

CONCEPT NOTE

INNOVATE TOGETHER: SHAPING EDUCATION FOR THE DIGITAL ERA

2nd Regional DS2S Networking Event

3RD – 5TH SEPTEMBER 2025
LEIPZIG, GERMANY



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG

Implemented by



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



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In today's rapidly evolving job market, it is essential to equip university lecturers with innovative methods to foster employability among their students. **The Digital Skills to Succeed in Asia (DS2S)** project, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), supports this mission by strengthening digital competencies among non-tech university students in Bangladesh, India, and Viet Nam. By working closely with universities, private sector partners, and government institutions, DS2S fosters collaboration between academia and industry to help shape an agile, skilled, and innovation-ready workforce.

This year's regional event is hosted by **Leipzig University**, which brings valuable insights into real-life applications of innovative teaching and learning methods. Through their work with Living Labs and various international university networks— including **Intelligence for Innovation (iN4iN)**— Leipzig University offers inspiration for how digital skills and innovation can be embedded into higher education.

A key highlight will be the **joint conference on Days 2 and 3**, where participants will exchange experiences and best practices drawn from different institutional contexts. These shared insights will contribute to strengthening the DS2S network by exploring **practical approaches to university-industry collaboration**, along with **innovative teaching and learning methods** that benefit both lecturers and students. Instead of showcasing isolated models, the event highlights how collaborative efforts— rooted in the local contexts of DS2S partner countries— can drive sustainable progress in the digital era.

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We invite you to be part of this exciting event from 3rd to 5th September 2025 in Leipzig that aims to:

INSPIRE

Academia to explore innovative University-Industry partnership models and advanced teaching methodologies that promote the development of digital skills for employability.

INTEGRATE

Partnership models and innovative teaching methods into both regional and global networks, fostering interdisciplinary cooperation and strengthening the relationship between academia and industry.

INNOVATE

By creating new initiatives and collaborative models to co-develop new educational frameworks and design industry-relevant, scalable skill development programs that address future workforce challenges.

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WHAT TO EXPECT?

Participants will engage in a collaborative environment, with opportunities to exchange ideas, innovate, and form partnerships. Here are the opportunities the event will offer via keynote speeches, discussion panels as well as interactive workshops:

Day 1 – DS2S Opening (only DS2S network participants)

- **Engage with Industry Leaders:** Hear from HP, IBM, and CISCO on how to co-create a digitally skilled, job-ready generation with universities.
- **Explore Microcredentials:** Gain global and regional insights on the role of microcredentials in bridging education and labour market gaps, with contributions from OECD and national leaders.
- **Shape the Network's Future:** Participate in interactive sessions to reflect on current achievements, identify strategic priorities, and co-design the future of the DS2S network.

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Day 2 – University-Industry Partnerships

- Learn from Real-World Examples: Discover successful university–industry collaboration models from DS2S and iN4iN that drive digital transformation and workforce readiness.
- Participate in Hands-On Workshops: Dive into practical strategies for collaboration, including hackathons, service-learning, and Living Labs.
- Explore potential opportunities to fund university–industry collaborations.

Day 3 – Innovative Teaching and Learning

- Explore Future-Ready Education: Gain inspiration from keynote and network showcases on how higher education can better prepare graduates for the evolving job market.
- Experiment with methods of innovative teaching and learning: Join Workshops on Design Thinking, AI-supported Teaching, and Open Educational Resources (OER) to enhance your teaching practice.