

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Technische Universität Dresden and the Universität Leipzig are organizing the

International Germany Alumni Training Seminar

Digitalization and AI in Vocational and Academic Education for Sustainable Development

10 - 17 May 2026 in Dresden, Germany (phase 1)

followed by the participation in the conference

re:publica 26

18 - 21 May 2026 in Berlin, Germany (phase 2)

Background

The proposed training seminar and the participation in the conference re:publica 2026 are offered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in the framework of the DAAD programme **SDG Alumni Projects: Knowledge and Practice for Development for Germany Alumni from the Global South** (www.daad.de/sdg-alumni-projects). The international Germany Alumni Seminar **Digitalization and AI in Vocational and Academic Education for Sustainable Development** is organised and hosted by the Technische Universität Dresden and the University of Leipzig.

[re:publica Berlin](#) is Europe's largest digital society festival. re:publica participants represent a cross-section of (digital) society, which include professionals from economics, politics, business, hacker culture, NGOs, media, and marketing, as well as bloggers, activists, artists, and social media experts.

The training seminar targets **Germany Alumni** from developing countries (DAC country nationals) who studied, carried out research or worked in Germany for at least 3 months and are presently living and working in their home countries.

The prospective participants should be professionally involved in various areas of vocational education and human resource development, and/or working for academic, educational or development organisations, NGO's, donor agencies or private enterprises. They should also be potential multipliers able to spread the acquired knowledge and experience and/or take decisions on implementation of new technologies and innovations.

The costs will be mainly covered by funds from the DAAD provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Objectives and Tentative Training Seminar Programme

The aim of the one-week training seminar in Dresden is to train participants on the following key topics:

- International approaches to education for sustainable development
- Functions of digital media and AI in vocational and academic education
- Current status of digitalization and the use of AI in the alumni's countries of origin
- Potential of digitalization and AI for education for sustainable development
- Development, use, and evaluation of didactic and methodological application scenarios for digital media and AI in education

Social events: In addition to the content-related sessions, the training seminar programme also includes social and informal events, such as a group dinner and a welcome reception. This aims to further promote intercultural exchange and social networking among the seminar participants.

The final training seminar programme in Dresden will be published once all applications have been reviewed.

Travel Dates to Phases 1 and 2 in Dresden and Berlin

10 May 2026	Arrival in Dresden
11 - 16 May 2026	Training Seminar in Dresden (phase 1)
17 May 2026	Travel to Berlin
18 - 20 May 2026	Participation in the conference re:publica 26 in Berlin (phase 2)
21 May 2026	Departure from Berlin

It is necessary that you take part from in the whole programme of phase 1 and phase 2 of the project: from the first day of the training seminar (10 May 2026) to the day after the re:publica 26 conference (21 May 2026). It is furthermore essential that you also take part in the social programme in both phases.

Any exceptions must be communicated to the DAAD and Technische Universität Dresden before your travel to Germany.

Eligibility Criteria for Participation

This project (training seminar and conference participation) targets Alumni of German universities / research institutions

- who are German university Alumni of countries listed on the [OECD DAC list](#),
 - who are currently living and working in their home country / in a DAC-listed country, and
 - who carried out research or studied in Germany for **at least 3 months**
- OR**
- who were funded within the framework of
 - the DAAD In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme
 - the Centres of African Excellence
 - the SDG Graduate Schools

- the Excellence Centres for Exchange and Development – exceed
- the Global Centres for Climate and Environment as well as for Health and Pandemic Prevention

Participant's Profile

You should have

- 1) **a proven background in academic or professional fields** of vocational education, teacher training, human resource development or the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises.
- 2) **professional experience and personal interest** in one of the following areas: research, education, NGOs, government agencies, policy making, project development, local communities, and related stakeholders,
- 3) the requirements to **act as a potential change agent (multiplier)** who will present the training seminar results in your home country and thus disseminate the acquired knowledge as well as develop ideas and projects for regional implementation,
- 4) **adequate language proficiency** which is essential to actively participate in the workshops and discussions as the seminar will be held **in English**.

