

Transforming transport, digitalising administrative services, strengthening participation,... actors from decentralised levels of state play an important role for advancing sustainable development in their regions and countries. And worldwide they face many similar challenges.

How can actors from decentralised levels of government and administration in Germany (Federal States) join forces with international actors from decentralised levels of state to find innovative solutions to common development challenges?

To address this question, the German Government and Federal States Programme, on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), has launched the Decentralised Development Lab.

## 1. What is the Decentralised Development Lab?

The Decentralised Development Lab is a 10 months structured support programme. Within the programme teams representing a range of actors from decentralised levels of state, including German Federal States, receive methodological, subject matter and financial support for the development of innovative solutions to concrete challenges impeding the sustainable development of their region, federal state or country.

## 2. Which topics will be tackled in the Decentralised Development Lab?

Via an international call for challenges, representatives from German Federal States and numerous of their partner countries submitted 27 „decentralised“ development challenges. From these submissions the following four were chosen by the BMZ to become workstreams of the Decentralised Development Lab:

### Inclusive digitalisation of public services

How can we improve the framework conditions for an accessible digital public administration, its secure services and civic acceptance of digital services considering the diverse set of digital literacy in our societies and with the aim of avoiding a digital divide?

#### **Involved partners**

- Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises – Berlin, Germany
- Capital Region Jakarta – Indonesia
- City Development Institute Poltava City – Ukraine

### Innovative and affordable E-mobility infrastructure

How to establish knowledge-sharing and standardization efforts for affordable and more sustainable electrified mobility infrastructure?

#### **Involved partners**

- Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises – Berlin, Germany
- Senator for Climate Protection, the Environment, Mobility, City Development and Housing – Bremen, Germany
- Capital Region Jakarta – Indonesia

### Mangrove friendly aquaculture

How might we support aquaculture products from proven mangrove-friendly production?

#### **Involved partners**

- Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research – Bremen, Germany
- Senator for the Economy, Labour and European Affairs – Bremen
- Society for Marine Aquaculture – Schleswig-Holstein, Germany
- Indonesian representations in Germany, Indonesia

### Entrepreneurial Skills for Sustainable Business Solutions

How could we foster a thriving start-up scene and entrepreneurial skills for more sustainable greener business solutions?

#### **Involved partners**

- Decentralisation unit, office of the prime minister – Peru
- Ministry of Finance and for European Affairs – Brandenburg
- Chamber of Industry and Commerce Potsdam – Brandenburg

**INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR CHALLENGES**

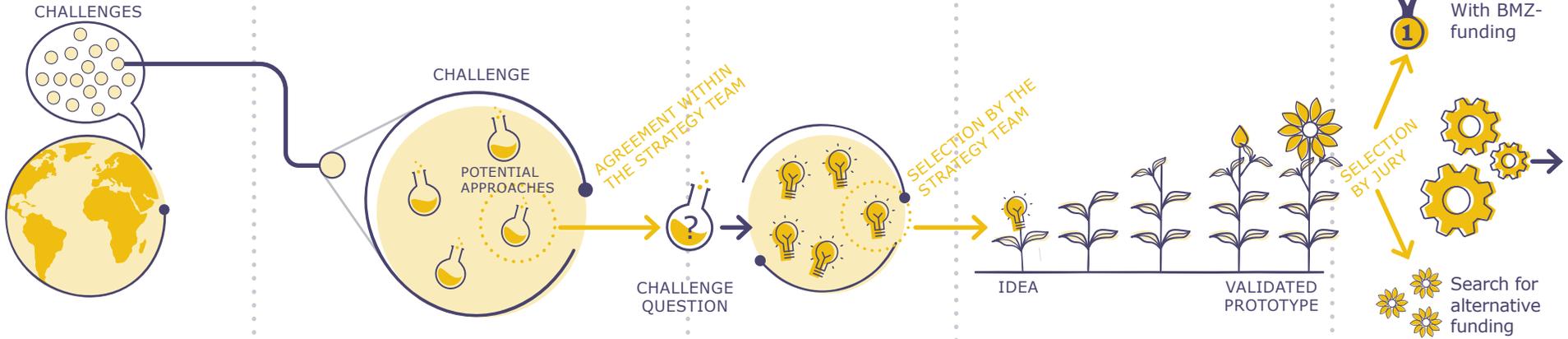
**WORKSHOP SERIES: DEFINITION OF CHALLENGE QUESTION**

**INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR IDEAS**

**INCUBATOR**

**IMPLEMENTATION**

**PROCESS**



**EXAMPLE**

Innovative E-mobility infrastructure

- E-infrastructure & circular economy
- Vocational training for E-mobility
- Regional development of E-Mobility

How might we render E-mobility infrastructure more circular and sustainable?

