Institutional partnerships with the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) – administrative change for more trade and investment
Sharing experience – always a win-win situation

Bilateral institutional partnerships are a new tool of the BMWi to deliver advice on economic policy to authorities in selected partner countries. Employees from the BMWi and other authorities within its portfolio engage in practical cooperation and share expertise with foreign partner authorities in the field of economic policy. Thus, reform processes can be supported and administrative structures modernised. The EU’s Twinning instrument is the role model for the institutional partnerships.

The BMWi’s experts know how fruitful an open dialogue is for both sides, and they are eager to share their expertise with their counterparts from the partner countries. They are familiar with the challenges faced by the partner countries, can draw on many years of experience in administrative reform and are passionate about working together across borders.

Signing of an agreement to establish the institutional partnership – with a focus on strengthening competition law – between the BMWi and Montenegro’s Ministry of Economy.
Economic Affairs Minister Peter Altmaier and Deputy Prime Minister Milutin Simović
Objectives

Smoothly functioning administrations are a vital component of any country’s political and economic environment. As agencies engage directly with individuals and companies, interaction with efficient administrations builds trust in the state, creates stability, and provides a platform for economic success. Sharing Germany’s administrative best practices and providing targeted expertise helps the partner countries to implement lasting reforms. This strengthens the local economy at the same time as fostering trade and investment from German companies in the country. Therefore, the needs of German companies are one of the criteria that are considered by the BMWi when selecting new partnerships.

The key tasks of the institutional partnerships always include:

- establishing and expanding efficient authorities
- helping to adjust and to implement laws, guidelines and procedures
- training of employees from partner institutions

Typical key issues are:

- export and investment promotion
- procurement and competition law
- quality infrastructure
- digitalisation and innovation
- support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups
- economic and industrial policy
- regional economic assistance
- energy markets, energy efficiency, renewable energy

Methods include:

- exchanges of experts, training, conferences and workshops
- training of employees from partner organisations
- study tours to Germany
“When planning for a year, plant corn. When planning for a decade, plant trees. When planning for life, train and educate people.” (Guanzi, 645 BCE)

Signing of an agreement to establish the institutional partnership between the BMWi and the Kosovo Institute for Public Administration (KIPA).

Steps towards a bilateral institutional partnership:
- The partner authority outlines its need for reform and contacts the BMWi. The BMWi examines whether the reforms will improve the policy environment for the local businesses and the activities of German firms in the country.
- The BMWi assesses the level of interest and capacities on the part of the German authorities that are eligible for an institutional partnership.
- The experts of the BMWi and its agencies go on to elaborate a cooperation concept that is tailored to the needs of the partner authority.
The project partners commit themselves to **shared goals**. If the project is to be successful, it is vital that **both partners assume responsibility** and perform clear-cut tasks.

Together, the project partners draw up a **declaration of intent** that is followed by a ‘rolling work plan’ as a means of **jointly developing and managing the project**.

Ideally, a partnership gives rise to **long-standing networks** between the cooperating authorities, allowing **further reform processes to be effectively fostered**. Thus, the institutional relations that have been established continue to exist once the project has been concluded, and multipliers are created in the partner country.

Each **institutional partnership benefits from Germany’s twenty years of Twinning experience**, which is pooled in the National Contact Point (NCP) for Twinning at the BMWi. As in the EU’s Twinning programme, the institutional partnerships network a large number of administrative experts who can draw on a lot of specialist and project-related expertise. The NCP’s expertise is the best way to ensure that the projects go well and work to high standards.
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Imprint

Publisher
Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi)
Public Relations
11019 Berlin
www.bmwi.de

Status
December 2020

Print
BMWi

Design
PRpetuum GmbH, 80801 Munich

Picture credits
BMWi / p. 4
ElenVD / Shutterstock / title
Weiler / BILDKRAFTWERK / p. 2