

2nd Regional DS2S Networking Event

Innovate Together:
Shaping Education for the Digital Era

Inspire Change – Integrate Knowledge – Innovate for the Future

3rd – 5th September 2025
Leipzig, Germany



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Participants Bio

India Partner Universities



Dr. Dillip Kumar Bishi

DS2S Member

Assistant Professor

Department of Biotechnology & Nodal Officer – International Affairs, Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar, India

Field of Expertise

Tissue Engineering and Nanomedicine, Cancer Therapeutics, AI and ML in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Diagnosis

Talk to Me About

Administrative Procedures (curriculum framing, Board of Studies formation and approval, induction for students) for Microcredential Implementation in a State University; Phytonanomedicine; Deep learning approaches for Liver Cancer Diagnosis

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Dr. Pankaj Singh

DS2S Member

Assistant Professor

Assistant Professor(AL-12) , Faculty of Education,
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India

Field of Expertise

Educational Technology, Research Methodology, Artificial Intelligence
in Education, Digital Learning

Talk to Me About

Role of ICT in Teaching- learning; Educational technology; AI in
education; Digital content development; Research methodology

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Dr. Jyotirmayee Udgata

DS2S Member

Associate Professor & Head
Department of Home Science, Rama Devi Women's University, Odisha, India

Field of Expertise

Resource Management, Food and Nutrition, Entrepreneurship Management, Curriculum Development

Talk to Me About

Home science education; Food and nutrition; Resource management; Curriculum design under NEP

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Prof. Dr. Apoorva Palkar

DS2S Member

Founding Vice Chancellor
Ratan Tata Maharashtra State Skills University
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Field of Expertise

Skills Development, Higher Education Innovation, Entrepreneurship,
International Collaborations, Education Policy

Talk to Me About

Skill-based education; Higher education innovation; Artificial
intelligence; Education policy

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Renu Elizabeth Abraham

DS2S Member

Head

Department of English and Cultural Studies,
CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, India

Field of Expertise

Cultural Studies in India; Children's literatures in India, Digital Sociologies

Talk to Me About

Digital Sociology; Childhood Studies; Digital Upskilling for teaching and learning; Leadership Ecologies

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Surya Kiran

Faculty Coordinator at Christ University for implementing the micro-credential courses

Assistant Professor
Christ University, Bengaluru
Karnataka, India

Field of Expertise
Digital Humanities, Urban and Spatiality Studies

Talk to Me About
Digital Humanities; Ethics; Pedagogy; Andragogy; Digital Narratives

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Dr. Nayantara Padhi

DS2S Member

Professor of Management
Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU),
New Delhi, India

Field of Expertise

Skill Development, Open and Distance Learning, Educational Innovation,
Vocational and Competency-based Programmes, Technology-enabled Learning

Talk to Me About

Open and distance learning; Vocational education, Skill development; Technology
in education

nayantara@ignou.ac.in



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Prof. Dr. Rihan Khan Suri

DS2S Member

Director

Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Jamia Millia Islamia Central University, New Delhi, India

Field of Expertise

Skill Development, Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Future of work

Talk to Me About

Skilling, Innovation, Digital entrepreneurship, Future of work

rsuri@jmi.ac.in



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Dr. Rajeev Kumar Shukla

DS2S Member

Professor & Discipline Coordinator
School of Management Studies, Indira Gandhi
National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, India

Field of Expertise

Management, Marketing & Operations, Product Management, Quality Control, Operations Management, Marketing Research, Consumer Behavior

Talk to Me About

Marketing research; Consumer behaviour; Operations management; Skills enhancement in higher education

rkshukla@ignou.ac.in



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Prof. Dr. Sayed Mohammed Muzakkir

DS2S Member

Professor

Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
and Technology, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India

Field of Expertise

Tribology, Mechanical Vibrations, Innovative Product Design, Nano-
Lubricants, Magnetic Bearings

Talk to Me About

Tribology; Mechanical vibrations; Innovative product design; Fault
diagnostics; Digital Skilling

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Dr. Ashutosh Mohan

DS2S Member

Assistant Professor
Institute of Management Studies, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India

Field of Expertise

Marketing Management, Consumer Behavior, Services Marketing, Retail Management, Supply Chain Management, Logistics

Talk to Me About

Marketing management; Consumer Behaviour; Supply Chain Management; Retail Management

ashutoshmohan@fmsbhu.ac.in



Joyeeta Das

Consultant

Founder & CEO
Socioshift, India

Field of Expertise

Ecosystem Builder with two decades of experience in Tech Skilling with social impact

Talk to Me About

Education Transformation and Role of Technology; Skilling Youth from High School to Workforce; Ecosystem Building; My interests in gardening and teaching

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Dr. Markus Schwertel

DS2S Member

Global Director
International Organizations and Digital Equity,
HP Inc.

