

**Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe:
DAAD Special Programme "Academic Reconstruction"
Funded Partnerships in the Field of**

Health and Social Work

Subject Area	Social Work
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Project:	"Qualifying social educators for engaging in social work and education for mentally-ill and disabled people."
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Outline

The project launched in 2004 aims to contribute to modernising the teaching offered at universities as well as the postgraduate and continuing training of social workers in accordance with the requirements of the psychiatry reforms and to networking universities and other institutions in South Eastern Europe. A three-semester, postgraduate continuing training module taught by German and Macedonian lecturers was completed at the University of Skopje (Institute of Social Work and Social Policy) in 2006. The same year saw the **Network for the Empowerment of Social Work in Mental Health in South Eastern Europe** established – because there can be no doubt that there is a need for such empowerment to be delivered, especially by engaging in professional development and in-service training measures and research projects in this field for the South Eastern European and German participants of the foundation workshop held in Ohrid.

The opening of a 3-Semester **Postgraduate Degree Programme in "Mental Health"**, at the Goce-Dolcev University in Stip for nursing staff who already hold a Bachelor's degree will be the degree key project in 2009. The planned start for the degree programme is scheduled for the Winter Semester 2009/2010.

The 4th Workshop of the Network for the Empowerment of Social Work in Mental Health in South Eastern Europe will be held in Belgrade on the topic of "Prevention/Health Promotion in respect of mental health".

A **Summer School is planned in Ohrid** on the topic of Project Management in August, whereby the generation of a project concept in the field of Stress Management is planned in the sense of interlinking theory and practice, and is to be implemented as well. The Ss. Cyril and Methodius University Skopje is continuing to work on developing a Master's degree programme in "Clinical Social Work".

Three postgraduate workshops for social workers organised by Macedonian social workers for Macedonian social workers are also to be funded.

Subject Area	Public Health
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Project: MetaNET – SEE – "Network of Academic Networks"

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Outline

The MetaNET-SEE Project has developed as a fully functional network out of the existing Public Health Network of South Eastern European Countries (PH-SEE) and out of the cystic echinococcosis project (MetaNET-SEE) that had remained independent up until 2007 in cooperation with Germany. The objective for 2009 for the MetaNET project consists of continuing to expand the infrastructure created in 2008 out of the two original projects and to continue the initiated projects. The collaboration with the scientists and health facilities working in the two previous networks to establish a new infrastructure and to carry out collaborative projects and campaigns has developed well and will be continued with ambitious and demanding collaborative projects and campaigns. The core priorities for 2009 relate both to Public Health as well to infectious diseases. 41 partners from 11 countries are contributing to the project: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Germany. Compared with 2008, the increase in the number of collaborative partners shows that the project meets with a lively interest.

The key goal for the MetaNET project is to support scientific facilities in South Eastern Europe in research and teaching in the field of health sciences and infectious diseases and to promote collaboration between the facilities themselves. In so doing, the aim is to achieve a sustained improvement in the research and teaching and to strengthen the region. The South Eastern European partners of the MetaNET-SEE projects come from universities/research institutions and institutes working in the field of Public Health. The partners from Germany are based at the University of Bielefeld and the University of Heidelberg.

The contentual priorities for 2009 incorporate the exchange of students, graduates and university teachers between the partner countries and with Germany. A workshop on Brucellosis (Intersectoral Approach to Brucellosis) will be held in Ohrid, Macedonia, from 17 to 19 September 2009. The Summer School for 30 participants on the topic "Methods and Tools in Public Health and in the field of Infectious Diseases" will be held at the Andrija Stampar School in Zagreb from 6 to 10 September. The resumption of the Student Conference for Master-PH-Students is important, which will also be held at the Andrija Stampar School on 11 and 12 September 2009 with 25 participants.

The teaching materials for the existing Schools of Public Health in South Eastern Europe and for those under construction are to be supported by publishing these. Volume 6 of the series of Public Health text books on the topic of "Methods and Tools in Public Health" was already addressed in 2008 and is to be completed in 2009, after which it will be distributed to all the countries of South Eastern Europe.

