„Shared learning, shared research practice, shared knowledge, experiences and suggestions“

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University / International Relation Office‘s point of view

1) What do Austrian universities expect from cooperation with developing countries? What are the benefits for both parties? What is special about development oriented research and training projects?

2) Comparing different types of projects and regions - is there an exchange of experiences between different projects?

3) Internationalization strategies of universities depending on third-party funds.
1) What do Austrian universities expect from cooperation with developing countries?

Answers from the BOKU Point of view:

a) International co-operation as conditio sine qua non

b) Co-operation with Southern partners due to geographic focus of Internationalisation strategy and worldwide importance of BOKU’s competence areas (agricultural and forestry sciences, water management, food science, landscape architecture…)

c) Benefits: local knowledge; Internationalisation at home, Knowledge circulation across continents and societies; Tangible solutions to natural resource related development challenges through research
2) What is special about development oriented research and training projects

Special characteristics for BOKU projects:

a) All our research / training responds to development challenges

b) Despite the local nature of development challenges, they are seen in a global context;

c) Our research / training cuts across disciplines and thematic areas;

d) We always work in partnership with public and private actors in developing countries
2) What is special about development oriented projects

a) Different types of projects:
   APPEAR (with Africa and Latin America and Himalaya region)
   Alfa (with Latin America)
   ERASMUS MUNDUS

b) Interaction of different types of projects within BOKU:
   * Center for Development Research (constant dialogue with all stakeholders)
   * regular meetings of BOKU’s APPEAR project coordinators
3) Internationalization strategies of universities depending on third-party funds

- The current “performance contracts” with the BMWF are not sufficient - third-party funds are needed
- Lack of scholarships for students coming from countries of the South aggravate the situation
- Particularly difficult for lab-intensive study programs
- -> Sponsors are needed!!! (also for language courses and intercultural workshops for both - Austrians as well as incomings)
Thank you for your attention!

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