



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



# Call for Applications

## for the international Alumni conference

### Development Cooperation in Times of Multiple Crisis

Oct. 16 – 20, 2023

The Institute of Development Research and Development Policy (IEE) of Ruhr University Bochum (RUB) is organising an international Alumni conference titled “**Development Cooperation in Times of Multiple Crisis**”, which will take place in Bochum (Germany) from **16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**.

The conference is a collaboration between the MA in Development Management (MADM; IEE), the MA in International and Development Economics (MIDE; HTW Berlin), the Small Enterprise Promotion and Training Programme (SEPT; University of Leipzig), the MA in Development and Governance (Institute of Political Science (IfP)) and the MA in International Relations and Development Policy (Institute for Development and Peace (INEF)); both University of Duisburg-Essen.

#### The conference topic

The four-day conference at RUB debates a topic that currently occupies a large space in the development policy discourse. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, there has been widespread discussion about the effects of the pandemic on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). After the beginning of the Russian war against Ukraine and its resulting global consequences, negative effects on the realization of sustainable development have been exacerbated, not least with regard to absolute poverty (SDG 1) and food security (SDG 2). The concurrence of such multiple crises aggravates trends that have been discussed in development politics during recent years:

- It accelerates the contouring of a multipolar world, intensifies competition between different systems and thus the legitimation pressure for development projects which aims include the promotion of democracy, human rights and civil society,
- it disturbs or disrupts supply chains, reinforces inflation not only in the provision of energy and poses particular challenges for the private sector in developing countries,
- it leads to a financial burden for public budgets, which manifests itself in budget reallocations in donor countries to the detriment of the promotion of international cooperation and in recipient countries to the detriment of expenditure on services of general interest, and
- it is particularly drastic in those developing countries whose food production and food security are dependent on fertilizer and/or food imports.

The conference aims at further discussing these trends with international experts, Alumni and current members of the cooperating Master programmes. Keynote speeches, a panel discussion, and interactive workshops (topics listed below) will provide extensive room for exchange and mutual



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learning. In each workshop, the participants conjointly reflect on the implications of multiple crises on the current state of development cooperation based on selected participant pitches.

In addition to professional training, the conference offers participating Alumni a platform for establishing and expanding networks with experts, practitioners, and scientists that they can use in the context of their professional activities. The conference ends with a "Networking & Career Day", offering room for further networking with other Alumni and current students of the cooperating master programmes.

### **Submission of applications:**

This call addresses particularly Alumni of the programmes MA in Development Management (MADM), MA in International and Development Economics (MIDE), Small Enterprise Promotion and Training Programme (SEPT), MA in Development and Governance (IfP), and MA in International Relations and Development Policy (INEF). Other practitioners, e.g. Alumni from other MA programmes of the AGEP network, are warmly invited to submit their participation application, too but cannot receive funding for their participation.

IEE and its collaboration partners invite Alumni practitioners for submitting their applications, which are related to one of the four workshop topics below:

- 1) The support of Democracy, Human Rights and Civil Society in Times of Multiple Crises
- 2) Private Sector Development in Times of Multiple Crises
- 3) International Economic Cooperation in Times of Multiple Crises
- 4) Poverty Reduction and Food Security in Times of Multiple Crises

**For submitting your application, please complete the application form and submit it together with the other required documents as listed below via E-mail to Dr. Gabriele Bäcker ([iee-conference@rub.de](mailto:iee-conference@rub.de)) by 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2023.**



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### Each submission shall contain:

- The **application form** (mandatory, an Acrobat reader is required to complete the form which you can download from <https://www.adobe.com/acrobat/pdf-reader.html>). As part of the information given in the application form it is required to indicate, which **workshop** from the list above is of specific interest for you, based on your professional experience.
- **A letter of motivation** (mandatory; max. 400 words): Please describe your professional affiliation and role. Do you experience effects of multiple crises in your work? If yes, how is your work affected? What are your expectations on the conference discussions in relation to your work challenges?
- **A short report of 3-5 pages** (optional; applicants submitting a report are treated preferentially in the selection of participants): In each workshop, the participants conjointly reflect on the implications of multiple crises on the current state of development cooperation in a specific field. Alumni's reports related to their own professional experience thereby serve as a valuable resource to engage in fruitful discussions with other practitioners and to get inspiring insights for future professional endeavours. Applicants are therefore requested to choose **one** of the four workshop topics and draft their report according to the instructions below.

### Instructions for report preparation:

Global relations and development cooperation with them have been changing drastically during the last years and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is at risk due to recent global developments such as the COVID-19 crisis and the Russian war against Ukraine. This leads to a debate around trends in and requirements for development cooperation that is often conducted from a donor's perspective. To expand this debate and allow for mutual knowledge transfer, the workshops during the conference aim at focusing on the expertise of our Alumni to include the perspective of actors working on the ground in development policy contexts. To contribute to the discussion with your expertise, please provide a report along the lines of the following guiding questions:

- 1) In your field of work and based on your professional experience, did you experience changes during the last years which are related to the above described situation of multiple crisis. Please link your writing to one of the workshop topics: (1) Democracy, Human Rights and Civil Society, (2) private sector development, (3) international economic cooperation or (4) poverty reduction and food security?
- 2) What has changed: Please describe this in more detail and elaborate resulting challenges for your / your organisation's work.
- 3) How do you / does your organization deal with these challenges? What are open questions you would like to discuss?

The report is to be kept short but precise to the extent of **three to five pages**. The workshop organisers will select a small number of reports per workshop as a discussion base. The authors are asked to present their report in the brief format of a **five-minute pitch** during the corresponding workshop. The pitch summarizes the changes, resulting challenges and responses as stated in the report and covers at most three Power Point slides. Deadline for sending the Power Point slides and



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Master's in International and Development Economics



small enterprise promotion + training



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Graduate Centre for  
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– if appropriate - a finalized version of the report which will be shared with the workshop participants is **01<sup>st</sup> of October 2023**.

Please state in your application if you would like to present your ideas and be prepared for communication with the workshop facilitators. Applicants, who are willing to present a pitch will be treated preferentially.

**In order to facilitate a flawless organisation of your conference participation, please use consistently one E-mail-address for communicating with the conference team.**

### **Invitation to the Conference:**

Participants will be selected for the respective workshops by a board of reviewers of the partner institutions based on the submitted applications. Selected participants will receive an invitation to the conference by the 07<sup>th</sup> of July 2023.

### **Costs and Funding:**

The conference is financed by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with funds of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Foreign Office (AA).

No conference fee is charged. Invited participants who are international Alumni of the cooperating institutions will receive funding for their flight to the conference, visa fees, and for accommodation during the conference.

### **Further Information and Contact Details:**

Please find up-to-date information about the conference on the website of the IEE ([www.development-research.org](http://www.development-research.org)). If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via the address [iee-conference@rub.de](mailto:iee-conference@rub.de).

