

# Principles of the German Institute for Development Evaluation

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## Vision

DEval's evaluative work improves the effectiveness and sustainability of development cooperation. We promote learning and objective decision-making in public policy and practice. We achieve this through scientifically sound, practice-oriented knowledge. The Institute also strengthens democratic legitimacy of development cooperation, as its independent evaluations increase transparency and accountability.

## Mission

As an Institute standing at the crossroads between politics, science and implementation practice, DEval offers in-depth thematic and evaluation expertise. We provide political and operational decision-makers with tailored knowledge of complex and strategically relevant issues in development cooperation. They use these insights as a factual basis for judgements and decisions. Our work also strengthens evaluation capacity in partner countries of German development cooperation. Building on our independence and integrity, we work in a mutually beneficial manner with a wide range of state and civil society stakeholders. We are actively involved in academic discussions in our research fields and in the evaluation community. Our institute's performance builds on our highly qualified and motivated staff working within a knowledge organisation, that is characterised by innovations and integrity.

## Guiding Principles

Our work is characterised by **an interdisciplinary approach and the integration of a wide variety of methods**. The Institute's evaluation competence stems from a wide range of thematic, sector, regional and methodological expertise. In order to generate and impart new tailor-made knowledge whilst taking the complex configurations of our stakeholders into account, we need to engage in effective **interface management** with our stakeholders. The Institute's staff have therefore highly developed **communication and negotiation skills** which are crucial for facilitating learning from our evaluations.

**Individual and institutional integrity** is the hallmark of our work. This is reflected in both our own expectations and those of our partners, parliament, academia, the evaluation community and the general public. Externally, this integrity is the foundation of our independence, incorruptibility, impartiality and responsible handling of information. Internally it forms part of our institute's culture, which is shaped by mutual esteem and trust, diligence, and individual responsibility within a team-oriented working environment.

Our work is guided by our **principles** which we live by and continuously develop in our daily work. We are:

- **Independent** in our analyses and evaluations, so as to ensure a neutral and factual basis for judgements and recommendations for our stakeholder.
- **Needs-oriented** in developing our work programme and carrying out evaluations, so as to ensure they are relevant, useful, and enable learning.
- **Quality-focussed** in our activities, which comply with nationally and internationally recognised standards for evaluation and research.
- **Partnership-based** in our collaboration with key players from developing countries, which is mutually beneficial.
- **Participatory** via stakeholders' involvement in our evaluations. This enhances the quality of our work and its lessons learned without jeopardising our independence.
- **Efficient** in our management of public funds which we receive for conducting our evaluations..
- **Transparent** about our procedures and findings. This transparency can only be restricted for reasons of national security or if the life and wellbeing of partners and staff would otherwise be endangered.