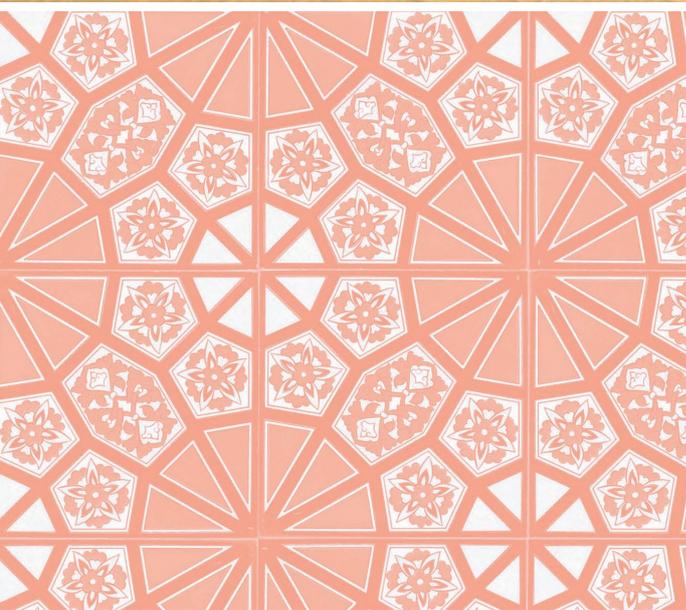


# Looking Ahead: Higher Education's Transition in Egypt and Tunisia



**DAAD**

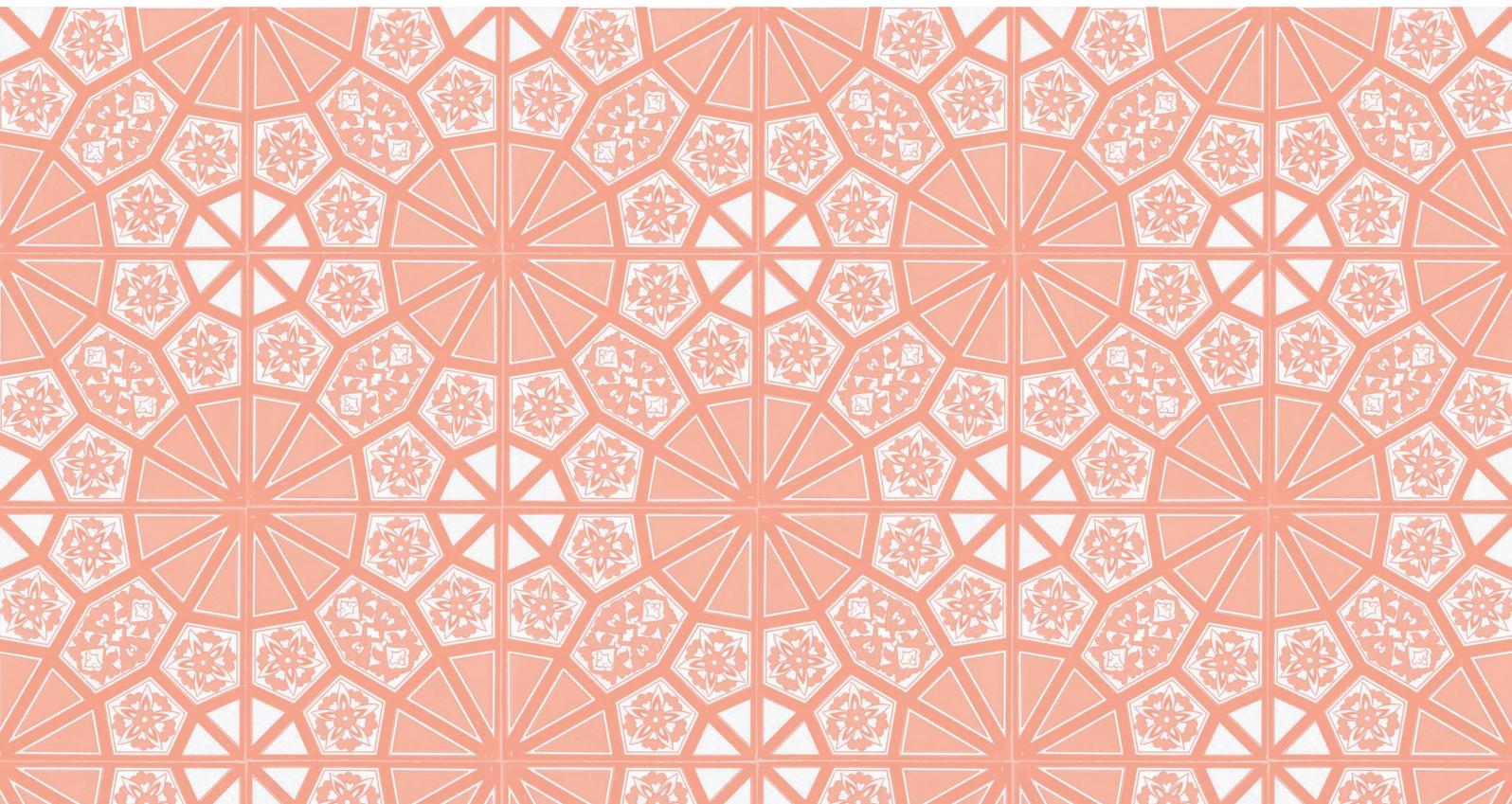
Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