The Minimum Health Indicator Set for SEE countries is to be updated to the current state of knowledge with the 4th edition. Several countries have contributed to drawing up very ambitious goals for collaboration in the MetaNET project. We aim to have participants from all the participating countries represented at the Summer School and at the Student Conference.

Subject Area	Medicine
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Outline

The University of Hamburg has maintained close contacts for many years with universities in all the countries of South Eastern Europe.

The academic goals of this collaboration are:

Curricular reforms for medical studies and harmonising these with European objectives (Bologna), the scientific education and training of physicians/bioscientists/psychologists, and fostering medical networks in South Eastern Europe.

Funding opportunities are available as:

Scholarships for Young Doctors to Germany (three months max.);
 Scholarships for the Region (e.g. to Zagreb, three months max.);
 Initiation and Support for Summer Schools, etc.,
 Start-up financing for doctoral dissertations in Deutschland.

Financing from:

the DAAD Special Programme "Academic Reconstruction of South Eastern Europe" within the scope of the Stability Pact, from the DAAD - funded University Partnerships between Hamburg and Zagreb or Hamburg and Belgrade, respectively, EU Funds from (TEMPUS – Project in Kosovo 2002 – 2007), from industry, funds from Central European Medical Disciplinary Societies.

Due to the desolate situation in Kosovo, the funding measures within the scope of the DAAD Stability Pact concentrated largely on this area.

A total of 5 intensive courses will be organised in 2009, namely on the following topics (details follow):

Endocrinology (Dubrovnik, October 2009)
 Clinical Chemistry (Dubrovnik, October 2009)
 Medical Psychology (Sarajevo, Autumn 2009)
 Immunology (Ohrid, October 2009)
 Radiology (Autumn 2009)

In addition, medical collaborative networks were initiated in the fields of Gastroenterology, Pathology, Molecular Biology and Oncology and efforts were made to revitalise these with the help of local commitment and industry. These medical networks are of a high academic level and serve both to improve the diagnostics and, at the same time, to improve collaboration, professional development and in-service training of young physicians, hence they promote peace and advance the development.

The specified activities are additionally networked with the following projects initiated by the Medical Faculty Hamburg:

Curricular Reform in Medicine, in Kosovo and the whole of South Eastern Europe in collaboration with Zagreb, Vienna, funded by an EU TEMPUS-Project 2002-2007;

Curricular Reform Conferences in der Region (Zagreb), in Austria and in Germany, in order to take a common path to Europe, funded by the HRK;

Training of physicians, psychologists, and other professional groups in the treatment, care and nursing of mentally traumatised children in the region with a focus on Kosovo and Albania under the lead responsibility of the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy Hamburg, funded by the Steffi Graf - Foundation;

Medical-clinical courses, such as Clinical Endocrinology (under the lead responsibility of Prof. Wiersinga/ Amsterdam, Prof. Metelko /Zagreb, Prof. Seitz/Hamburg), Clinical Chemistry (under the lead responsibility of Prof. Blaton/Brussels), Immunology (under the lead responsibility of Prof. Dr. Stockinger, Vienna/Prof. Dr. Spiroski, Skopje).

Postgraduate Courses at the Inter University Centre Dubrovnik (www.iuc.hr) financed by the DAAD, DAAD-StabiPakt, Volkswagen Stiftung, Soros Foundation, Industry, etc.

Subject Area	Medicine
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Project: (GAST in SEE) German Action in Science and Teaching in South Eastern Europe 2009

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Outline

"GAST IN SEE" (German Action in Science and Teaching in South Eastern Europe) will focus in 2009 above all on the development of pathology after administering streptozotocin (STZ) icv to rats. This Alzheimer Model considers two current research approaches: (1) STZ icv results in an insulin resistant state being produced in the brain of rats which reflects cerebral diabetes. This will examine the hypothesis of whether diabetes (Type II) is a risk factor for the origin of Alzheimer's disease. (2) The STZ-icv model is suitable for slowly developing the pathology of Alzheimer's. In 2009, therefore, we will carry out molecular biological and histochemical studies of the brain regions of this rat model and so complete our practically finished examinations of the 3 and 6 month old animals through these after 2 weeks, 1 and 9 months. In so doing, we hope to gain indications (a) to determine the earliest point in time for the biochemical and morphological changes after STZ icv in the hippocampus and cortex and (b) to record the course of the cognitive loss of the animals by means of these markers. The groups in Zagreb and Sarajevo will carry out these examinations, thereby integrating the expertise from Würzburg.

