

Funding Offer for Promoting the Development Engagement of Diaspora Organisations

Diaspora Small Scale Project Fund

An offer of the programme „Centres for Migration and Development“ (ZME) in cooperation with the programme „Shaping development-oriented migration“ (MEG)

Special call for proposals: Support for regular training and labour migration to Germany, the EU and within the region

Information on the Call for Proposals

This call is aimed at diaspora organisations¹ in Germany that contribute to promoting the employability of interested skilled workers from their countries of origin through small projects with their local partner organisations.

This call for proposals was initiated by the global programme "Centres for Migration and Development" (ZME). Through this initiative, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), supports people along the entire migration cycle: in regular labour and training migration, regional migration, voluntary return, and socio-economic reintegration. The Centres for Migration and Development serve as advice centres for people who wish to migrate regularly to Germany, Europe or within their region in order to work or train outside their country. The counselling should enable them to make informed and conscious decisions about migration.

This call for proposals focuses on the implementation of small-scale projects in the area of regular and regional training and labour migration to Germany, the EU and within the region. The aim is to promote innovative diaspora projects within the mandate and objectives of the ZME. The aim is to provide authentic insights into everyday migration and professional integration in Germany and the EU and to offer guidance to potential migrants. Diaspora organisations play a central role in this and serve as bridge-builders between the countries of origin and the German and EU private sector.

The following information provides an initial overview of the general requirements, the eligibility criteria and the application process. This information is used to guide you for the outline phase. You will receive further information should you enter the next application phase.

This document contains information on the funding offer for projects with a funding amount of **up to 49,500 EUR**. We encourage you to also submit project ideas with smaller funding amounts, as these are generally easier to manage.

¹ Associations whose board and/or membership consists of at least 50 % people with a history of migration.

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Partner Countries

Projects can only be funded in the following **7 countries**:

- *Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Pakistan, and Tunisia.*

It is also possible to apply for a **regional project**². This means that a project may be implemented in one of the seven countries mentioned above as well as in its regional context – for example, in neighboring or geographically proximate countries. Please specify the country or countries selected for cooperation and indicate in the project proposal that it is a “Regional Project.” The selection criteria for regional projects are identical.

Please note that only preparatory or supporting measures may be carried out in Germany.

Diaspora Organisation

We can only support diaspora organisations,

- whose members consist of at least 50% of persons with a history of migration and/or whose Board of Management consists of at least 50% of persons with a history of migration from countries of the Global South,
- which are legally registered in Germany as legal entities (especially in the form of registered associations, foundations or similar),
- who can prove their non-profit status (exemption or declaratory decision, statutes), and
- that ensure the submitted project is not a replication or continuation of a previous or ongoing project. It must be clearly demonstrated how the project differs from previous or current projects.

Partner Organisation

- In the partner country, collaboration with a local partner organisation (PO) is mandatory. This ensures that developments initiated by the project are sustainably embedded in the local context.
- It is important that the project is planned and implemented jointly with the partner organisation. As a funding programme, we expect a partnership based on equality, starting with the project planning phase.
- It must be clear that the partner organisation acts as a legal entity and under the applicable law as a non-profit or charitable organisation.
- Partner organisations may also include governmental institutions (such as ministries or subordinate authorities) that are active in the field of regular (labour) migration.

Project Structure

- According to the current planning status, projects under this call may begin no earlier than December 1, 2025, and may run until November 30, 2026, for a maximum duration of 12 months. Please note that these dates are subject to change based on internal GIZ procedures.
- The project goals must be achieved within the approved funding period.
- The project should not be implemented by individuals, but by a project team of several members of your association. The project team should have appropriate experience and qualifications.

- The contractual partner for GIZ is the diaspora organisation in Germany. This diaspora organisation is legally responsible for the content, administrative and financial management of the project during the contract period. However, the involvement of the local partner organisation must be an integral part of the project planning and implementation.

Project Focus and Scope

Only projects that contribute to regular and regional labour and training migration can be supported.