Funded by



Federal Foreign Office





## Contents

- 5 Foreword
- 6 Spring awakening at the universities: a lesson for life  
How the Arab Spring has opened up new opportunities for university cooperation
- 7 DAAD assistance in Tunisia and Egypt: an overview  
Information, data, and facts
- 8 “We urgently need capable people”  
A discussion with Professor Maged El Sherbiny about the future of his country
- 8 “We can learn a lot from the German university system”  
An interview with Professor Jelel Ezzine on the aftershocks of the revolution
- 9 Built on sand: cypress forests in Egypt  
How the Technical University of Munich’s forestry department is turning the desert green
- 10 Summary of the DAAD’s Transformation Partnership projects
- 12 Women in science: quo vadis, Egypt?  
How the Free University of Berlin is helping bring gender equality to the Egyptian university system
- 13 “I hope for an intelligent, responsible elite”  
An interview with Dr Michael Harms, head of the DAAD branch office in Cairo
- 14 News briefs
- 16 Fishing in muddy waters:  
sustainable water management in Tunisia  
How the Technical University Braunschweig is watering the seeds of revolution
- 18 Voices from the DAAD expert panel
- 19 Student participation: small-scale democracy
- 20 German Studies in Tunisia:  
much more than just Goethe and Schiller  
How one TU Dresden department is hammering out a new master’s program with the Université de Gabès

For more information: [www.daad.de/transformation](http://www.daad.de/transformation)  
[www.changebyexchange.de](http://www.changebyexchange.de)



Foreword by Dr Dorothea Rüländ,  
DAAD secretary general



# DAAD

## Der Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst (DAAD)

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is the world's largest funding organization for the international exchange of students and scholars. Since its foundation in 1925, the DAAD has supported more than 1.5 million academics in Germany and abroad. It is a registered association whose membership is comprised of German universities and student bodies. Its work goes far beyond granting scholarships: it fosters international diversity at German universities, promotes German studies and the German language in other countries, supports developing nations in establishing high-quality universities, and consults decision-makers on issues of cultural, educational, and developmental policy.

The DAAD's budget comes predominantly from grants from the Federal Foreign Office and various other federal ministries, the European Union, private businesses, organizations, and foreign governments. Its main office is in Bonn, and it maintains yet another office in Berlin. In addition, it has a network of 14 field offices and 54 information centers, which provide on-site consultation and liaise with key partner nations worldwide.

In 2011, the DAAD assisted nearly 70,000 German and non-German scholars around the globe via more than 250 programs. Its support ranges from semesters abroad for young students to entire doctoral programs, from internships to guest lecturer positions, from fact-finding visits to the foundation of new universities abroad. The DAAD supports the international activities of German universities by providing marketing services, publications, events, and training programs.

Northern Africa and the Middle East have experienced dramatic changes in the past two years. Thanks to the courage and engagement shown by the general populace, many of whom bravely risked their lives in pursuit of freedom and change, the despots have been overthrown. After the first few months of euphoria, however, disillusionment and worry began to spread. It is becoming increasingly evident that change is a very slow process, one inextricably linked to setbacks and disappointment.

At this crucial moment in history, therefore, it is all the more important to signal support wherever necessary. This is especially true for cooperative university partnerships, because education is a key element of successful transformation. Those who find intelligent solutions today for the education of the academics of tomorrow are laying the foundations for successful political, societal, and economic transformation.

The DAAD has long been a reliable partner to the universities in Tunisia and Egypt. With the support of its broad network of partners, it offers graduate assistantships for the most gifted scholars and runs a variety of innovative projects, which extend to the financing of entire degree programs. Funding provided by the Federal Foreign Office since 2011 has enabled the DAAD to create additional programs tailored to the needs of universities undergoing the transformation process. This publication is a "workshop report", a first look at the numerous projects that the DAAD is currently undertaking in cooperation with universities in Germany, Egypt, and Tunisia.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorothea Rüländ". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Spring awakening at the universities: a lesson for life

## How the Arab Spring has opened up new opportunities for university cooperation

In January of 2011, no one could anticipate what the year held in store for the nations of North Africa. The Arab Spring had only just brought forth its first few blossoms, but already the German government had begun exploring avenues for transformation partnerships with Egypt and Tunisia. Establishing and extending cooperation among universities was a top priority from the very beginning, a logical outcome of the causes and the course of the protest movements in both countries.

Education and job prospects were two of the central demands voiced by the primarily young demonstrators in Tunis and Cairo, as well as in many other cities and provinces throughout the two Mediterranean nations. The reasons for this are not difficult to find, because the numbers speak for themselves:

More than 50 percent of the population in Tunisia and Egypt is under 25 years old, and around 30 percent of all young people are currently searching for work. One out of every five people in Tunisia cannot properly read or write. In Egypt, a third of the populace is illiterate. Furthermore, universities in both countries are generally underfunded; they lack the necessary equipment, space, qualified instructors, and up-to-date curricula appropriate to the needs of the job market.

In a February 2011 guest article for *Al Masri Al Youm*, Cairo's largest independent daily newspaper, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Guido Westerwelle not only



1.

emphasized that education is “the capital of the future,” but also promised “a stronger academic exchange, additional grants, and a job training initiative”. This is precisely the starting point for the DAAD's university cooperation programs, which are financed by grants from the Federal Foreign Office. By developing stronger partnerships between German and Arab universities, these programs seek to encourage the development and improvement of academic instruction and research over the middle and long term. The goal is to break open the outdated, hierarchical structures at Egyptian and Tunisian universities – above all, in order to fill both lecture halls and professorships with the young people who made the Arab Spring possible.



2.



3.

1. Sumer school „New Urban Revolution“: TU Berlin
2. Archeological excavation at Quesna Delta, Egypt: FU Berlin
3. Workshop „Participation in (post-) revolutionary Egypt“: U Hamburg

# DAAD assistance in Tunisia and Egypt: an overview

Information, data, and facts on cooperative university partnerships, scholarships, and more



4.

