



European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes

Statement by Members of the Management Committee of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) and the participants of the EADI Directors' Meeting held on 11/12 October 2018 at the Austrian Foundation of Development Research (ÖFSE) in Vienna

We are deeply concerned learning about the sudden decision of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research to terminate funding the Austrian Commission for Development Research (KEF). KEF is a member institution of EADI and represents Austria in our Executive Committee. Over the last 37 years, KEF has been substantively engaging in international research activities in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). KEF's public activities in Austria have been invaluable contributions towards a broader acceptance of development research and cooperation. Especially in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, the role of development research and related public awareness campaigns cannot be overestimated: eradicating poverty and bringing forward a social-ecological transformation must be our all utmost priority – not only in view of global migration.

In our capacity as representatives of leading development research institutes around Europe we stand in solidarity with our Austrian colleagues. Therefore, we appeal to the Ministry to revisit this decision. Terminating KEF would not only thwart decades of investment in a highly effective institution, but also damage the European and international collective efforts to build trustworthy partnerships with countries and people from the global South.

Vienna, 12 October 2018

Signatories:

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