Furthermore, therapy studies with substances that inhibit monoamine oxidase and bind heavy metals, M30 and HLA 20, are planned. Pilot results show that these substances, through mechanisms or such that interfere with the molecular processes, are able to antagonise the degenerative process after STZ icv. In Sarajevo, the research group is now endeavouring to create a liquor diagnostic (A β ₁₋₄₂, tau protein) for the biochemical diagnostics of Alzheimer's disease after the methods required for this were learnt and acquired in 2008.

We held a workshop in Würzburg in January 2009 on the MD/PhD programme (Bologna Protocol, ORPHEUS Initiative). The viewpoints voiced from the perspective of the German universities and of those universities that had established the PhD for physicians were discussed. Much became a lot clearer as a result of this workshop, so that the participants of the workshop in Würzburg could be funded for the international conference in Aarhus 2009 and for some additional small conferences, thereby creating an excellent basis which could now lead to a more extensive reconciliation of the viewpoints, and possibly even in the course of 2009.

Subject Area	Social Work
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Outline**1. Summary of key developments up to 2009**

In 2005, the Department of Education decided to go beyond the original intentions of offering a module in social work and to establish a new degree programme in "Social Work/Social Pedagogics" that was approved by the senate at the end of 2005. At the start of the winter semester 2008/2009 some 75 students were studying the major in Social Pedagogics.

In 2006 and 2007 regular in-service training courses were held in Regensburg and Munich for the academic staff in Pristina. In addition, four internships were carried out at social institutions in Regensburg for students from Kosovo taking the new major. Two students from the FH Regensburg completed internships in social institutions in Kosovo (financed by Japanese and German NGOs).

At the core of the project lie teaching courses in Pristina that were delivered by German and Slovenian university lecturers in team teaching together with Kosovan teaching staff with the long-term goal of being able to pass these courses on to the colleagues in Kosovo and to create additional positions for the major.

To discuss, review and coordinate the activities, two international workshops were held in Pristina attended by colleagues from Germany, Slovenia, Macedonia, Croatia and Bosnia. One of the results of these contacts was to be seen in the Department of Social Work being integrated into the Network of South-East European Schools of Social Work and the International Association of Social Workers. The department was subsequently represented at meetings of the "network".

The core area of the project, i.e. courses offered in team teaching between lecturers from Kosovo, Germany and Slovenia, were continued in 2008. This called for the "hard" social work subjects to be covered as well as all fields on the methods of social work and education, and action theory. The subject "Social Policy for Social Educators" will be taken on by Nagip Skenderi in the winter semester and will be offered presumably for one more final time in the team teaching modus after which Professor Skenderi will take on responsibility for the subject. Professor Skenderi plans to enhance his qualifications in community work in the course of the programme.

A key development for the project was to be seen in the appointment of Dr. Nagip Skenderi as the first professor for Social Pedagogics at the Department of Pedagogics, University of Pristina, for the winter semester 2008/2009. Prof. Skenderi represented the extension "Social Pedagogics" in January 2009 at a conference held at the University of Monmouth, N.J./USA.

In 2008, the internships for students from Kosovo in Germany as well as of the German students in Kosovo were continued in the form of short internships lasting a week in relevant institutions. These proved to be exceptionally successful. This relates to the collaboration with German internship offices, contacts between Kosovan and German students that proved to be extraordinarily productive and the professional development and in-service training for Kosovan students. The German internship offices described the collaboration with Kosovan interns as very helpful, since they a) generally have an Albanian-speaking clientele from which these interns profited, and b) even when the Kosovan students could speak no German, but rather English, this, particularly in the post-school support work, resulted in the youngsters in the respective institutions developing a greater motivation to improve their English skills so that they could communicate with the Kosovan interns.