Germany and Egypt have a long history of cooperation in the areas of education, science, and research: the DAAD opened its field office in Cairo as early as 1960, and the 2007 German-Egyptian Science Year resulted in a number of jointly financed scholarship programs. Germany's cooperative relationship with Tunisia is also a long-standing one. The partnership began with a governmental scholarship program in the 1980s and reached new heights yet again on September 1, 2012, when the DAAD's project office in Tunis opened its doors.



4. The "German-Arab Transformation Partnership – cultural dialogue" team with head of section Dr Renate Dieterich

Over the past several decades, these scholarships, university partnerships, and collaborative research programs have enabled countless Egyptian and Tunisian scholars to spend time researching or studying in Germany. Region-specific programs – such as bicultural master's programs in development-related subjects, funding for projects promoting university dialogue with the Muslim world, or the various master's degree programs within the DAAD's Public Policy and Good Governance" (PPGG) program – offer a wide range of opportunities for collaboration and thus contribute to both scientific and societal reform.

5.

In 2011, in response to the political upheavals in Tunisia and Egypt, the German government brought the German-Arab Transformation Partnership into being. The DAAD primarily implements this through four new program lines: Program Line 1 supports the creation of sustainable structures in every field of academia – liberal arts, social sciences, natural sciences,



6.

finance, and everything in between. Program Line 2 supports short- and long-term cooperative efforts, such as workshops, summer schools, and conferences. Program Line 3 helps establish jointly run English-language master's degree programs in the fields of archeology and political science; Program Line 4's focus is on building research networks to help returning alumni reintegrate into their homeland university systems. (For more information on the individual program lines, please go to [www.daad.de/transformation](http://www.daad.de/transformation).) The programs also benefit from the assistance of the DAAD expert roundtable, which meets regularly to serve as advisors on the development of new programs and projects (see p. 18).

5.- 6. Workshop „Participation in (post-) revolutionary Egypt“: U Hamburg

# “We urgently need capable people”

**A conversation with Professor Maged El Sherbiny, deputy minister of science and research in Egypt, on his country’s future.**

**Professor El Sherbiny, your country is facing major challenges. What is the situation in the higher education sector?**

Our universities have 2.7 million students and are totally overstretched. Teaching standards are also lacking. The government has increased university budgets, but we will never reach our goals without additional support from organizations or investments by the private sector, which is holding us back at the moment, unfortunately.

**What are your goals? Where do you need assistance?**

Our focus is on areas that are crucial to Egypt’s future: energy, water, agriculture, and health. We need to improve research and teaching in these fields. For example, we are working in

cooperation with the University of Kassel in the field of renewable energy.

**What experiences have you had with German-Egyptian university partnerships?**

We have been working for 52 years with the DAAD and its office in Cairo. Germany is our most important and most loyal partner – even during the political upheaval. No sooner had the revolution ended than the first workshops on science and democracy were up and running.

**The DAAD program has many different facets. Which of them are most beneficial to Egypt?**

I think the most important part is that the DAAD supports alumni networks and helps Egyptian graduates of German universities start careers in their home country. This should help prevent «brain drain,» the widespread emigration of academics. Right now, especially, we urgently need capable people.



**Which project do you like the most?**

The creation of a Research Institute for Microsystems Engineering (MEM). Maybe it will lead to the development of Egypt’s own high-tech industry. That would not only provide work for young and talented people, it would also create new opportunities for the entire country.

# “We can learn a lot from the German university system”

**Interview with Professor Jemel Ezzine, directorate general of international cooperation, Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research**

**Professor Ezzine, how is the Tunisian higher education sector today?**

We face problems similar to many European countries. For the last five years or so, we have been restructuring our higher education system according to the Bologna guidelines. This process demands considerable effort, but we plan to conform to Europe’s best practices. Simultaneously, we have been working hard to improve the quality of our graduates in general, especially human sciences degree holders, especially after the revolution. We need qualified graduates in all fields – media, politics, and educational sciences – to facilitate the emergence of a powerful civil society. Consequently, I highly welcome the intensified cooperation with the DAAD to foster exchanges.

**What has changed in international cooperation since the revolution?**

Since the revolution, cooperation interests have increased considerably. Tunisia is the launching pad of the Arab Spring. Old and new partners are engaging with Tunisia to foster and enhance the blossoming Tunisian knowledge society. Due to Tunisia’s meager natural resources

endowment, human gray matter is Tunisia’s most valuable asset.

**How can the DAAD support you in this?**

Germany has been an important partner for us since 1982. This has resulted in over 30 cooperation agreements between universities and institutions. Moreover, we have about 3,000 Tunisians studying in German universities, mainly in engineering sciences and related fields. Recently, we have extended our cooperation to research and innovation.

In the current situation, Germany is a model, because it succeeded in a huge transformation after 1989, making itself the economic engine and innovator of Europe today. Of course, this cannot be achieved without the main actors: universities, industry, and government.

**Where can the DAAD’s cooperation stimulate the Tunisian higher education sector?**

We can learn quite a bit from the German higher education sector – for instance, the governance structure and related management processes of its universities. Our universities are called to become more autonomous, to foster innovation, and to advocate for democracy. Our universities responded positively to our revolution: they elected their presidents for the first time in their history!



**Which DAAD program do you like best?**

Any cooperation needs a shared vision that transcends its core field and tries to be part of a solution to a societal challenge. A very promising field in this context is solar energy, especially concentrated solar power, or CSP. Moreover, Tunisia is a partner country in the DESERTEC project.