Eligibility for repeated attendances at SDG Alumni Projects (formerly Alumni Special projects):

Participations in SDG Alumni Projects are limited to a maximum of 2 participations within 4 years. The year of participation, not the year of application, is decisive for the calculation. This rule does not apply for attendance in a completely digital SDG Alumni Project.

Cost coverage

The **Technische Universität Dresden** covers the following costs for the training seminar in Dresden:

- International return ticket to and from Frankfurt International Airport or Berlin Airport (lowest possible economy class airfare)
- Train tickets (2nd class)/shuttle: Frankfurt International Airport or Berlin Airport to Dresden
- Travel health insurance
- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the stay in Dresden
- Transport on excursions
- Transport from Dresden to Berlin

The **DAAD** covers the following costs during the participation in the conference re:publica 26 in Berlin:

- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the conference stay in Berlin
- Local transport in Berlin (public transport)
- Entrance fees for the conference re:publica 2026
- Transport and entrance fees on excursions

Please note: If you are receiving financial support from the DAAD or any other funding organisation at the time of this SDG Alumni Project stay (training seminar week and conference participation), you are obliged to state this in full (in the application form). A funding within the framework of this project may be reduced in order to avoid double funding.

Please note: All other costs, such as travel costs for visa application and travel costs from your hometown to your airport of departure/arrival must be covered by yourself.

In case of a self-inflicted no-show, the costs must be covered by the traveler

Please keep in mind that living expenses are only covered partly during your stays in Dresden and Berlin.

Extensions of stays

Extensions of stays before the training seminar or after the conference participation are **only possible for a maximum of 5 working days**. In case you want to extend your stay, you are required to submit a comparison of flight ticket prices before the start of your travel. The cost will be covered by the university as communicated above. Should your actual travel dates differ due to the extension, you will be responsible for paying any price difference compared to the ticket costs on the official arrival and return dates. All additional travel expenses, accommodation, subsistence costs, and other expenses incurred during your extension are to be borne by yourself.

Please note that if your extension exceeds 5 working days, both your outbound and return flight must be fully financed by yourself. The Technische Universität Dresden and the DAAD will, however, continue to cover accommodation and partial living expenses during the seminar week, as well as your participation in the conference.

For any period of extension, you must arrange your own accommodation and ensure valid health insurance coverage for the additional days. Please also bear in mind that your host university and the DAAD will book accommodation for you during the official seminar and conference phase of the project. If, for any reason, you are unable to participate in the programme from the first seminar day to the day after the conference, you must inform both your host university and the DAAD as soon as possible to avoid potential cancellation costs.

Application procedure

Your application (in English language) should emphasize your motivation and professional / personal benefit for your participation. You should illustrate how you are planning to imply the gained knowledge and what possible stakeholders for collaboration you may identify for your professional career.

Your application (in English language) must include the following documents in one single pdf file:

- A filled-out application form: The form is available on <https://magentacloud.de/s/dFyGzjb2ZJjE7Tr>
- A short CV with photograph and relevant documentation of Alumni status
- An abstract on **Digitalization and AI in Vocational and Academic Education for Sustainable Development** with reference to the participants' home country (the main topics are listed above; abstracts must not exceed one page; please use font type "Arial", font size 11, 1.5 line spacing)
- A short description of your present duties/position and your personal professional goals, indicating your envisaged field of activities and duty level

- An overview on seminars, workshops or conferences visited in Germany after finishing your studies in Germany.

The PDF-document should be named

'Last name_First name_country' (e.g., Garcia_Paula_Mexico).

Please note: Completeness of personal data mentioned in the online application form will affect your eligibility as a participant.

Please send your application, as one single pdf file, at the latest by 29 October 2025 via email to:

steffen.kersten@tu-dresden.de

After the review by the local organizing committee and the DAAD, the invited participants will be notified at the end of November 2025.

Contact Details

For further questions, please contact

Prof. Dr. phil. Steffen Kersten – Institute of Vocational Education
steffen.kersten@tu-dresden.de

We are looking forward to your application!

Dresden, October 1, 2025



Supported by:

