

Business Scouts for Development

Networking. Investing. Developing.



A strong network

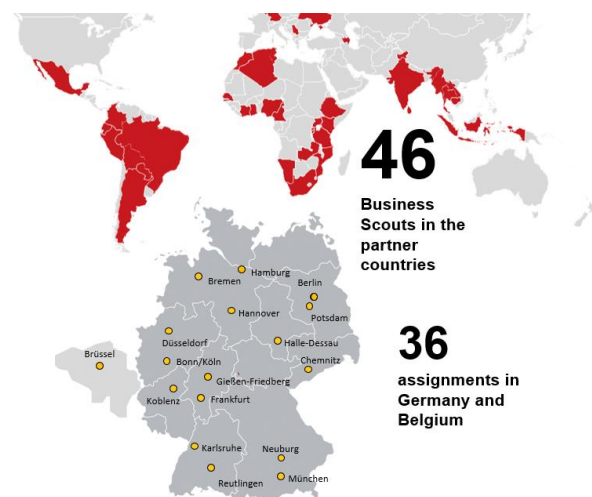
Business Scouts for Development work as development policy experts in around 40 countries across the globe. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ), they advise companies on development policy issues and promote responsible business engagement through cooperation projects. Business Scouts for Development network partners in the formal economy and organisations in the field of vocational training in Germany and in partner countries, and support companies in developing long-term cooperation relationships.

Cooperation partners on an equal footing

Business Scouts operate both in Germany and abroad. In Germany, they advise companies directly via umbrella associations and sectoral associations within the German private sector, Chambers of Trade and Industry (IHKs), Chambers of Skilled Crafts (HWKs), federal state associations and foundations. In partner countries, they are integrated into German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHKs) and Delegations of German Industry and Commerce or German development cooperation (DC) offices. The project is strategically expanding cooperation with private sector stakeholders in Europe.

Project information

Title	Business Scouts for Development
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country	Worldwide in around 40 countries
Overall term	January 2021 to December 2023



As a well-established network of experts within private sector institutions and associations in Germany and in AHKs and development cooperation country offices abroad, Business Scouts fulfil a **unique liaison function**. They are familiar with the issues and needs of the private sector and with local conditions and regulatory requirements in partner countries. They are also networked directly with German DC in the partner countries, creating a win-win situation for both DC and the private sector.

The comprehensive range of advisory services and local know-how that Business Scouts can offer enables **companies** to gain access to new markets and DC financing instruments and provide specialist support in developing and implementing projects.

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Development cooperation benefits from private sector investment in developing countries and emerging economies, contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda – ensuring employment and sustainable supply chains, helping companies fulfil their duty of care, climate change mitigation and resource conservation, digital development, etc. – in partner countries.

Flexible and digital implementation

The project structure is adaptable, and the cooperation network develops innovative approaches, rapidly identifying, integrating and implementing new thematic areas in cooperation with the private sector.

To provide targeted support for improving living conditions in partner countries, a central element of the project is to create new cooperation projects and implement them locally.

Business Scouts' current thematic priorities are in the following areas:

- **Climate change**
- **Energy, environment and water**
- **Sustainable supply chain management**
- **Digitalisation**

The **trade fair component** of the Business Scouts for Development also supports exhibitors in developing countries and emerging economies to prepare professionally for trade fairs, facilitating their market entry in Europe and access to international supply chains.

As a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has digitalised its information, advisory and training provision and relies increasingly on digital platforms. Interested companies are increasingly able to explore the scope for cooperation through Business Scouts for development online via the **matchmaking platform** www.leverist.de.

An alliance for sustainable development

Their involvement in umbrella organisations, sectoral associations and Chambers of Trade and Industry both in Germany and abroad means that the Business Scouts are directly integrated into the formal economy and offer businesses a single point of contact in all countries where they are active. This facilitates mutual access between the private sector and development cooperation, creating a strong alliance for sustainable development.

What we achieved in 2020...

- In 2020, Business Scouts initiated **300 business partnerships with companies**.
- **4,500 representatives of German companies** took part in a range of **event formats and networking activities**.
- With the support of the programme, a total of **130 advisory service and other service provision arrangements were established within the network of AHKs**, with more than 2,000 companies making use of these arrangements in 2020.
- And Business Scouts conducted more than **3,300 advisory interviews** with private sector stakeholders in **37 countries around the world**.

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Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
T+49 61 96 79-0
F+49 61 96 79-11 15
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Programme:
Business Scouts for Development

Responsible person:
Roland Gross

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On behalf of the German Ministry for Economic
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Division 110: Cooperation with the private sector; sustainable economic
policy

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On behalf of



**Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development**