This mega project intends to supply Europe with solar power generated in North Africa. The successful implementation of such a project needs scientists, engineers, project managers, and related specialists. The DAAD, along with other German partners, can play a key role in triggering the development of a green industry in Tunisia, especially in the southern part of the country.

# Built on sand: cypress forests in Egypt

How the Technical University Munich's forestry department is turning the desert green



Hany El Kateb is confident: "What we're planning in Egypt is not just innovative, it's also extraordinary." Planting forests in the desert? That does indeed sound adventurous. Unsurprisingly, in practically no time at all, Hany El Kateb has received 400 Facebook friend requests for the project, which the DAAD will be financing until 2013.

Together with TU Munich forestry professor Reinhard Mosandl and two Egyptian partner universities in Cairo and Alexandria, El Kateb is working towards a way of sustainably foresting the Egyptian desert, which constitutes nearly 96 percent of the country's total land area. "We need green spaces," says the Egyptian native, a member of the forestry department faculty in Munich since 1977.

"This is a highly political topic, especially in the wake of the Arab Spring."

Revolution and forestry are two subjects that, at first glance, seem to have little in common. As El Kateb explains, however, "This is about much more than just the forest." According to the forester, the majority of the estimated 2.5 billion cubic meters of wastewater seep into the ground or run off into the Nile.

This not only poses serious risks to humans and the environment, it also means that important nutrients are being lost that could benefit agricultural and forestry industries. "In an arid country with a population of 84 million, it is important to make efficient use of the limited water resources available," he says.

"The success of the democracy movement also depends on this." For El Kateb, forestation and sustainable water management are closely linked. The project's aims include improving energy efficiency in wastewater purification and management, as well as field studies on planting and watering trees – for example, cypresses, eucalyptus trees, or Mediterranean stone pines. TU Munich's forestry department will also be assisting with the creation of new degree programs in forestry and resource management at Egyptian universities. Hany El Kateb's vision for his country's future? Not to see the desert for the trees.

## At a glance

### Sustainable Forestry using Wastewater in Desert Areas of Egypt

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Participating universities:   | + May 7, 2012: kickoff event   |
| TU Munich                     | + Two workshops in Cairo and Alexandria  |
| Alexandria University         | + Three forest excursions  |
| Ain Shams University in Cairo | + Saturday, May 12, 2012: meeting with the Egyptian minister of agriculture        |
|                               | + Sunday, May 13, 2012: conversations with Egyptian governmental water authorities |

# DAAD Transformation Partnerships at a Glance:

## Funded Projects in Program Line 1

### 2012/2013 Projects with Tunisia

Project Type	Title	Managing Institution(s)	Partner Institution(s)	Subject Area
Cooperation	„EM-PO-W-ER Tunisia“: Emerging Pollutants in Water and Wastewater in Tunisia	TU Braunschweig	INGREF, University of Sousse, University of Carthage	Water management
Cooperation	Sfax Chemnitz Cooperation in Higher Engineering Education	TU Chemnitz	University of Sfax	Electrical engineering
Master's program	German Studies	TU Dresden	University of Gabès	German language, literature, and cultural studies
Master's program	Pediatric Cardiology: Master's Program in Congenital Heart Defects	University Hospital of Cologne	University of Sousse	Pediatrics



### 2012/2013 Multilateral Projects (with Egypt and Tunisia)

Project Type	Title	Managing Institution(s)	Partner Institution(s)	Subject Area
Cooperation	Promoting Entrepreneurial Spirit in Academic Innovation	U Marburg	German University of Cairo, University of Sfax, University of Mohammed V	Computer science
Cooperation	Challenges and Transformations in the Wake of Arab Spring	FU Berlin	University of Cairo, German Jordanian University, University of Bengazi, Tunisian School of Politics	Political science
Regulations on Specialist Medical Training	iGET: Intensive Gastroenterological Training	University Hospital of Erlangen	Kasr Al-Aini University Clinic, University of Tunis/ Medical Faculty	Internal medicine
Cooperation	Modern Civil and Administrative Law	German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation Bonn	Helwan University, University of Sousse	Law

## 2012/2013 Projects with Egypt

Project Type	Title	Managing Institution(s)	Partner Institution(s)	Subject Area
Master's program	Environmental Archeology	U Cologne	University of Cairo	Archeology
Cooperation	Creation of a Department of Law and Economics	U Hamburg	University of Cairo	Law, economics, and social sciences
Master's program	Blended-Learning Master's in German as a Foreign Language	U Leipzig	Ain Shams University	German as a foreign language
Master's program	Creation of an Interdisciplinary Degree Program in Health Economics	University Hospital of Cologne	University of Cairo	Health economics
Cooperation	Periodontics	U Kiel	University of Cairo	Oral and maxillofacial health care
Cooperation	Gender Equality in the Egyptian Higher Education System	FU Berlin	Ministry of Higher Education, University of Cairo, Alexandria University, Sohag University, South Valley University	Political sciences, interdisciplinary



Project Type	Title	Managing Institution(s)	Partner Institution(s)	Subject Area
Post-graduate studies	IWATEC - Integrated Water Technologies	U Duisburg-Essen	Fayoum University	Water technologies
Master's program	Art and Design History in Upper Egypt	HS Wismar	South Valley University	Art, product, and textile design
Cooperation	Sustainable Forestry using Wastewater in Desert Regions	TU Munich	Ain Shams University, Alexandria University	Forestry and lumber sciences
Cooperation	Transformation Partnership for Urban Design and Architecture	TU Cottbus	University of Cairo	Urban planning
Cooperation	PARTNAR- Participatory Planning and Natural Resources Management	FH Cologne	Ain Shams University	Engineering
Master's program	Pediatric Cardiology: Master's Program in Congenital Heart Defects	University Hospital of Cologne	University of Cairo	Pediatrics

# Women in science: quo vadis, Egypt?

How the Free University of Berlin is helping bring gender equality to the Egyptian university system

"I am so optimistic." When Tahani Youssef says that, one wants to believe her.

