

About the HiTh-Project

Highly-qualified. International. Thuringia.

According to forecasts, the population in Thuringia will experience a strong decline over the coming decades. This will be associated with tremendous shortages of potential highly-skilled professionals, creating considerable challenges for the economy of Thuringia in the mid- to long-term.

The HiTh-project, funded by the Free State of Thuringia with means provided by the European Social Fund, focuses on activating exogenous potentials, in particular international students and international specialists, to reduce the anticipated shortage of professionals in Thuringia. The transdisciplinary project aims to improve the receptivity of companies in Thuringia towards international students, graduates and specialists and to empower companies to use this potential.

The project will be jointly conducted by the Chair of Economics and Public Finance, the Chair of Economic Geography and the International Office of the Friedrich-Schiller University in Jena as well as Jena Business Development, the local business promotion agency of the city of Jena.

The expected outcomes of the project are detailed and comprehensive knowledge about international students and professionals and about companies and universities in Thuringia, from which practical recommendations will be drawn. Important elements are internship placements and a corporate award for intercultural openness.

Project management

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Henn

Institute of Geography
Chair of Economic Geography
Email: sebastian.henn@uni-jena.de

Prof. Dr. Silke Übelmesser

Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
Chair of Economics/ Public Finance
Email: silke.uebelmesser@uni-jena.de



Contact:
hith@uni-jena.de
www.hith.uni-jena.de

Title-Photo: Freepik.com

CHAIR OF ECONOMICS/ PUBLIC FINANCE
CHAIR OF ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY
INTERNATIONAL OFFICE
JENA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



SUBJECT MATTER AND
INVOLVED PARTIES

Subproject: international students and universities

In this subproject the main focus is on conducting surveys with international students and employees of universities in Thuringia.

The goal of the surveys conducted with international students at various points during their studies is to learn more about their initial motives behind coming to Thuringia and their intentions of remaining in Thuringia, to record their experiences with integration and to document contacts established with the job market in Thuringia.

For universities, particular focus will be on the degree of international networking and offers for international students as well as on identifying best practice activities.

The insights gained will enable purposeful measures to be formulated, reservations identified among international students to be addressed and the attractiveness of Thuringia and Thuringia's economy to be increased.

Subproject: internship placement

The International Office is responsible for establishing contacts between international students and the labour market in Thuringia. In this subproject, the International Office supports companies in Thuringia in finding suitable international interns and students looking to complete their theses in a company. Likewise it assists international students who look for a suitable company and, in addition, organises workshops and seminars on relevant topics.

Subproject: companies and international professionals

In this subproject, company surveys and surveys with international professionals are conducted.

Standardised telephone interviews with companies from Thuringia aim to estimate the demand from companies for international professionals as well as to identify any potential bureaucratic hurdles that must be overcome in setting on international professionals. In semi-standardised surveys with selected company representatives, past experiences with international professionals are addressed and the respective needs for support are discussed.

In addition to the companies, the international professionals themselves will be surveyed, in order to collect information about potential issues with establishing contacts with the Thuringian labour market and intentions of staying in Thuringia.

The insights gained will enable an on-going reflection and purposeful adaptation of the measures to be implemented and thus allow improving the receptivity and binding force of companies in Thuringia vis-à-vis international professionals.

Subproject: consolidating integration

The goal of Jena Business Development is to win over and keep highly-qualified international professionals in the region of Jena, which is an attractive location for science and technology. Companies with integration success stories will be made transparent in this subproject and the insights gained will be consolidated within the scope of the activities of the Jena Alliance for Skilled Workers.

Please contact us if you are a company or institution interested in cooperation on the topic of international professionals.

Subproject management

Dr. Tina Haußen

Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
Chair of Economics/ Public Finance

Telephone 03641 9 43235
E-Mail tina.haussen@uni-jena.de

Dr. Susann Schäfer

Institute of Geography
Chair of Economic Geography

Telephone 03641 9 48834
E-Mail susann.schaefer@uni-jena.de

Dr. Claudia Hillinger

Head
International Office

E-Mail international@uni-jena.de

Wilfried Röpke

Managing Director
Jena Business Development

Telephone 03641 87 300-30
E-Mail jenawirtschaft@jena.de