Field of Expertise

Digital Equity, Education Policy, Vocational Education, Public-Private Partnerships, Government Affairs

Talk to Me About

Digital Equity; Vocational Education; Public-Private Partnerships; Education Policy

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Mayank Dhingra

DS2S Member

Global Director
Education Business and Strategy, Worldwide
Commercial Organization, HP Inc.

Field of Expertise

Education Strategy, EdTech Innovation, Digital Skilling, Global
Education Policy

Talk to Me About

Education Strategy; EdTech Innovation; Digital Skilling; Global
Education Policy

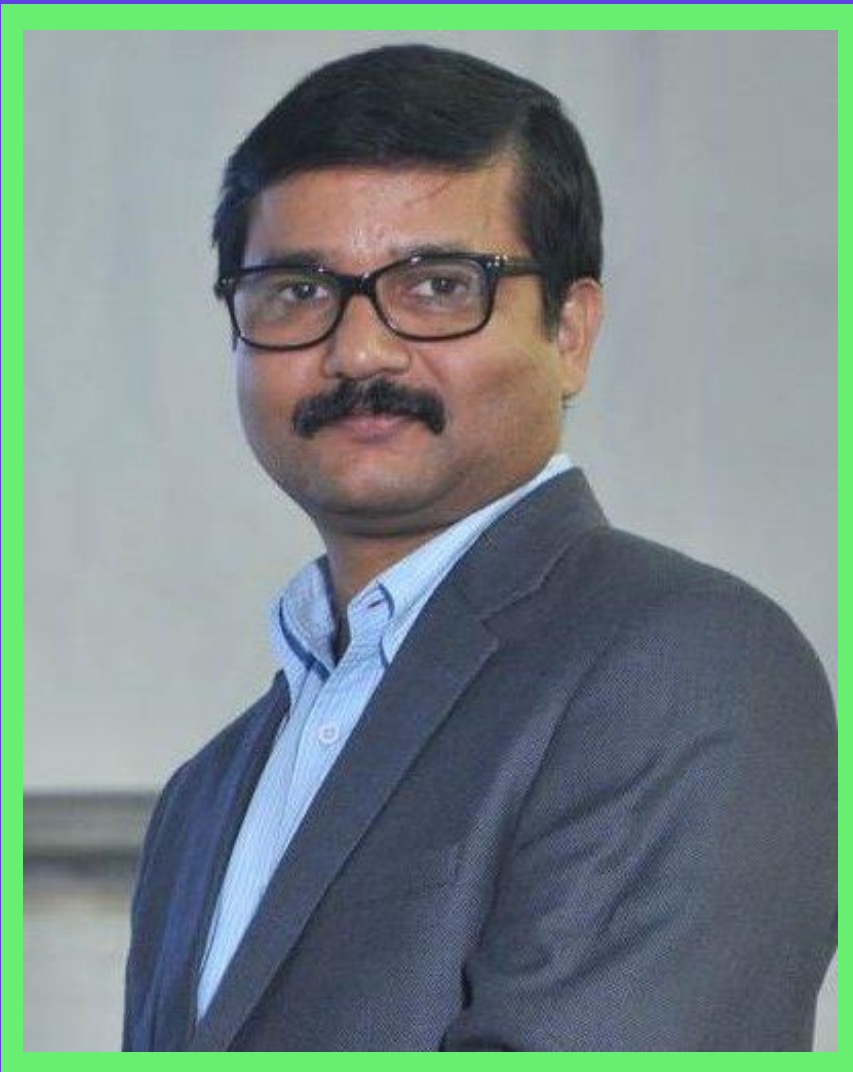
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Dr. Mani Madhukar

DS2S Member

Program Lead
Innovation Center for Education,
IBM India Pvt. Ltd.

