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Deutsches Institut für  
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German Development  
Institute

Development studies – development research:  
Germany's position in international perspective



Andreas Stamm

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**Andreas Stamm**, Senior Research Fellow, Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)  
E-Mail: [andreas.stamm@die-gdi.de](mailto:andreas.stamm@die-gdi.de)

© Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik gGmbH  
Tulpenfeld 6, 53113 Bonn  
 +49 (0)228 94927-0  
 +49 (0)228 94927-130  
E-Mail: [die@die-gdi.de](mailto:die@die-gdi.de)  
<http://www.die-gdi.de>

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## Abbreviations

ADLAF	Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Lateinamerikaforschung
AvH	Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
AERC	African Economic Research Council
ASC	African Studies Centre
BBSRC	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
BIGS	Bonn International Graduate School
BMBF	Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (Federal Ministry of Education and Research)
BMELV	Bundesministerium Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz (Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection)
BMU	Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety)
BMWi	Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie (Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology)
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (Federal Ministry of International Cooperation and Development)
BNPP	Bank Netherlands Partnership Program
CERES	Research School for Resource Studies for Development
CGIAR	Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research
CRD	Central Research Department
CSA	Chief Scientific Advisor
CSC	Commonwealth Scholarship Commission
DAAD	Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (German Academic Exchange Service)
DC	Development Cooperation
DCO/OC	Department of Cultural Cooperation, Education and Research/Research and Communications Division (Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DELPHE	Development Partnerships in Higher Education Programmes
DFG	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation)
DfID	Department for International Development
DGIS	Directorate-General for International Cooperation
DIE	Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)
DIUS	Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills
DPRN	Development Policy Review Network
DRC	Development Research Centre
DSA	Development Studies Association
DR	Development Research
EGDI	Expert Group on Development Issues
ESRC	Economic and Social Research Council
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office

FLACSO	Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (Latin American Faculty for Social Sciences)
GBP	Great Britain Pound
GIGA	German Institute of Global and Area Studies
GTZ	Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
HIV/Aids	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HUMAN	Division for Human Sciences for Social Development
ICT	Information and Communications Technologies
IDS	Institute for Development Studies
ISS	International Institute of Social Sciences
KIT	Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen (Royal Tropical Institute)
KTH	Kungliga Tekniska högskolan (Royal Institute of Technology)
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MinBuZa	Nederlands Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken (Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
MRC	Medical Research Council
NAV	Division for Natural Sciences for Sustainable Development
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
NFP	Netherlands Fellowship Programmes
NGOs	Nongovernmental Organizations
NL	Netherlands
NPT	Netherlands Programme for the Institutional Strengthening of Post-secondary Education and Training Capacity
Nuffic	Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education
NWO	Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research)
OCW	Dutch Ministry for Education, Culture and Science
ODA	Official Development Assistance
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OECD/DAC	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development / Development Assistance Committee
OSI	Office of Science and Innovation
PDP	Product development PPPs
PGU	Politik for global utveckling (Policy for global development)
PPP	Public Private Partnership
R&D	Research and Development
RAE	Research Assessment Exercise
RAPID	Research and Policy in Development
RAWOO	Raad voor het Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek in het kader van Ontwikkelssamenwerking (Netherlands Development Assistance Research Council)

RCs	Research Councils
RNRRS	Renewable Resource Research Strategy
RPC	Research Program Consortia
SADEV	Swedish Agency for Development Evaluation
SAREC	Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries
SEK	Swedish Krona
Sida	Swedish International Development Agency
UK	United Kingdom
UNI	Division for University Support and National Research Development
WHO	World Health Organization
WOTRO	Foundation for the Advancement of Tropical Research (science division within NWO)
ZEF	Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung (Center for Development Research, Bonn University)



## Summary

The comparative study on Development Research (DR) in Germany and three other European countries was commissioned by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It gives an overview of the available resources, the institutional setting and the governance of DR in the four countries. The paper will neither provide an in-depth evaluation of the DR realized by the four countries nor is it embedded in a more general discussion of the growing role of research for development cooperation.

The **understanding of the term** DR varies largely in the four countries. In the most common and broadest definition DR is any kind of research with relevance for development and developing countries. Thus, a large number of disciplines may contribute to DR. A more restricted understanding defines DR as mainly social science based research on global and local processes of cultural, demographic, economic, environmental, political, technological and social change in low and middle income parts of the world. DR covers a wide array of applications, from feeding the academic search for new or improved knowledge to resolving immediate problems formulated by policy makers. In three of the countries, strengthening of research capabilities in the South is considered as a constitutive element of the promotion of DR.

### **DR in Germany**

In Germany, DR (most often understood in the narrow sense of social sciences working on development issues) is funded within the overall context of Development Cooperation (DC) and as a segment of general research promotion.

BMZ as Germany's lead ministry for **Development Cooperation** channels significant resources for DR and support to research capacities in partner countries, however, the visibility of this line of activity remains rather low. This is mainly due to a pronounced institutional fragmentation. Within BMZ four divisions belonging to the Ministry's three departments within BMZ are in charge of cooperation directly related to DR. Within the political discourse on development, strengthening of research capabilities is not high on the agenda. Many actors perceive as quite long the impact chain between supporting science and technology in the partner countries and attaining the MDGs. Others fear that resources invested in the strengthening of knowledge systems in developing countries might tend to reach more privileged elites and less the target group of the poor.

For the year 2006, overall BMZ expenditure for the promotion of DR was estimated to be around 60 million €. Most BMZ support to DR is provided as core funding to national and international organizations, such as the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) and the German Research Foundation (DFG). Agrarian research is the most significant area receiving BMZ support most resources going to the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Since 2007, BMZ support to DR has been increased significantly in terms of financial resources provided.

The **German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF)** is the lead ministry for promotion of research in Germany and international research cooperation. Cooperation with developing countries is mainly supported in areas where

- the German science system necessarily has to cooperate with countries in the South (e.g. global environmental problems, ecology of tropical forests etc.),

- new technologies are developed for application in developing countries,
- mature processes or technologies need to be adapted to conditions in partner countries.

Many **university faculties** are traditionally engaged in research relevant for developing countries, e.g. in the field of tropical agriculture and forestry or spatial planning. In the field of social sciences there are a few specialized centers. In recent years, development studies at Germany's universities have lost ground. Many research centers with a former focus on development or area studies have been closed down or given a completely different orientation.

The **German Development Institute (DIE)** is Germany's think tank for development policy and cooperation. In its applied research it covers a broad range of topics related to economic, social and political dimensions of development and its institutional and thematic environment.

Bonn University hosts the **Center for Development Research (ZEF)** with three units working on A) political and cultural change, B) economic and technological change and C) ecology and natural resources management.

The **German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA)**, is funded by the German Foreign Office and the city of Hamburg, and has institutional ties to the University of Hamburg.

## United Kingdom

DR in the United Kingdom (UK) is on the one hand funded as an integral part of British Official Development Assistance (ODA), and thus under responsibility of the Department for International Development (DfID). On the other hand, it is part of the public support to research, on the government level coordinated by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). The British government stresses the importance of evidence-based policy making. This gives research high relevance as a tool for informed decision-making.

DfID defines **DR financed by British ODA** as research with a long-term perspective that generates new knowledge and contributes to the global pool of knowledge and technologies conducive to development. Building research capacities in the South is an explicit goal of DR. Since the approval of the International Development Act (2002) all DfID activities (including DR) have to comply with the overall mandate of reducing poverty and achieving the MDGs.

The DfID Research Strategy 2008-2013 sets priorities in applying newly created and existing knowledge, influencing policy to make sure research makes an impact, using different methods of funding to join up research efforts at different scales (national, regional, global), strengthening developing countries' capability to do and use research and finally, helping partners predict and respond to development challenges and opportunities beyond the 2015 target date for achieving the MDGs.

DfID invests around 4 % of its budget in support for DR. A white paper published in July 2006 projects a doubling of spending for DR by 2010. Two thirds of DfID's research budget is earmarked for research on sustainable agriculture, mortal diseases, state failure with respect to poverty and global climate change.

DfID puts emphasis on the application of research results. To ensure an adequate transfer of research outcomes to the potential users, a special Communication Team was established within DfID's Central Research Department (CRD). DfID highlights the build-up of research capacities in the countries of the South as an important task of CRD and of the DR budget.

**Research promotion** in the UK is realized in two ways: The DIUS is politically responsible for the institutional support to universities and for financing of research projects. On the more operational level, institutional support to universities is the task of Higher Education Funding Organizations. Eight Research Councils (RCs) are responsible for the competitive allocation of financial resources for research. The RCs are organized along academic disciplines and work as autonomous organizations.

Many British **universities** are engaged in research projects with relevance for developing countries. At some universities, development relevant centers have been established. Several universities offer Development Studies as an interdisciplinary and mostly social science oriented career. Recently, six independent London-based universities engaged in DR have jointly established the Bloomsbury International Development Centre. The largest organizations specialized in DR are the **Overseas Development Institute (ODI)** and the **Institute for Development Studies (IDS)**.

## Netherlands

In the Netherlands, DR is understood in its broadest sense, embracing concrete research projects and consultancies, promotion of research in the specific thematic field and linking up with research capacities and networks in the South. It is necessary to distinguish between the budget lines within the MinBuZa (Foreign Office) ODA spending and DR financed by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO).

Dutch **development policy** assigns great importance to DR. Research is seen as an instrument of DC and integrated into the policy cycle. MinBuZA is defined as a learning organization with external actors – Dutch and from the South – integrated into learning processes. The topics of DR are derived from the needs of sectoral and regional politics. In 2005 MinBuZa invested 2.3 % of the ODA budget for DR.

Since 1992, a clear “South Agenda” largely decided on promotion of DR in the Netherlands. The primary objective of the DR promotion in the context of DC was to support a research agenda defined and implemented in the countries of the South. Demand orientation and promotion of scientific capabilities in the South were the most important orientation points of this agenda. In 2005, MinBuZa approved a new strategy for DR, largely replacing the “South-Agenda”. It places special emphasis on the application and the impact of research outcomes for poverty reduction and sustainable development. In order to receive support, research and research capacities must be embedded in the action fields and knowledge needs of politics, economy and society.

NWO's role is to promote **high quality and innovative Dutch research**. A recent strategy paper puts emphasis on an increased effectiveness of investment in research, stressing the need to create critical masses in specific areas. Research promotion is now to be realized within larger contexts instead of a large number of isolated smaller projects. A closer link between science and society is intended to assure that demand from society is met by supply from science and that research outcomes are applied in practice. The Foundation

for the Advancement of Tropical Research (WOTRO) is the foundation within NWO in charge of DR.

Nuffic is the Dutch organization for international cooperation in tertiary education and research, financed by the Ministry for Education and the MinBuZa. It supports tertiary education and research organizations in partner countries and provides individual support to mid-career professionals from countries in the South.

At a number of Dutch **universities**, scientists work on aspects of DR, either in the context of multi-disciplinary research with social or spatial orientation or in disciplinary research, e.g. in agricultural sciences or medicine. The **International Institute of Social Sciences (ISS)** and the **African Studies Centre (ASC)** are exclusively dedicated to DR. Many faculties engaged in multidisciplinary DR are interlinked under the umbrella of the **Research School for Resource Studies for Development (CERES)**.

## Sweden

Sweden follows a comprehensive approach to DR and invests a significant proportion of its ODA in this policy field, focusing on the strengthening of research capabilities of partner countries and of regional and international organizations. Promotion of Development Studies in the sense of creating knowledge on development processes and developing countries plays a more limited role.

Within the Swedish government the political responsibility for DC lies with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Regarding the central government budget, DC is the largest of the Ministry's six policy fields. The Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) is the central implementing agency, working with around 120 partner countries. Sweden invests around 6 % of its ODA in DR. SAREC is the Sida department in charge of DR. SAREC combines elements of a classic public administration allocating financial resources for research with functions of a research council. The aim of Swedish cooperation is to strengthen the research capacities of partner countries and at the same time to promote development-oriented research.

Since 1975, Sweden has been engaged in **bilateral cooperation** to strengthen partner countries' capabilities to conduct own research. In the first years, cooperation was mainly geared to strengthening national research councils. In the next period, focus was shifted towards training of researchers, later on complemented with investment in infrastructure, equipment, libraries, archives and ICT equipment. Since the 1990s the program focuses on comprehensive support with the aim of establishing research cultures at national public universities. Assistance was reduced to a limited number of partner countries in order to provide more effective support.

More than half of SAREC's total budget goes to **international and regional thematic research programs**. Important international organizations that receive SAREC funding are the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), among others.

There are two lines of activities financed by Sida/SAREC with the objective of **supporting DR in Sweden**. The first and largest line is "U-FORSK", administered by Sida/SAREC in its function as Sida's Research Council for DR. The second line is called

Swedish Research Links and is earmarked to promote research cooperation between researchers in Sweden as well as and in (advanced) developing countries. It is administered by the Swedish Science Council (*Vetenskapsrådet*).

