



GIZ An innovative partner for the global challenges of tomorrow

The wide range of services offered by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH are based on a wealth of regional and technical expertise and on tried and tested management know-how. We are a German federal enterprise and offer workable, sustainable and effective solutions in political, economic and social change processes. Most of our work is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). However, GIZ also operates on behalf of other German ministries and public and private bodies in Germany and abroad. We are equally committed to helping our clients in the private sector attain their goals.

Facts and figures

GIZ operates throughout Germany and in more than 130 countries worldwide. Our registered offices are in Bonn and Eschborn. We have more than 17,000 staff members around the globe, some 70% of whom are employed locally as national personnel. GIZ's business volume was about EUR 2 billion as at 31 December 2011.

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Open Regional Funds for South-East Europe New ways for Regional Cooperation

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german
cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

REGIONAL COOPERATION FOSTERS RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE EU

The countries of South-East Europe share the common goal of joining the European Union. With their pre-war and socialist past these countries are facing a similar set of problems. The EU has therefore made regional cooperation between the South-East European states a precondition for their integration into the Union. For that reason it is crucial to understand regional cooperation as a key factor for the countries of the region to master the challenges of EU approximation. Furthermore, mutual support and exchange of experiences through regional mechanisms of cooperation are effective tools to foster the challenging process of integration.

A FLEXIBLE INSTRUMENT FOR A DYNAMIC REGION

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Open Regional Funds for South-East Europe have been established in January 2007. Through these funds, GIZ supplements the successful bilateral work that has been implemented in South-East Europe over the last 20 years.

With the Open Regional Funds, we take these success stories to a regional level. They aim to build the capacities and to support EU integration of the South-East European countries through regional projects. As a flexible advisory instrument, they initiate and promote sustainable regional cooperation. The GIZ acts as a facilitator and moderator. It advises partners in project development, technical issues and project management by providing services such as network building, knowledge management and training to enhance successful cooperation in dealing with the challenges of regional integration. Project partners in the region benefit from these services, while on the other hand they are invited to develop and suggest their ideas for projects to be implemented through the Open Regional Funds.



JOINT IDEAS BECOME JOINT PROJECTS

Our partners from public and private organisations as well as from civil society of the countries of South-East Europe – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and to some extent also Bulgaria and Romania – work with the Open Regional Funds to identify thematic issues of relevance to EU integration within four sectors. A fifth module supports the sector ORF through measures for the development and management of networks and strengthens the joint focus on EU integration. The ‘value added’ that an idea offers for the region provides the starting point for joint project development.

As a precondition, the project must:

- involve at least three countries and support EU harmonisation: by providing support for the Stabilisation and Association Process, or by implementing the Acquis Communautaire
- contribute to the objectives of one of the four ORF sectors in focus

A simplified proposal process has created an innovative, flexible instrument which bases on the shared initiatives of the partners. Project development and implementation take place in regional networks – even in places where no strong regional organisations exist.

→ FOREIGN TRADE PROMOTION

Strengthening regional cooperation to improve the framework for competitiveness and free movement of goods in South-East Europe.

→ MODERNISATION OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Enhancing regional cooperation among municipalities and municipal associations for a better management of municipal services and public utilities.

→ ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Supporting regional networks and initiatives which have an impact on reform proceedings towards increasing implementation of energy efficiency technologies.

→ LEGAL REFORM

Supporting the regional cooperation in the reform of economic law by exchange of experience, identification of needs for harmonisation and strengthening implementation.

INVITATION TO COOPERATE

In addition, the Open Regional Funds are open to the involvement of other donors who share a common desire to encourage regional cooperation in South-East Europe.

The flexibility in their application process as well as in their modalities for implementation, offers various entry points for initiatives of other donors and thus paves the way for harmonised development approaches. GIZ offers a network of fully serviced office and project structures as well as highly professional experts and technical staff in each country of the region.

We can therefore contribute all means necessary to secure a successful and efficient project implementation. In this way the Open Regional Funds turn joint efforts into a joint success.