"Right now, we are probably in the worst possible situation. There is a lot of political instability; everything is totally chaotic here. But I believe in good." Tahani Youssef is one of 25 Egyptian men and women participating in the five-day "GenderEgypt" workshop being held in Berlin in June 2012. She is not only a professor; she also works for the Ministry of Higher Education in Cairo. What does she wish for her country?

"Democracy, freedom, and justice."

Whether Youssef's wishes are fulfilled largely depends on what role the country's women play in the future. "It is a well-known fact that women are often the losers of a revolution," says Barbara Sandow, a research assistant in the Free University of Berlin's physics

department. As the coordinator for the DAAD-supported project entitled "Gender Equality in the Egyptian Higher Education System," she also shares responsibility for organizing and running the workshop.

Brigitta Schütt, vice president of FU Berlin and professor of physical geography, leads the project. Its spectrum of activities ranges from a series of workshops in Cairo and Berlin to a mentoring program to gender and diversity training programs at the four universities in Alexandria, Cairo, Sohag, and Qena.

"We would do well to sensitize research personnel and Ministry of Higher Education employees to these ideas," Sandow explains. "We want to support the transformation process in Egypt using our knowledge and experience." FU Berlin can look back on a nearly 30-year tradition of gender equality and the promotion of women; it has led national university rankings on equal opportunity issues for years. The secret is that FU Berlin has anchored its gender equality goals in a wide range of internal decision-making processes and university-wide procedures.

According to Barbara Sandow, the fact that the university offers women such a conducive environment makes it an ideal starting point for cooperation with Egyptian universities: "We can see that workshop participants are extremely engaged." No sooner is the event underway than participants begin bombarding



female representatives of German universities with questions. "Egyptian schoolbooks encourage the creation of role stereotypes," complains Sahar Wahby, an instructor at the University of Sohag. "Boys can go outside and play, but girls have to help their mothers around the house. Is it like that in German schoolbooks, too?" she asks Margreth Lünenborg, a journalism professor and the head of FU Berlin's central institute for women's and gender studies research.



## At a glance

### Gender Equality in the Egyptian Higher Education System

Participating universities:	+ December 2011: fact-finding mission
FU Berlin	+ June 19-24, 2012: „GenderEgypt“ workshop in Berlin
Alexandria University	+ August 2012: creation of an electronic communications and collaboration platform with the assistance of two Egyptian experts
Cairo University	+ September 2012: meeting and podium discussion in Cairo to make concrete plans for project implementation
Sohag University	
South Valley University	+ November 2012: conference in Cairo with 50 participants



Perhaps the most important comment of the day comes from Tamer Essam, director of the center for biotechnology at the University of Cairo and one of the workshop's ten male participants.

"I have a wife, a daughter, and a mother, and I have a female office assistant," Essam says. "They can only do a good job if we work for gender equality." His conclusion: "Only when women assume

an equal role in society will you as a man be successful, both in business and in personal life." One can only hope that his male colleagues in Egypt heed his example.

## "I hope for an intelligent, responsible elite"

**The DAAD has had a field office in Cairo since 1960. Its director, Dr Michael Harms, explains in interview what has changed as a result of the revolution, and why the Egyptians sometimes remind him a little of the ancient Greeks.**

**Mr. Harms, how has the Arab Spring affected your work?**

University politics in Egypt are completely different now than they were two years ago. Since the overthrow of Mubarak, the minister of higher education and research has been replaced seven times. Our contact partners change all the time. It's like with Sisyphus: you keep having to start over from the beginning.

**What about Egyptian universities is most in need of improvement?**

Restructuring the system of higher education is a Herculean task, to continue citing Greek mythology. The universities are bursting at the seams. With Egypt's population growth rate, we could theoretically open a new university every year ... except we lack the teachers and the financial resources to do so.

**What, specifically, do Egyptians expect from the DAAD following the revolution?**

Above all, access to German science and research. They want new impetus for reform and for university cooperation.

**Egypt in the year 2020: where would you like to see it?**

I hope for an intelligent, responsible elite in every discipline and field. There are still a number of people in Egypt who cannot read or write. Only the elite can bring the country forward and set a course for the future – a course which is in the interest of the entire population.

# News briefs

## German Studies workshop in Tunis: German language in focus

When the DAAD invited all twelve of Tunisia's German Studies and German as a Foreign Language institutes to a roundtable discussion, interest ran high. Some 20 participants accepted the invitation. Together with DAAD representatives, they gathered in Tunis on February 16 and 17, 2012 to discuss the subject's status and future prospects.

The purpose of the workshop was not only to give participants a chance to meet and share experiences, but also to identify problems and solutions. To this end, participants formed work groups on subjects like the attractiveness of German degree programs, differences in language competency among Tunisian students, and various models of praxis-oriented German-language instruction.



1.

## New DAAD office in Tunis: "A task that I find exciting"

More engagement and even more concrete action are the goals that the DAAD has set for itself in Tunisia.

On September 1, 2012, a new office in Tunis began supporting all projects receiving DAAD assistance within the "Transformation Program" framework. "The upheaval in Tunisia has opened up new pathways and opportunities," explains DAAD representative and office director Beate Schindler-Kovats. "The DAAD hopes to contribute as a partner to, and supporter of, German-Tunisian university cooperation."

"The new project office in Tunis is an important interface. This is a task that I find challenging and exciting." The new office serves as a point of contact for anyone interested in learning more about the transformation partnership, while also helping promote Germany as a place for science and research.



