



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



HRK German Rectors' Conference  
The Voice of the Universities



DIES FORUM 2023

# University Alliances and Networks Cooperation and Collaboration for the Development of Higher Education Institutions

ONLINE EVENT  
28 NOVEMBER, 5 AND 12 DECEMBER  
HOSTED BY UNIVERSITY OF POTSDAM

## Call for Proposals

DEADLINE: 27 SEPTEMBER 2023

### INTRODUCTION

**The DIES Forum** is meant to bring together alumni from DIES training courses and DIES National Multiplication Trainings to share views and perspectives on current developments in higher education institutions as well as to exchange practices and discuss pressing issues in the dynamic field of higher education management from an inter-regional perspective.

The Forum will be hosted by the University of Potsdam and carried out in cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Rectors' Conference (HRK), and the European partner institutions who are implementing training courses in the DIES Programme, i.e. Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Leibniz University Hannover, Saarland University together with University of Alicante, University of Applied Sciences Osnabrück together with Centre for Higher Education, and University of Cologne.

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Alumni from Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia will be invited to join this event, making it a unique opportunity to exchange between different higher education areas and world regions.

The DIES Forum 2023 will offer three events, each connected to the main theme. It will be held live over **Zoom** on **November 28, December 5 and 12**. (about 2.5 hours per day).

### MAIN THEME OF DIES FORUM 2023

Cooperation and collaboration among higher education institutions has been increasing in the recent decades. This can be seen also in the areas of higher education management where cooperation and collaboration for organisational development or on specific topics such as sustainability, are growing and even core services are offered collaboratively (e.g., in teaching). Universities have formed partnerships, consortia, and alliances, as well as various networks and projects. The range of cooperation and collaboration varies from local, national, intra-regional to inter-regional and is organised both informally and formally. The DIES Forum 2023 wants to explore these approaches and their impact on institutional and systemic development and innovation.

- How are these cooperative or collaborative approaches organised and managed?
- What hinders the cooperation and collaboration? What are the challenges and how can they possibly be overcome?
- What benefits do the cooperative and collaborative approaches bring and what must be taken into consideration?

To explore answers to these and further arising questions, alumni of the DIES courses and DIES National Multiplication Trainings are invited to hand in proposals which can be a case study, research in this field or discussion starters (see below).

The Forum will provide opportunities to share and discuss the potential benefits for development drawn from the institutional collaboration and network experiences, as well as to address any outstanding issues arising.

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Alumni from all fields of higher education management are invited to contribute to the Forum. The Forum is an excellent opportunity to present strategies and practices in higher education management, share ideas and obtain feedback from peers and stakeholders on topics that are of interest to you.

There are three types of proposals: **(1) proposal for case presentations, (2) proposal for research presentations and (3) proposal for discussion starters**. Deadline for submission of proposals is **27 September 2023, 18.00 CET**. **The selected cases, research presentations and discussion starters will be presented at the sessions on 5 and 12 December.**

#### 1. Proposal for Case Presentations

Alumni are invited to submit a case related to the main theme:

- a) Cases should focus on cooperation or collaboration among higher education institutions (e.g. alliances, networks, projects) in the country, the region or beyond in the field(s) of teaching and

learning, research, governance, quality assurance and/or internationalisation, analysing the success factors, challenges encountered, possible failures and lessons learnt.

- b) Cases can also focus on cooperation or collaboration that have been built among DIES alumni/NMT alumni, analysing their contributions to higher education management as well as challenges and success factors.

Case presentations should go beyond the mere narrative nature of activities. The Cases should address consequences and institutional development arising from these activities. They should include an analytical perspective and address possible transferability to other contexts.

## 2. Proposal for Research Presentations

Proposals presenting research on university cooperation or collaboration in the area of higher education institutional development are also very much welcome. They can be in the field(s) of teaching and learning, research, governance, quality assurance and/or internationalisation. They should clearly outline the research question(s), the applied method(s) to answer these and present the results focusing on the transferability for practice, possibly beyond the original scope.

## 3. Proposal for Discussion Starters

Alumni are invited to submit proposals for discussion starters. These short contributions will provide an opportunity to present a specific topic, a question, an issue or innovative idea in the area of management of higher education institutions. The discussion starter does not have to be on institutional level but can address any level such as faculty, department or even seminar level.

The proposals for Discussion Starters do not need to address the main theme of the 2023 Forum. All cases for discussion are welcome as long as they are addressing current issues in **higher education management**. The aim of the session is to promote knowledge sharing and discussion among alumni across different continents and fields.

## General Submission Guidelines for Proposals

Proposals for the Forum should

- be written in English
- identify the presenter(s) including the institution(s), position(s) and e-mail address(es)
- have a maximum of 800 words for case and research proposals including an abstract of up to 200 words
- have a maximum of 200 words for discussion starters

## APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

All proposals need to be submitted to the organiser of the Forum as a PDF file via <https://www.dies-nmt.org/s/Forum23/en.html> (The application platform is active from 30 August on). The submission deadline is **27 September 2023, 18:00 CET**. The proposals will be reviewed by the Programme Committee of the DIES Forum which includes representatives from the University of Potsdam, the DAAD and the HRK as well as the participating DIES training courses. Notification of acceptance will be communicated in October 2023.

## Review Criteria

Case and Research Presentations	Discussion Starters
The proposed case or research is relevant to the main theme of the Forum and has an analytical perspective for cases and sound research methods for research proposals.	The proposed discussion starter is relevant to higher education management.
The structure and writing of the proposal are focused, coherent and understandable.	The proposed discussion starter provides a perspective that will be of interest to the participants.
The transferability and/or measures for sustainability is/are considered.	

## IMPORTANT DATES

Event	Date
Deadline for submission of proposals	27 September 2023
Notification of acceptance	October 2023
Forum registration	6 to 25 November (tentative) 2023
Forum dates	28 November, 5 and 12 December 2023

**For questions, please contact [nmt@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:nmt@uni-potsdam.de). We look forward to receiving your inspiring proposals!**