

Short Information

The Business Scouts for Development (BSfD) promote sustainable and responsible engagement by the private sector in around 40 countries across the globe. With the Business Scout Fund (BSF) the Scouts can initiate innovative projects developed by German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHKs) and other business organizations as well as partner institutions based in Germany, Europe, or partner countries in support of their engagement. The Business Scout Fund as part of the BSfD programme is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ) and implemented by sequa on behalf of GIZ.



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Objective

It is the objective of the Business Scout Fund to create, develop and scale up innovative project ideas with the partner institutions. The piloted approaches should support sustainable engagement of the private sector in developing and emerging countries by innovative solutions and services. In doing so, they support the implementation of the strategic missions of the BMZ (Just Transition, Feminist Development Co-operation, Leave no one behind, Covid-19-Recovery) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the goals of the BSfD programme.

Idea competitions to select project ideas

Several times a year, sequa organizes idea competitions in which eligible partners can submit their ideas for promising projects. It is crucial that these project ideas are developed and submitted in cooperation with a Business Scout. Interested organizations can find out more about the dates of the next competitions, deadlines, and participation documents on the sequa website, using the contact details below or through the Business Scouts ([contact details here](#)).

Eligible providers, duration and budget of projects

Eligible to participate in the competition are in the first place the business organizations of the BSfD network, such as AHKs, chambers and associations, as well as other partner institutions. Additional entities, such as companies or other institutional partners, may participate as service providers in the projects in cooperation with the above-mentioned institutions of the BSfD network. One primary contractor representing the applicant group must be determined.

The total duration of proposed project activities can be up to a maximum of nine months, on condition that activities are completed and accounted for no later than 14th of October 2023.

The total budget of a project realized within the Business Scout Fund for the October 2022 idea competition may range between 50,000 EUR up to 100,000 EUR (net). The same service provider may submit a maximum of two different project ideas per idea competition.

Project selection criteria

In general, project ideas should support the development goals of the BMZ and the BSfD program. Project ideas will be given preference which:

- contribute towards the transition to a climate-friendly and fair economy (Just transition);
- promote equal opportunities for all people and help overcome discriminatory structures and role models (Feminist development policy);
- promote the introduction and implementation of digital infrastructure and processes in developing countries;
- are particularly innovative or a creative mix of existing elements; and
- make international supply chains fairer and more sustainable as well as supportive for sustainable agricultural and food systems (Leave no one behind).

Further criteria that are positively assessed are:

- establishing and embedding of sustainable services and structures;
- piloting of scalable, regional approaches or approaches that can be transferred to other countries;
- linkages to national or regional development strategies and other (GIZ) projects;
- a particularly high development impact and visibility of project results;
- projects that increase the performance and structures to cope with current crises (Covid-19, war in Ukraine, refugees and migration).

Besides technical criteria, the economic efficiency, and the effectiveness of the project implementation also play an important role in the scoring of the proposals. The proposals will be evaluated by sequa according to the criteria stated above. In the second stage, most suitable proposals will be selected by a jury under consideration of available funding. sequa will inform the participants of the competition call after a decision has been made. There is no legal claim to the implementation of a project idea by the Business Scout Fund.

Contracting, reporting and invoicing

sequa will sign a service contract with the selected providers in which, based on the submitted project idea, the services packages along with the time schedule and payment conditions are defined. After signature of the contract, the provider implements the respective measures - often in cooperation with a Business Scout. At the end of the project, the provider prepares a short report (approx. 3-4 pages) on the implementation and results of the project and sends it together with the final invoice to sequa.

Contact

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