### **Where does German DR stand by international comparison?**

In a way, it is a German specificity that here the term DR is mainly reserved for interdisciplinary, social science-based research on development processes and developing countries. Germany's position regarding applied development studies can be assessed as rather strong while the position of DR at Germany's universities is a matter of concern.

Research in other disciplines relevant for developing countries and for solving global problems (water engineering, agriculture, health sciences) is to a large extent de-linked from the "development community" in politics and international cooperation. The situation is rather similar with respect to the goal of strengthening research capacities in the South. Considerable resources are channeled to knowledge centers in the South. However, programs that *systematically* link these with research institutes in Germany are largely non-existent. Institutional fragmentation lowers the visibility of German DR. However, there is also some doubt as to whether Germany's contributions and the personal resources available in this field of activity are adequate in quantitative terms.

In order to achieve a more adequate position in the international donor community, Germany should, within the framework of the 0.7 % ODA goal, increase, its spending on DR above average. Increasing financial investment in DR should be accompanied by measures to ensure adequate political governance and conceptual work in this field of activity, e.g. by bundling responsibilities within BMZ.

A rather strict division of functions within the German government in general does not facilitate joint action between BMZ and other Ministries in charge of relevant research areas (BMBF, BMWi, BMELV). However, recent political developments open up windows of opportunity for enhanced coherence within the German government in the field of support to DR. In January 2008, an agreement between BMZ and BMBF was signed with the objective of "*harmonizing the scientific and technological cooperation of BMBF and the development cooperation of BMZ in joint projects and identifying ways to achieve closer cooperation*". In February 2008, the German cabinet approved the "Internationalization Strategy for Science and Research". The four objectives of this strategy bridge the interests of the German innovation system and the goals of international development.

Thus, the political conditions for improved policy coordination between the two ministries most relevant for DR have improved. This opens a window of opportunity that should be taken advantage of by designing and implementing inter-ministerial projects in the field of DR.

### **Common challenges for DR in the four countries**

The UK has the most complete and coherent system of DR of the four countries under consideration. The other countries considered have clear-cut flaws in at least one element of the knowledge system: Germany clearly in the generation of new fundamental knowledge at university level, the Netherlands and Sweden more in applied research.

In all four cases, problems were reported regarding the position of a research that is in line with the needs of policy makers and is at the same time consistent with criteria of high academic

quality. This difficult *sandwich position* of applied research will probably be further aggravated by two different agendas difficult to reconcile: the Lisbon Agenda pushing forward academic excellence, and the MDG Agenda calling for research to deliver tangible outcomes within a rather short time-frame.

In order to maintain an adequate level of applied DR efforts should be made to maintain and increase financial resources for applied DR and to increase its visibility and image. The transparency regarding available resources in DR should be enhanced and today decentralized activities could be clustered. Career opportunities for applied researchers should be improved, first by maintaining, within the academic system, high-level academic positions and second by fostering the mobility of staff between research organizations on the one hand and high-level public administration and possibly the private sector on the other.

While these measures have to be taken on the national level it should also be discussed how cooperation and coordination among European countries and with the EU itself can be enhanced. Most bilateral donors are set to significantly increase their resources earmarked for DR promotion. Pooling at least some of these resources could give rise to very substantial DR funding on a European or international level.

Options to strengthen the European level of DR can reach from increasing transparency concerning the research done at the different institutes, through establishing exchange platforms such as a “European Summer School for Development Research” to the establishment of a European Institute for DR. Creating new opportunities for scientific publishing could also contribute to making applied DR more attractive for future generations of researchers.

A further point related to the promotion of development studies that should be discussed among interested stakeholders is the most promising way to involve stakeholders from the South in the definition of agendas and the governance of DR.

Strengthening research capabilities in the South is part of the agenda of all four countries, and has been for quite some time. Since the outcome in most partner countries is still unsatisfactory, a more in-depth analysis and exchange of experience is required.

The country case studies have identified no clear and urgent reform needs regarding donor commitments to strengthening research for development in areas like agriculture, health etc. With regard to some very cost intensive research fields it should be discussed, however, how the ODA-financed support relates to the activities of new actors endowed with large financial resources (e.g. the Gates Foundation).

## 1 Introduction

The following paper was commissioned by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in order to provide the ministry itself and other interested stakeholders with a first knowledge base that may help to assess Germany's Development Research, benchmarking it with three other European countries. The aim of the paper is to give an overview of how the available resources, the institutional setting and the governance of Development Research in Germany compare to the situation in selected benchmark countries. For this reason, the paper will neither provide an in-depth evaluation of the Development Research realized by the four countries nor is it embedded in a more general discussion of the growing importance of support to science and research for development in the context of globalization and increasingly multilateral development cooperation.

The chapters on Development Research in the United Kingdom (UK) and the Netherlands (NL) as well as parts of chapter 4 are based on reports written by Andrea Goetzke from Newthinking communication, the information regarding Development Research in Sweden was provided by representatives from Sweden's Foreign Office and Sida-SAREC. Our thanks go to all the interviewees who contributed to this study by sharing information and laying the groundwork for deeper insights into the functioning of Development Research in their respective countries. As will be shown below, the institutional setting of Development Research in all the countries analyzed is complex and to some degree in flux. This implies a certain risk of imprecision in the paper's more descriptive parts, but it should not affect the overall usefulness of the respective chapters for the further analysis.

### *What we are talking about: Trying to define "Development Research"*

In order to compare and assess Development Research in different countries, the first step will be to clarify what we are talking about. One thing that will become clear in the country reports in chapters 2 to 5 is that what is actually meant by the term Development Research varies greatly. The different approaches clearly go beyond pure semantics and rather affect the overall philosophy and the objectives associated with Development Research. This makes it difficult to analyze strengths and weaknesses of different approaches and policies, what might be the basis for mutual learning processes. Nevertheless, a comparison between the different approaches and policies may prove conducive to the reflection about the role and objectives of Development Research in Germany in general and about the institutional context in which Development Research is embedded in particular. Also, a benchmarking of the financial resources that different donors invest in Development Research proved to be more difficult than expected, not only (but especially) in Germany:

The most common and broadest definition links Development Research to the geographical relevance of its outcomes. Development Research in this sense is any kind of research with relevance for development or for overcoming obstacles to it in the countries of the South. Thus, a large number of disciplines may contribute to Development Research, be it agronomy, medicine, economy or biotechnology etc., if they bear a benefit for developing countries.

There is also a much more restricted understanding of the concept that corresponds largely with the definition of "Development *Studies*" by the UK Research Assessment Exercise

(RAE) as “*issue-driven research concerning the analysis of global and local processes of cultural, demographic, economic, environmental, political, technological and social change in low and middle income parts of the world, with particular reference to structures and institutions; the changing relationships between developed and developing countries; and the critical interrogation of theories of these processes and relationships, and of development policy*” (cited by Jones / Young 2007, 2).

A second division line is marked by the target groups of research. Development Research (even applied and problem oriented) can be strongly influenced by academic interests and then generally follows a medium to long-term agenda. The target group of this kind of research is mainly the academic community, the research outcome is most often published, and thus the knowledge generated constitutes a public good. Development Research can also be oriented to giving answers to more day-to-day questions or to resolving immediate problems formulated by policy makers. This kind of activity at the border between research and short-term consultancy is not always categorized as Development Research and may instead e.g. be classified as policy advice, as in the case of the UK. Evaluation of development cooperation is gaining importance in the context of a stronger impact orientation, but it may also be taken out of the general understanding of Development Research in the different countries concerned.

Finally, in all countries of the sample but Germany, strengthening of research capabilities in the South is directly considered part of promotion of Development Research. This does not imply that Germany is not investing in this task; actually, quite large sums are invested. However, the activities are rather de-linked from the support of Development Research in Germany, on the level of political governance as well as on the more operational levels. Therefore exchange and cross-fertilization between support measures and research tends to be limited.

In the following chapters we will outline the development research systems in the four countries, focusing on aspects of governance and institutional setting, budget and objectives, organizations and activities. Wherever possible, we will add information about how actors from the four countries assess strengths and weaknesses of the respective system. In the case of Sweden, this can be done in a rather detailed way, due to the fact that in 2006 Swedish Development Research was evaluated in a series of comprehensive studies. In the case of Germany, a preliminary assessment will be given in chapter 7.

## **2 Development Research in Germany**

In Germany, the common understanding of Development Research (“*Entwicklungsforschung*”) is very close to the definition given above of development *studies* by the UK Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). German Development Research is, thus, basically interdisciplinary, mainly social science-based research on development processes and developing countries and not so much natural, technical or health sciences-based research designed to facilitate development.

This does not imply, of course, that no Development Research in the sense of provision of solutions for specific problems that affect developing countries is conducted in Germany. Important health research relevant to developing countries is actually carried at internationally renowned German organizations such as the Robert Koch Institute in Berlin, but it is in no way linked to the development community in the stricter sense. Research on tropi-



cal agriculture or forestry, including natural science-based research, is done by traditional universities, e.g. in Göttingen, Hohenheim and Stuttgart; here there are some connections and matching events with the broader research community, such as the annual “Tropen-tag”, an interdisciplinary conference organized by five important universities doing research in tropical agriculture and forestry. Aspects of natural resources management are dealt with e.g. by physical geographers or in the field of hydraulic engineering. Here, exchange among researchers is most often carried out within the relevant scientific disciplines, and systematic contact or cross-fertilization with the interdisciplinary field of development studies is still more the exception than the rule. This seems to be changing, e.g. in the context of research on climate and environmental change, which calls for interdisciplinary approaches, including the involvement of natural scientists.

## 2.1 Research as an element of German Development Cooperation: Political framework conditions and governance aspects

Research does not have a prominent position within Germany’s development cooperation. Even though considerable resources are channeled for this purpose, the visibility of this field of action remains quite low. This is mainly due to a pronounced institutional fragmentation of political governance when it comes to Development Research and related activities. First of all, due to agreements within the German government from the early 1970’s onwards, the lead ministry for international research cooperation is the then Ministry for Education and Science (today’s Ministry for Education and Research, BMBF), while BMZ remains in charge of generic support to research capacities or universities in the South, research directly supporting the proper functioning of its own policy field (“*Ressortforschung*”) and of international agricultural research. In February 2008, however, a new strategy for the internationalization of science and research was submitted by BMBF and approved by the German cabinet. One aspect of this new strategy is stronger cooperation between BMBF and BMZ concerning the scientific and technological cooperation specifically with anchor countries (BMBF 2008).

Within BMZ, political responsibilities are not concentrated in one unit. No less than four divisions within BMZ are in charge of cooperation lines related to Development Research, and they belong to the three different departments of the Ministry:

- Division 111 is politically responsible for the programs related to the promotion of universities in partner countries as well as scientific cooperation,
- Division 210 hosts the BMZ officer in charge of development studies in the stricter sense,
- Division 311 governs programs of tertiary education (within the overall context of promotion of education),
- Division 314 allocates funds for international agricultural research.

Additional divisions within the ministry are in charge of activities that have a more or less direct relation to Development Research, e.g. Division 305, in charge of international technology transfer and intellectual property rights, and Division 315, hosting activities related to the application of information and communication technologies to development processes.

Comprehensive strategy papers that might define overarching goals and the roles of the different lines of action within the Ministry are not sufficient to compensate for this institutional fragmentation. The most recent paper on cooperation with universities in the context of German development cooperation dates from 1992, a new position paper under the heading “Knowledge for Development” has been drafted and discussed within the ministry and with the relevant development actors.

Relevant discussions about future cooperation in science and research are carried out in a decentralized way, often by the German development agencies or in informal meetings. However, the stakeholder group that pushes forward these debates is rather limited. Strengthening of research capabilities in the South is not prominent on the political agenda. Many DC actors perceive as quite long the impact chain between the support to universities and research centers on the one hand and poverty reduction and the other MDGs on the other. Others fear that resources invested in the strengthening of knowledge systems in developing countries might tend more to reach more privileged elites and less the target group of the poor.

#### *Research as an element of German DC: Budget and objectives*

For the year 2006, overall BMZ expenditure for the promotion of Development Research was estimated to be around 60 million €. In Table 1 we can see, however, that the support to Development Research channeled through BMZ is divided among various lines of action and institutions, due to the institutional fragmentation of the political governance of Development Research in Germany, as noted above.

In 2006, BMZ spending on activities related to research concentrated on agrarian research, with around 15.4 million €. The Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) centers is the main recipient of these funds. 75 % is provided as targeted funding, i.e. for defined projects, and only 25 % is given as institutional support to the centers. Furthermore, BMZ funded the German Development Institute (DIE) with 3.1 million € and spend 10.1 million € for research components of technical cooperation projects. Additionally, BMZ annually commissions mostly small and short-term studies, responding to specific knowledge needs of its divisions and departments, with 400,000 € per year up to 2006. In 2007, however, an additional 2 million € was allocated yearly for (program-based) financing to Development Research at the DIE, universities and other organizations. This significant increase reveals the growing relevance of Development Research for BMZ.

Most support to Development Research is nevertheless provided as core funding to national and international organizations. Examples would include the 23.4 million € BMZ funding for the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in 2006, the 3.6 million € funding for the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) and the 0.7 million € BMZ funding for the German Research Foundation (DFG), also in 2006.

