

Senior Experten Service (SES)

Foundation of German Industry for
International Cooperation



Senior Experten Service (SES) – the Foundation of German Industry for International Cooperation – is the largest German volunteer placement organisation for retired skilled and management professionals. It is a non-profit organisation providing help for self-help since 1983, mainly in developing and transition countries, but also within Germany.

SES is supported by the main associations representing German business: the Federation of German Industry (BDI), the Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA), the Association of Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK) and the German Confederation of Skilled Crafts (ZDH). The activities of SES abroad are funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Projects in Germany are supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

Senior Experts

SES Experts can draw on many years of professional experience. They pass on their knowledge on a voluntary basis and train fellow workers in their subject fields all over the world. They come equipped with knowhow from around 50 branches of industry, along with good social skills, readiness to adapt to the conditions prevailing in the assignment country, and, in many cases, good foreign language skills. No costs are incurred to them through working for SES. Insurance is also taken care of.

Clients

The services of SES are mainly aimed at small and medium-sized enterprises, public authorities, professional bodies and business associations, social and medical institutions as well as training institutions. Close collaboration with other development organisations is well established. In Germany, SES also champions schools, schoolchildren and trainees.

Assignment conditions

SES works according to demand and need. It responds to enquiries from clients, checks their requests and concludes separate agreements with the client and the Expert. The work of Experts assigned is of a recommendatory nature. Sole responsibility for the implementation of recommendations lies with the clients. Protecting the intellectual property rights of third parties is one of the most important principles of all SES assignments.

Funding

Even voluntary assignments like those SES initiates incur costs. The costs incurred at the assignment location (board, lodging, local transport, interpreter if necessary, daily allowance if necessary) and the international travel costs are covered by the clients. In case of financing difficulties it is possible to grant assistance in individual cases. In order to cover all other costs (project handling costs, insurance, professional, country-specific, intercultural and travel medical assignment preparation), the SES can generally use funds from the BMZ.