The German interns in Kosovo gained insights into international social work, which we were unable to offer them within the scope of the education and training. In addition, the resulting lasting contacts that were made should not be overlooked, either. Relations with the corresponding institutions and people in Kosovo continue to exist as well as the plans of our students to deepen and continue the working relations.

The same applies to internships by two Kosovan students in Ljubljana that were carried out following the international seminar organised by Prof. Dr. Zavirsek in team teaching with her assistant in Pristina in May 2008. Two students from Kosovo were invited by the local Department of Social Work due to their relevant language skills, were supervised and were introduced to the fields of practice.

A further international seminar with students from Kosovo and Germany was held by Prof. Golam Mathbor, Monmouth University in N.J. USA, who was in Germany at this time and so had to travel there from Germany. This seminar also led to intensive contacts with German and Kosovan students, which were also reflected in the continuing funding of Kosovan students. This in turn led to student contacts, which resulted in funding for the Kosovan students by the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation, which can be solely attributed to the personal relations between the students. Furthermore, the German students themselves organised visits by the Kosovans to the Bavarian State Parliament with a corresponding guided tour. In addition, the German students who were in Kosovo, are providing substantial assistance in the practical and organisational realisation of internships by Kosovan students in Germany (if needed, this can be explained in detail).

Other developments in 2008 included the fact that newly-appointed Professor for Social Pedagogics, Prof. Dr. Skenderi, completed a professional development/in-service training course in Regensburg from 9 to 13 November, including visits to social institutions in which the Kosovan students were working, as well as visits to events held at the FH Regensburg, plus talks and discussions with colleagues.

In addition, Prof. Dr. Schroll-Decker (Regensburg) spent part of her research sabbatical in Pristina preparing a research project, organising events and supervising students.

Finally, a proposal was submitted to the International Association of Schools of Social Work for funding a research project on "Problem Work in Pristina", which was approved in Spring 2009.

Conclusion

The key results of the projects are as follows:

- a) The induction and training of meanwhile 75 students in the course major in "Pedagogics".
- b) The appointment of a first Professor for Social Pedagogics, Prof. Dr. Skenderi, (a second appointment is still passing through the relevant procedure).
- c) Internships have been completed in Germany for Kosovan students and in Kosovo for German students.
- d) The sustainable integration of the Department of Social Work into the University of Ljubljana and the consolidation of working relations between Regensburg, Ljubljana and Pristina, inter alia, by carrying out a small collaborative practical research project.
- e) In-service training and professional development measures for Kosovan teaching staff in social pedagogics subjects.
- f) The establishment of contacts with relevant ministries (although these need to be further consolidated and elaborated).
- g) The project proposal submitted to the International Association of Schools of Social Work was approved in spring 2009.

2. Summary of key developments in 2009

2.1. General situation of the University of Pristina 2009

The situation up to the summer semester 2009 was marked by the election of a new Rector, respectively, a new University Executive (**Rektorat**). This had an impact on our project, to the extent that the appointment procedure for Dr. Lulzim Dragidella was put on ice. Lulzim Dragidella is a German national and contract lecturer working at various German universities of applied sciences, including, inter alia, the Hochschule Regensburg. He has also been registered for some time as a contract lecturer at the University of Pristina *without remuneration*. This is a bureaucratic measure, since otherwise an appointment for the new subject of Social Pedagogics – which we are striving for – would not be possible.

In addition, there are plans to transfer the subject Pedagogics to the larger part of the Department of Education and to convert the old subject Pedagogics – with the help of the DAAD project – into a genuine Department of Social Pedagogics, in order to reflect and take greater consideration of the needs of society that a subject "Pedagogics" currently could. Following the turmoil of the Rektorat elections, this matter has not yet been finally decided. However, it can be seen that this project will have good chances in the winter semester and that hence the appointment of Dr. Dragidella could be expected.

This development called for a greater degree of coordination and organisational work than had previously been planned. What is meant is: Talks, discussions and negotiations at university level, education ministry level, and ministry of labour and social welfare level, as well as with representatives of the subject area.