Calculating the participation of Development Research in Germany in ODA is a very complex task. Firstly, there are the expenditures of BMZ for the promotion of Development Research, data which – due to the organizational fragmentation within the Ministry – are difficult to collect. Secondly, spending by the BMBF, for example around 44 million € in 2006, is also reported to the OECD/DAC as ODA. It is therefore difficult to calculate a concrete figure. Nevertheless, it can be said that participation of Development Research in

ODA in Germany appears to be lower than in the case of the Netherlands, the UK or Sweden, independently of the basis used for the respective calculation.

<b>Table 1: The German BMZ's funding of Development Research, 2006</b>	
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)	23.4 million €
Agricultural research (CGIAR)	15.4 million €
Research components of technical cooperation projects	10.1 million €
Alexander v. Humboldt Foundation (AvH)	3.6 million €
German Development Institute (DIE)	3.1 million €
German Research Foundation (DFG)	0.7 million €
Total Development Research expenditure	around 60 million €
Source: BMZ 2007, unpublished document	

### *Research as an element of German DC: Organizations*

The most important German contribution – at least in terms of financial resources – to the strengthening of knowledge-based development in the South is the institutional funding provided to the **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**. BMZ funding for DAAD has increased significantly in the last two decades, from 5.7 million € in 1990, 9.8 million € in 1995, 20.4 million € in 2002 to around 23.4 million € in 2006.

BMZ funding for DAAD serves to promote young and junior academics and researchers and to provide in-service training for experts and professionals from developing countries. Emphasis is put on the “*sur-place*” third country scholarship program, the postgraduate courses for professionals relating to developing countries offered at German universities, support for subject-specific university partnerships, the alumni programs and the alumni summer school program offered by German universities for their graduates from developing countries, as well as country-specific support for young and junior academics and researchers run together with advanced developing countries. DAAD receives the major part of its funding from the German Foreign Office (around 125.5 million € in 2006) and the BMBF (64.1 million €).

A large proportion of German investment in Development Research is the funding of agrarian research carried out by the institutes of the **Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)**. BMZ was a co-founder of CGIAR and Germany is among its ten largest donors. However, in 2000 the budget earmarked for CGIAR support was reduced from an annual 31 million € to 18 million €, leading to a concentration of support on only 9 Centers of a total of 16.

Many projects of German DC include **research and development (R&D) components**. In 2006 the financial resources of these components added up to around 10 million €.

The **German Development Institute (DIE)** is Germany's think tank for development policy and cooperation. Founded in 1964, it is engaged in applied research, policy advice and

training in the context of development cooperation and global governance. In its research, the DIE seeks to reconcile an orientation toward academic quality with practical relevance for policy and development cooperation. It covers a broad range of topics related to economic, social and political dimensions of development and its institutional and thematic environment. In 2006, DIE was evaluated by a team commissioned by the “*Wissenschaftsrat*” (German Science Council). The assessment regarding the quality of research and the bridging function between research and policy was very positive.

## 2.2 Development Research as an element of German research promotion: Political framework conditions, governance aspects and actors

In 2006, around 44 million € was spent by the BMBF for scientific and technological cooperation with developing countries, excluding cooperation in the field of energy provision.<sup>1</sup> BMBF cooperation with developing countries follows the overall objective of expanding national research programs and ensuring the international qualification of research on the basis of cooperation with developing countries in areas where

- the German science system necessarily has to cooperate with countries in the South (e.g. global environmental problems, ecology of tropical forests etc.),
- new technologies are developed for application in developing countries,
- mature processes or technologies need to be adapted to conditions in partner countries.

One of the objectives is to transfer scientific and technological knowledge in order to strengthen R&D capacities and economic performance in developing countries. The focus of R&D cooperation with developing countries is on

- investigations on tropical ecosystems, biodiversity and their sustainable utilization,
- development of technologies with low emission levels, environmentally friendly production processes, waste water and waste treatment and management,
- research on contamination of soils and air,
- combating tropical diseases,
- plant breeding, bio-chemical production processes,
- sustainable management of marine resources and combating environmental problems in coastal areas.

As far as the **actors** are concerned, many university faculties are traditionally engaged in research relevant for developing countries, e.g. in the field of tropical agriculture (Hohenheim, Göttingen), forestry (Freiburg), spatial planning (Dortmund) etc. In the field of social sciences there are a few specialized centers, e.g. at Bayreuth University (Africa) or Bielefeld (Development Sociology). In the context of the reforms of Germany’s university sector, new master’s courses are in the process of being implemented, e.g. International Development Studies in Marburg, Development Management in Bochum or International

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<sup>1</sup> Since 1999 international cooperation in the field of energy has been part of the mandate of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology.

Relations and Development Policy in Duisburg/Essen, or other, often small but specialized programs.

Bonn University hosts the **Center for Development Research** (*Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung, ZEF*) with its three units:

- Political and Cultural Change (ZEF A),
- Economic and Technological Change (ZEF B),
- Ecology and Natural Resources Management (ZEF C).

Since 1999, the ZEF has offered a PhD program in the English language, the “Bonn International Graduate School for Development Research (BIGS – Development Research)” which accepts around 40 PhD students a year.

**The German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA)**, founded in 1964, is funded by the German Foreign Office and the city of Hamburg, but with institutional ties to the University of Hamburg. Its research is focused on political, economic, and social developments in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America as well as North Africa and Middle East. The area studies are furthermore concerned with developments in North-South and South-South relations.

In recent years, Development Research at **Germany’s universities** has definitively lost ground. Many research centers with a former focus on development or specially area studies or related fields have been closed down or given a completely different orientation (Tetzlaff 2005). This trend can probably be traced back to the fact that, for many years and under conditions of insufficient economic performance in Germany, the general discourse on reforms in the university system has centered on strengthening the German innovation system, and it has therefore focused on the contribution of universities to economic development and international competitiveness. Dealing with development issues has not been considered crucial in this context, not even intensified research on more general aspects of globalization.

The considerable improvement experienced by Germany’s economy in recent years could serve to modify this discourse. On the other hand, the continuing implementation of the Lisbon strategy in the years to come could act as an *additional* catalyst in marginalizing Development Research. The present “High Tech Strategy” – essentially a national implementation of the Lisbon process – focuses on research that strengthens Germany’s international competitiveness, stressing the need to foster university-industry linkages.

The “Initiative for Excellence” – Germany’s most significant program designed to strengthen universities in this context – aims to

- establish research schools for young scientists,
- establish internationally visible research beacons in Germany and
- build cluster areas of expertise in order to mobilize synergies.

In the context of this initiative, 17 “Excellence Clusters” were approved by the German Research Foundation (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*) and the *Wissenschaftsrat* in October 2006, only one of them with a social science orientation (Cultural Foundations of Social Integration), seven in “Biology and Medicine”, six in “Natural Sciences” and three in Engineering. None of them is explicitly or at least indirectly related to research on development, developing countries or globalization. In 2007, an additional 19 “Excellence

Clusters” were approved, this time with four of them in social sciences; one cluster in Heidelberg, with the title “Asia and Europe in a Global Context Shifting Asymmetries and Cultural Flows”, relates at least indirectly to developing countries, as do two graduate schools funded as well within the context of the “Initiative for Excellence”. These are the School of African Studies in Bayreuth and the Graduate School for Muslim Societies and Cultures in Berlin. Despite these recent developments, it can readily be confirmed that Development Research is not a line of research that lends itself to helping a university or a faculty to gain ground under conditions of increasing competition. Thus, it is very likely that the field will be further marginalized in the years to come.

### **3 United Kingdom**

Funding and governance of Development Research in the UK are organized along two main lines:

- on the one hand, Development Research is an integral part of British Official Development Assistance (ODA) and as such is funded and guided by the Department for International Development (DfID);
- on the other hand, Development Research is part of the public support to research, on the government level coordinated by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

Additionally, Development Research is shaped or influenced by a number of private foundations, independent research organizations and other government departments besides DfID.

The UK invests a high proportion of its ODA in Development Research; the resources available are set to increase significantly over the coming years. Beyond DfID funding, a number of other actors, such as Research Councils and foundations, are set to increase their budgets in relevant research fields. The role of non-governmental actors, such as the Wellcome Trust, will also grow. Development Research in the British system involves the strengthening of research capacities in the South as an essential task, and its relative importance will continue to grow in the future, with upcoming strategy papers emphasizing this goal.

International cooperation is also gaining importance; this refers on the one hand to cooperation with stakeholders in developing countries, on the other hand to coordination and cooperation with actors from other donor countries.

#### **3.1 Research as an element of British DC: Political framework conditions and governance aspects**

The British government stresses the importance of evidence-based policy making, e.g. in the 1999 White Paper “Modernizing Government”. The idea is that all government departments should be able to ground their political decision-making on sound knowledge and information. This gives research high relevance as a tool for informed decision-making. Consequently, since 1998 overall research expenditures have steadily risen.

In recent years, Development Research – especially with a focus on Africa – has received increased attention and appreciation – mainly in the context of the UK's G8 presidency and commitment in the Commission for Africa. Development Research is defined as research with a long-term perspective that generates new knowledge and contributes to the global pool of knowledge and technologies conducive to development. Development Research is understood as generating global public goods. Building research capacities in the South is an explicit goal of Development Research.

In 2002, the International Development Act was approved, confirming poverty reduction as the central goal of British DC. All DfID activities have to comply with the overall mandate of reducing poverty and achieving the MDGs. This act also sets the thematic frame of reference for Development Research financed by DfID.

Also in 2002, the report commissioned by DfID, “Research for Poverty Reduction: DfID Research Policy Paper” (or in short the “Surr-Report”, after one of the authors) was published, analyzing the state of DfID financed Development Research at that point in time and giving decisive recommendations for its re-organization. The DfID research mandate was confirmed, the recommendations made led to the establishment of DfID's Central Research Department (CRD), bundling the formerly decentralized responsibilities for research. CRD worked out a strategy paper defining all major directions of CRD activities; it was approved in 2004 as the “DfID Research Funding Framework 2005–2007”. In 2006, CRD had a staff of 30, assigned to four thematic teams (see Table 2). DfID-CRD does not itself conduct research, instead supporting external research organizations. However, CRD claims the role of an “intelligent client”, hosting significant scientific capacities within the organization.

Another influential paper was presented in 2004: the report of the House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology on “The Use of Science in UK International Development Policy”. It analyzed British Development Research as a whole, its application in development policy and its effects in the countries of the South. The overall assessment is rather critical, expressing criticism e.g. of an insufficient level of coordination among funding organizations and researchers.

As a rule, Development Research is competitively organized, and with few exceptions DfID funds are channeled through open tendering, leaving the relevant research organizations without core funding. Since 2001 the UK's ODA has been provided untied, which also applies for Development Research funded through DfID. This implies that international research organizations are also eligible to participate in tenders for research programs.

The DfID Research Strategy 2008–2013 sets priorities in applying newly created and existing knowledge, influencing policy to make sure research makes an impact, using different methods of funding to join up research efforts at different scales (national, regional, global), strengthening developing countries' capability to do and use research and finally, helping partners predict and respond to development challenges and opportunities beyond the 2015 target date for achieving the MDGs.<sup>2</sup>

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2 <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/Research-Strategy-08.pdf>, accessed August 3, 2008

*Research as an element of British DC: Budget and objectives*

DfID invests around 4 % of its budget in support for Development Research, it is thus among the three Departments of the British government with the highest spending on R&D, and also among the donors with the highest proportion of research spending in the overall ODA budget. In July 2006, a White Paper was published (“Making Governance Work for the Poor”) that, while reaffirming the 0.7 % ODA goal set for 2013, projects a doubling of spending for Development Research by 2010. Table 2 indicates how the budget of DfID-CRD is distributed among its four teams.

<b>Team</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Human Development (Medicine, Education)	45 million GBP (66.9 million €)
Growth and Livelihoods Research	42.5 million GBP (63.2 million €)
Social, Political and Environmental Change	21.5 million GBP (32 million €)
Communications	7 million GBP (10.4 million €)
Total	116 million GBP (172.4 million €)
Source: DfID (unpublished document)	

Approximately 35 % of the CRD budget is spent multilaterally. The numbers given in Table 2 do not include resources spent in a decentralized way by the DfID's policy-departments or country offices and that serve first of all to guide short-term decision-making. These studies are classified not as Development Research but as policy advice, and no data was available regarding the resources spent for this purpose.

Research financed by DfID targets global development problems, thus its organization does not correspond to the sectoral structures of British development policy. The problem-oriented approach is intended to foster multi-disciplinarity in research. Two thirds of DfID's research budget is earmarked for the following four topics:

- sustainable agriculture, especially in Africa
- mortal diseases
- state failure with respect to poverty (“where states do not work for the poor”)
- global climate change

The remaining third of the budget is spent on an ample spectrum of topics, responding to commitments made in past years and providing a certain level of flexibility to take up new and alternative topics.