The following project activities can be funded:

- **Awareness-raising measures** about the opportunities and requirements of regular and regional migration (e.g. sector-specific information campaigns, counselling services, networking events).
- **Training measures** for different target groups, tailored to in-demand professional profiles, to support access to the German or European labour and training market – for example, through practical training, application preparation, intercultural skills development, and employability support – where appropriate, in cooperation with the private sector.
- **Activities to initiate partnerships** between German companies or companies in other EU countries and relevant education or labour market stakeholders in the country of origin – for example, through diaspora-led cooperation with local partners, training centres, employers or chambers to promote skills development. Involvement of diaspora actors as employers or business stakeholders is also possible – for example, through training activities, company visits, or internships.
- **Activities to strengthen capacities** of national institutions in the area of regular labour and training migration and to expand networks through the involvement of diaspora representatives.
- **Measures to sustainably anchor and spread knowledge** among national partner organisations (e.g. development of guidance materials, establishment of advisory networks, or digital platforms).

The following projects are not eligible for funding:

- Projects aimed exclusively at humanitarian aid (e.g., short-term emergency assistance in crisis situations, transport of aid supplies, etc.)
- Projects aiming solely at infrastructure and/or construction
- Projects where it is not clear how ongoing costs will be covered after the funding ends
- Projects that consist of transporting donations in kind from Germany to the partner country
- Projects that aim to pay off loans
- Projects concerning the police or military sector
- Projects whose main goal is the representation and contact of German institutions

Application and selection procedure

We would like to point out that the funding slots available under this call for proposals are limited, and the submitted ideas will be in strong competition with each other. This means that even if all content-related criteria are met, your project idea may not be selected.

The application process is divided into two phases.

Phase 1 (outline phase)

- In the outline phase, you have the opportunity to present your project idea in writing.
- Please use only the attached excel document (Z25_**Name Ihres Vereins**_Projektskizze) for submitting the project outline. Please save the document with your organisation's name and as an excel file.
- You can fill out the document in either German or English.
- If you have any questions regarding our funding offer, we invite you to our digital consultation hours, where we will answer general questions³:
 - Tuesday, 24th of June 2025, 5.00-6.30pm (German, CEST). Please click here to join the meeting: [Join the meeting in German](#)
 - Thursday, 26th of June 2025, 5.00-6.30pm (English, CEST). Please click here to join the meeting: [Join the meeting in English](#)
- The project outlines can be submitted via email to diaspora-organisation@giz.de by 15.07.2025 (23:59 CEST). Submissions after the deadline will not be considered.
- The submitted project outlines will be evaluated by GIZ according to the evaluation criteria of the first selection phase (see following section).
- You will be informed by the end of July 2025 at the latest whether your project idea has been selected for the second phase of the application process.

Phase 2 (Full proposal phase)

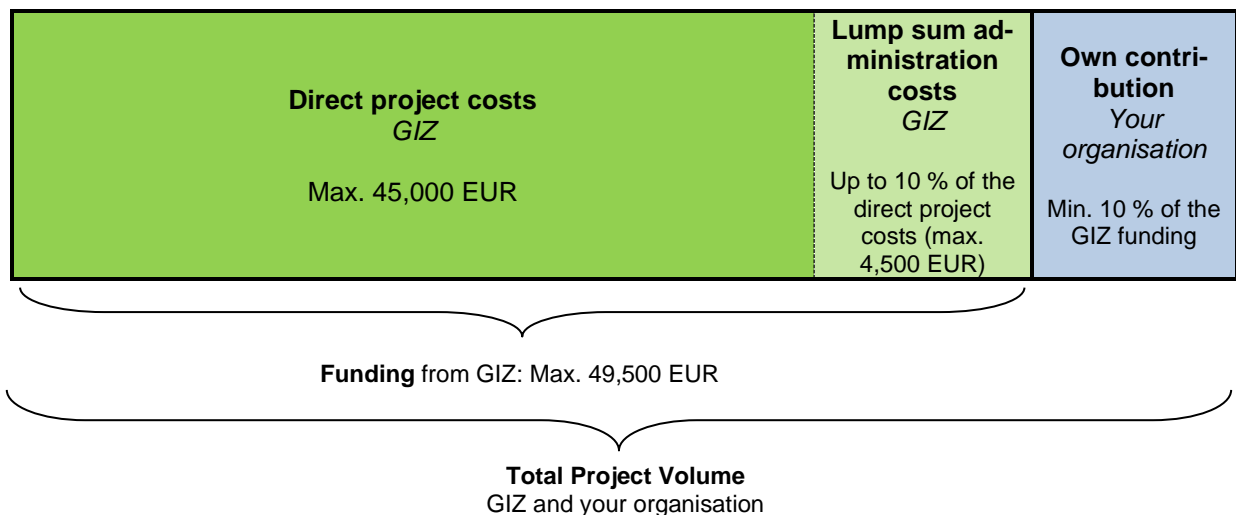
- If you successfully pass the first phase, you will be invited to submit a full application. This full application consists of a project proposal and a financial plan (budget plan), which must be submitted by 15.09.2025.
- As part of the full application phase, we are planning bilateral exchanges with you and your partner organisation, which are expected to take place at the end of July and in August 2025.
- We are also planning **a mandatory online webinar** for the preparation of the full application. Please make a note of the following dates in case your outline is selected. The online webinar is expected to take place from 5.00-8.00pm (CEST) on
 - Tuesday, 19th of August 2025 and
 - Thursday, 21st of August 2025.
- Please note that the following documents must be provided until 01.09.2025 at the latest; otherwise, we cannot offer funding:
 - current excerpt from the register of associations (not older than 2 years),
 - the statutes of the association,
 - the current notice of exemption (if applicable, notice of assessment for newly founded organisations),
 - proof of the legal constitution of the partner organisation.