2.

## Tunisian VIP delegation in Bonn: close contact with German universities

What does a polytechnic school actually do? And why is RWTH Aachen the most popular technical university among Arab scholars?

Representatives of the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and university presidents from several Tunisian provinces had five days to form their own pictures of the German

university system and to find answers to their questions. The nine-person delegation arrived in Bonn at the end of March 2012. Planning future cooperative work with the DAAD was part of the schedule, as were discussions with representatives of German universities and the National Ministry of Education and Research.



3.

- 1. During the workshop: Participants discuss challenges and problems facing German studies in Tunisia.
- 2. Beate Schindler-Kovats, Director of the DAAD Tunis office.
- 3. Members of the delegation from Tunisia with DAAD secretary general Dr Dorothea Rüländ (left) and DAAD staff members (right).



4.

## Studies in both Germany and Egypt? Two new programs are making it possible

Those who find themselves forced to choose between spending time abroad or attending college will soon be able to have both: the American University in Cairo and the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen are planning a joint master's degree program entitled "Comparative & Middle East Politics and Society." The four-semester program combines political science and transformation research with a specialization in regional studies. The Helwan University of Cairo and the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus are also working towards a joint master's program in archeology. Both projects are receiving DAAD assistance.

## DESERTEC workshop in Bonn: energy transitions in North Africa

Clean desert solar energy and global energy security will soon be more than just dreams for the future. Working in close cooperation with the DAAD, the DESERTEC University Network held a workshop in Bonn on October 17 and 18, 2011, on expanding the renewable energy sector in northern African nations like Tunisia, Egypt, and Algeria. The main question up for discussion: how can we educate even more qualified renewable energy specialists? Taking this as their starting point, a German-Arabic committee of experts explored relevant master's programs in Germany, scholarships for Arab students, and new educational opportunities for students in North Africa and the Middle East.

organized a large kick-off event in April 2012 to present a great variety of new funding opportunities as well as the newly launched German-Arabic Transformation Partnership projects. The German ambassador to Egypt, Michael Bock, was in attendance.



5.



6.

## The DAAD branch office in Cairo: visions of a new Egypt

In 2011, the DAAD branch office in Cairo collaborated with the Free University of Berlin and Orient Institute Beirut to organize five events under the banner of "Cairo Talks on Transformation and Change" (CTTC), at which renowned German and Egyptian scholars debated political developments in Egypt. Parliamentary votes, the role of women in the revolution, the referendum on changing the constitution – a number of important and timely topics related to the new Egypt came up for discussion. The DAAD branch office

## Roundtables in Cairo and Tunis: after the revolution, an atmosphere of change

In May and June of 2011, two roundtable discussions in Tunisia and Egypt laid the foundations for the DAAD Transformation Partnership. Scientists, students, and professors from Germany and the respective nations in transformation met in Cairo and Tunis to discuss post-revolutionary university cooperation. The Cairo workshop was organized in cooperation with the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund as well as the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

4. Participants discuss German-Arab university cooperation at the kick off event in Cairo.
5. German ambassador to Tunis Dr Wolfram Kerll and DAAD head of department Dr Helmut Blumbach welcoming participants of the Tunis round table discussion.
6. Participants engaging in a lively discussion at the Cairo Talk on Transformation and Change on the issue: „The State we are in – Constitutional Development towards Reform or Restoration?“

# Fishing in muddy waters: sustainable water management in Tunisia

How one TU Braunschweig department is watering the seeds of revolution and thereby making promising contributions to development work

Water resource analysis in connection with good university governance: this is the goal of "EM-PO-W-ER Tunisia," a project with great promise at the Technical University Braunschweig's Institute for Ecology and Sustainable Chemistry. "Without the Arab Spring, a project like this probably would never have come to exist," notes Müfit Bahadir, the TU professor of ecological chemistry and waste analysis responsible for the project. "Under an autocratic government, cooperation of this type would hardly have been possible." Together with social scientist Karsten Breßler, project coordinator at the Institute for Ecological and Sustainable Chemistry, Bahadir traveled to Tunis in May 2012 for the kick-off event, seeking to form his own picture of the situation in the country. "People can speak openly now," he says. "Working together with the ministries is much easier than it was before." For example, Tunisian government offices were willing to provide scientists with data for the event.

The project's concrete objective is to analyze the water resources and treated wastewater used in Tunisian agriculture to water crops. Its main focus will be on so-called "emerging pollutants," harmful organic substances (such as residues from pesticides, medications, or cleaning products) which are present in wastewater as well as ground and surface water in ever-greater concentrations.

"We want to give Tunisian participants additional training in the analysis of water and soil samples," says Breßler. "We plan to invite students and young scientists to Germany and to refresh their environmental chemistry knowledge according to 'train the trainer' principles." This is one of the project's most important goals: to teach young scholars so that they can then pass their knowledge on to colleagues in their home countries.

This is not the project's only purpose, however. While they are in Braunschweig for the training, the Tunisians will also be introduced to German students and academics, giving them a closer look at how a democratically run university works. Step by step, participants will learn about the structures in place at TU Braunschweig which make participative, consensus-oriented, and transparent university policymaking possible.

Students and researchers will take these experiences with them back to Tunisia, where they will help shape progression to a democratic system of higher education. According to Bahadir, this is about much more than the idea of good university governance. "Of course not everything works 100 percent perfectly here, either. The Tunisians need to see that we encounter a lot of problems as well, but that we can talk about them openly and honestly."



