

Procedure and types of experts

Does this sound interesting? Then we invite you and your partner municipality to send us a declaration of interest. In cooperation with us, you define which skills an assigned expert would need and which tasks and goals he or she would be responsible for. We will look for an expert who is suitable for working with your partnership and support him or her in dealing with all formalities until their departure.

The programme offers different types of expert assignments, depending on the needs of your particular partnership:

- **Integrated experts** are European experts who work in key positions on technical and strategic issues within the organisational structure of the municipal institution in the partner country. They have a local employment contract and a local salary from their employer that is topped up to European level by FKPW. The Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) supports the recruitment.
- **Development workers** are European experts who advise the partner municipality on technical and methodological issues and support them in organisational development and networking. They work at the partner municipality, but their contract and salary are handled by FKPW.
- **Local experts** come from the partner country. They have a local contract with the partner municipality, the financing of which is supported by FKPW.

Not all types of experts can be assigned to all countries. The type selected will depend on the context. We are happy to provide further advice.

Please contact us for individual advice!

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Images: GIZ GmbH (cover, p. 2), Durban Green Corridor (p. 4)
Date: May 2019

FKPW is a cooperation programme of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Engagement Global with its Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW), working on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

<https://skew.engagement-global.de/experts-worldwide.html>



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The programme

The 'Experts for municipal partnerships worldwide' programme (FKPW) promotes active partnerships between municipalities, towns, cities and districts in Germany and the Global South through the employment of municipal experts. They work on local assignments for around two to four years, in one or several municipalities or municipal associations in the Global South. Our work is geared towards the expertise and timeframe that is relevant to your partnership's requirements. We provide additional support for assignments in the form of networking and technical exchange events as well as other activities.

The municipal experts contribute to

- improving municipal services and local self-government;
- developing hands-on solutions for current issues such as climate change, municipal finance and waste management;
- expanding cooperation between partner municipalities;
- implementing successful joint initiatives,
- and bringing new players into the partnership, for example from local administration, civil society or the private sector.



Example: the work of Helge Mehrtens in Durban

Forging new links, meeting one another, relaxing – in the not-too-distant future, all this will be possible on the fallow land that lies between KwaMashu Township and the newly constructed urban centre, Bridge City, in the South African city of Durban. This is the goal Durban's city administration is working towards, together with its partner city, Bremen, and Helge Mehrtens, a city planner who supports their partnership work in the name of FKPW. Helge Mehrtens has extensive experience in designing open urban spaces and a strong commitment to creating a participatory and interdisciplinary process.

'Helge Mehrtens is a great asset for us. She's an excellent expert who is sharing her technical skills and project management experience from Germany with us at the city administration.'

Gary Cullen | Economic Development and Investment Promotion Unit, Durban

Crossing the wasteland is presently quite difficult and dangerous. But people living in KwaMashu should also be able to benefit from Bridge City's wide-ranging infrastructure. This is why Durban's City Council wishes to involve KwaMashu's residents in decisions on the future use and appearance of the vacant land. Instead of being a dividing, frightening area, it should become a linking space that can actively be used. At the same time, the area will retain its function as a vital urban wetland and flood plain in the context of adapting to the impacts of climate change. The scheme is also benefiting from experience gathered in the Municipal Climate Partnership with Bremen.

'The great advantage an expert brings is his or her knowledge of the structures not only in the partner country but also here in Bremen. That's hugely beneficial for us in keeping our city partnership truly alive.'

Ulrike Hiller | plenipotentiary of the federal state of Bremen to the Federation for Europe and development cooperation



To ensure that the planning process considers different points of view, one of Helge Mehrten's colleagues has brought together employees from several City Council departments in a project group, with the aim of drafting a joint proposal for the future park's open spaces. The first step is to reclaim the land through clean-up campaigns, landscaping and the creation of a bike park. To achieve this, Helge Mehrtens is organising workshops, round tables and other forms of participation with the neighbouring residents. Her project group is also receiving support from initiatives based in Bremen: for example, the Bremen 'sport garden' is providing inspiration for a new recreation centre.

Alongside her technical work, Helge Mehrtens is also responsible for maintaining and intensifying the city partnership with Bremen, which goes back to 2011. With the aim of increasing professional exchange and knowledge transfer between both local administrations, she has been involved in joint workshops on such subjects as urban agriculture and pedestrian and cycle traffic, and in setting up various other exchanges and study visits. In the process, she has become a valuable contact person for both partners on many different issues.