³ In case of further questions, we offer additional individual consultations to prepare the project outline. You can request an appointment via diaspora-organisation@giz.de.

- The full application you submit will then be evaluated once more. Please be aware that the invitation to submit the full application does not constitute a funding commitment.

Financial framework of the funding offer

Overview: composition of the project budget



- The maximum funding for direct project costs by GIZ is 45,000 EUR.
- In addition to this amount, administrative costs can be covered as a lump sum of maximal 10% (4,500 EUR) of the direct project costs. This lump sum covers all administrative costs such as office supplies, rent, postage, telephone, internet, etc.
- **The total maximum funding amount by GIZ is thus 49,500 Euros.**
- In the case of funding, the diaspora organisation must make a financial contribution of at least 10% of the total funding amount (direct project costs + administrative costs). This may also consist of valorised voluntary work (= expense allowance) or third-party funds. Third-party funds may not come directly or indirectly from BMZ funding.
- All expenses must be documented by (original) receipts and must be able to be presented at a financial audit.
- **Please note that we can also fund projects that require a smaller amount of funding. We thus encourage you to also apply for a smaller project, which is easier to manage.**

Content selection criteria – Phase 1 (outline phase)

Only projects can be selected that:

- Contribute to regular and regional labour and training migration,
- Ensure a "do no harm" approach⁴.

The **project outlines** (= Phase 1) will also be evaluated based on the following content-related criteria:

Background and Relevance

- Describe the social, political, and economic context that makes the project necessary, and clearly demonstrate why it is relevant.
- The projects must fit into the local context and adopt a culturally sensitive approach.

Contribution to regional and fair regional migration

- In line with the thematic focus of this call for proposals, projects will be evaluated positively if they
 - contribute to regular and fair regional migration,
 - provide expertise on sought-after occupations and strengthen the international employability of skilled workers in partner countries,
 - already have relevant established networks with skilled workers from Germany, the EU and their countries of origin and in the region, and/or
 - contribute to strengthening development cooperation with the private sector in the field of regular migration.

Target groups, project goals and outcomes, activities

- The project outline must clearly explain how objectives, activities, target groups and knowledge exchange are related.
- It should be communicated in a simple manner what positive changes the project will initiate for the participants and target groups. It is also important to clearly explain how the planned activities will achieve these changes.

Sustainability

- Project ideas that demonstrate a medium- to long-term perspective will be positively evaluated. This means there should be a plan for what will happen after the project duration ends.

Equal rights and participation

- Project ideas that consider aspects of inclusion and the protection of particularly vulnerable groups are rated positively - especially with regard to gender equality, the participation of young people, people with disabilities and other disadvantaged or marginalised groups (safeguarding).

⁴ The "do no harm" principle states that unintended and undesirable consequences of development cooperation should be identified, avoided, and mitigated early on. Especially when projects operate in crisis situations, they must be designed to be "conflict sensitive."

Local integration on site

- The projects should
 - build on and integrate existing local structures. Relevant structures are e.g.: State institutions (ministries, subordinate authorities such as employment agencies), private sector actors, other GIZ projects, Federal Employment Agency, Chamber of Commerce Abroad, Goethe-Institut, etc.
 - be based on a specific need identified by state actors, civil society, academia and/or the target group.
 - be developed in close cooperation with the partner organization.
- It is considered particularly positive if there has already been contact and/or cooperation between the diaspora organisation and the partner organisation or target group in the country of origin.

You will receive information on the selection criteria for the 2nd phase if your project idea is selected.