Innovation and Global Cooperation for Sustainability
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DE/IN CeMIS (2019 – 2023)
Sustainable Networks for the Future

DAAD

Dr. Karin Klenke, Centre for Modern Indian Studies, Göttingen University
Dr. Sumeet Mhaskar, Associate Professor, O.P. Jindal Global University

1. Centre for Modern Indian Studies

The Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS) at Göttingen University is one of the few centres in Europe and South Asia taking an interdisciplinary approach to studying modern India. Founded in 2009, CeMIS has developed into a world-class centre of research and teaching focusing on the social, political and economic developments in this critical part of the globe.

CeMIS is part of the University of Göttingen and the Göttingen Campus, as well as a part of a larger international network of research institutions and universities.

2. DE/IN CeMIS – the project

Building on eight years of previous DAAD funding, “DE/IN CeMIS” allowed us to cooperate with 14 Indian partner institutions and to significantly expand our networks beyond the initial focus on Delhi. Many of the counterparts at partner institutions are CeMIS alumni, testifying to the sustainability of our (net)work.

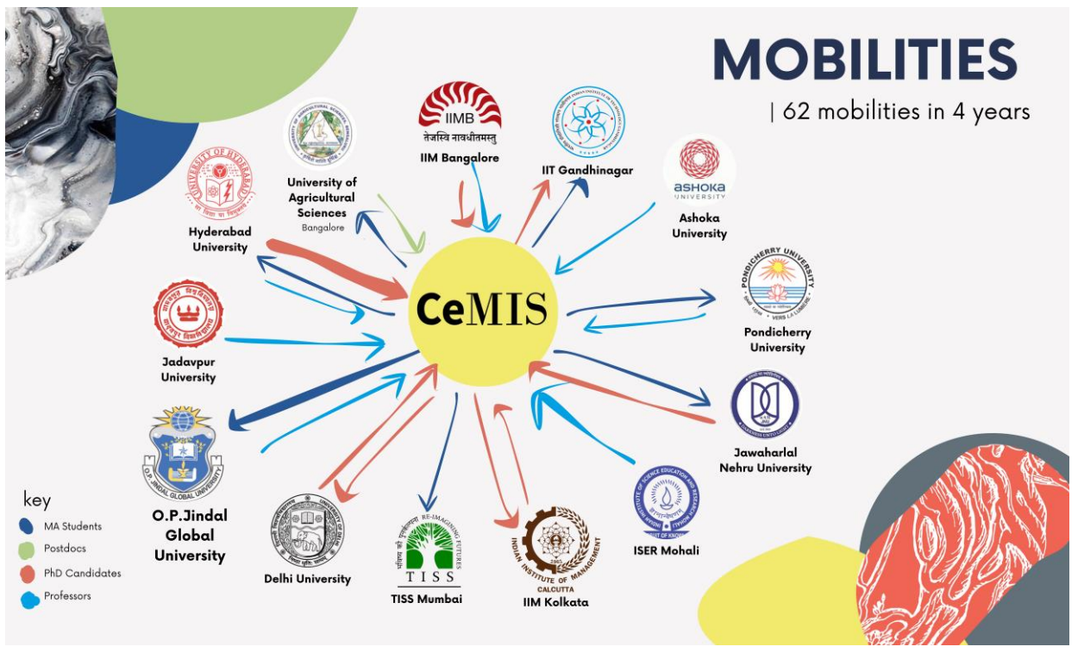
The counterpart at our main partner university O.P. Jindal Global University is Dr. Sumeet Mhaskar, a former Humboldt Fellow at CeMIS, and now an Associate Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University.

DE/IN CeMIS has not only led to a lively intellectual exchange between CeMIS and its partners, but also among the Indian partners, as scholars meet at CeMIS and extend the developing networks to their home institutions.

CeMIS Students, Faculty and Alumni

3. Mobilities

CeMIS funded a total of 62 mobilities for MA students (outgoing), PhD students, postdocs, and faculty. In addition to research/study/teaching exchanges, we also organized a two-week excursion to India for 21 international MA students in the MA program “Development Economics”.



4. A new focus on Public Health

In the 2019 – 2023 funding phase, CeMIS developed a new focus on Public Health through the research group “Development Economics”, headed by Prof. Sebastian Vollmer. MA students from Development Economics pursued research projects like “Save today, be happy tomorrow”, Pharmacists’ attitudes, antibiotics dispensation and antimicrobial resistance in India” or “Functionality of Anganwadi Centres in Madhepura, Bihar, India”, as part of their Masters studies and participated in the excursion titled “Public Health and Economic Development in India”.

5. Making good use of bad times

When mobilities came to a halt during the pandemic, CeMIS organized an online training “Teaching and Learning in Intercultural and Digital Settings” for 25 faculty from CeMIS and our Indian partner institutions, which was taught by Göttingen University’s unit for Didactics in Higher Education- further emphasizing upskilling as a core component.

The online film festival CROSSINGS with 18 contemporary documentary films from and about India about dreams and aspirations, crossings and journeys, movements and migration, performance and politics, and violence and resistance was a huge success.