... by creating economic incentives for drivers of e-vehicles for more sustainable charging behaviour

Concept for smart contracts via Blockchain

Pilot run of smart contracts with drivers from country X and Y

**Identifying shared challenges**

**Development of a solution**

**Pilot run**

February 2021

August-September 2021

October 2021

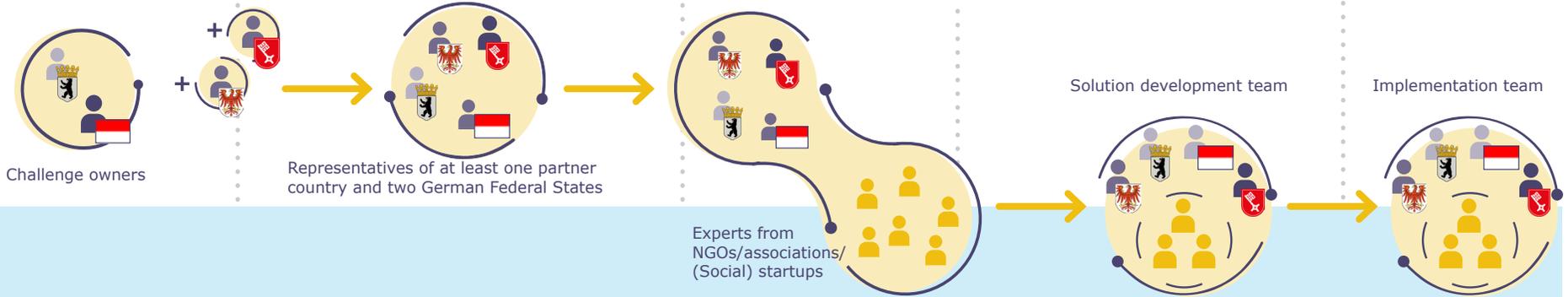
December 2021

May 2022

**ACTORS**

Strategy team

Operational



**CHALLENGE OWNERS' ROLE**

Submission of challenges related to decentralized development// International exchange about the submitted challenges// match-making between challenge owners with similar challenges//

Involved partners get to know each other and present their country-specific contexts// Exchange about the challenge and its specificity in the different countries// Brainstorming on possible approaches to tackle with the challenge// Based on strategic analysis, the group chooses one of the approaches and defines a challenge question//

Advertising the idea campaign in the participating partner countries and German Federal States// Selection of the winning idea and the most qualified operational team among the applicants of the call for ideas//

Providing guidance to the operational team with regards to the desired attributes of the solution that is to be developed// Provision of data, information and contacts to the operational team to support solution development//

Contribution to the preparation of project proposals// Support for the search for alternative or additional funding for the implementation phase//

#### 4. You are interested in one of the challenges and would like to know more about it or to become a challenge owner?

The Decentralised Development Lab's objective is to foster multi-actor decentralised development cooperation, involving at least two German Federal States and at least one partner country or region. Accordingly, representatives of additional Federal States and partner countries or regions are welcome to join one of the Lab's four working groups. If you are interested in the role of challenge owner, please contact the DDLab team (contact information on the last page).

#### 5. What is the role of a challenge owner in the Decentralised Development Lab?

- Together with fellow challenge owners from German Federal States or partner countries you critically discuss the challenge and define a relevant challenge question
- You select an idea among the ideas handed in by international solution providers during the idea competition
- You support the operational team with developing a fully fledged solution starting from the winning idea, e.g. by connecting the operational team with relevant actors from your region or country
- You potentially support the testing of prototypes and the implementation of a pilot run and the search for funding after the incubation phase

#### 6. What is the time investment for challenges owners?

Challenge owners participate in a certain number of workshops and provide related support adding up to about 3 hours / month for over a period of 10 months.

#### German Federal States in Development Cooperation

The Federal Republic of Germany is a federal state made up of 16 constituent states - the 'Länder'. The German Basic Law extends the main responsibility for development cooperation to the federal state. However the constituent states also engage in a rich set of activities in the domain of develop-

ment cooperation. Their contribution is much appreciated as the constituent states possess a diversified expertise in shaping and implementing policy in numerous domains in which they partially also have legislative competencies, such as education, economic development and health.