Two Tunisian institutions are involved in this DAAD-backed project: the National Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Water, and Forestry (INGREF) in Tunis, and the Higher Institute for Agronomic Sciences (ISA CM) at the University of Sousse. Close collaboration with Tunisian colleagues is ensured through Olfa Mahjoub, a doctoral scientist at INGREF who is also helping direct the project.

Bahadir knows how important it is to maintain dialogue with the Tunisians. "You can end up doing more harm than good with a project like this, so it is very important to us not to take a patronizing tone. Project participants should see our country and its university system with their own eyes – we cannot force our opinions onto them."



Bahadir speaks from experience. : He is a member of the DAAD's executive board and has collaborated for years with German exchange programs. In April of 2010, under Bahadir's leadership, TU Braunschweig opened "Sustainable Water Management in Developmental Countries," a competency center for developmental cooperation. The DAAD funds it and four other competency centers through its "exceed—University Excellence in Developmental Cooperation" program. The current project profits from this support as well: "In September 2012, we are organizing a workshop in Hammamet with stakeholders from across the entire region," says Bahadir. "Federal government officials, ministers, researchers, and many other representatives from across the field of sustainable water management will be attending from places like Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, and Greece." Hammamet is a small resort town in northeast Tunisia. After all, globalization also means thinking globally and acting locally.



## At a glance

### EM-PO-W-ER Tunisia – EMerging POLLutants in Water and WastewatER in Tunisia

Participating institutions:	+ April 10-15, 2012: coordinating trip to Tunis
Technical University Braunschweig	+ May 1-6, 2012: kick-off event in Tunis
National Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Water, and Forestry (INGREF) in Tunis	+ May 20-31, 2012: coordinating trip and training courses in Braunschweig + September 1-October 15, 2012: training courses in Braunschweig
Higher Institute for Agronomic Sciences (ISA CM) at the University of Sousse	+ September 10-16, 2012: workshop in Hammamet: "Emerging Pollutants in the Mediterranean Basin" + September 16-October 15, 2012: young Tunisian scientists visit Braunschweig + October 11-12, 2012: governance workshop in Braunschweig + November 12-16, 2012: good university governance workshop in Braunschweig + December 3-8, 2012: evaluation workshop in Tunis

# Voices from the DAAD Expert Panel

The DAAD Expert Panel is made up of Tunisian and Egyptian scholarship and grant holders, alumni, and DAAD-affiliated researchers. The group convenes regularly to discuss and formulate suggestions, criticism, and proposals regarding the role of German-Arabic university cooperation in the transformation process.



Members of the expert panel 2012 in front of the DAAD main office in Bonn



Egyptian native Doaa Soliman is a DAAD scholarship holder pursuing a master's degree in development and governance at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

*"Why did I choose the DAAD over every other organization? In my opinion, the DAAD is the only one offering a comprehensive program. It's not just about awarding scholarships—it's also about networking, finding new ideas, and helping develop the educational systems in other countries. My dream is for Egypt to be a fair country, one where your voice is heard when you speak openly about problems. That can only be achieved with the help of a good university system that makes it possible for people to get the necessary education."*



Haikal El Abed was born in Tunisia and has lived in Germany since 1994. He is a graduate of the Technical University Braunschweig's computer science program.

*"Thanks to the DAAD's Program Line 2, I've already been able to organize three summer schools in Tunisia—one of which was a program on innovation in the university system, held just after the revolution. Time played a deciding role: funding was granted faster, programs were created promptly. Among my friends and acquaintances, there were a lot of good things to say about Program Line 2, because it's the most flexible. It requires a lot less time and effort than a larger, more long-term project would."*



Ebtisam Hussein is a native of Egypt and a DAAD doctoral scholar at the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies.

*"I am a person with high standards. I want the revolutions happening in the streets to be reflected in our countries' educational systems. The expert roundtable is very important, because here we have the opportunity to talk about research and science in Egypt and Tunisia. We are all from different cities and academic disciplines. As a political scientist, I want to find out what other people think and what problems they have to face."*

# Student participation: small-scale democracy



1.



2.

Student committees, councils, and parliaments are an essential part of German higher education. In Egypt, however, such organizations are hardly standard fare. This is why, in February of 2012, German universities and the DAAD invited Egyptian student representatives to discuss ways of improving student participation as part of a good governance approach. The objective: to help Egyptian universities learn more about student self-government by showing them the democratic university system in theory and practice.

To this end, the TU Berlin and the HafenCity University Hamburg received a group of 15 students from Ain Shams University in Cairo. The ten-day program explored general student participation in university politics at the national, city, and local levels, and also presented interesting special cases, such as teaching- and appeals committees. Because the Free University of Berlin was hosting a group of Cairo University students at the same time, the universities were able to link the programs to one another.



3.

The University of Education of Ludwigsburg is putting together a very similar program—one which will not only invite students at Egypt's Helwan University to Swabia, but also send representatives of its own to Cairo. "We now know what forms of participation are possible," said Amina Fouad, one of the student representatives from Cairo. "Now we have to determine which ones we can use as well." For the majority of the participants, the experience was a completely new and valuable one.



4.

1. Students from Cairo University visit the Chancellery in Berlin.
2. A student from the University of Helwan.
3. A discussion among Egyptian students at Berlin's Technical University.
4. The group of students explore the campus of Berlin's Free University.

# German Studies in Tunisia: much more than just Goethe and Schiller

How TU Dresden's department of newer German literature and cultural history is hammering out a new master's program with the Université de Gabès

Walter Schmitz sees a number of reasons why now is an especially good time to collaborate with colleagues in Tunisia. "Even if it sounds a bit old-fashioned," says the professor of newer German literature and cultural history at the Technical University Dresden, "I believe the discipline has an ethos and a solidarity which transcends national borders. If German language and literature programs anywhere in the world are in need of assistance, they should be able to count on German colleagues." Schmitz is the head of a project working towards the development of a German Studies master's degree program at the Université de Gabès in southern Tunisia. "The project would not exist without the DAAD," says Schmitz with conviction, "Nor would it exist without the many engaged people in Tunisia whose work goes far above and beyond what DAAD financing provides."