The DfID Research Funding Framework 2005–2007 puts emphasis on the **application of research results** (“Getting research into use”). To ensure an adequate transfer of research outcomes to the potential users, a special Communication Team within CRD was established, with a staff of six persons managing around 6 % of the overall research budget. Its task is to communicate research outcomes to politicians, civil society, private sector, science and – mostly indirectly – to poor people in partner countries. Target groups may be



located in Great Britain or in developing countries. Communication thus includes both traditional publications in scientific journals and in media with target groups beyond academia. On the one hand, the Communication Team is in charge of communication aspects of DfID financed research projects: 10 % of the budgets are especially earmarked for this purpose. On the other hand, it provides support to multilateral programs for the communication of research, such as the PANOS Research Communication Program (RELAY), the Global Development Network or the AGORA initiative.<sup>3</sup>

In order to increase the effectiveness of Development Research, the **involvement of potential users** in the processes of designing, implementing and analyzing research projects is an important criterion for the allocation of research grants. The “Getting Research into Use” program has been up and running since 2006, the overall objective being to bring 30 research results of the former Renewable Resource Research Strategy (RNRRS) into application. The program RAPID (Research and Policy in Development) program at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) investigates ways suited to achieving an efficient application of research results in development policy.

DfID highlights the build-up of **research capacities** in the countries of the South as an important task of CRD and of the Development Research budget. This task is mainly operationalized through inclusion of cooperation commitments as a criterion for the allocation of research funding, e.g. in the context of the Development Research Consortia (see below).

DfID intends to use cooperation with other public funding agencies, private foundations and the private enterprise sector, to significantly **raise the resources available for Development Research** in the UK. Today a series of joint programs with several Research Councils and foundations are underway. Most Public Private Partnerships (PPP) are found in the field of health product development.

### *Programs and activities*

DfID’s promotion of Development Research is carried out through **competitive bidding processes** in the directive mode. The department defines research topics or programs in the form of open tenders and invitations for application by the research community. As British ODA is untied, these tenders are in principle open for institutes all over the world. The new instrument of resource allocation introduced with the Research Funding Framework 2005–2007 is the so-called **Research Program Consortia (RPC)**. These are associations of scientific organizations working jointly on specific development-oriented topics. The idea is to use the RPCs to reconcile and put into practice the various elements of the DfID research strategy.

The organizations filing applications are required to state

- how research outcomes will be applied, communicated and made effective,
- how research capacities in the partner organizations will be strengthened,
- what relevance the research has for poverty reduction and development,
- that the scientific research will meet standards of academic excellence.

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3 <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/research/crd-comms-activities-06jan06.pdf>, accessed July 18, 2007

Generally, RPC are funded over five years, usually with 750,000 GBP per annum. As a rule, a RPC consist of four to six organizations, with one defined as the lead organization. At least three of the organizations have to be located in developing countries. Despite the untied mode of funding, the majority of the RPC are led by British organizations, some by US universities and one by a university based in South Africa.

Beyond the RPCs, DfID supports projects that have been applied for in the context of specific research programs, such as the Research into Use Program or regional agricultural research programs. In the area of social sciences, funding is allocated using the instrument of research centers, also common in the context of public research funding. Further support is channeled through collaborative programs, together with additional partners and in the context of multilateral support. The most important partners in Great Britain are several Research Councils and private foundations.

### 3.2 Development Research as an element of British research promotion: Political framework conditions and governance aspects

In the context of British research promotion emphasis is placed on support for excellent knowledge creation at British universities and institutes. However, a number of projects with development relevance are being financed in this context as well. Research promotion in the UK is realized in two ways:

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is politically responsible for the **institutional support** to universities and for financing of research projects. On the more operational level, institutional support to universities is the task of **Higher Education Funding Organizations**. HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) is the most prominent of the organizations funding higher education; it finances personnel and infrastructure expenditures. The volume of resources is based on the RAE that classifies universities according to a number of criteria related to the quality of their research. The RAE promotes the establishment of academic centers of excellence: Organizations that are already well positioned regarding the quality of their academic work receive higher basic funding. Some research organizations, mainly those with a limited educational mandate or none at all – such as the ODI or the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) – do not receive any institutional funding.

Eight **Research Councils** (RCs) are responsible for the competitive allocation of financial resources for research. Universities and research organizations acquire the resources they receive beyond their institutional support through competitive procedures. Due to the low level of institutional support, the rule is that applications for research projects are filed in the mode of full economic costing, i.e. the offers submitted by British scholars are required to calculate all relevant costs, including overhead. The RCs are organized along academic disciplines and work as autonomous organizations. Regarding Development Research, the four most important RCs are

- the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC),
- the Medical Research Council (MRC),
- the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the
- Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

The RCs finance research in the responsive and in the directive mode. The *responsive mode* leaves the definition of topics and priorities to the research community, partly within pre-defined areas.<sup>4</sup> The overarching goal is to support academic excellence; the offers to be funded are assessed based on corresponding criteria. Funding goes only to British research organizations. The volume and duration of funded projects may be very diverse, extending from individual fellowships and programs with a duration of one to five years to rather large centers.

Numerous research projects with relevance for developing countries are funded in the context of responsive funding. It is very difficult to quantify the volume of this kind of Development Research, because it is difficult to distinguish cleanly between Development Research and more general research with international relevance. For instance, medical research is in many cases relevant for developing countries; when the diseases investigated occur in developing countries, however, the research is not always carried out with an explicit developing-country perspective. Involving a partner from the South is not mandatory, and this increases the probability of success only if it contributes to scientific quality. Some RCs, however, have special programs for cooperation with developing countries, most often in cooperation with DfID.

**Box 1: The Medical Research Council (MRC)**

The MRC defines around 6 % of its portfolio as global research with direct relevance for developing countries. The major part of this global research portfolio is research on infectious diseases, such as malaria, HIV/Aids etc. Medical research to support the development in the South, mainly in Africa, is an explicit goal of MRC. Beyond the competitive funding of research projects, the MRC maintains several research organizations (MRC Units), two of them in Africa (in Gambia since 1949, in Uganda since 1988), absorbing around 75 % of the global research portfolio. MRC Units receive institutional support, their performance is evaluated every five years. Building scientific capacities in Africa is defined as an explicit MRC task. It is part of the mandate of the two African MRC Units. Additionally, MRC grants fellowships to African researchers. Since 1993, DfID and MRC have worked in a concordat, with DfID contributions of 4 million GBP annually. DfID and MRC jointly take decisions regarding the allocation of the resources allocated in the responsive mode.

Source: DfID 2006 (unpublished document)

*Additional British actors funding Development Research*

Each British government department has its own research budget. Of special relevance for Development Research is the Darwin Initiative of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). In the context of this initiative, DEFRA allocates small grants (150,000 to 200,000 GBP for three years) for research cooperation projects between British scientists and scientists from the South jointly working on biodiversity-related topics.

Of growing importance for the financing of Development Research are the contributions of **foundations**. In the UK, the Wellcome Trust is of special importance for Development Research in the field of health, mainly due to its high resource endowment. The Wellcome Trust is co-founder of the newly established UK Collaborative on Development Science, together with DfID, OSI and the RCs, and hosts its secretariat. Other significant foundations are not British by character (e.g. the Gates Foundation).

<sup>4</sup> In the directive mode, topics and priorities are largely pre-determined by the funding organizations.

Cooperation with the **private sector** is of relevance especially in the field of medical Development Research. Product development PPPs (PDP) function as virtual pharmaceutical companies to which private and public donors, research organizations and ministries contribute on a multi-stakeholder and multilateral basis. The main task of the PDP is to develop new health products with special relevance for the countries of the South.

Of the British **academic societies**, the British Council is of special relevance. It administers the DELPHE initiative (Development Partnerships in Higher Education Programmes) financed by DfID, supporting cooperation between British researchers and researchers from the South, mainly in the form of mobility resources. The Royal Africa Society has its own program for the financing of research cooperation between Great Britain and Africa, in the context of its INVEST-Program.

In the **Commonwealth** context, Great Britain maintains special relations with developing countries that are members of this association. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and DfID jointly finance the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC), granting scholarships to researchers mainly from Commonwealth developing countries. While traditionally financing scholarships for studies at British universities, it recently introduced Split-Site and Distance Learning Awards. The overarching goal is to support researchers in the South, wherever possible embedded in further institutional support, with a view to contributing to building research capacities in developing countries.

#### *Development research organization in the UK*

Many British universities are engaged in research projects with relevance for developing countries. Most of them tend to specialize in certain disciplines in order to receive a good RAE assessment. At some universities, development relevant centers have been established as well as – more recently – RPCs. Several universities offer Development Studies as an interdisciplinary and mostly social science oriented career.

The largest organizations specialized in Development Research are the ODI and the IDS at the University of Sussex. Recently, six independent London-based universities engaged in Development Research have jointly established the Bloomsbury International Development Centre.

#### *Coordination and division of tasks*

The most important coordination mechanism among actors in British Development Research is the UK Collaborative on Development Science, established in 2006 as a response to the rather critical assessment by the 2004 report of the “Select Committee”. The main task of the Collaborative is thus coordination among the major funding organizations of Development Research. A small secretariat has recently been established at the Wellcome Trust.

At the level of publicly sponsored British research in general, coordination among the different Government departments is the task of the Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA) of the government and the CSAs of the different departments.

In the context of the rather generously funded health related Development Research, a loose coordination mechanism has been in existence for quite a long time, the Funders Forum on Health Research in Developing Countries. Participants of this forum, which meets

twice a year, are ESRC, MRC, DfID, the Wellcome Trust and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Many British organizations, faculties and NGOs engaged in Development Research are associated with the Development Studies Association (DSA). DSA has several thematic working groups that elaborate common political positions and organize conferences.

### 3.3 Strengths and weaknesses as assessed by British actors

*“Good research ideas often fail to be funded, being too applied for the research councils, but too ‘scientific’ for DfID.”* (House of Commons Science and Technology Committee 2004, 77).

Today's structure of British Development Research is the outcome of several evaluations, strategy papers and reforms of the last years and can thus largely be considered as “state of the art”. The new system will have to develop over some time before it will be possible to analyze its strengths and weaknesses. However, some problems are apparent today.

- Development Research in the UK (and as we will see, in other countries as well) works under conditions of a complicated trade-off between relevance for development policy on the one hand and academic excellence on the other. RCs and RAE use strict criteria of academic excellence in evaluating proposals and completed projects. Other aspects, such as the communication of research outcomes to non-academic target groups and the involvement of stakeholders, are not considered in these assessments.
- Due to the low level of institutional support of British Development Research, combined with the untying of ODA, British research organizations see themselves increasingly in a situation of difficult competitiveness compared to organizations from other countries with at least partial institutional support. As they are obliged to full economic costing, their prices tend to be much higher than those of competitors.
- The required integration of research organizations from the South leads to very specific problems, as assessed by some of the interviewees. As many actors from the South have rather low capacities regarding their human, financial and infrastructural resources, the relatively strong players in developing countries tend to be “overburdened” with cooperation proposals.
- The task of strengthening research capacities in the South is difficult to fulfill in the context of regular research projects. Budgets may suffice to support inter-institutional cooperation, but are not sufficient to permit structural capacity building in the South. Divergent goals often lead to conflicts between partners from Great Britain and developing countries.
- The efforts to get research outcome into practice are still considered insufficient and underfunded. Evaluative and translational research has not yet found the required attention, at least in the eyes of some of the interviewees.

## 4 Netherlands

In the Netherlands, Development Research is understood in its broadest sense, embracing concrete research projects and consultancies, promotion of research in the specific thematic field and linking up with research capacities and networks in the South. The priority given to these objectives has changed in the last years. After following a clear “South Agenda” for many years, Dutch Development Research today focuses much more on the application of research outcomes in the Netherlands and its partner countries.

### *Structures of political governance and implementation*

In the Netherlands, responsibility for DC lies with the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Foreign Office (MinBuZa). Part of Dutch ODA (2.3 %) is invested to support Development Research, today a decentralized task within the MinBuZa/DGIS. Scientific Development Research is promoted by the Foundation for the Advancement of Tropical Research (WOTRO), under the roof of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO). NWO is mainly financed by the Dutch Ministry for Education, Culture and Science (OCW) and WOTRO, mainly by MinBuZa. The WOTRO Foundation follows its own agenda, compatible both with that of MinBuZa and NWO. MinBuZa and OCW finance international cooperation between the organizations for higher education and research in the Netherlands and those of the South through institutional and individual promotion, organized by the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education (Nuffic).

For many years one single department (DCO/OC) within MinBuZa was in charge of the complete research portfolio. Since 2005 governance of Dutch Development Research has been rather decentralized. Responsibility for the implementation of the main part of Development Research (75 % of the budget) lies with the thematic departments within the main offices of MinBuZa and with the embassies. These develop their own multi-year knowledge and research strategies under the umbrella of the general MinBuZa research strategy. Strategies define the specific knowledge needs and the activities required to cover these (research, training, networking etc.). DCO/OC is itself organized as a thematic department with a two-fold task: On the one hand, it promotes studies in its own policy area, e.g. research related to innovation systems or intellectual property. On the other hand, DCO/OC is in charge of coordinating different thematic and regional activities, providing advice and assuring quality. Thematically cross-cutting research, interdisciplinary research networks and the anticipation of new topics are also tasks of DCO/OC. Today, DCO/OC directly controls around 25 % of MinBuZa’s Development Research budget and has a staff of 7.5 full-time equivalents.

