



**TRILATERAL
COOPERATION
BERLIN
MAPUTO
RIO DE JANEIRO**

IMPRINT

Seminar für Ländliche Entwicklung (SLE)
Hessische Str. 1-2
10115 Berlin, Germany

Responsible:
Dr. Karin Fiege

Editorial staff
Ute Zurmühl

Pictures:
Seminar für Ländliche Entwicklung (SLE)

Cooperation between the three universities is
co-funded by:
German Academic Exchange Service.



INTRODUCTION

Climate change adaptation, food security, disaster prevention, rural development, natural resource protection – the global community is searching for strategies and instruments that will guarantee both dignified and viable development for the future. There is no blueprint. Young specialists and managers have to learn how to create context-specific solutions to the challenges facing society. Universities are called upon here to take centre stage.

The degree courses in Berlin, Maputo and Rio de Janeiro offer the qualifications sorely needed for this scenario. Trilateral cooperation presents an outstanding opportunity to cultivate global learning and knowledge exchange across three continents.

CENTRE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

WHAT DOES SLE OFFER?

Germany is a key actor in the field of development cooperation and employs numerous experts in the sector. SLE (Centre for Rural Development) at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin trains postgraduates in cooperation (SLE STUDIES), offers training courses to international specialists and managers (SLE TRAINING), advises institutions on curriculum development and conducts practice-oriented research (SLE RESEARCH and CONSULTANCY). It has gained comprehensive international expertise and designed an array of instruments and methods shown to be effective in the field.

Trilateral cooperation between universities in Berlin (Humboldt-Universität), Maputo (University of Eduardo Mondlane - UEM) and Rio de Janeiro (Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro - UFRRJ) is one of the core projects of curriculum development and knowledge exchange in the area of sustainable rural development and development process management.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SLE PROGRAMME

University graduates with sound professional knowledge often lack the know-how to put their technical expertise into practice. SLE functions here as a stepping-stone. It presents, applies and reflects on strategies, instruments and methods relevant to the field of development cooperation. The acquired skills are then tested in practice during studies abroad commissioned by a development organization. The interdisciplinary composition of the groups at SLE encourages students to adopt new perspectives. Small groups allow for a focused learning atmosphere in which discovery learning, personal feedback, supervision and team work play a crucial role. All SLE lecturers without exception are active in the field of development cooperation.

SLE - HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN





MASTER'S DEGREE IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

WHAT DOES MSG OFFER?

Mozambique has enjoyed rapid economic development in recent years and a vast number of international organizations are active there. The country needs professionals who are in a position to plan development processes at several levels and to channel and assess them. The master's degree in Rural Sociology and Development Management (MSG) at the Eduardo Mondlane University qualifies professionals to manage development programmes. It focuses on the theory and practice of rural sociology and on the application of empirical social research and development management tools. Project planning and monitoring capacities, as well as communication and conflict resolution skills empower postgraduate students to manage the professional challenges that arise in the complex reality of the rural areas.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MSG PROGRAMME

The master's degree in Rural Sociology and Development Management is a study course for staff members of state and non-state organizations in parallel with work. Case studies, role playing and team work are some of the techniques that enable participants to bring their own experiences to bear and link them to fresh content. Training is based on work in multidisciplinary groups that correspond to the requirements of complex problems in rural zones. Applied research is organized in cooperation with national organizations, bilateral and international programmes and projects. To enhance practical aspects, teachers from various professional areas are involved in the MSG programme. A master's degree course in development sociology is currently in the process of being established, leading to a further academic career. A doctorate programme is likewise in progress.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES

WHAT DOES PDS OFFER?

Brazil has a high demand for professionals with a sound knowledge of sustainable development. The master's degree in Sustainable Development Practices (PDS) at the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ) provides precisely the knowledge and practical skills required to understand and manage the multi-dimensional challenges in this area, including poverty, public health, conservation, climate change and agricultural productivity.

