Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries

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Mission: strengthen research partnerships

The Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE) promotes efficient, effective, and equitable research cooperation with low and middle income countries. By doing so, KFPE contributes to sustainable development and to solving global problems.

Activities: support, knowledge brokering, and sensitisation

KFPE promotes high standards in North-South research. It does so by providing conceptual and methodological support, ensuring the availability of adequate resources, and ensuring that the research is put to use. At the core of this work is the development and promotion of ethical and methodological foundations for research partnerships with poorer countries. The 11 KFPE principles are widely recognised and applied internationally. KFPE wants to continue to stimulate reflection and debate about how research partnerships can be further improved and their effectiveness increased. This includes developing evaluation criteria and communicating results, successes, and challenges.

KFPE acts as a knowledge broker between research partners as well as between researchers and practice-oriented actors in government, administration, and business. It supports the targeted dissemination of research results and keeps the research community abreast of the concerns of recipients in development cooperation and related policy fields. It is the information hub for “North-South” research, both for researchers and for the target audience of the research. This includes development agencies, institutions that promote research, government, and business. KFPE maintains a database of experts, a comprehensive website, and organizes thematic events. It can support exchange visits to strengthen research networks.

KFPE sensitises the research community, political decision-makers, and the public to the necessity and concerns of research in and with poorer countries as a contribution to solving global problems. It takes on an early warning function by pointing out new, important topics and referring them to the relevant target group. In this sense KFPE also plays an advisory role. KFPE engages with the public when it deems this necessary to fulfil its tasks. It does so with conferences, statements, and position papers to inform decision-makers in government, business, and administration.

Membership and affiliation

The Commission’s members are experienced in the field of research partnerships with developing and transition countries. The associated institutions include the main Swiss institutions conducting North-South research, as well as selected NGOs, corporate foundations, and government bodies. KFPE is a Commission of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), and has an office based in Bern.

Funding

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