Between 1983 and 2006 a special research council (RAWOO), was in charge of providing DGIS policy advice on Development Research. The members of RAWOO included 15 representatives from science, politics and civil society, six of them from countries of the South. The main objective was to guarantee the demand orientation of Development Research and thus the “South Agenda” (see below). In 2006, RAWOO’s mandate ended, following a generally negative assessment of the work and functioning of the different Dutch sectoral research councils and the perception that the work of RAWOO had distanced itself too far from the needs of real politics and that it was unwilling to integrate additional networks into its advisory work.

*Budget and objectives*

In the Netherlands, it is necessary to distinguish between the budget lines within the Min-BuZa ODA spending and Development Research financed by NWO.

## 4.1 Development Research as part of Dutch ODA

In 2005 MinBuZa invested 2.3 % of the ODA budget for Development Research. Table 3 indicates how these resources are allocated (modes and topics). Since 1992, when a central research department was established within DGIS, a clear “South Agenda” largely decided on promotion of Development Research in the Netherlands. The primary objective of the promotion of research in the context of DC was to support a research agenda defined and implemented in the countries of the South. Demand orientation and promotion of scientific capabilities in the South were the most important orientation points of this agenda. The idea was that the Netherlands mainly provide the framework conditions and resources needed for researchers from developing countries to implement a research agenda responding to the problems formulated and prioritized by stakeholders from the South.

In 2002 the Netherlands experienced a policy change in connection with the shift from a social-liberal to a conservative and more right-wing government. This transition was followed by a general reorientation in policies from an international and multi-cultural orientation towards policies responding more to national interests.

<b>Table 3: MinBuZa/DGIS budget for Development Research 2005</b>	
<b>4 a) Mode of allocation</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>
Decentralized, thematic departments and embassies	72.5 million €
DCO/OC	24.0 million €
Total	96.5 million €
<b>4 b) Topics</b>	
Education	2 million €
Health	11.5 million €
HIV/Aids, reproductive health	6.3 million €
Agriculture	32 million €
Environment	7.2 million €
Water	7.8 million €
Forestry	4.1 million €
Good governance, human rights, conflict	2.3 million €
Trade and finance	4.8 million €
BNPP (partnership with World Bank)	5.7 million €
Trans-sectoral topics	12.8 million €
<b>Total</b>	<b>96.5 million €</b>
Source: MinBuZa 2006 (unpublished document)	

In 2005 MinBuZa approved a new strategy for Development Research, largely replacing the former “South-Agenda”. The assessment of this agenda was that while in some ways it had been successful in strengthening scientific capacities in the South, the outcomes had been rather one-off and had not been embedded in the political processes either in the South or in the Netherlands, and thus its effects were far from optimal.

The **2005 Development Research strategy** places special emphasis on the application and the impact of research outcomes for poverty reduction and sustainable development. It follows a systemic approach, stressing processes of cooperation, exchange of experience and communication between scientists and the users of research outcomes (politics, private sector, civil society) within the framework of innovation systems. Research and research capacities will no longer be promoted as such and must now be embedded in the action fields and knowledge needs of politics, economy and society, thus ensuring its application and effectiveness. An explicit role is given to the promotion and creation of networks among stakeholders.

Development Research financed by MinBuZa is assigned great importance within the system of Dutch development policy. Research is defined as an instrument of DC and integrated into the policy cycle. MinBuZA is defined as a learning organization with external actors – in the Netherlands and in the South – integrated into learning processes. The topics of Development Research are derived from the needs of sectoral and regional politics.

#### 4.2 Development-related research in the national system of research promotion

NWO’s role is to promote high quality and innovative Dutch research; the organization defines itself as bridge between science and society. A new strategy paper named Science Valued 2007–2010 puts emphasis on an increased effectiveness of investment in research, stressing the importance of the creation of critical masses in certain areas, particularly national and international coordination and networking of research projects. Research promotion is now to be realized within larger contexts instead of a large number of isolated smaller projects. A closer link between science and society is intended to assure that demand from society is met by supply from science and that research outcomes are applied in practice.

Under the NWO umbrella several departments and foundations are engaged in research promotion in their disciplines as well as in bridging between society and science. NWO is mainly financed by OCW and in minor parts also by the respective departments of the relevant ministries. NWO research promotion is generally organized in the form of competitive allocation procedures.

WOTRO is the foundation within NWO in charge of Development Research. It is traditionally the only NWO department or foundation with an explicit geographical focus for its research, instead of a disciplinary focus. Within NWO, WOTRO is a rather small foundation (2 % of the budget). Nonetheless, WOTRO plays an important role for DC in the Netherlands. In 2005, WOTRO received a 53 % of financing for its activities from NWO and 41 % from MinBuZa. The major part of MinBuZa finance comes from DCO/OC; additional resources from the thematic MinBuZa departments. In the context of the NWO dialogue with society, WOTRO is the contact point to MinBuZa.



In its **new strategy paper 2007–2010**, WOTRO defines a new strategic approach. Maintaining its principle of scientific excellence, the new strategy sets some new priorities. In a consultation process with the major stakeholders from science, politics and civil society, WOTRO defined four thematic areas derived from the MDGs that are intended to provide a rough focus for Dutch Development Research:

- Poverty and hunger
- Global health and health systems
- Ecological sustainability
- Global interrelations

To ensure an effective application of promoted research activities in development processes, special emphasis is given to its relevance for society and to the involvement of society in research projects. The relevance of proposed research projects is assessed by both a scientific and a social council. In order to guarantee the involvement of society, the form and extent of the involvement of non-scientific users of research outcomes have to be set out in applications. Up to 10 % of project budgets can be spent for non-scientific communication. One requirement is a structural and active involvement of at least one partner from the South in the design process and the implementation of research projects.

Research projects are only supported if they are integrated in larger programs and cooperation networks. Cooperation with other NWO departments and external organizations for research funding is given high priority. National and international cooperation and networking is expected and supported with additional funding. Individual scientific promotion is now completely delegated to Nuffic (see below).

This re-orientation is a response to the deficits observed in the former periods of research promotion, where the major part of the budget was spent for individual project support, e.g. in the form of PhD scholarships. While this support scheme laid the foundation for quite a number of individual careers, it did not induce the formation of a critical mass for Development Research with significant effects in society. Development Research was distributed over a large number of disciplines and institutions, without gaining visibility and without leverage effects, e.g. attraction of additional funding.

Funding through WOTRO is generally available for a broad range of research disciplines, even if they are not (yet) declared to be or understood as Development Research. The aim of programs jointly funded with other NWO departments and external research promotion organizations is to

- mobilize additional resources for Development Research and
- draw attention to the development relevance of research realized in mono-disciplinary research.

The new strategy is explicitly understood as a Dutch program for Development Research, one developed on the basis of the specific scientific expertise available in the Netherlands or in cases where the Netherlands wishes to develop expertise. The program clearly deviates from the former “South-Agenda”, it is neither intended to represent a global research agenda nor to formulate priorities based exclusively on the perspective of the countries of the South. Involvement of the South perspective is to be ensured through cooperation with research partners in the South. However, this aspect is not given especially high priority.

### *Programs and activities*

During the previous support period between 2002 and 2005, a total of 31 million € was invested by WOTRO, 15 million € of which was in the form of individual support (11.5 million € for Dutch researchers and 3.5 million € for researchers from the South); this program will be discontinued with the new strategy. 15.5 million € went to larger research programs (12 million to Joint Thematic Programs and 3.5 million € to Integrated Programs) and 0.5 million € to capacity building in the South. In 2005, WOTRO invested a budget of around 8.8 million € in Development Research based on the strategy previously in use.

15 million € per year will be invested to implement the new strategy. The intention is to pool these resources in the context of Joint Thematic Programs to reach an overall budget of annually 30 million €.

The resources will be allocated through three budget lines:

- Integrated Programs are open calls for research projects of medium volume (600 000 to 800 000 €) and account for 50 % of the total WOTRO budget. 50 % is earmarked for the four MDG-relevant themes mentioned and the rest for freely defined topics.
- Joint Thematic Programs are programs co-financed with other NWO departments or other partners relevant to both MDG-related topics and the cooperating academic discipline. Around 40 % of WOTRO resources are earmarked for these programs.
- Strategic Support Activities are used to flank funded research programs on the basis of networking and communication activities, and 10 % of the budget is earmarked for this purpose.

### *University promotion and cooperation: Nuffic*

Nuffic is the Dutch organization for international cooperation in tertiary education and research, financed by the Ministry for Education (60 %) and the MinBuZa (40 %). The department for DC has an annual budget of 60 million € and a staff of 54. The budget is projected to rise to 120 million € in the coming years. Nuffic has its own department for development cooperation. Here, two programs for capacity building in education and research in the countries of the South are in the process of implementation:

- The Netherlands Programme for the Institutional Strengthening of Post-secondary Education and Training Capacity (NPT) – for support of tertiary education and research *organizations* in partner countries. In the context of the NPT-program, Nuffic closely cooperates with Dutch embassies. In each of the (today 15) partner countries, organizations of higher education and research are identified as recipients of Dutch support. Project funding is allocated in a competitive bidding process. One Dutch organization or consortium under Dutch leadership is then chosen to implement institutional support in partnership with an organization in the South.
- Netherlands Fellowship Programmes (NFP) – for the *individual* support of mid-career professionals from countries in the South. The NFP program grants individual scholarships for mid-career professionals working with organizations from the public or private sector or from civil society in the South. Scholarships are used for research on de-

velopment-relevant topics. The majority of these scholarships go to doctoral candidates working on their PhD thesis in the “sandwich mode”.<sup>5</sup>

Nuffic plans to focus more on the relevance and the effectiveness of funded Development Research, combining it with aspects of academic quality, in the past the most important assessment criteria. The individual scholarships will be embedded in larger contexts, possibly on the basis of a combination of individual and institutional support and networking.

### 4.3 Development Research organizations in the Netherlands

At a number of Dutch universities, scientists work on aspects of Development Research, either in the context of multi-disciplinary research with social or spatial orientation or in disciplinary research, e.g. in agricultural sciences (Wageningen) or medicine (KIT). The International Institute of Social Sciences (ISS) or the African Studies Centre are exclusively dedicated to Development Research. Some organizations active in Development Research are organized as NGOs.

Many faculties engaged in multidisciplinary Development Research are interlinked under the umbrella of the Research School CERES. The organizational model of the research schools was established in the early 1990s to coordinate Dutch research on a national level.

In the context of the multidisciplinary field of Development Research, cooperation on a national scale has helped to establish a critical mass of researchers. PhD-level education is coordinated by CERES, which means that candidates are able to attend courses at any one of the participating universities.

CERES is also engaged in efforts to bridge the gap between development policy and practice on the one hand and academic research on the other. The elimination of the South-Agenda is giving rise to new opportunities for Dutch Development Research to acquire resources from the ODA budget and to cooperate in development practice at the same time. CERES established the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN), which loosely brings together policy makers and practitioners in order to

- organize regional expert meetings,
- develop an online database of development-relevant expertise in the Netherlands,
- organize an annual thematic conference, and
- provide advice.

With a view to combining academic excellence with practice orientation, CERES has developed a new evaluation instrument for Development Research. While traditionally the Research Schools have been evaluated every five years based exclusively on academic criteria such as number of publications in A-level journals, the new instruments also include publications in African, Asian or Latin American journals or in journals with a non-academic target group.

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5 In the “sandwich mode“ students spend time at universities abroad for coursework, while dedicating other time e.g. to empirical research for a thesis in their home country.

#### 4.4 Strengths and weaknesses as assessed by Dutch actors

As the new strategy for Development Research is rather young, experience-based assessments are of rather limited scope. Within DCO/OC there are discussions on whether the radical elimination of the “South-Agenda” might have led to an exaggerated focus on knowledge needs within the MinBuZa. The decentralization of agenda-setting tasks to departments and embassies could lead to an overemphasis on short-term contract research and consultancies and underinvestment in substantial Development Research. Another additional risk is that Development Research could become rather path-dependent and that not enough innovative activities would be carried out.

Another difficult factor is the rather high percentage of institutional support, a factor that impedes any direct control of activities concretely implemented through research funding. However, institutional support lowers administrative costs and leaves funded organizations with more possibilities to develop new and creative projects.

A last problem that has been identified and is being approached from different angles is the traditionally difficult relationship between Dutch Development Research and the policy level. This distant relationship is not only a legacy of the former “South agenda”, it also reflects the fact that parts of the Dutch academic community consider Development Research as too application-oriented and thus not as “real science”, while policy makers would often prefer to see resources spent on Development Research invested in “real activities” with provable impacts.

## 5 Sweden

Sweden follows a very comprehensive approach to Development Research and invests a significant proportion of its ODA in this policy field. Emphasis is placed on the strengthening of research capabilities of partner countries and of regional and international organizations. By comparison, promotion of Development Studies in the sense of creating knowledge on development processes and developing countries plays a more limited role.

### 5.1 Structures of political governance and implementation

Within the Swedish government the political responsibility for DC lies with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is one of its six large policy fields (International law and human rights; Global development and development assistance; Trade, investment and the promotion of Sweden; Trade policy; Assistance to Swedes abroad; Foreign and security policy). As regards responsibility related to the central government budget, International Development Cooperation is by far the largest single item (see Table 4).

In 2003, the general guidelines for Swedish development policy were approved by the Swedish parliament as “Policy for global development” (Politik for global utveckling, PGU). These guidelines have strong reference to the MDGs and formulate a comprehensive policy approach stressing the need for a more coherent policy and increased collaboration and co-ordination with other countries and actors. The goal is formulated in such a way as to be applicable to different national policy areas and activities. It can be broken down into concrete objectives and targets in various areas.

<b>Table 4: Budget lines of the Swedish Foreign Ministry, 2006 (in thousands SEK)</b>	
Foreign and security policy	1 359 949 SEK
International development cooperation	26 058 663 SEK
Foreign trade, trade and investment promotion	506 696 SEK
Total	27 925 308 SEK
Source: <a href="http://www.Sweden.gov.se/sb/d/2059">http://www.Sweden.gov.se/sb/d/2059</a> , accessed April 4, 2008	

In the field of DC, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) is the central implementing agency, today working with around 120 partner countries, 50 of them focus countries. Since 2006, an independent agency has evaluated Swedish bilateral and multi-lateral development cooperation and analyzed international development cooperation (Swedish Agency for Development Evaluation, SADEV).

SAREC is the Sida department in charge of Development Research. As an organization, SAREC combines elements of a classic public administration allocating financial resources for research with functions of a research council (Lenefors / Gusstafsson / Svensson 2006, 59). Its overall staff is around 25 employees, assigned to three divisions:

- Division for Human Sciences for Social Development (HUMAN)
- Division for Natural Sciences for Sustainable Development (NAV)
- Division for University Support and National Research Development (UNI)

The largest division is UNI, with around half of SAREC's staff, while the rest of the staff is assigned to the other two divisions and general administration.

### *Budget and objectives*

Sweden invests around 6 % of its ODA in Development Research. The different programs together accounted for 847 million SEK in 2005 (around 92 million €, see Table 5). This sum was programmed to rise to 975 million SEK (105 million €) in 2006. In the next five years SAREC's budget is expected to increase by around 50 %.

The aim of Swedish research cooperation is to strengthen the research capacities of partner countries and at the same time to promote development-oriented research. Three objectives are defined:

- To assist poor developing countries in establishing good research environments, in training of researchers and in developing methods for planning, prioritizing and financing research
- To assist in the production of new knowledge and the application of research outcomes that are of importance for the development of DC by providing financial and scientific resources
- To support scientific cooperation between researchers in Sweden and in developing countries, including participation of Swedish researchers in projects and research cooperation relevant for development

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
U-FORSK	76.1	83.6	88.0	94.2	98.9
Swedish re- search links	8.0	8.0	9.2	17.5	29.1
Bilateral programs	216.4	224.2	183.1	217.7	249.1
Regional pro- grams	190.6	207.1	207.5	186.9	184.0
International programs	258.3	249.8	239.1	251.1	273.3
Rest	0.6	4.7	16.1	6.6	12.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>750.0</b>	<b>781.4</b>	<b>743.0</b>	<b>774.0</b>	<b>847.0</b>
Source: Eduards 2006, 11					

These three objectives illustrate that the Swedish government follows a comprehensive approach to Development Research, far beyond the narrow definition of development studies. Swedish Development Research is first of all research designed to facilitate development, and to a much lesser extent research on development processes or developing countries.

## 5.2 Programs and activities

Swedish Development Research consists of five major budget lines (see Table 5); in content terms, these may be summed up as follows:

- Bilateral support for developing countries’ research capabilities and capacities (“Bilateral Programs”);
- Support to international and regional research institutions and networks relevant for the objectives of DC (“Regional and International Programs”);
- Support to research on development and developing countries in Sweden (“U-FORSK”).

### *Bilateral support to research capabilities in partner countries<sup>6</sup>*

Since 1975, Sweden has been engaged in bilateral cooperation based on the objective of strengthening partner countries’ capabilities to conduct their own research. In the first ten years, cooperation was mainly geared to strengthening national research councils.

An evaluation showed that in most cases these bodies were not in a position to adequately set research priorities based on scientific criteria. In the next period, focus was shifted towards research training based on the sandwich mode, where students do coursework at Swedish universities, while empirical work is rooted in the local context of the partner

<sup>6</sup> This section is mainly based on Boeren et al. (2006).

country. After some years it became evident that research training had to be complemented with investment in infrastructure, equipment, libraries and archives. Additionally, starting in 1998, a special program was implemented to equip universities of partner countries with computers and other ICT equipment (Greenberg / Muchanga 2006). In the early 1990s a further shift was made towards more comprehensive support with the aim of establishing research cultures at national public universities. Universities were favored over research institutes due to their connection to higher education. Also in the 1990s, assistance was reduced to a limited number (11 to 12) of partner countries in order to provide more effective support.

Mainly based on a four-country case study, a recent evaluation (Boeren et al. 2006) comes to the following observations, regarding the strengths and weaknesses of SAREC's bilateral research cooperation (see Table 6).

	Strengths / recent improvements	Weaknesses / challenges / risks
Impact		Fewer improvements in research management, lack of quantifiable success indicators
Relevance	Important from the institutional perspective of supported universities	Only indirect link to poverty reduction, little transfer of research outcome to application
Efficiency	Move from a fragmented to a more focused approach	Lack of collaboration between researchers and projects supported by SAREC;  Little interaction with Sida-funded projects in partner countries
Sustainability	Increasing attention to sustainability	Financial sustainability of research projects "worrying"
Links to Sweden	Surprisingly smooth functioning of collaboration with Swedish partners, engaged and committed partners	Some problems in matching demand in partner country and supply in Sweden
Management	Program is generally well managed	A few issues not sufficiently addressed (research dissemination, university-industry cooperation, sustainability), no systematic M&E
Source: Boeren (2006)		

### *SAREC support to international or regional thematic research programs*

In 2005, Swedish support to international and regional thematic research programs added up to nearly 460 million SEK (50.1 million €), corresponding to more than half of SAREC's total budget (54 %). This financial backing goes to research that can lead to new knowledge, processes or products relevant for poverty reduction and sustainable development. The international and regional programs establish linkages between national research in developing countries and at the same time provide access to the relevant investigations being carried out globally. Swedish researchers are involved in these efforts, both

through their regular cooperation within the global research community and through different Sida-financed initiatives and cooperation projects. The program is geographically focused on the poor countries of Africa.

One of the main objectives is to identify research areas not yet sufficiently covered and to support relevant work in these fields. An additional aim is to promote the application of research outcomes in the developing countries. Regional research networks contribute to the development of national research through horizontal exchange of knowledge and information as well as through cooperation.

Important international organizations that receive SAREC funding are the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), among others. The regional organizations supported by the program include (among many others) the African Economic Research Council (AERC) and the Latin American Faculty for Social Sciences (*Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales*, FLACSO). In general, support is given to

*“well-established international and regional institutions that have the capacity to effectively use Sida/SAREC resources, that demonstrate capacity to conduct research, and/or, can channel funds effectively to national research organizations and regional research networks and individual researchers”* (Rath et al. 2006, 66).

An evaluation of the program done on request by the government of Sweden comes to a highly positive overall assessment, stating that

*“Sida/SAREC is a highly appreciated organization and valued partner by developing country researchers and research institutions, regional programs, thematic networks, and international organizations it supports. Its staff has been doing a commendable job under difficult conditions ...”* (Rath et al. 2006, 57).

In detail, the authors of the study mention a series of strengths and weaknesses of the program (see Table 7).

#### *Promotion of Development Research in Sweden*

There are two lines of activities financed by Sida/SAREC with the objective of supporting Development Research in Sweden:

- The first and by far largest line is “U-FORSK”, administered by Sida/SAREC in its function as Sida’s Research Council for Development Research.
- The second line is called Swedish Research Links and is earmarked to promote research cooperation between researchers in Sweden as well as and in (advanced) developing countries. It is administered by the Swedish Science Council (*Vetenskapsrådet*).

Six objectives have been defined by the Swedish Government (Edqvist 2006, 33, own translation) especially for the **program U-FORSK**:

- To generate knowledge relevant for DC
- To secure and develop knowledge in Sweden on developing countries and development issues
- To stimulate interest of researchers at Swedish universities and institutes in developing countries and Development Research
- To support recruitment of younger researchers for research related to developing countries and to secure and develop such research at universities and institutes



<b>Table 7: Strengths and weaknesses of Swedish support to international or regional thematic research programs</b>		
	<b>Strengths / recent improvements</b>	<b>Weaknesses / challenges / risks</b>
Relevance	Themes correspond to Swedish DC goals, MDG agenda, needs of poor countries	—
Appropriateness	High-performance partner institutions make possible effective support, long-term support, core institutional support; regional strategy for Africa in place	No regional strategy for Asia and Latin America
Efficiency	Optimal ratio of invested resources to output and outcome, Sida / SAREC “hyper-efficient organization” when it comes to financial contributions per staff member	Understaffed, high level of job rotation, delays in disbursement, relative isolation of program officers, narrow and limited monitoring, scarce time for strategic reflection and planning, lack of an adequate IT platform, too loose interaction between recipients and Sida / SAREC staff
Effectiveness	Specific programs have contributed to the creation of research capacity and relevant knowledge, knowledge is applied for problem solving	Program has to adjust more rapidly to changing patterns of knowledge creation
Governance	Sida / SAREC highly committed to balancing supply-driven priorities and demand-driven approaches	Diffuse decision-making and accountability structures, no involvement of representatives from developing countries in Sida / SAREC governance structures
Links to Sweden	Involvement of Swedish researchers leads to the establishment of repositories of knowledge on development issues	Potential of Swedish academic community to help poor countries has not been fully tapped
Communication	—	Limited capacity to communicate with stakeholders and prospective recipients
Strategic planning and foresight		No formal overall and periodic strategic planning process, lack of foresight on global trends
Source: Rath et al. (2006)		

- To contribute to the internationalization of higher education and research with a view to developing countries
- To increase opportunities to establish research contacts with developing countries and with developing countries research in other countries

Within U-FORSK, promotion is organized along five disciplinary groups, the largest one being “Issues of development and social sciences” (*Utvecklingsfrågor och samhällsvetenskap*) or what might be considered “Development Studies” in the more narrow sense (see Table 8). But also in other areas, a considerable share of resources is spent on research in social science fields. In the area of health research, an estimated third of the project volume is devoted to social or economic aspects. Overall, social sciences and natural sciences together account for around 90 % of U-FORSK’s resources, while the remaining 10 % go to human sciences, education and culture. In recent years, an increase in funding to “Development Studies” has been observed, accompanied by a certain decrease in funds going to the field of natural resources and environment.

<b>Table 8: Distribution of U-FORSK contributions to different scientific disciplines (in million SEK)</b>					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Development Studies, social sciences	24 (25 %)	24 (23 %)	20 (23 %)	27 (27 %)	45 (31 %)
Human sciences, education, culture	16 (16 %)	17 (16 %)	11 (13 %)	10 (11 %)	18 (13 %)
Health research	17 (17 %)	19 (18 %)	16 (18 %)	17 (18 %)	25 (18 %)
Natural resources, environment	23 (24 %)	23 (22 %)	19 (22 %)	21 (22 %)	24 (17 %)
Natural sciences, engineering	18 (18 %)	22 (21 %)	21 (24 %)	21 (22 %)	30 (21 %)
Total	98	105	87	96	142
Source: Deiacio et al. (2006, 11)					

**The aim of Swedish Research Links** is the promotion of research cooperation between Swedish researchers and researchers in (relatively advanced) developing countries. Another objective is to ensure that the internationalization of Swedish research also includes developing countries. The program started in 2000 in the context of research cooperation with South Africa; two years later it was amplified to include Asia and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. In 2005, more than half of the applications approved (56 %) came from natural sciences and another third from health research.

A pronounced concentration of successful applications from a limited number of universities can be observed in both programs. In 2005/06, five research centers (Uppsala University, Karolinska Institutet, Lund University, Stockholm University and the Royal Technical Institute [KTH]) together received 63 % of the funding (Deiacio et al. 2006, 16).

In 2006, two separate studies were carried out to evaluate support to Development Research at Swedish universities, one dealing with the overall support system, the other focusing on the program U-FORSK. They come to a largely critical assessment that may be summed up as follows:

Taken together, the financial resources of the two programs are too limited to generate any real impact on the relevant disciplines at Swedish universities and to respond to the interest in development-related issues in the Swedish academic community, which is perceived as high. Support channeled through SAREC during the period 2001–2005 amounted to not more than 0.4 % of university research budgets in the same period. This lack of resources is not compensated for by funding received from other Swedish research councils. Quite the contrary, the latter have reduced their support to a insignificant level, since they perceive Development Research as SAREC's "privilege" (Eduards 2006, 30). Even globalization research in a broader sense is not adequately financed by other research councils. A clear indication is that apart from Sida/SAREC no other actor within the Swedish research community explicitly refers to the PGU document from 2003 (Deiacio et al. 2006). The limited impact of Swedish Development Research is also due to the fact that the research projects are rather small (average of 1.09 million SEK or 120 000 €) and of short duration (2.4 years). This makes it difficult to carry out effective research in an often complicated environment.

Even in the second arena of Development Research – generating relevant knowledge for DC – the assessment is critical. The evaluations highlight the fact that it is difficult to design research that corresponds to the quality criteria of academia while at the same time generating practical outcomes and leading to helpful policy advice. In Sweden there is no organization that may serve as a “bridge” between the more basic research at national (and international) universities and policy makers at the Foreign Ministry or Sida.

## **6 Where does German Development Research stand by international comparison? A preliminary assessment**

The country case studies show that the general approaches to Development Research in important European donor countries are very diverse, as are their governance structures and institutional settings, including e.g. the linkages between research and development cooperation organizations on the one hand and national knowledge and innovation systems on the other.

### **6.1 Specificities of the German case**

While a wide array of disciplines are included in Development Research in the three countries compared, it is, in a way, a German specificity that here the term is mainly reserved for interdisciplinary, social science-based research on development processes and developing countries. German research institutes and universities carry out research in many other disciplines that are highly relevant for developing countries and for solving global problems, e.g. in water engineering, agriculture or health sciences. However, this research is to a large extent de-linked from the “development community” in politics and international cooperation. This limits the opportunities given for interdisciplinary or at least multidisciplinary research. It also hampers a systematic exploration of what certain advances in science and technology may imply for development processes and development cooperation. A program like the British “Getting research into use” would be very difficult to implement in Germany, due to this de-linking of the two communities.

The situation is rather similar with respect to the goal of strengthening research capacities in the South. Considerable (and over recent years continuously increasing) resources are being channeled for this purpose, mainly through DAAD, to a lesser extent also through GTZ. There is (at least anecdotal) evidence that past German cooperation with knowledge centers in the South has had significant positive impacts in terms of strengthening knowledge and innovation systems in the partner countries.<sup>7</sup> However, programs that *systematically* link these knowledge centers with research institutes in Germany are largely non-existent.

Institutional fragmentation and lack of an appropriate conceptual framework or strategy paper substantially lowers the visibility of German Development Research. However, there is also some doubt as to whether Germany’s contribution in this field of activity is adequate in quantitative, financial terms. Even though the data available for various coun-

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7 We are referring here to cases such as the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras/Chennai or the Technical University of Costa Rica, either established or strengthened with German support and today important elements of the innovation systems of the respective countries.

tries are difficult to compare, it may be assumed that Germany's contribution to Development Research in the broader sense does not keep up with that of e.g. the UK. With regard to support to international agrarian research, one of the big items in the national Development Research budget, it has to be stated that in terms of absolute financial contributions Germany is only *number six* among the bilateral donors, behind countries with lower overall funding for development, such as the Netherlands or Switzerland.

Not only are the financial resources spent on Development Research rather low in Germany, the personal resources available for the design of policies and cooperation concepts, allocation of funds, coordination of actors and monitoring and evaluation of the respective programs are as well. The only reason why given workloads can be accomplished is that a considerable share of the resources is invested in *institutional* support to national and international organizations. While this considerably diminishes transaction costs, it contributes to a rather low visibility of Germany in many fields of Development Research, because it implies no active networking with partners in other donor countries or in the South.

Germany's position regarding **applied development studies** can be assessed as rather strong. With additional project-based funding, mainly by BMZ and to a lesser extent from BMBF, the **DIE** has, since 2007, been able to grow to a size of around 50 academically trained staff members, i.e. a size that makes it possible to reach a significant critical mass in important research areas and enhances international visibility. In recent years, the DIE has strengthened its international linkages, e.g. with European partner institutes such as the British IDS and ODI. The institute also links up with partners in Anchor Countries, mainly through its program "Global Governance School", currently involving organizations from Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico and South Africa. The Hamburg-based **GIGA** is the second research organization of significant size and expertise in globalization and area studies. While the **ZEF** in Bonn is passing through a phase of internal reform, it can count on its international doctoral program as an important asset. With three organizations of relevant size and different though mainly complementary profiles, applied development studies in Germany seem to be well positioned. Once consolidated after their recent processes of reorganization and growth, the three institutes could in the future even provide respective services to other European countries where there are no such "bridges" between more academic research on development processes and developing countries on the one hand and the needs of policy makers on the other.

Contrary to the conclusions reached regarding applied development studies, the position of **Development Research at Germany's universities** is a matter of concern, despite some new developments in university teaching programs (International Development Studies in Marburg, Erfurt School of Public Policy). Development studies and, in general, scientific work on issues related to the developing world have lost ground in recent years. This has happened without attracting any major public attention or – in this case even less – opposition, mainly because the relevant decisions have been taken at a decentralized level, within a university system based on the principle of autonomy for the individual organization and governed by a federal system.<sup>8</sup>

The situation is further aggravated by the fact that Development Research at German universities is fragmented and that no generalized mechanisms exist for information exchange

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8 In Germany, large areas of science and education policy fall under the mandate of the 16 Länder (federal states), and the responsibility of the central government is limited.

or coordination of activities that might be compared with the British DSA, the Bloomsbury International Development Centre in London or the Dutch research school CERES. There are some exceptions, such as the working group on Latin American research, AD-LAF (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Lateinamerikaforschung*). Generally speaking, transparency is low, both with respect to Development Research currently carried out at German universities and as regards future plans and projects. This hampers the building of visible research clusters and the development of joint positions among researchers on issues related to development cooperation or research policy.

Cross-fertilization among academic research organizations and between research at universities on the one hand and applied development studies and policy advice on the other is more the exception than the rule. The latter problem can partly be traced back to the fact that much of the Development Research carried out at German universities does not really match the needs of more policy-oriented development studies, as academic research does not appear to see any advantage in linking up with the development community. Some new impulses may be expected from growing research on climate and environmental change, where inter- or multi-disciplinarity is required.

## 6.2 New opportunities for strengthening Development Research in Germany

Within the international donor community, Germany could play a much more prominent role in research for development, considering that the country is among the world's leaders in applied research and technology development, in many cases highly relevant for developing countries as well as for overcoming global problems. It may thus be assumed that many developing countries would welcome intensified assistance and cooperation in development-oriented research, particularly from Germany. In order to achieve a more adequate position in the international donor community, Germany should thus, within the framework of the 0.7 % ODA goal, increase, its spending on Development Research above average.

### *Towards better policy coherence*

Increasing financial investment in Development Research should be accompanied by measures to ensure adequate political governance and conceptual work in this field of activity. This is particularly the case if the aim is not exclusively to invest larger amounts of money in institutional support but to develop, in targeted ways, funding opportunities e.g. for the networking of research organizations in developing countries and with German entities. This would require additional personnel resources and suggests a need to bundle responsibilities within BMZ, either in the form of a cross-divisional task force or a more structural re-organization of functions.

A more complex problem may be seen in the fact that much research relevant for development and developing countries is within the remit not of BMZ but of BMBF and other ministries, such as the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi) in the case of applied energy research or the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) in food and forestry-related research.

A rather strict division of functions within the German government in general does not facilitate joint action. However, some recent political developments open up windows of opportunity for enhanced coherence within the German government in its outward-

oriented policies, specifically in the field of support to Development Research. In January 2008, an **agreement** between BMZ and BMBF was signed with the objective of *“harmonizing the scientific and technological cooperation of BMBF and the development cooperation of BMZ in joint projects and identifying ways to achieve closer cooperation”* (unpublished document, translation by the author).

In February 2008, the German cabinet approved the **“Internationalization Strategy for Science and Research”**, submitted by the BMBF. Among the four objectives of this strategy, two are highly compatible with the objectives of development policy, understood as an essential element of global structural policy:

- *“To significantly strengthen cooperation with developing countries in education, research and development.*
- *To take international responsibility and to come to grips with global challenges. Germany will contribute, with its potentialities in research and innovation, to seek to address global challenges regarding climate, resources, health, security and migration.”*(BMBF 2008, translation by the author).

Thus, the **political conditions** for improved policy coordination between the two ministries most relevant for Development Research in the broader sense have improved significantly. This opens an important window of opportunity that should be taken advantage of, e.g. by designing **inter-ministerial pilot projects** in the field of Development Research.

One interesting option might be seen in joint support to the building of scientific competence in **climate change and adaptation research** in Anchor Countries, such as India or South Africa, where climate change is on the national political agenda, DC has a focal area related to environment or climate change, and where German researchers have an interest of their own in linking up with local research institutes and/or in including specific geographical conditions in their research. A project of this kind should also approach the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and look for additional support.

The (successful) implementation of joint pilot projects can serve as an important trigger for mutual learning and trust building. It has to be stated that, regarding the internal logic governing different policy fields and procedures, there are a number of barriers that may hamper inter-ministerial cooperation. For instance, development cooperation focuses on a limited number of priority areas agreed upon in advance with partner countries, and it is increasingly being pushed towards alignment with national development strategies and harmonization with other donors. This limits the flexibility that could serve to facilitate coordination with BMBF activities. On the other hand, the BMBF’s scope is also limited when it comes to international activities, and it focuses mainly on countries that either host R&D organizations that are regarded as interesting partners for German counterparts or for other reasons interesting for German scientists. Thus far from being a trivial matter, using successful pilot projects to build trust and mutual understanding between the actors of ministries may prove to be an important milestone for future cooperation.

Increased coordination among the different lines of international collaboration is to a certain extent also hampered by an unfavorable relationship between workloads and personnel resources in the relevant ministries. While there are no tangible incentives for the offi-

cers in charge of sectors and/or countries, they will tend to avoid time-consuming coordination efforts. Thus, improving coordination would to some extent have to go hand in hand with an increase in personnel resources within the ministries involved. Alternatively, parts of the coordination mechanism might possibly be delegated to non-ministerial, more technical bodies entrusted with the task of doing the preparatory work for political decision making. In any case, communication and coordination will have to be based on lean structures and efficient procedures.

### *Tackling deficits in Development Research at university level*

Probably the most serious gap in the German Development Research system is the weak position of Development Research at university level. Under conditions of globalization this could be considered a minor problem, as applied researchers in Germany can easily take up work done at universities and institutes in other European countries and/or globally. However, while the knowledge system's needs regarding development cooperation remain to a large extent national in character, it does not seem acceptable that Germany should be barely visible in more basic Development Research. While an increasing "Europeanization" and globalization of knowledge networks is clearly on the agenda, parallel efforts should be undertaken to strengthen Development Research at Germany's universities.

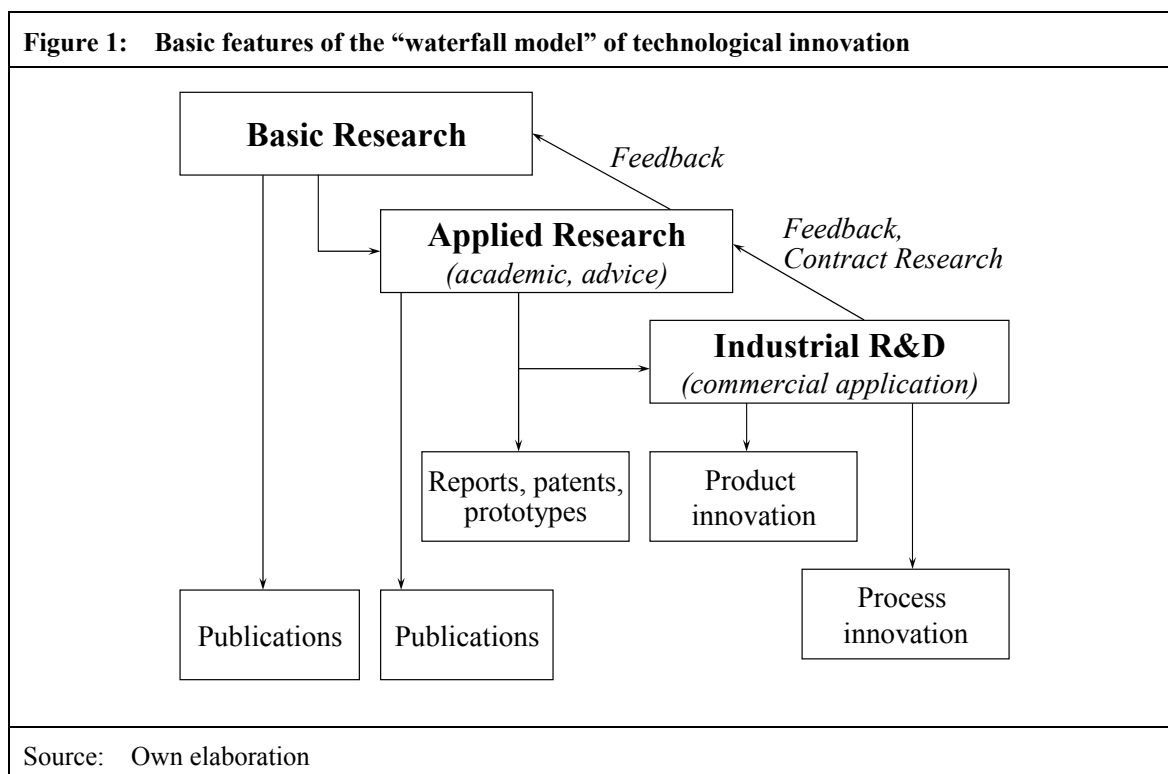
It will be necessary to avoid further reductions of resources for Development Research. In order to raise quality, scale, coherence and visibility at the same time, additional resources should be spent in the mode of open tendering. This could take the form of tendering for substantive (large) research programs or in innovative ways, e.g. tendering for an "Endowment Chair for Globalization and Development Research" (*"Stiftungsprofessur"*), in the best of the cases co-financed by BMZ and BMBF, or centers of excellence at universities, to be funded over a limited period of time (4-5 years).

Open tendering could stimulate creative thinking at Germany's universities as regards development-oriented research. As in the case of the British DRC, the criteria applied for the allocation of resources could help to guide Development Research without interfering overly in university autonomy. The criteria for the selection of proposals should include, besides academic excellence, international research networking, involvement of stakeholders from developing countries and application orientation. Among the backers of this kind of support could be BMZ, possibly together with BMBF or the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG), the Volkswagen-Stiftung and/or any other foundation engaged in development.

Whether the formation of a German DSA or of similar professional networks on a national level could at this point in time contribute to strengthening Development Research in Germany is a matter that needs to be questioned. The author of the present study would find it more promising to link German researchers with European and international networks. An important step in that direction would be to enhance the visibility and transparency of German development, e.g. through a Web-based information platform ("Who is who – Who does what" in German Development Research?).

## 7 The four benchmark countries: Some common challenges, open questions and first recommendations

A smoothly functioning Development Research system can be compared to the “waterfall model” of technology-oriented research, with different “layers” of R&D clearly distinguished, each following its own intrinsic logic but with neatly fitting links, to ensure an effective and efficient innovation process (see Figure 1 for a simplified version).



If we accept Development Research as largely comparable with technology-oriented research, and taking up the information provided in chapters 2 to 5, we can infer that the UK has the most complete and coherent system of the four countries under consideration. It has a solid base of (basic) Development Research at university level, two large organizations for applied research, DfID-CRD as an intelligent *client* with high absorptive capacities for scientifically grounded policy advice and, finally, programs for the application of research outcomes for development purposes (Product Development PPPs, *Getting research into use*).

The other countries considered have clear-cut flaws in at least one of the steps of the knowledge cascade, Germany clearly in the generation of new fundamental knowledge at university level, the Netherlands and Sweden more in applied research, as a bridge between basic research and the concrete needs of practitioners and policy makers. One notorious problem is that the chain links within the systems do not really fit together, i.e. the outcome of basic research is not taken up by more applied research, and more practice-oriented research is not always in line with the needs of policy makers and practitioners.



### *How to strengthen Development Studies*

Notwithstanding the differences among the countries, the coherence of the Development Research system is under increasing stress. In all four cases, problems were reported regarding the position of a research that is in line with the needs of policy makers and is at the same time consistent with criteria of high academic quality. Applied research – not only in development – has always been in a difficult *sandwich position* regarding incentives and internal governance structures. Two trends have made things more complicated during recent years and will probably continue to do so in the future:

- On the one hand, research financing and individual career opportunities in all European countries (“Lisbon Agenda”) are increasingly linked to academic excellence, measured in terms of quantitative performance indicators such as number of publications in refereed journals.
- On the other hand, since the Millennium Declaration of 2000, development cooperation has increasingly been called on to deliver tangible outcomes (also measured in terms of quantitative performance indicators) on the ground, within a rather short time-frame.

It will be increasingly difficult to reconcile these two agendas, because the incentives for the individual researcher to opt for the sandwich position continue to shrink. Highly qualified, talented and ambitious researchers will more and more be attracted to basic research areas, where the prospects to accumulate publications in A-rated journals and other scientific merits are much brighter. At the same time, it is very likely that policy makers will try more and more to pull Development Research funded with ODA-resources in the direction of contract research and consultancies that may help to develop short-term, high-impact DC interventions.

Possible measures on the *national* level designed to counteract these tendencies and to maintain an adequate level (in quantitative and qualitative terms) of applied Development Research could include:

- Maintain and wherever possible increase financial resources for disciplinary as well as interdisciplinary Development Research, especially at university level, where it can be linked to high-level training.
- Increase the visibility and the image of applied Development Research. The acceptance of this kind of research (and training) by the academic community and by students appears to differ greatly in the four countries under consideration, and this field of action will best be dealt with at the national level.
- Enhance transparency regarding available (personnel, institutional and financial) resources in Development Research and (virtual) clustering of today decentralized activities.
- Strengthen career opportunities for applied Development Researchers, first by maintaining, within the academic system, high-level academic positions (university chairs) and second by fostering the mobility of staff between research organizations on the one hand and high-level public administration and possibly the private sector on the other.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> In technology-oriented research, much of applied research is carried out by junior researchers, e.g. in the context of PhD work. Their R&D very often leads to a subsequent career within a private sector organization. There are no comparable incentives in the field of applied DR.

Parallel to these national agendas, it seems high time to discuss how **cooperation** and **coordination** among European bilateral donors and the EU itself can be enhanced with a view to overcoming the identified flaws in national research systems. The objectives would be, on the one hand, to guarantee high-quality basic research on development issues and, on the other hand, to better provide policy makers with high-level, appropriate and timely information and knowledge. Most bilateral donors are set to significantly increase their **resources** earmarked for Development Research promotion. Pooling at least some of these resources could give rise to very substantial Development Research funding on a European or international level. The perspective of increasingly working within European or international networks might *per se* raise the attractiveness of Development Research for young researchers.

The most far-reaching option in this context – to be evaluated and discussed – is the establishment of a **European Institute** for Development Research. By bundling research capacities in one place, it would be possible to achieve significant clustering effects, and the day-to-day exchange among researchers educated and trained in different settings could lead to an especially creative milieu.

A probably less sensitive option, and one with a short-term implementation perspective, could consist in an increased “**coopetition**” among the existing European Development Research organizations. Increased **cooperation** would require increasing transparency concerning the research done at the different institutes, for instance by providing resources and incentives for the systematic exchange of researchers among them, or by establishing exchange platforms such as a “European Summer School for Development Research”, held annually and alternating among national research organizations. The **competition** element could consist of a procedure to provide – based on an open tendering process – Development Research institutes with the funding and the personnel resources they need for Europe to take the lead in specific research fields and for a predetermined period of time, e.g. three to five years. These European “clusters of excellence” would be staffed with the best-qualified researchers from Europe – and beyond – to include researchers from developing countries – lifting these clusters clearly out of the national sphere.

The question of the **evaluation** of development cooperation was not in the focus of this study. However, in this field too a growing Europeanization should be on the agenda. In ways similar to what has been said regarding Development Research, the most far-reaching option could be to establish a European institute for the evaluation and monitoring of bilateral and EU development cooperation. Alternatively, a more systematic involvement of experts from other European countries in the evaluation of national development cooperation activities (peer review principle) should be discussed.

One important disincentive to engage in interdisciplinary Development Research is the difficulty to **publish** outcomes in highly ranked journals.

- One possibility to respond to this challenge that should be discussed and could be introduced on a broader scale is the new evaluation scheme introduced by the Dutch Research School CERES, especially for applied Development Research (see 4.3).
- An alternative option would be to assess whether, on the European level, there is room for an additional Development Research journal where applied and interdisciplinary

research papers could be published, besides the existing “European Journal of Development Research” and the projected “European Development Report”.

A last point that should be discussed among interested stakeholders is the most promising way to involve **stakeholders from the South** in the definition of agendas and the governance of Development Research. Both the Netherlands and Sweden have for quite a long time maintained advisory bodies (RAWOO, EGDI) with a significant participation of experts from the South. Both entities have discontinued their work in recent years. The UK has opted for the integration of researchers from the South into large research projects and consortia as a means of giving due consideration to their interests and points of view within research cycles. It should be assessed whether this is a feasible and recommendable alternative to a more direct participation of South stakeholders in the process of agenda setting.

### *How to strengthen research capabilities in the South*

Strengthening research capabilities in the South is part of the agenda of all four countries, and has been for quite some time. However, with few exceptions, developing countries still do not play a significant role in international research and technology creation. So it would seem high time to come to a more in-depth analysis and exchange of experience among bilateral and multilateral donors in this field of activities in order to identify flaws in past forms of cooperation and come up with approaches with higher leverage effects. The learning process sketched in chapter 5 for the case of Swedish support to research capacities in the South draws our attention to

- the need for **comprehensive strategies** that include training of researchers and research managers, investment in infrastructure, at least in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and support for soft aspects of capabilities (research culture);
- the need to focus on a **limited number of research organizations** for dedicated cooperation.

The last point clearly calls for efficient **donor coordination** to avoid a situation in which some of the better-performance research organizations may be over-aided and at the same time overburdened with cooperation requests, while others with potential to become high performers may be left out of international support.

Another topic that needs to be discussed is the difficult interrelation between increased support for knowledge creation and higher education in the South on the one hand and the **brain drain** phenomenon on the other. In view of the fact that the resources available for high-level training and education will be increased significantly in the years to come (Nuffic, DAAD), while many European countries will face shortages of qualified labor, this problem will necessarily be high on the agenda. Probably, formation of high-level centers of excellence in the South, in a position to offer researchers from home countries or world regions attractive working conditions and payment, would be an important option to keep highly qualified researchers attached to the developing world. Concepts concerning ways to convert brain drain into brain gain and/or to achieve brain circulation for mutual benefit need to be developed. This topic should also be discussed on the European or international level.

*How to strengthen research for development*

The four country case studies have identified no clear and urgent “calls to action” and urgent reform needs regarding donor commitments to strengthening research for development in areas like agriculture, health etc. In the Swedish case, the evaluation has been highly positive, tracing this assessment back to the fact that financial resources are invested in rather strong and well-managed research organizations.

One open question that remains to be discussed is what difference ODA-financed programs can actually make in these fields as well as in the probably most important area of Development Research, that of medical research and the development of drugs against diseases that especially affect developing countries. Research in these areas is extremely cost-intensive and the ODA funds available are small, compared with the dimension of the tasks involved.

In this context one of the new challenges in Development Research is how to link bilateral and multilateral aid to the activities of new, non-state donors. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the most visible of these new actors, in 2005 granted nearly 260 million US-\$ exclusively to support innovation in key areas of malaria prevention and treatment. In 2006, it invested more than 916 million US-\$ in its “Global Health Program”, with a strong emphasis on R&D ([www.gatesfoundation.org](http://www.gatesfoundation.org)). Another very strong player engaged in global health research is the Soros Foundation ([www.soros.org](http://www.soros.org)). The question that should be discussed is what role bilateral donors could play in the years to come with regard to health research, and whether they actually have a role to play beyond co-funding of international funds like the “Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria” ([www.theglobalfund.org](http://www.theglobalfund.org)).

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## **Annex**





<b>Experts interviewed in NL, UK and Sweden</b>		
<b>Netherlands</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization</b>
A.J. (Ton) Dietz	Scientific Director	CERES
Coenraad Krijger	Acting Director	WOTRO, NWO
I.S.A. Baud	Professor, Head Programme Livelihoods, Environment and Governance	Amsterdam Institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies, Universiteit van Amsterdam
Gerrie Tuitert	Deputy Director	WOTRO, NWO
Jeroen Rijniers	Senior Policy Officer	DCO/OC, MinBuZa
Jos Walenkamp	Director Department for Human Resource and Institutional Development	Nuffic
Marie-Trees Meereboer	Director	PARTOS
Ruud Strijp	Policy Officer	WOTRO, NWO
<b>United Kingdom</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Sir Andy Haines	Director	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Claire Newland	Programme Manager (Global Infections)	Medical Research Council
Emma Spicer	Deputy Head	Central Research Department, Department for International Development
Katie Willis	Senior Lecturer	Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London

<b>United Kingdom (cont.)</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Simon Maxwell	Director	Overseas Development Institute
Steve Morgan	Associate Director DFID	Economic and Social Research Council
Tim Unwin	Professor, Director of Graduate Studies	Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London
<b>Sweden</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Mats Hårsmar	Head Secretary, EGDI	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Måns Fellesson	Special Advisor	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Tomas Kjellqvist	Head, Division for University Support and National Research Development, Department for Research Cooperation	Sida-SAREC

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