PDS is part of the "Global Association of Masters in Development Practice Programs", which is offered at universities in several countries around the world and involves collaboration with numerous organizations.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PDS PROGRAMME

The core of the master's programme is its interdisciplinary approach. Compulsory disciplines alternate with optional courses, providing aspiring practitioners with a solid theoretical and practical basis that enables them to understand the complexities of sustainable development.

The "Global Classroom" web-based course on Foundations of Sustainable Development Practice fosters cross-disciplinary collaboration and allows students and teachers around the world to share collective assignments and learning experiences. Taken up after completion of the first academic year for a period of up to three months, these hands on field training sessions give students the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of integrated development approaches in a real-world context.

Methodology seminars prepare students for their practice-oriented research projects. The master's degree course concludes with a thesis based on a research report.

PDS - FEDERAL RURAL UNIVERSITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO





COOPERATION IN PRACTICE

COOPERATION IN PRACTICE

Setting up the master's degree programme at the Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique was the first phase in the transfer and adaptation of a large section of the SLE curriculum to another context and new target groups. The focus of the second phase of cooperation between the two universities is on designing and testing avenues of specialization: environment, resource governance, disaster prevention, development management and food security are topics to be dealt with more thoroughly in the master's degree course. Within the confines of the recently established trilateral cooperation with the SLE (Berlin), MSG (Maputo) and PDS (Rio de Janeiro) are supporting the introduction of these avenues of specialization and the creation of a doctorate programme.

PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Establishment of specialized areas to cover the national demand for professional and managerial staff
- Development of a monitoring system and improved training assessment
- Extension of the capacity for application-based studies through advanced supervisor training
- Expansion of university partnerships
- Creation of an alumni network

AREAS OF COOPERATION

ACTION AND DECISION-ORIENTED STUDIES

SLE has for many years used a research methodology known as Action and Decision-Oriented Studies. This innovative tool, which combines scientific knowledge with user orientation and hands-on practicability, is applied to study assignments from development organizations. It is now taught and implemented in the cooperating universities in Mozambique and Brazil.

PARTICIPATION IN SLE STUDIES & SLE TRAINING PROGRAMME

Lecturers and students from the partner universities attend the summer school SLE TRAINING or SLE STUDIES training modules.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING FOR TRAINERS

SLE offers support to the cooperating partners when it comes to designing training courses, modules or specialization areas. The training programme for local trainers is of vital importance here since the aim is to empower the partner universities to conduct their own courses independently.

COOPERATION IN APPLIED RESEARCH

Conducting trilateral applied research projects in the field of development cooperation, rural development and natural resource management is high on the cooperation agenda of the three universities. Studies carried out with the Action and Decision-Oriented Studies method have produced valuable results for the commissioning organizations.

EXCHANGE TEACHING

Lecturers from all three universities discuss ideas and compare teaching methods in the course of regular exchange visits. They hold courses at the different universities and plan to intensify their cooperation in the future: working together allows for constant adaptation of the course content to global and local needs, enhances academic teaching standards and tests the practicability of the acquired knowledge.

AREAS OF COOPERATION



SLE

HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

Lebenswissenschaftliche Fakultät

Albrecht Daniel Thaer-Institut für Agrar- und
Gartenbauwissenschaft

Seminar für Ländliche Entwicklung (SLE)

Hessische Str. 1-2

10115 Berlin, Germany

Telephone: +49 (0) 30 20 93 69 00

Fax: +49 (0) 30 20 93 69 04

E-mail: sle@agrار.hu-berlin.de

Knowledge exchange keeps progress alive

Albert Einstein



SLE - Center for Rural Development
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

www.sle-berlin.de

MSG - Master's degree in Rural Sociology and
Development Management

Eduardo Mondlane University of Maputo

www.uem.mz

PDS - Sustainable Development Practices
Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro

r1.ufrj.br/wp/ppgpd