



Guidelines for funding from the BMZ's budget line for projects run by private German executing agencies in

## Multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs)

Chapter 2302, funding titles 687 76 and 687 71

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Multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) enable profound societal changes in situations involving complex challenges that cannot be addressed by means of conventional projects implemented by private German executing agencies (Private Träger - PT)<sup>1</sup>. In a multi-stakeholder partnership, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Germany engages in a long-term collaborative partnership with change makers from the private sector, government institutions and academia, as well as with national or local civil society organisations in the partner country. Working together as equal partners, they jointly develop solutions for complex challenges. This creates an institutionalised partnership, to which all parties/stakeholders contribute their experience and resources. The focus here lies on processes and structures, and results in the implementation countries of the MAP projects.

The funding volume for civil society-initiated multi-stakeholder partnerships generally lies between 500,000 and 2 million euros. The project duration is initially limited to a maximum of five budget years, with the option of a follow-up phase.

Depending on the stage reached whilst developing a multi-stakeholder partnership, the following steps are carried out:

- All parties involved agree, as equal partners, on the objectives of the partnership and also on rules and mechanisms for the respective MSP phases. This entails a strategic approach or process design.
- In the partner country and possibly also in Germany, sustainable dialogue structures that lead to the establishment of long-term, institutionalised partnerships are set up or expanded; .
- Governance structures are developed, established and followed;
- Contributions by individual parties that jointly achieve the objectives are identified and a reporting procedure is established
- A joint monitoring system with quantitative and qualitative indicators is defined and implemented
- Measures of transformative societal impacts within the partner country, are established.

Since multi-stakeholder partnership projects entail close collaboration with political actors in Germany and the partner country, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is included in the consultations concerning the application. It also lends support to the multi-stakeholder partnership project at the political level, if this is deemed useful and necessary for the success of the partnership.

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<sup>1</sup> In this case the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development provides non-governmental organisations based in Germany (private German executing agencies - PT) with funding.



### Key differences:

MSPs are characterised by long-term, institutionalised collaboration and hence differ considerably from other multi-stakeholder approaches like business sector dialogues or regular NGO projects that involve companies as partners. Business sector dialogues are usually far less institutionalised and have fewer objectives with a lesser degree of accountability. Cooperation between NGOs and companies at the micro-level does not, as a rule, pursue objectives at the meso- and macro- levels, and does not aspire to achieve transformative changes. Other programmes and projects with conventional NGO funding, and using a multi-stakeholder approach, also work with diverse partners on multiple intervention levels when implementing the project measures. However, no explicit multi-party governance or dialogue structures are established in order to achieve jointly coordinated transformative change.

To qualify for MSP project funding, the following **conditions** must be met:

- At least three years' experience in implementing projects in the partner country between the NGO and the local partner which are funded by the BMZ (or other German government agencies) and which have a multi-level-approach.
- Excellent networking on the part of the German NGO and its local partner NGO, and a proven ability to engage in inter-institutional dialogue in order to reach and mobilise relevant parties, as well as capacities in the field of political influence (advocacy).
- Experience in the sector, and in cooperating with partners from civil society, the business community, government institutions and academia, which are to be included in the multi-stakeholder partnership project.
- Completed further training and courses offered by Engagement Global/ bengo on the multi-stakeholder partnership approach and on implementing multi-stakeholder partnership projects.
- Consultation with Engagement Global/ bengo on the MSP project idea before registering the project in the annual planning call for projects. This means submitting a concept note.
- Conducting a feasibility study with integrated stakeholder analysis, the terms of reference for which have been drawn up in consultation with Engagement Global/ bengo (see handout on carrying out a feasibility study: <https://bengo.engagement-global.de/dokumente.html>). In case of a follow-up phase, combining the feasibility study with the evaluation of the first phase may be considered.

MAP projects require a wide range of experience and knowledge from local and German non-government organisations. Therefore, the systematic development of competences, especially for MAP projects within the framework of classic "PT" funded projects is recommended.

### Eligibility criteria:

The guidelines for supporting private German executing agencies (Private Träger - PT) dated 1 January 2016 and for supporting private German executing agencies in Least Developed Countries (Private Träger - PT-LDC) dated 18 January 2021, also apply for multi-stakeholder partnership projects.



Since the effort of preparing and implementing of a MAP project is significantly higher compared to classic “PT” funded projects, there are the following deviations:

1. Applicants’ own funds: To support the establishment of dialogue structures for which the executing agency can only mobilise a very limited amount of donations or partner contributions, **the proportion of applicants’ own funds required for MSP projects is only 10 percent;**
2. There are possibilities for financing networking activities and project-related personnel costs. In exceptional cases in Germany (context-related individual assessments);
3. There is a flat rate allowance for administrative costs which is generally set at 14 percent due to the intensity of coordination;
4. Under the flat-rate allowance for administrative costs, the following exemplary expenditures are eligible:

<b>Expenses to be settled under the flat-rate administrative costs (in Germany)</b>	<b>Operating expenses to be settled in Germany</b>
General operating and personnel expenses (project coordination, project administration, accounting office)	Working groups and expert meetings of MAP actors/stakeholders
MAP-related planning workshops	International travel and coordination events of the MAP dialogue partners to strengthen the MAP structure
General coordination meetings for project implementation	Media work for the establishment and strengthening of the multi-stakeholder partnership structures
Additional travel for project monitoring	