In addition, plans for 2009 were influenced by the consequences of the accreditation in 2008. Since none of the private universities were accredited, the ministry instructed the University of Pristina to take up an additional 6000 or so students – without increasing the number of academic and teaching staff. This resulted in the Department of Pedagogics being unable to allow Prof. Skenderi to travel to Germany for a longer professional development/in-service training measure, which had been provided for in our planning.

The developments in Pristina in the last six months of 2008 and the start of 2009 hence compelled us out of necessity to make some changes to the originally planned procedure.

Measures to date in 2009

Professional Development/In-Service Training stay in Germany by Profs Mavriqi and Hoti

Due to the plan to convert the Department of Pedagogics into a Department of Social Pedagogics/Social Work, the Dean of the Philosophical Faculty, Prof. Dr. Ramush Mavriqi and Prof. Dr. Deme Hoti, in his capacity as a member of the Department of Pedagogics, came to Germany for a month to inform themselves about curricula in Social Pedagogics. They visited the universities of applied sciences (Fachhochschulen) in Regensburg, Landshut, Nürnberg and München, where they were informed about the core areas and priorities, the curricular options and focuses for such a department. In addition, further collaborations exist with Nürnberg in the person of Dr. Lulzim Dragidella, who is both a contract lecturer there but also takes part in various professional development/in-service training measures offered by the Evangelische Fachhochschule Nürnberg in Social Work/Social Pedagogics.

Short Internship in Regensburg for Lirie Avdullahu

Student Lirie Avdullahu came to Germany for a good 1-week short internship (common practice in social pedagogics education and training) and visited some social education institutions in and around Regensburg under the guidance of Prof. Schroll-Decker (FH Regensburg). Lirie Avdullahu is studying social pedagogics as a minor (Major: Political Sciences). She has meanwhile been admitted to two Master's programmes in political sciences in Germany, and decided in favour of the degree programme in Regensburg, not least because she can continue to study social pedagogics as a minor there. She will start her Master's studies at the University of Regensburg in the winter semester 2009.

Further team teaching offerings in Pristina 1/2009 – 7/2009

The following block seminars were carried out, each in team teaching with Prof. Skenderi and Dr. Dragidella – or (twice) by Dr. Dragidella alone.

International Block Seminars with German and Kosovan Students:

The mixed seminars, which, as mentioned, have proved to be very productive, were carried out in 2009 as follows:

1. Introduction to Community Work
2. Social Work and Social Policy (Visar Ismaili in team teaching with Ruth Seifert)
3. Introduction to the Methods of Social Work and Education I
4. Introduction to the Methods of Social Work and Education II
5. Special Topics in Social Work and Education

The IASSW Project:

The focus of further plans is on the IASSW-funded project on Social Work Research in Kosovo. The financial resources for this are limited – 4000 dollars have been allocated. This is meant to fund the Bachelor's theses of German students and the Bachelor's and Master's theses of Slovenian students in cooperation with Kosovan students.

All of these theses deal with topics of social work in Kosovo, have already been written and are in the organisational phase. Two of the theses were produced in *collaboration with the GTZ Pristina*. These theses address questions of vocational training in Kosovo, which include the evaluation interests of the GTZ. A further Bachelor's thesis treats the situation of homosexuals in Kosovo and is produced in *collaboration with the Gender*

Studies Centre in Pristina. Finally, a student will use the method of "Photo Voice" in respect of the situation of Roma and Ashkali youths and will be written in *collaboration with the child protection-NGO Balkan Sunflowers*.

The Slovenian students work together with Kosovan students on problem situations in the "Centres of Social Work". Details on this are being drawn up at the Social Work Department of the University of Ljubljana (Prof. Dr. Zavirsek).

The empirical surveys for these theses were scheduled for the end of October/start of November 2009. The plan is for these to develop into Bachelor's or Master's theses for German, Kosovan and Slovenian students. A report also has to be submitted to the IASSW.

Student Internships:

In the winter semester 2009, three students from the University of Pristina will study Social Pedagogics as a major or minor, will come to Regensburg for internships to be completed at the youth office of the Archbishopal Chair. A student who was originally planned to work as an intern at the Don-Bosco Home in Regensburg was refused a visa by the German Embassy. I will endeavour to find a replacement for him on the occasion of my coordination visit in August.

