



Digital transformation for sustainable development

Advancing digitalisation worldwide – services for companies offered by
the Business Scouts for Development programme

On behalf of



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Digitalisation: a global opportunity and a global challenge

Increased efficiency, expanded business models, better networking – the business community is in the midst of **digital transformation**. This harbours a great deal more potential than just business opportunities. Digital solutions can also make it easier to address global **development challenges**, for instance providing access to education or combating climate change. At the same time, however, a dependency on information and communication technologies could also aggravate existing **inequalities**. Especially in an international context, there is a risk of

a **digital divide** developing between people with access to digital technologies and those without – between winners and those left behind. One of the most important priorities of German development policy is therefore to promote a **sustainable and socially just transformation** of economic systems with the support of digital solutions. The Business Scouts for Development support a digital transformation in developing and emerging countries with a range of services for the private sector.





Digitalisation for sustainable development, hand in hand with the business community

The Business Scouts for Development programme is working closely with the business community to make digitalisation globally **inclusive** and to incorporate the needs of all user groups. Digital transformation **expertise and approaches** are often already available in developing and emerging countries, and they can be incorporated into promising sustainable projects in cooperation with German, European and local companies. Strong partnerships like this equally benefit businesses, local institutions and local people. On the one hand, companies can access new markets and profit from the global **networks and funding**

opportunities available through German development cooperation. On the other hand, digital solutions can contribute to **economic growth** and improved living conditions in developing and emerging countries, while also promoting fair economic conditions, local innovation and equal opportunities.

Shaping digitalisation worldwide: The services

To enable as many people as possible to reap the benefits of digital technologies, the Business Scouts for Development programme cooperates with the private sector to support the transformation in developing and emerging economies.

Business Scouts **advise** and **network** German, European and local **companies and start-ups** in the digital and tech sector to use their technologies to promote development. Business Scouts also assist players **not originally** from this environment in initiating digital projects.





Providing advice and initiating cooperation projects

Business Scouts **advise** companies on development policy issues with a specific focus on digitalisation – including where this touches other relevant topics such as **sustainable supply chain management, climate change and environmental protection, and gender equality**. The experts offer access to **funding and financing services** available through German and European development

cooperation, and identify opportunities for successful cooperation for digital business models. Business Scouts further provide support for the initiation of tailor-made **digitalisation projects** and assist companies during the local implementation process.

Digital expertise

Business Scouts offer extensive **know-how and expertise** related to digitalisation, including digital platforms, data-based services, e-learning, digital infrastructure, data security and locally relevant innovations. They are also networked with local experts in the digital sector in developing and emerging

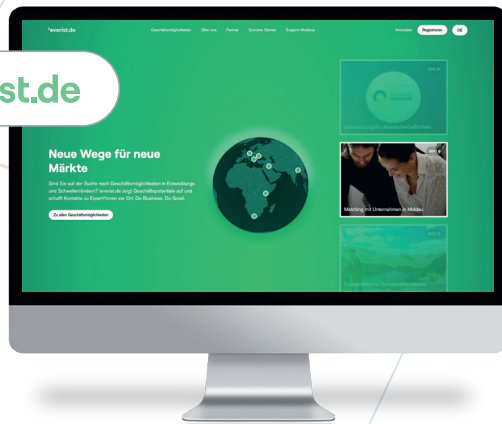
countries. Business Scouts can therefore actively support companies in **shaping their commitments** and provide information about current political developments in this field.

Networking

Business Scouts are active in **more than 30 countries** and are networked worldwide. Companies benefit from this large network with its numerous partner institutions because it enables the experts to **initiate contact** with actors that could be relevant to their digitalisation projects. To make it easier

for companies to tap into new markets, business scouts also offer custom **matchmaking** between local and European companies and provide information on cooperation opportunities in the area of digitalisation – also as an online service, at [leverist.de](https://www.leverist.de).

[leverist.de](https://www.leverist.de)





Project examples

Digitalisation

CENTRE OF AUTOMATION IN MOROCCO

In Morocco, the Business Scouts' cooperative relationship with Steinbeis-Hochschule Träger GmbH and German and local companies is both creating **jobs** and improving **working conditions**. At the centre of automation, university lecturers, students, vocational trainees, specialists and managers learn more about **digitalisation** and **Industry 4.0** by means of practical projects. By that, cooperation between German and Moroccan companies is also being initiated.

PREVENTING COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES

The Business Scouts for Development programme cooperated with the German start-up authentic.network to address a central problem of the **health sector** in Côte d'Ivoire by using **blockchain technology** to make

medicines **counterfeit-proof**. Initially piloted for malaria medication, the technology can be adopted for use with other products and in other regions.





WOMEN GOING DIGITAL

In the Women Going Digital project, **women** benefit from training on **digital transformation topics** through cooperation with the German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHK network) and companies like Siemens and SAP. This targeted approach is paving

the way for the participants to find future-proof occupations and improve their living conditions in the long term. Following the project's successful implementation in Argentina, Brazil, Mozambique, Peru and Namibia, it is being rolled out to other countries, including Cameroon and many others.





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**Business Scouts
for Development**

Business Scouts for Development work as experts for development cooperation in around 30 countries across the globe. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), they advise companies from Germany, Europe and the project countries on funding instruments and business opportunities in developing and emerging countries. In addition, in cooperation with companies, they initiate and design projects as well as innovative solutions that aim at contributing to a socially just and ecological transformation of the economy. The Business Scouts for Development work closely with partners from the private sector, TVET organisations, foundation organisations and social partners worldwide.