

# International activities



## OBJECTIVE

Roll out the foundation's projects internationally



## TARGET GROUPS

Students, teachers, STEM education majors, schools, industry and research partners, public libraries, volunteers



## PROJECT PARTNERS

Educational Exchange Service, Central Agency for German Schools Abroad, Stiftung Lesen



## DURATION

Since 2016

Since 2016, Deutsche Telekom Stiftung has been reaching out beyond Germany's borders and promoting educational excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in other countries.

The foundation and its experienced project partners employ methods and approaches that the foundation has pioneered and tested in its over ten-year history in Germany and that show tremendous potential for widespread adoption and cross-fertilization. The foundation's ultimate goal is not just to develop innovative flagship programs, after all, but also to ensure they have the broadest possible impact.

Deutsche Telekom Stiftung is kicking off its international activities by expanding three already successful programs. Together with partner schools in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe – particularly Albania, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia – it aims to share the benefits of the Junior Engineer Academy and the FundaMINT scholarship program outside Germany's borders. In addition, the foundation and its partner, Stiftung Lesen, have issued a call for volunteer STEM readers in other countries.

The **Junior Engineer Academy** is a nationwide flagship project designed to get students in grades 8 and up interested in technical and engineering careers early on. The Academy is set up as a two-year program in which German schools cooperate with universities, companies and research institutions. These partners give students the opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge to real-life engineering problems. The Junior Engineer Academies in



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## WE WANT TO SHARE OUR EXPERIENCE IN STEM EDUCATION OUTSIDE GERMANY'S BORDERS.

Germany are being used as a model for building engineering partnerships at schools in the Central, Eastern and Southeastern European countries where Deutsche Telekom maintains

subsidiaries. This program includes the following activities:

- Preparatory visits for teachers
- Engineering projects for students
- Attendance of the project network's annual conferences by foreign teachers
- School partnership exchange

Deutsche Telekom Stiftung's **FundaMINT** scholarship program prepares STEM education majors for the challenges they will face after graduating from college. In the internationalized program, scholarship winners have the

opportunity to student-teach at selected schools in the target countries for four to six months (Klaus Kinkel Scholarship). The following activities are available:

- Student-teaching in the scholarship winner's STEM field
- Conducting student projects at schools
- Preparatory and follow-up seminars

The foundation supports the Klaus Kinkel Scholarship as well as school partnerships for the Junior Engineer Academy in close cooperation with the Central Agency for German Schools Abroad and the Educational Exchange Service of the

Standing Conference of State Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (PAD).

The **Volunteer Readers program** developed by Deutsche Telekom Stiftung and its partner, Stiftung Lesen, is a low-threshold offering that aims to interest young children in STEM topics and improve their language skills at the same time. Volunteer readers go to daycare centers, elementary schools and libraries and read out loud to children from STEM-themed books and apps. The two foundations train volunteer readers in advance and supply them with reading and media tips.

Volunteer readers are being recruited as part of Deutsche Telekom Stiftung's international activities. The following channels are used for recruiting:

- Stiftung Lesen's international network
- The corporate volunteering program at Deutsche Telekom's local subsidiaries
- Other cooperation partners such as international reading initiatives and national federations

## Project partners

### Educational Exchange Service

Since 1952, the Educational Exchange Service ("Pädagogische Austauschdienst" or PAD) has been the only government institution involved in international exchanges and scholastic collaboration under the auspices of the state ministers of education and cultural affairs. PAD has been the national agency for EU school programs since 1995 as well.

### Central Agency for German Schools Abroad

The Central Agency for German Schools Abroad ("Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen" or ZfA) employs approx. 90 staff members and 50 expert consultants to advance its

international mission. It provides staffing and financial support for around 1,200 schools worldwide, including 140 German schools abroad that are generally managed in public-private partnerships. These institutions are staffed by about 2,000 foreign service teachers, program teachers and advisors. While working abroad, these individuals receive organizational, educational and financial assistance from the Central Agency for German Schools Abroad.

### Stiftung Lesen

Established in 1988, Stiftung Lesen (German Reading Foundation) promotes literacy, reading enjoyment and access to reading for all ages

and population groups. As an operational foundation, it conducts research and model projects as well as large-scale programs in close cooperation with partners. Its key initiatives include the annual "Nationwide Read Aloud Day". Many well-known reading ambassadors support Stiftung Lesen, which operates under the patronage of Germany's Federal President.

More information:

[www.telekom-stiftung.de/en](http://www.telekom-stiftung.de/en)

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## DEUTSCHE TELEKOM STIFTUNG

Deutsche Telekom Stiftung was established in 2003 to strengthen Germany's position as an education, research and technology leader. It is one of the country's main corporate foundations with an endowment of EUR 150 million. Deutsche Telekom Stiftung's mission is to improve education in the digital world concentrating on the so called STEM subjects science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It focuses on four core areas: Education Drivers, Education Opportunities, Education Innovations and Education Dialog.

In Education Drivers, the foundation supports people who inspire others to study STEM subjects. Education Opportunities involves projects to prepare children and teenagers to succeed in STEM fields and participate fully in our connected world. In Education Innovations, the foundation invests in researchers and teachers who specialize in STEM subjects. Finally, Education Dialog comprises all the projects in which the foundation works with policymakers and civil society to improve education in a digitized world.