

# Editorial

Following the 1990 *Education for All* (EFA) Declaration issued by the international conference of several United Nations Organisations (UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank and UNDP), international policy talk, education programs and scientific debates concentrated on enhancing *Basic Education* in the *so-called Third World*. The last EFA “Global Monitoring Report” issued by UNESCO (2015) under the title “Education for All 2000–2015: Achievements and Challenges” summarised what had been achieved largely in respect to all around ‘basic education’ during that era.

The *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* declared in 2016 by the United Nations for the period of the Agenda 2030, have changed the concept of ‘education’ considerably (cf. also the special issue on the SDGs of this journal, ZEP 2/2018). In contrast to EFA’s focus on basic education ‘universal education’ now means to “ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education” (SDG 4.1). The goal includes *higher education*, stating to “ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational tertiary education, including university” (SDG 4.3), and it contains implementation schemes such as “substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least-developed countries, small Islands developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher educa-

tion” (SDG 4.b). From this follows: *Higher Education* in Africa including *international development cooperation* has gained an undeniable importance in the international development agenda.

Against this backdrop the main focus of this special issue is directed to *Germany’s official policies and programmes directed to higher education in African countries*. This might sound like propelling official German views towards Africa, but it is meant to critically reflect Germany as a player of the ‘Global North’ navigating within complex African as well as other cross-border actors in areas of higher education in Africa. The focus on German actors also stems from the fact that all (but one) articles derive from papers presented at the international conference on “African Connections” by the German African Studies Association (VAD) at the University of Leipzig in June 2018.

The issue starts by discussing the main ‘official’ German institutions and their programs towards higher education in Africa by Christel Adick along categories typified as ‘aid’, ‘exchange’, cultural diplomacy’, and ‘trade’. In contrast to focusing official organisations, Ina Gankam Tambo researches the student-level of international education transfer. She presents results of her interviews with Cameroonian students who study at the Goethe Institute as compared to those who study at the Confucius Institute. Centres of Excellence are a prominent variety of programs offered by the Ger-

man Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), one of which is presented in the article by Jonah Nyaga Kindiki, Malve von Möllendorff, Karsten Speck and Paul Webb in which they analyse the project conditions and its contribution to de-colonising higher education in Africa. Higher education in Ethiopia has rapidly expanded and internationalized in recent years. Claudia Baumann and Rüdiger Lauberbach present research results on institution-building in this country within a changing landscape that includes competition from the ‘Global South’ which affects German actors and their programs in Ethiopia. The education of health professionals in Africa (instead of abroad) is important to improve health care services. Kirstin Grosse Frie demonstrates how the field of ‘Global Health’ as an interdisciplinary field might integrate more social sciences (instead of purely clinical teaching) into future German-African cooperation in the education of health professionals.

It was decided to publish this issue in English (instead of German) in order to attract the attention of international scholars and practitioners who are interested in international debates on cross-border transfer in higher education including not least colleagues and presently acting or prospective counterparts in Africa.

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