#### 5. What are the next steps in the Decentralised Development Lab?

The Decentralised Development Lab is a 10-months support programme structured in the following phases:



##### WORKSHOP SERIES ON CHALLENGE DEFINITION

to develop a challenge question for the Call for Ideas starting in August 2021

In a series of workshops, challenge owners develop a problem statement that is relevant and motivating for challenge owners from all participating countries and German Federal States. Finding a suitable approach to the challenge and spelling out a challenge question for the 'Call for Ideas' is the aim of these workshops.



##### INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR IDEAS

to gain innovative solution providers starting in October 2021

With an international idea competition the strategy team reaches out to startups, academia, civil society, NGOs and creative individuals to find innovative solutions to the four challenges.



##### INCUBATOR PROGRAMME

to develop tailor-made solutions to the challenges starting in December 2021

The operational team recruited via the ideas competition works co-creatively for 5 months on a customised solution to the strategy teams' challenges. The operational team receives professional and methodological support from coaches and subject matter experts, as well as up to 20.000 EUR as a flexible budget to support the development of the solution.



##### AWARDING AND IMPLEMENTATION

to pilot-run the developed solutions starting in May 2022

The operational teams of the four challenges present the solutions they developed to a jury which selects a winning solution. The winning team receives a support package with a financial equivalent of up to 200.000 EUR to support the winning team in the implementation of the solution in the participating countries.

## Workshop series “Definition of Challenge Question”

All challenge owners of a group (the “strategy team”) get to know each other, exchange their perspectives on the challenge and lay the foundation for their future cooperation throughout the Decentralised Development Lab. Different perspectives (e.g. country A produces batteries for e-mobility, Country B “consumes” e-mobility) and different needs

of the participating regions (e.g. need for short and long-distance e-Mobility solutions in cities versus rural areas) should be considered and addressed. Agreeing upon a promising approach to tackle the challenge and formulating a relevant and motivating challenge question is the aim of the workshop series.



### Step 1: Get involved, become challenge owner (August 2021)

Interested representatives of state (in particular from intermediate/regional levels of state) have the opportunity to join one of the 4 strategy teams working on the respective four selected challenges if they share their fellow challenge owners’ motivation to tackle the challenge.

**How to get involved?** You can find more information on the four selected challenges via the hyperlinks provided on the first page of this flyer. If you are interested in becoming a challenge owner of one of the four challenges, please contact the Decentralised Development Lab team (contacts on last page).



### Step 2: Challenge Lab I (September 2021) Duration: 3,5h

#### Goals

- Participants exchange on the specificities of the challenge in their countries’, regions’ or German Federal States’ contexts
- Participants brainstorm and list potential approaches to tackle the challenge. Participants discuss potentials and risks arising from different approaches.
- The strategy team is set up for a fruitful future cooperation based on a sound understanding of each other’s country-specific contexts and a jointly developed challenge question

#### Questions

What are potential connecting dots for tackling the challenge as a team? What are potential gains and risks that possible approaches bear for tackling the challenge?



### Step 3: Challenge Lab II (September 2021) Duration: 3h

#### Goals

- The strategy team chooses an approach, based on the strategic analysis of all collected possible approaches (Lab I)
- The strategy team formulates a challenge question based on the chosen approach

#### Questions

Which approach towards the challenge is best suited for a cooperation across the participating partner countries and German Federal States? How should the challenge question be formulated to motivate creative minds to submit innovative ideas that fulfill the strategy team’s requirements?



### Step 4: Preparation session for the idea competition (September 2021)

Duration: 1h

#### Goals

- The strategy team discusses possible contributions to a successful implementation of the idea competition
- The DDLab team gets to know the strategy teams’ wishes and expectations for the implementation of the idea competition and the incubator programme

#### Question

How can the challenge owners support the idea competition? Are the challenge owners available for a question and answer session with the applicants of the idea competition? In how far does the strategy team want to be involved in the selection of the operational team?



**INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR IDEAS**

**If you have any questions about the Decentralised Development Lab, please do not hesitate to contact us!**



**Dieter Anders**

Programme manager  
German Government and Federal States  
Programme  
T + 49 40 80 81 956 - 70  
M + 49 40 80 81 956 - 60  
E [dieter.anders@giz.de](mailto:dieter.anders@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)



**Friederike Barthe-Carpentier**

Project manager  
German Government and Federal States  
Programme  
T +49 (0) 40 / 808195658  
M +49 (0) 170 / 7065348  
E [friederike.barthe-carpentier@giz.de](mailto:friederike.barthe-carpentier@giz.de)



**Decentralised Development Lab**

E [ddlab@giz.de](mailto:ddlab@giz.de)

I [www.decentralised-development-lab.de](http://www.decentralised-development-lab.de)