Dear reader,

The human rights responsibility of business has been a key topic of INEF for quite some time. Within the context of a workshop for representatives of the Federal States, SEF will specifically address the issues of fair procurement and the promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) through the Federal States.

Below, we will inform you about this and other current topics. Moreover, we would like to point out that the SEF/INEF News will be coordinated by Rebekka Hannes (SEF) and Marie-Luise Mußenbrock (INEF) from this edition on.

Best regards,

Rebekka Hannes, SEF
Marie-Luise Mußenbrock, INEF

HEADLINE TOPIC

: Fair and Sustainable Procurement in the German Federal States

© UN Photo/Jean Pierre Laffont

Public procurement in Germany annually amounts to approximately 300 billion Euros. This is equivalent to about 12% of the gross domestic product. Consequently, contracting authorities are not to be underestimated as an economic factor. By consciously incorporating criteria concerning sustainability, human rights and social standards they could become eminent role models. Therefore, civil society organisations have campaigned for years for public authorities to take over a key role in the implementation of fair trade and sustainable consumption and production patterns. By doing so, they cannot only encourage consumers to buy consciously, but simultaneously provide incentives to enterprises.

CONTENTS

: Headline topic
Fair and Sustainable Procurement

: Forthcoming events
Expert Workshop
SEF Policy Briefing
Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2013

: Past events
INEF/KHK-Workshop
3rd Käte Hamburger Lecture

: Publications
GG-Spotlight 1|2013

: Inside SEF/INEF
Anne Schax

newsletter as pdf-file
It is the traditional principle of procurement law to accept the tender with the “most economic” offer. However, since the modernisation of the German procurement law in 2009, contracting authorities are allowed to take into account so called “extraneous aspects”. This includes, among others, social and environmental criteria as well as criteria geared towards corporate social responsibility of enterprises. Hence, eco-friendly procurement on the part of the federal government, the federal states and local authorities has become legally feasible.

Many federal states, first and foremost the city states, have reformed their procurement laws since 2009 and have committed themselves, among others, to implement the core labour standards of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). But the sheer adoption of laws on collective bargaining and procurement by the federal states is not enough. Additional instruments for the compliance with and the implementation of legal commitments must be established. The adherence to social standards along the supply chain as well as the institutionalisation of reporting requirements are decisive factors.

On the international level, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights were adopted in June 2011. The Guiding Principles create a global minimum standard for the first time, which not only underlines the respect for human rights by enterprises but also stresses the states’ responsibility regarding its surveillance. The implementation process for these guidelines is still in its early stages in Germany. Their influence on the public procurement of the federal government, the federal states and local authorities still needs to be assessed.

On the federal level a „Competence Centre for Sustainable Procurement” was established in the Federal Ministry of the Interior in 2012. The centre advises contracting authorities on the national, federal and local level. The federal government has also launched an „Alliance for Sustainable Procurement”, which addresses different aspects of sustainable public procurement in changing expert groups.

The consistent implementation of fair public procurement is a central theme of the guidelines on development policy that several federal states developed in the years 2011 and 2012. SEF will conduct a workshop for experts in development policy from the federal states on 4th -5th March. During the workshop, the topic of fair and sustainable procurement will be discussed with representatives of the federal states and selected experts from development policy, economy and civil society.
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

❖ **SEF Workshop for Experts from the Federal States**
  Workshop Series on the Development Cooperation of the German Länder Continues

4-5 March in Düsseldorf

Under the title “Acting in Global Responsibility – Measures for the Implementation of the Guidelines on Development Policy of the Federal States”, the second SEF Workshop for experts in development policy from the federal states will take place on 4-5 March 2013 in Düsseldorf (Conference language: German). : find out more

❖ **SEF Policy Briefing**
  Transforming the Global Energy System

26th March 2013 in Brussels

On 26th March the SEF will host a Policy Briefing in the representation of North Rhine Westphalia in Brussels. Under the title “Transforming the Global Energy System. Pathways Towards a Global Energy Supply”, selected experts will discuss effective political measures for the reduction of emissions and the creation of a sustainable global energy supply with Professor Ottmar Edenhofer, Deputy Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and author of the current edition of Global Trends. : find out more

❖ **Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2013**
  Fostering Energy Access in Africa

26-27 April 2013 in Potsdam

On 26th and 27th April 2013 this year’s SEF Potsdam Spring Dialogues will take place. Under the title “Fostering Energy Access in Africa – Challenges and Opportunities for Regional Integration”, the organisers would like to contribute to taking the role of energy access center stage concerning an African energy policy. As it is already tradition in this series of events, a main focus will be placed on the role of regional integration. : find out more
PAST EVENTS

INEF-Workshop in Cooperation with KHK/CGCR
Responsibility and Judgment in a World of Complexity

4th February 2013 in Duisburg

Prof. David Chandler (PhD), University of Westminster, currently senior fellow at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg (KHK) / Centre for Global Cooperation Research (CGCR) began the discussion with a thought-provoking input on the ethics of responsibility. This was followed by comments from, among others, Professor Jan Aart Scholte (PhD), University of Warwick and currently senior fellow at KHK / CGCR. : find out more

3rd Käte Hamburger Lecture with Prof. David Chandler (PhD)
Democracy, Visibility and Resistance

6th February 2013 in Duisburg

At the third Käte Hamburger Lecture David Chandler, senior fellow at KHK/CGCR and Professor for International Relations at the University of Westminster, portrayed the transformation of our understanding of politics. In today’s global, interconnected and non-linear world, the way we understand problems changed: The focus of politics shifted from the macro- to the micro-level, to the inside of societies. In his contribution Chandler criticised the socialisation of politics, leading to everything being boiled down to culture. : find out more

PUBLICATIONS

Global Governance Spotlight 1|2013
The Post-2015-Agenda. Common Goals for Development and Sustainability

At the Rio+20-Conference in June 2012 governments agreed to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the same time, the future of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will be decided in the upcoming years. Against this background Jens Martens, Director of the Global Policy Forum Europe, analyses essential steps towards a new “holistic” development agenda, which can reconcile the central challenges for development and sustainability in the future. : find out more
INSIDE SEF/INEF

INEF: New researcher

At INEF, Anne Schax will work as a researcher in the Project “Implementation of the UN-Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights in Development Cooperation” funded by the Ministry for Development and Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Prior to that, she already supported the work of INEF as a research assistant. She completed her Master of Arts in Conflict Studies and Human Rights at the University of Utrecht last summer, where she wrote her master thesis on the topic “Tracing Transformations - The Development of Germany’s Strategic Culture During the Last Two Decades”. : find out more

LEGAL NOTICE AND SERVICES

Thank you! I would like to recommend your newsletter
› Recommend Newsletter

I would like to unsubscribe the newsletter
› Unsubscribe Newsletter

I would like to edit my account details
› Edit Data

© 2012 Development and Peace Foundation (Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden - SEF)
Dechenstr. 2
53115 Bonn
Germany
Phone +49 (0)228 959 25-10
Fax +49 (0)228 959 25-99

sef@sef-bonn.org
www.sef-bonn.org
www.inef.uni-due.de

The Development and Peace Foundation (SEF) was founded in 1986 on the initiative of Willy Brandt. The cross-party, non-profit-making foundation argues for a new political order in a world increasingly marked by globalisation. More information under: www.sef-bonn.org. The SEF has a particularly close working relationship with the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF) at the University of Duisburg-Essen. The two institutions are linked by a cooperation agreement. The aim of INEF’s application-oriented research is to build bridges between theory and practice. More information under: www.inef.uni-due.de