Field of Expertise

EdTech, Cloud Computing, Blockchain, Internet of Things, Data Science,
AI & IBM Watson, Academic Program Management, Curriculum Design

Talk to Me About

EdTech innovation, Cloud and Blockchain Technologies, Curriculum
Design, National Skill-Building Programs

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Anurag Srivastava

DS2S Member

Education and Skills Head – India and South Asia
Digital Impact Office, Cisco APJC

Field of Expertise

Digital Education, Skill Development, Corporate Social Responsibility,
Social Entrepreneurship, Public Policy Engagement

Talk to Me About

Digital education, Skill development, CSR Strategy, Education Policy
Engagement

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Vietnam Partner Universities

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phan Nguyet

DS2S Member

Chairwoman of University Advisory Council,
University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City (UEH),
Vietnam

Field of Expertise

Building Innovation Ecosystems, Innovation Strategy in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), and developing 4P (Public-Private-People-Partnership) platforms to foster collaboration between industry and universities

Talk to Me About

Finance, Financial Investment, Financial Risk Management, Economics of Innovation and New Technology, International Business and Finance

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Nguyen Thao

DS2S Member

Vice Director

UEH Institute of Innovation, College of Technology and Design, University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City (UEH), Vietnam

Field of Expertise

Entrepreneurship, Startup Incubation, Innovation Management

Talk to Me About

Innovation & Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development; Startup Training & Mentorship; Innovation Pathway at HEIs; Hackatho; Sandbox.

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Nguyen Toan

Vice Head of the APAG Lecturer Group Participating
in the FDP5 Component of the DS2S Project

Senior Lecturer, Vice Dean

The Faculty of Law and Interdisciplinary Studies, Ho Chi Minh
City Campus, Academy of Politics and Public Administration

Field of Expertise

Research and Teaching in Law, Public Administration

Talk to Me About

Legal Development and Implementation; Anti-Corruption; Teaching
Methodologies

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Pham Hoa

Course Developer, Team Leader for Project
Implementation in Collaboration with GIZ at APAG

Acting General Director
Department of International Cooperation, Academy of Public,
Administration and Governance (APAG), Vietnam

Field of Expertise
Public Administration

Talk to Me About
Public Administration, Design Thinking, Online Learning Courses.

hoanapa@yahoo.com



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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tran Tien

Overall Direction and Coordination of the Project by the Vietnam Women's Academy (VWA)

President
Vietnam Women's Academy

Field of Expertise
Economics

Talk to Me About
Entrepreneurship and Business Development; Gender in Labor and Employment; Gender in Economics

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Dr. Thuy Nguyen

Secretary of the DS2S Project Implemented at the
Vietnam Women's Academy

Researcher, Lecturer
Vietnam Women's Academy

Field of Expertise
Sociology

Talk to Me About
Student Scientific Research; Student Entrepreneurship; Gender in Social
Welfare

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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bui Nam

DS2S Partner Representative

Chair of the University Council
University of Social Sciences and Humanities

Field of Expertise
International Economics, Political Science

Talk to Me About
E-commerce, Digitalization and FTAs, Digital Diplomacy

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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Do Hung

Team Leader for Project Implementation in
Collaboration with GIZ at USSH

Dean,
Faculty of Library and Information Science,
USSH-VNU

Field of Expertise

Information Literacy, Digital Literacy, AI literacy, Information Management

Talk to Me About

Experience in Developing Digital Competency Frameworks, AI Competency Frameworks;
Delivering Training to Enhance Digital and AI Competencies for Lecturers and Students

dvhung@vnu.edu.vn



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Dr. Tran Dai

Educational Expert,
Course Developer

Lecturer and Academic Coordinator
MBA Program - Vietnamese German University

Field of Expertise
Economics

Talk to Me About
Academic Research; Innovative Teaching; Internationalisation

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Dr. Nguyen Cuong

Educational Expert,
Course Developer

Lecturer
Vietnamese German University

Field of Expertise
Computer Science

Talk to Me About
Artificial Intelligence, Project-Based Learning, Online Learning Courses

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Dr. Le Thuy

Course Developer, Team Leader for Project Implementation in Collaboration with GIZ at NEU



