

Federal Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier has launched the “Schools: Partners for the Future” Initiative. Its goal is to build up a worldwide network of at least 1000 partner schools through which to awaken young people’s interest in and enthusiasm for modern-day Germany and German society. Additional funds to the tune of 45 million euro have been earmarked for the initiative in 2008. It will be coordinated by the Federal Foreign Office and implemented in cooperation with the Central Agency for Schools Abroad, the Goethe-Institut, the Educational Exchange Service of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Academic Exchange Service.

The network of German schools abroad and schools offering the German Language Certificate will be strengthened and extended. In addition, cooperation between schools will be expanded to anchor German as a foreign language more firmly in national education systems. We want to develop fruitful and long-lasting ties with Germany and inspire schools, their teachers and pupils to enjoy an open exchange of views and engage in cooperation. For this reason the initiative plans to support many schools with a broad range of services.

By providing additional courses the initiative will help both pupils and teachers to acquire training with a long-term impact. The initiative will thus extend young people’s skills, preparing them for study in Germany and a subsequent career. The number of full grants for study in Germany is to be doubled for graduates of German schools abroad and partner schools. The international award programme will allow even more pupils from abroad to experience Germany first hand for several weeks.

For further details, visit:
www.auswaertiges-amt.de/SchulenPartnerDerZukunft



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Federal Foreign Office
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The Goethe-Institut
www.goethe.de

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
www.daad.de

The Central Agency for Schools Abroad (ZfA)
www.auslandsschulwesen.de

The Educational Exchange Service (PAD)
www.kmk-pad.org

“Schools: Partners for the Future” Initiative



“Education creates prospects – multilingualism opens new horizons. With our partner schools abroad we not only want to give children access to the German language and education but also to awaken an interest in and understanding for each other. Openness to cultural diversity and tolerance towards other people’s distinctiveness are not mutually exclusive. To help children grasp this even better we need, more than ever, places where they can meet, learn and be creative together. The earlier we realize that we are an international learning community, the more capable we will be of solving our shared problems. Our partner schools abroad want to contribute towards that goal.”

Federal Foreign Minister
Frank-Walter Steinmeier



The Central Agency for Schools Abroad

The Central Agency for Schools Abroad promotes a network of more than 500 schools abroad offering qualifications recognized in Germany. This network of German schools abroad and national schools offering the German Language Certificate, as well as their cooperation with other schools in the network, will be strengthened and extended. Additional school coordinators and advisors will promote quality-based school development and support the establishment of new private schools with a German profile. They will intensify cooperation with local schools offering German as a foreign language and provide advice on structuring German lessons. Working with seconded extra teachers they will allow the creation of new courses leading to German qualifications in accordance with international standards. These include the multilingual International Baccalaureate with German, the Deutsche Internationale Abiturprüfung and the German Language Certificate of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (DSD).

For further details, visit: www.auslandsschulwesen.de
(in German)



The Goethe-Institut

The Goethe-Institut helps the schools it supports to introduce or develop German as a subject. It offers teachers further training on instruction methods and language courses and equips schools with modern teaching, learning and geographical materials and multimedia. Additionally, the Goethe-Institut seconded teaching experts all over the world to assist partner schools within the context of the initiative. Youth courses in Germany for pupils of the participating schools are designed to improve language skills, boost intercultural competence and provide insights into German life. An Internet learning platform hosted by the Goethe-Institut allows pupils to interact with one another across the world and to communicate in German in training fora and supervised chatrooms. It also gives teachers the option of providing web-based lessons.

For further details, visit: www.goethe.de



The German Academic Exchange Service

The DAAD scholarship programme for graduates of German schools abroad and partner schools is to be expanded significantly in 2008. The number of full grants for study in Germany will double from 60 to 120 and will be advertised internationally for the first time. Another novelty is the BIDS programme (BetreuungsInitiative Deutsche Auslands- und PartnerSchulen), a support initiative for German schools abroad and partner schools which is aimed at German universities. The goal is to improve direct contact between German universities and the schools abroad and partner schools to attract graduating pupils. Assistance is provided in the form of motivational scholarships, personnel for intensive support as well as contributions in the shape of equipment or travel expenses to foster cooperation with specific schools abroad and/or partner schools.

For further details, visit: www.daad.de



The Educational Exchange Service (PAD)

The PAD is expanding school exchanges and partnerships within the context of the initiative. The international award programme for foreign pupils promotes outstanding learners of German from more than 90 countries, giving them the opportunity to get to know Germany first hand during a four-week trip. Moreover, the PAD also organizes three-week visits to German schools or two-week further-training courses in Germany on instruction methods and the German way of life. These services primarily target German teachers from the ZfA's network of schools abroad. Personal contacts with other teachers from abroad or German colleagues at the host school are designed to help participants set up email projects or partnerships between their schools and thus reinforce or expand the network.

For further details, visit: www.kmk-pad.org
(in German)

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