Further plans:

Due to the currently, slightly unclear situation at the University of Pristina, the winter semester plans will be discussed in summer 2009 during the visit to the project leader in Pristina. It is essential that the current Head of the Department of Pedagogics – i.e. the supposed head of the future Department of Social Pedagogics – should come to Germany for professional development and in-service training. The further planning depends on the scheduled talks with the new University Executive (**Rektorat**), the Head of Department, as well as a discussion with the Minister of Education, Enver Hoxhaj. In view of the new situation, the meaningful activities for the winter semester 2009/2010, should be advised in the late summer/early autumn of 2009.

Cooperation with Skopje:

Prof. Dr. Bornarova from the Department of Social Policy and Social Welfare at the University of Skopje is planning to submit an EU application for a professional development / in-service training stay at the Hochschule Regensburg. This is to be submitted in the winter semester 2010. The Hochschule Regensburg will do everything it can to support this application.

International Seminar:

Social Work and Social Policy II (Visar Ismaili in team teaching with Ruth Seifert).

This seminar was held from Monday to Friday and at the weekend as a block at a conference venue near Decan.

Subject Area	Nursing Studies / Public Health
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Outline

The DAAD funding programme on the "Academic Reconstruction of South Eastern Europe" made it possible to establish university cooperation to support the reconstruction of Public Health, Nursing Science and Nursing Management in South Eastern Europe in 2005-2008. During this time, a constructive and valuable exchange between the cooperation partners and their lecturers and students was established at local level with the support and monitoring of the Institute for Health Care and Nursing Studies in Halle, Germany (Prof. Behrens) (cf. Project Report 2005, Additional Project 2005/2006, Project Report 2006, Project Report 2007, Project Status Report 2008). The initial cooperation with the Department of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Pristina/Kosovo, and the Faculty of Nursing Science, Vlorë, extended across country borders to include the Faculty of Nursing Science, Tirana in Albania, and the Faculty of Nursing Science in Tetovo/Macedonia, as well as interested individual researchers. In 2008, contacts were made with nursing institutions in Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Very good cooperation was achieved both with the university hospitals in the region (University Hospitals in Pristina, Tirana, Tetovo, etc.) as well as with associations of nursing representatives in the respective countries.

As from the Project Phase 2008, the pressing goal in terms of curriculum adaptation in line with the provisions of the Bologna Declaration, the better comparability of degrees and qualifications within South Eastern Europe and the EU, process monitoring in the restructuring of the Bachelor's and Master's programmes, the establishment of didactic methods and gearing teaching, research and practice together: This will be continued and extended in Project Phase 2009 by pooling the resources produced so far through project collaboration and by securing the scientific sustainability

The transnational, South Eastern European "Institute to Promote Public Health and Nursing Sciences" founded by the collaborative partners acts as a coordination partner. The institute represents a common structure for the partner universities and serves primarily to support the scientific and qualitative sustainability of the DAAD-funded degree programmes at the partner universities and to serve research.

The overview of planned activities in 2009 within the scope of the project: The partnership-based funding of knowledge transfer in public health and nursing by means of the networked sustainability of the partner universities in Germany and South Eastern Europe.

- I. The concept on the support and supervision of lecturers/tutors and students of the partner universities in South Eastern Europe as initiated in the Project Phase 2008 will continue to be developed, advanced, tested and implemented. In the three specialist courses which will each be held in Kosovo, Albania and Germany, further topics will be developed and drawn up.
- II. As a further joint initiative of the collaborative institutions, a pool of experts (working groups of lecturers, scientists and students) will be created to master the challenges of teaching, research and practice. The pool of experts will help the collaborating universities to better manage and overcome the current very large challenges by exchanging lecturers, by forming joint research groups, by exchanging students, etc. and to better integrate the South Eastern European Universities.
- III. International Symposium: Opportunities and Challenges of networking the health professions. The symposium aims, above all, to present the DAAD-funded projects in the health sector in South Eastern Europe and to create synergies for collaboration in the health professions.

By means of specifically targeted funding for lecturers and students, *change agents* from whose skills and abilities will benefit the members of all the participating universities and will, over and beyond this also benefit the population in South Eastern Europe.