Vietnam National Economics University,
Center for IT Application

Field of Expertise

Education Management, Applied IT in Education

Talk to Me About

AI Education for Undergraduate Students; Changes in Economics and Business Education in the Age of AI

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Dr. Nguyen The

Course Development

Head

The Faculty of Mathematical Economics, Vietnam
National Economics University

Field of Expertise

Data Science

Talk to Me About

Statistics; Data Analysis; Digital courses; Economics

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Dr. Phung Trung

Specialist- Higher Education
Department

Specialist
Higher Education Department, Ministry of
Education and Training (MOET) Viet Nam

Field of Expertise
Higher Education

Talk to Me About
Digital Skill for Students

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Dr. Dang Huan

Vietnam Higher Education Policy Orientation,
Supporting Universities

Deputy Director General
Higher Education Department, Ministry of
Education and Training, Viet Nam

Field of Expertise

Politics and Policy Reform, Digital Transformation in Education,
Developing Talent Education Programs

Talk to Me About

Higher Education; Legal Framework; Government's Policy for HE

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Bangladesh Partner Universities



Prof. Dr. MD Ashraful Hoque

DS2S Partner University Representative

Vice-Chancellor
Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology,
Bangladesh

Field of Expertise

Power Electronics, AI-based Motor drives, Renewable Energy,
and Smart Grid

Talk to Me About

University-level Strategy for Sustainability in Education; International
Collaboration in Higher Education; Renewable Energy

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Dr. Lal Mohan Baral

DS2S Partner University Representative

Professor,
Department of Textile Engineering, Ahsanullah
University of Science and Technology, Bangladesh

Field of Expertise

Textile Manufacturing and Quality Management (Six- Sigma), Clothing Manufacturing, PBL, Textile Sustainability and Engineering Curriculum Development

Talk to Me About

Textile Sustainability; 4IR, PBL; Education Quality

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Dr. Mohammad Tajul Islam

DS2S Partner University Representative

Associate Professor
Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology,
Bangladesh

Field of Expertise

Sustainable Textile Innovation, Medical and Technical Textiles, Outcome-based Curriculum Development

Talk to Me About

Sustainable textile Processing and Innovation; Curriculum Development and Textile Education Reform; Publication Ethics and Predatory Journals; Industry-Academia Collaboration in Textile Research

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Md Showkat Ali

DS2S Partner University Representative

Vice-Chancellor
Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology,
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Field of Expertise

Power Electronics, AI-based Motor drives, Renewable Energy,
and Smart Grid.

Talk to Me About

University-level Strategy for Sustainability in Education; International
Collaboration in Higher Education; Renewable Energy

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Md Mizanur Rahoman

DS2S Partner University Representative

Professor

Department of Computer Science and Engineering,
Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, Bangladesh

Field of Expertise

Computer, Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing, Data
Analytics

Talk to Me About

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Md Shahzalal

DS2S Member

Professor
Professor, Department of Marketing, Begum Rokeya
University, Rangpur, Bangladesh

Field of Expertise

Branding, Sustainability Communication, Social Media Marketing,
Tourism, Consumer Behaviour

Talk to Me About

Marketing Mix Ps; Social Media Influence; Persuasive Communication

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Mst. Shahnaj Parvin

DS2S Partner University Representative

Associate Professor
Department of Computer Science and Engineering,
Central Women's University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Field of Expertise
ICT, Data, AI, Image Processing

Talk to Me About
University-level Strategy for Sustainability in Education; International
ICT; Teaching Learning Methods

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Hasan Shirazi

DS2S Partner University Representative

Associate Professor & Chairperson
Department of Business Administration, Central
Women's University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Field of Expertise

Human Resource Management, Sustainable Development, Sustainable
Higher Education, Graduate Employment & Skill Gaps

Talk to Me About

Human Resource Management; Sustainable Development; Sustainable
Higher Education; Graduate Employment & Skill Gaps

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Dr. Perween Hasan

DS2S Partner University Representative

Vice-Chancellor
Central Women's University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Field of Expertise

Woman Issues, Cross Cultural Interaction, Art and Architecture

Talk to Me About

Woman Issues; Cross Cultural Interaction; Art and Architecture

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GIZ Team



Sabrina Garcia

Overall DS2S project coordination

Project Director
GIZ, India

Field of Expertise
Social and Private Sector Development

Talk to Me About
Digital Transformation/ AI, Innovation Management, exciting cross-border collaboration models

sabrina.garcia@giz.de



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Lisa Platzmann

Overseeing and coordinating the execution of project measures implemented in collaboration with the German partners.

