first session (e.g. for longer workshops)

15.45 h Coffee break

16.15 h **Panel: Higher education in Emergencies**

- EFFAL: Empower Future Female Afghan Leaders, BMZ-funded DAAD scholarship programme
- Ghazala M. Syed, Higher Education Senior Advisor, USAID
- Representative of international cooperation organisation, scholarship holder or alumnus/a (*tbd*)

18.00 **End of Day 2**

19.00 **Conference dinner**

For any inquiries, please check the [event website](#) or contact sdhforum2024@daad.de