

International Development Cooperation in Practice

(Master-level course, 6 Credits ECTS, counts as “elective” for MA International Economics or as “further mandatory” for MA Development Economics)

Lecturer: Dr. Thomas Otter
Assistant: Dr. Carlos Villalobos Barría

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Meetings

First meeting 4.12.2013, 10.15 a.m. Raum T 0.133 (Theologicum), Platz der Göttinger Sieben 3, 37073 Göttingen.

The course will take place from 21.01.-23.01.2014 in room 2, Convention Centre by the Observatory (Tagungszentrum an der Sternwarte), [Geismar Landstr. 11](#), 37083, Göttingen.

Introduction

In the 21st century International cooperation for development follows a twofold goal. It seeks to enhance global governance through bilateral and multilateral dialogue and tries at the same time to help achieving sustainable development outcomes in assisted countries.

Global development has made important progress through the last two decades, considering the reduction of poverty and inequality, the progress towards the MDGs and a better coordinated work in global development issues such as climate change. International development cooperation is an important player in this process, since it translates policy objectives in policy formulation action on the ground, which frequently have the potential to change people's lives.

Foreign aid to developing countries has played an important role in international cooperation and development, with its objectives and strategies diversifying over the decades. More players have come in and new challenges continue to emerge. Because of its complexity and the multidisciplinary approaches required, foreign aid is sometimes misunderstood and often receives criticism.

This course will provide a practical introduction to development cooperation, by using examples from real development cooperation from different parts of the world, most of them related to social policies. All projects to be discussed in this seminar have been

implemented by Thomas Otter, independent consultant in development cooperation and a former PhD student at Gottingen University.

Approach and first meeting (December)

This course wants the students to do learning by doing on the practice of development cooperation. In the field of daily consultancy work in development cooperation there are three main areas of work in projects

- Research for the diagnostics part of development problems
- Project implementation and
- Project evaluation

However, there is a fourth element, which is the preparation of technical proposal for the tenders and contests through which consultants for projects are hired.

The course will provide practical examples for all these 4 areas, through a list of topics, to be selected by the students.

The sequence of work for the course is that students have to select a topic (and work alone or in groups up to 3 students, depending on the scope of work and the selected project). In order to enable students to make their decision the Terms of Reference (TORs) for each project will be available at the first meeting. The meeting will provide a brief intro to all projects.

The central idea of the course is that the students will receive the TORs and some background information (documentation) from their selected project and will be requested to develop the consultancy work until certain degree (as far as the work can be done remotely and based on desk review, without the need/possibility to visit the countries).

For all types of work (technical proposal, research, project implementation or evaluation) full examples (this is TORs and final report) will be available, so the students can understand what this is all about.

The students cannot select topics used as an example. Once students select their topics they will get access to the project documentation (this is after the preparation meeting).

Before the seminar days in January students are requested to review the project documentation and prepare a short presentation of their project as well as some ideas regarding how to approach and implement the requested task.

Course (blocked) implementation (January)

On the first day of the workshop Thomas Otter will provide an introduction to the approach and methodologies for the outcome evaluation of development projects (based on DAC criteria), considering that many of the projects are evaluations.

As well on day one, students have to present their project and TORs to their peers and a first

idea how to approach it.

During the rest of day 1 and day 2 students will have to progress with their work as “development consultants” during the seminar. Thomas Otter and Carlos Villalobos will be available for permanent feedback and group discussion of the work in progress.

On day 3 students will present their progress.

After the workshop students will have to put all this on paper in a short Hausarbeit

Project list

TECHNICAL PROPOSALS FOR PROJECT CALLS AND TENDERS

- Public expenditure tracking survey health sector Paraguay and Bolivia (IADB) - docs in Spanish
- Evaluation smallholder support policies Ministry of Agriculture Paraguay (IADB) - docs in Spanish

RESEARCH FOR DIAGNOSTICS

- Impact of public investment in child wellbeing Iraq (UNICEF) - docs in English
- Review and adjustment of cash transfer programs for improving their impact on child wellbeing, Moldova (UNICEF) - docs in English
- Estimating GDP at district level Paraguay (UNDP) - docs in Spanish

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- Market assessment food market performance in crisis situation Malawi (WFP) - docs in English
- Comparative study of entrepreneurs expectations of trade integration benefits versus the ones which can be proved empirically, Southern Africa (GIZ/SADC) - docs in English

EVALUATIONS

- Malawi food and cash distribution for food security in emergency situations (WFP) - docs in English
- Bolivia food distribution through voucher system in emergency situation (ACH) - docs in Spanish
- Evaluation of a research project (simulations of impact of external shocks, using CGE and mirco-simulations) (ECLAC and UN-DESA) - docs in English and Spanish
- Evaluation of a regional cooperation program in social policies Latin America between Sweden and ECLAC (ECLAC) - docs in English and Spanish
- Evaluation of a pre-investment program (grants, microfinance, capacity building) for female entrepreneurship Bolivia (UNWOMEN) - docs in Spanish
- Evaluation support program for introducing microfinance in corporative societies in Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia (DGRV) - docs in German and Spanish
- Evaluation aid coordination Macedonia (UNDP) - this one might be too complicated for the students - docs in English

Classes will be held in English.

Hausarbeiten (course papers) can be prepared in English, Spanish or German

Lecturer: Dr. Thomas Otter

Thomas Otter is an economist with a PhD from the Georg-August University in Göttingen Germany. He is an independent consultant specialised in economic, social and human development, social politics, poverty, inequality, trade integration, climate change and monitoring and evaluation with more than 13 years proven experience working as Team Leader in projects covering 42 countries of South America and Central America, North America and Caribbean, Africa, Europe, Asia and Oceania.

Currently he is member of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) and the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality, Deutsches Institut fuer Wirtschaft, (ECINEQ) in Berlin, Germany. He is funding member of the Network of Inequality and Poverty (NIP) (World Bank/IADB/UNDP) and associate researcher at the Iberoamerican Institute for Economic Sciences at the University of Göttingen, Germany and lecturer at the Latin American School for Human Development in Bogotá, Colombia.

His consulting activity is focused on programme design and management (PCM, SWAP), strategic planning, policy analysis with a relevant extensive experience in evaluation of projects on poverty reduction and institutional development coordination in areas related to local development, rural development in vulnerable areas, agriculture, value chains, labour markets, migration, employment, gender, trade integration and market access, export promotion, youth, education, social protection, public expenditure, fiscal policy environment, food security, microfinance, environment and sustainable development and crisis prevention, administration of natural resources in rural areas, etc.

During last 10 years Tomas Otter has worked as Team leader in more than 36 evaluation projects. His last assignments include among others the evaluation of the ECLAC/GIZ programme on fiscal policies, environment, decentralization, governance in 8 Latin American countries; an evaluation in Latin America on policies for economic development, employment and gender in Mexico, El Salvador, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay (ECLAC/AECID). In 2011 Thomas conducted the UNDP/GEF sub-regional evaluation for the climate change adaptation (including agribusiness) in Samoa, Niue y Tokelau.