Project Manager,
GIZ, Germany

Field of Expertise

Sustainable Economic Development & Private Sector Cooperation

Talk to Me About

International Cooperation; Sustainable Economic Development;
Gender Equality

lisa.platzmann@giz.de



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Elena Antohi

Overseeing and coordinating the execution of project measures implemented in collaboration with the German partners.

**Project Manager,
GIZ Germany**

Field of Expertise

Digital Transformation & Sustainable Economic Development

Talk to Me About

Digital Transformation; Sustainable Economic Development; Digital Skills; International Cooperation

sabrina.garcia@giz.de



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Sita Zimpel

Project and Partner Management in Vietnam

Team Leader
GIZ Vietnam and ASEAN

Field of Expertise

Economic Policy Advice, Digitalisation and Sustainable Development

Talk to Me About

Private Sector Engagement; Regional Cooperation; Life-Long Learning

sita.zimpel@giz.de



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Kim Thi Thu Ha

Coordinating the Project Activities in Vietnam and Partnership
Management

Advisor
DS2S Project, GIZ Vietnam

Field of Expertise
Digital Skill Education

Talk to Me About
Education in Vietnam; Learning Design; Innovative Teaching; Sustainable
Economic Development

ha.kimthi@giz.de



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Pham Kim Ngan

Coordinating Implementation of DS2S Activities in Vietnam, Supporting Course Development and Piloting, Fostering Partnerships With Universities

Project Advisor
DS2S Project, GIZ Vietnam

Field of Expertise
Digital Skill Education

Talk to Me About
Digital skills in higher education; Gender Mainstreaming in Education;
Implementation of Micro-credential Courses

ngan.phamkim@giz.de



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Dr. Christian Bochmann

DS2S Project Management in Bangladesh

Team Leader and Head of Project
PRECISE, GIZ Bangladesh

Field of Expertise
Project Management, TVET Education

Talk to Me About
TVET, Higher Education and Development Cooperation

christian.bochmann@giz.de



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Rumana Akther

Coordinating Project Activities
in Bangladesh and Partnership Management

Advisor
DS2S Project, GIZ Bangladesh

Field of Expertise
Non-formal Education, Education in Emergency (EiE), Diversity and Inclusion

Talk to Me About
Education, Youth & Travelling

rumana.akther@giz.de



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Afia Rashid

Coordinating Project Activities
in Bangladesh and Partnership Management

Advisor
DS2S Project, GIZ Bangladesh

Field of Expertise
Education & Youth

Talk to Me About
Well-Being, Energy /Biofield Therapy, Theatre, Education

afia.rashid@giz.de



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Preyansi Mani

Project and Partner Management in India

Project Manager | Education & Digitalization
Advisor
GIZ India

Field of Expertise
Higher Education, TVET, School to Work Transition

Talk to Me About
Youth, Education, Cats, Theatre

preyansi.mani@giz.de



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Chinmay Das

Atingi Focal Point – India, Student Data Analysis, Indian Partner Management, Implementation of Faculty Development Programs

Junior Education & Youth Advisor
GIZ India

Field of Expertise

Data Analysis, Economics, Digital Skill Based Learning

Talk to Me About

Data Analysis; Digital Skilling in Higher Education; Economics and Student Perspectives on the Current Skilling Landscape and Job Market

chinmay.das@giz.de



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Chani Raj

Connecting industry with Academia to Co-Create Real-World Learning experiences. Championing Living Labs and Project Based Learning Experiences that Make Education More Hands-on and Future-Focused

Industry Partnerships GIZ India

Field of Expertise

Industry Outreach & Engagement , Education, Skill Development

Talk to Me About

University-Industry Collaboration; Faculty-Industry Immersion Programs; Industry Challenges & Innovation Projects

chani.raj@giz.de



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Anjali Singhanian

Telling the DS2S Network story through innovative formats, integration of project activities with Gender