The DAAD will be funding the project for two years. Although the ultimate goal is to establish a master's degree program, initial efforts are focused on developing and testing modules. "Tunisia does not yet have any new degree programs which do not have to go through the Ministry of Higher Education's arduous, hierarchical approval process," explains Schmitz. "The universities do not have anywhere near the autonomy we are accustomed to in European universities. Ultimately, there is not a single administrative measure which is beyond the ministry's

control." Schmitz's plan is thus to design course modules which concentrate on four main areas: "Language: Communication Praxis," "Cultural Studies Methods," "Literature and Media," and "Civilization: Germany Today." The latter will be the focus of a majority of the project's efforts, because it will involve developing textbook chapters that can also serve as foundational material for the other areas. The module courses are distributed among three semesters; the fourth and final semester is set aside for students to compose German-language theses.

Schmitz sees particular advantages to this concept: "We could make the modules available to others. Perhaps they could even be used in other universities or integrated into other disciplines." Making sure that the instructional materials fit local educational needs is nevertheless a top priority. "The one thing we definitely want to avoid is a kind of colonialism of good intentions. Our Tunisian colleagues are holding the reins," emphasizes the professor. "We are working hard to offer them ideas and resources that we consider to be of proven value and beneficial to Tunisia's development."

The Université de Gabès, southern Tunisia's central university, is one of the country's two internationally competitive German programs; the other one is run by the University of La Manouba in Tunis. More than 300 Tunisians



are currently enrolled in the German program at Gabès, which Schmitz calls "an impressive number." However, there are only four professors in the entire country. While Schmitz considers his Tunisian colleagues to be highly engaged and well-educated, he still believes there is a lot of work to do. "The dictatorship cut most academics off from international contact," he notes. "And then there is the lack of infrastructure – books are practically non-existent. For a subject like German that is still based on the printed word, that is a serious problem."

This is why the Dresden professor sees the need for a conceptual approach based on a more general goal of creating a profile for the discipline that fits the country's particular needs. "This discussion has been going on for three decades, and it has been summed up with the phrase 'German Studies.' The description reflects the transition away from the traditional focus on German language and literature – and perhaps geography in foreign countries – in favor of an emphasis on integrated knowledge of Germany." The German Studies concept is becoming a more attractive discussion topic in Germany as well; whether it can be implemented in Tunisia remains to be seen. There is reason to hope, however: university elections have recently taken place there for the first time. Committee members and new authorities like deacons and rectors are no longer simply appointed—they have to be elected. "But they do not yet have new higher education statutes," says Schmitz. "The revolution has not arrived on the structural level yet. That will be a long process." He is confident, however: "Tunisia has a chance now after the revolution, and our Tunisian colleagues now need our help."





## At a glance

### Development and Testing of a Master's Program in German Studies

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Participating universities: | + June-September and October-December 2012:<br>students from Gabès visit Dresden   |
| TU Dresden                  | + September-November 2012:<br>assessment of the current situation; needs analyses for the<br>modules to be developed   |
| Université de Gabès         | + October-December 2012:<br>tutor visits Gabès from Dresden to assist with classes, get to know teachers<br>and students, and determine which courses should be incorporated into<br>the master's program  |
|                             | + September-November 2012: tutor visits Gabès from Dresden to support<br>and evaluate classes, to offer a Module 4 laboratory course (Introduction to<br>Transformation Research), and to tour the library |
|                             | + October-December 2012: module development, creation of autonomous<br>learning environments, adaptation of existing material  |

# Imprint

## **Publisher DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service  
Kennedyallee 50, 53175 Bonn (Germany)  
www.daad.de

Section German-Arab Transformation Partnership - Cultural Dialogue

## **Project Coordination**

Dr Renate Dieterich

## **Edited by**

Media in Cooperation and Transition (MICT), Berlin,  
www.mict-international.org  
Anke Fiedler, Lilli Kardouh, and Dirk Spilker, in cooperation with the  
DAAD

## **Translation**

Archer Targeted Communication, Berlin, ArcherTC.com

## **Images**

TU Cottbus (Project: Transformation Partnership for Urban Design and Architecture) 1; TU Berlin (Workshop: New Urban Revolution) 6, 10, 11; FU Berlin (Excavations in Egypt's Quesna Delta) 6, 10; U Hamburg (Workshop: Participation in (post-)revolutionary Egypt) 6, 7, 11; DAAD 5, 7, 18, 14, 15; Prof Maged El-Sherbiny 8; Prof Jelel Ezzine 8; TU München (Project: Sustainable Forestry) 9; Nour El Refai 10, 15, 19; FU Berlin (Project: Gender Equality) 12, 13; DAAD branch office Cairo 15; TU Braunschweig (Project: EMPOWER Tunisia) 16, 17; FU Berlin (Project: Student Participation) 19; TU Berlin (Project: Student Participation) 19; TU Dresden (Project: German Studies) 20, 21.

## **Layout**

Kate Bowden, Berlin, www.katebowden.co.uk

## **Printed by**

Druckhaus Schöneweide, Berlin, www.dhsberlin.de

**Print-run** September 2012 – 2,000

Printed in Germany

© DAAD

This publication and the German-Arab Transformation Partnership programs have been funded with grants made to the DAAD by the Federal Foreign Office.

Funded by



Federal Foreign Office