Communication and M&E Specialist
GIZ India

Field of Expertise
Communication and Monitoring and Evaluation

Talk to Me About
Gender equality, Impact Communication, Sustainable Development Goals

anjali.singhanian@giz.de



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Vincent Berendes

As part of a temporary placement in India:
Supported the Conceptualisation of DS2S'
Living Lab Approach and Gender Activities

Digital and Green Innovation-Advisor
GIZ Germany

Field of Expertise

Digital and Green Innovation, Formal/Informal Skills Development for Youth, Sustainable Economic Development, Gender-Programming

Talk to Me About

Multi-Stakeholder Ecosystems, Digital and Green Transformation, Youth Skills Development, Gender-Mainstreaming

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Haerle Madeleine

Project Manager
GIZ Germany

Field of Expertise

Development policy with Asia & Private Sector Cooperation

Talk to Me About

Private Sector Cooperation, Development Cooperation of the Future,
Partnerships with Emerging Markets

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Katharina Schwerdt

Facilitator

Global Event Moderator, Public Speaking & Communication Trainer, Strategy Consultant

Talk to Me About
Event Moderation, Facilitation Design, Strategic Workshops, Audience Engagement



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Key-Notes Speakers



Shizuka Kato

DS2S Member

Policy Analyst
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Field of Expertise

Skills and lifelong learning policies, digital transformation in education, workforce development

Talk to Me About

Micro-credentials, Skills-First Hiring, Digital Transformation in Education, Lifelong Learning Policies

shizuka.kato@oecd.org

Prof. Dr. Wende Erik

Leipzig University – Private Institute for Digital Leadership (I4DL)

Co-founder and Managing Director, EWERK Group
Honorary Professor of Digital Leadership, Leipzig University

Prof. Dr. Erik Wende is Honorary Professor of Digital Leadership at Leipzig University, where he has been teaching since 2016 with a focus on Strategic Information Management and Business Innovation. He studied Business Informatics at Leipzig University and earned his PhD from the University of Zurich. As co-founder and former Managing Director of the EWERK Group, as well as an active investor, he brings extensive entrepreneurial and investment experience to his academic work, particularly in digital transformation, software development, and knowledge transfer. His research and teaching interests lie at the intersection of technology, leadership, and innovation, with emphasis on strategic information management, global collaboration models, technology-driven marketplaces, and the future of organizations.

Talk to Me About
Digital Leadership, Future of Organizations, Innovation

erik.wende@uni-leipzig.de



Dr. Preissler Steffen

Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI
(Leipzig branch); formerly Fraunhofer IMW Leipzig

**Head of Knowledge and Technology Transfer Division,
Fraunhofer ISI, Leipzig**
**Visiting Professor, National Science and Technology
Development Agency, National Center for Genetic Engineering
and Biotechnology (Thailand)**

Dr. Steffen Preissler is an expert in knowledge and technology transfer with deep experience managing national and international projects - including EU, BMBF, and BMWi initiatives - since joining Fraunhofer in 2006. With a doctorate on interorganizational technology transfer from Leipzig University (2016), he also advises ministries, funding agencies, and organizations like the World Bank and EU Commission in his capacity as a consultant and independent expert. His current work emphasizes strategic science management and international research networks. Moreover, he acts as Associate Editor of *Journal of the Knowledge Economy*.

Talk to Me About

Knowledge Transfer, International Consultancy, Science-Policy Interface

steffen.preissler@isi.fraunhofer.de



iN4iN/ Leipzig University

Prof. Dr. Middell Matthias

Leipzig University – Global and European Studies Institute

Pro-Rector Campus Development: Cooperation & Internationalization

Prof. Dr. Matthias Middell is a cultural historian and Pro-Rector for Campus Development: Cooperation & Internationalization at Leipzig University. He directs the Global and European Studies Institute and serves as deputy director of the Leipzig Research Centre Global Dynamics. His scholarly work focuses on global and transregional history, and he is a prominent advocate for international academic collaboration and sustainable campus development.



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Prof. Dr. Dornberger Utz

Leipzig University – Faculty of Economics and Management
Science

Director
International SEPT Competence Center & iN4iN Network

Prof. Dr. Utz Dornberger leads the SEPT Competence Center at Leipzig University, specializing in the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through innovation management, entrepreneurship, and internationalization. He is the founder of the iN4iN Network, which fosters global collaboration in technology transfer and entrepreneurship. With over 30 years of experience, he has supported the establishment of approximately 30 startups annually at Leipzig University, encompassing diverse sectors such as e-health and pharmaceuticals.

Talk to Me About
SME Innovation, Entrepreneurship Ecosystems, University-Business
Collaboration, Global Development

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Dr. Ansari Alireza

Leipzig University – Faculty of Economics and Management
Science

Research Fellow

Development Economics and Small & Medium-Sized Enterprise (SME) Development

Dr. Alireza Ansari is a research fellow at Leipzig University's SEPT Competence Center, specializing in development economics and SME development. With a background in engineering and business administration, he has over a decade of international experience as a coach and consultant in innovation management and entrepreneurship. Dr. Ansari is also coordinating the iN4iN network, focusing on the promotion and development of innovation and entrepreneurship capacities of SMEs, start-ups, universities, professionals, and other stakeholders

Talk to Me About:

Innovation Management, SME Development, Entrepreneurship, International Collaboration

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Suvelza Alfredo

Leipzig University & Conoscope GmbH

Senior Consultant, Conoscope GmbH
External Lecturer, SEPT Competence Center, Leipzig University
Project Manager, iN4iN – Intelligence for Innovation Network

Alfredo Suvelza brings over 18 years of international experience leading innovation, entrepreneurship, and SME development projects in 29 countries across Europe, the Americas, Asia, and Africa. He has managed 50+ projects funded by the EU, World Bank, BMZ, and others, collaborating with organizations such as GIZ, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, and German and foreign ministries. At Leipzig University, he lectured on innovation and entrepreneurship, contributes to capacity building, and supports university-business cooperation through the SEPT Competence Center and the iN4iN

Talk to Me About

Innovation, SME Development, Technology Transfer, Internationalization, Entrepreneurship, Micro-Credentials

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Smaoui Soulaïmen

ENET'COM – National School of Electronics and
Telecommunications of Sfax (Tunisia)

Assistant Lecturer

Soulaïmen Smaoui specializes in the design of embedded systems hardware and software, with extensive experience in projects involving Software Defined Radio and RFID/NFC technologies. His current research focuses on MEMS (Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems).

Committed to fostering practical and innovative educational experiences, Soulaïmen works to prepare the next generation of professionals for the modern workplace. He is passionate about bridging the gap between classroom theory and industry practice, believing that strong partnerships are essential for driving impactful innovation.

Talk to Me About

Embedded Systems, RFID, Internship Platforms, MEMS

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Dr. Blaiech Rabeb

ENET'COM – National School of Electronics and
Telecommunications of Sfax (Tunisia)

**Project Team Leader, Head of 4C (Carrer Center and
certification of Competences), ENET'COM**

Dr. Rabeb Blaiech coordinates the 4C program at ENET'COM, where she leads efforts to elevate graduate competitiveness through the creation of a creativity incubator, soft- and hard-skills training modules, and a centralized platform for internship opportunities. Her work strengthens university-industry ties and enhances employability tools for students.

Talk to Me About

Employability, Soft-Skills Training, Internship Platforms, University-
Industry Partnerships

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Kassberg Gunnar

SEPT Competence Center, Leipzig University

Managing Director, SEPT Competence Center, Leipzig University

Dr. Gunnar Kassberg serves as Managing Director at the SEPT Competence Center, where he spearheads international SME promotion and training initiatives. A seasoned lecturer and consultant, he brings expertise in internationalization, technology transfer, and start-up advising drawing on experience from collaborations in Vietnam and China and work with organizations like GIZ, SMILE, and UFZ

Talk to Me About

Internationalization, SME Support, Technology Transfer, Start-up Ecosystem

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Ponce Gomez Jazmin

International Startup Office – SMILE Start-up Initiative, Leipzig University

PhD Candidate
Project Manager

Jazmin Ponce Gomez is a project manager and trainer at Leipzig University with over 10 years of experience in entrepreneurship, SME internationalization, and sustainability. At Leipzig University, she coordinates start-up initiatives such as the International Startup Office (SMILE) the Born Global Startup Festival, the Born Global Meetups, the Co-founder Platform and the Online Marketing Challenge. During her career, she has also been part of international entrepreneurship projects such as the German-Pakistani Research Cooperation (DAAD) and Erasmus+ social entrepreneurship scaling programs. She has worked for the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) in Peru and the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) on projects related to economic development, gender and sustainable development.

Talk to Me About

Internationalization, Social Entrepreneurship, Female Entrepreneurship, Online Marketing

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Adam Sandy

African Centre for Career Enhancement & Skills Support
(ACCESS), University of Leipzig

Research Associate

Sandy Adam works at the African Centre for Career Enhancement & Skills Support (ACCESS) at the University of Leipzig, focusing on fostering employability and entrepreneurship across African higher education institutions. With expertise in skills development, career guidance, and cross-continental academic collaboration, Sandy supports initiatives that bridge the gap between education and labour market demands. Passionate about empowering young professionals, Sandy facilitates partnerships between universities, businesses, and policy stakeholders.

Talk to Me About

Employability, Skills Development, University-Industry Collaboration,
Career Guidance

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Agyei Yeboah Bismark

SEPT Competence Center, Leipzig University

Coordinator, African Centre for Career Enhancement & Skills Support (ACCESS)

Since 2020, Bismark Agyei Yeboah has coordinated entrepreneurship promotion and education projects at Leipzig University, particularly via AGEA, which supports the development of early-stage, research-based start-ups across African universities. He brings extensive experience from six and a half years in technical advisory roles with GIZ in Ghana, focusing on agritech, agribusiness innovation, monitoring and evaluation, agricultural policy, and gender issues. He is also a contributor to research on employability and university-business linkages in Africa, featuring in a 2025 publication presenting practical cases for enhancing graduate employability.

Talk to Me About
Entrepreneurship Education, Agritech Innovation, University-Business Linkage



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Mueller Jonathan

HYBEAM, Leipzig University

Future Founder, HYBEAM

Jonathan Müller is a tech-driven entrepreneur and future founder of HYBEAM, a start-up funded by the EXIST scholarship. With a focus on Mixed Reality innovations for the future of hybrid collaboration and new work, he brings together technical depth and visionary thinking. With a background in Computer Science and specialization in Extended Realities (XR), he combines deep technical expertise with a human-centered perspective. As Technical Lead of HYBEAM, Jonathan is driving the development of immersive prototypes that seamlessly integrate remote participants into physical workshops and training environments.

Talk to Me About

Mixed Reality, XR in Education, New Work, Women in Tech

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Kruse Lily

HYBEAM, Leipzig University

Future Founder, HYBEAM

Lily Kruse is an emerging entrepreneur and the future founder of HYBEAM, a start-up supported by the EXIST scholarship, focused on innovative mixed reality and new work concepts. With a background in Learning & Development, educational sciences, and digital transformation, she blends technical curiosity with a passion for skill development and immersive technologies. Growing up surrounded by virtual worlds, AR/VR headsets, and early robotics, Lily now channels her expertise into exploring how XR can shape the future of learning and collaboration especially for women in tech.

Talk to Me About
Mixed Reality, XR in Education, New Work, Women in Tech



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Tegelbeckers Hannes

Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg, – Faculty of
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Scientific Assistant Chair for Engineering Education and Didactics of Technical Education

Hannes Tegelbeckers is engaged in research and education on digitalization in education, with a particular focus on developing digital and AI competencies in teacher education and training. As a scientific staff member at the University of Magdeburg since 2017, he has worked on projects such as investMINT/CoSiTo and contributed as a freelance consultant and coach on the use of digital tools in schools. In his teaching, he integrates digital tools and basic programming knowledge enhanced by AI into courses to prepare future educators for technology-rich learning environments. His expertise lies at the intersection of media education and open educational resources (OER) in a multinational context.

Talk to Me About

Digital Education, Raspberry Pi Integration, Digital Competencies

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Wang Yuzhi

Stifterverband fuer die Deutsche Wissenschaft e.V.

Instructional Designer & Data Scientist

Yuzhi is an Instructional Designer and Data Scientist with an academic background in Instructional Technology and Learning Analytics, and professional certifications from IBM and DataCamp. In her current role, she is responsible for developing machine learning and engineering courses, as well as conducting data analysis and predictive modelling to support data-driven decision making. Her expertise bridges educational innovation with advanced analytics, offering a unique perspective on integrating emerging technologies into teaching and learning.

Talk to Me About

Digital Learning, Learning Analytics, Data Science, Machine Learning

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