Dear Donors, Community Members, and Supporters,

I am excited to share with you our Social Impact Programs Annual Report for the year 2023, which highlights the remarkable achievements and transformative journeys of our global community. The collaborative efforts of 22 teams of MIM students worldwide, 6 dedicated Responsible Leaders Fellows, and the participation of 114 students in our Industry Immersion Africa initiative, in partnership with AIMS Africa, have resulted in a profound impact on diverse communities.

Our mission is rooted in a deep appreciation for the power and resilience of our partner organizations across the globe. We believe in the immense potential that arises from mutual collaboration and the sharing of resources and knowledge between regions. Through our efforts, we aim to amplify the voices and initiatives already driving positive change within their communities.

As we look back on the past year, we celebrate not only the tangible outcomes of our programs but also the invaluable growth experienced by our students. From supporting local entrepreneurs to promoting environmental sustainability, each project underscores the power of collaboration in addressing complex social challenges.

We are grateful to our donors, whose unwavering support enables us to continue fostering genuine partnerships and driving positive change. Through our programs, we hope to build a more equitable and sustainable world where every voice is valued and every community has the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for your support, and may we continue on this journey of impact and learning together.

FLAVIA RIZZATO
Social Impact Programs Manager

Learn more at esmt.berlin/degrees
Highlights

22 Social Impact Project teams

The Social Impact Practicum (SIP) allows Master’s and Full-time MBA students to work with non-profits, CSR departments, and social entrepreneurship ventures for five weeks. They provide direct input to further these organizations’ missions, fostering positive global change.

6 Responsible Leader Fellows

ESMT Graduates may postpone their job search for up to six months to engage in a social impact project in a developing country. During this time, students offer pro-bono services to organizations or institutions that create value and bring about social change for the community.

114 Industry Immersion Program Graduates

The AIMS ESMT Industry Immersion Program was launched in 2017 by iiAfrica in partnership with the European School of Management and Technology (ESMT), Berlin. The program is hosted by AIMS South Africa and is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ) through the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The six-month program aims to prepare mathematically trained African graduates for employment in the industry sector, helping them transition smoothly from an academic environment.

Decolonization Workshop

In collaboration with the Black Academy, our institution recently hosted a transformative workshop on decolonization. This workshop was a pivotal moment for our students, equipping them with invaluable insights and tools necessary for navigating the complexities of their upcoming projects.
Social Impact Projects
PROJECT WINNER 1
The Social Innovators
Listening house for talibees children in Mbour
Senegal – Fundacion Farrah

The team collaborated with Fundacion Farrah, a Spanish NGO, to support its Maison d’Écoute project in Mbour, Senegal, aimed at aiding talibe children facing neglect and abuse. They developed a comprehensive tracking system, provided marketing recommendations, and improved IT and surveillance equipment. Immersed in the project, they learned from the local team’s expertise and dedication. Beyond the project’s completion, they continued to provide guidance, ensuring the sustainability and expansion of Farrah’s impact.

PROJECT WINNER 2
The Batterydos
Electrify Mobility in Eastern Africa – Ampersand, Kenya

The team supported Ampersand, an E-Mobility startup, in expanding operations from Rwanda to Kenya over four weeks. Their objectives were to aid Ampersand’s expansion into Kisumu and increase the value generated per bike sold to bodaboda drivers. Findings presented to Ampersand’s leadership included Kisumu’s readiness for e-mobility despite low purchasing power, strategies for increasing driver income through smartphone provision, and opportunities for premium services. These insights led to Ampersand’s active pursuit of Kisumu expansion and internal discussions on developing a service portfolio for bodaboda drivers.

PROJECT WINNER 3
Shazam Team
Cyberpeace Business Strategy and Development – CyberPeace Institute, Geneva

The team partnered with the CyberPeace Institute (CPI), an NGO headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, that focuses on enhancing the cybersecurity capabilities of humanitarian organizations worldwide. The team’s goal was to assist CPI in expanding its operations to four cities outside Switzerland. Through comprehensive research and analysis, the team developed strategic frameworks and recommendations tailored to the specific contexts of each city. Recommendations included conducting broader surveys for clearer data analysis and enhancing CPI’s social media presence to foster engagement with stakeholders.

SIP GENDER AWARD
Design for Change
Tejiendo por la naturaleza (Weaving for nature)
Casa Congo, Nicaragua

The team aimed to tackle Nicaragua’s waste management crisis by empowering Las Tejedoras, a group of women repurposing plastic bags into woven products. They created a business plan, developed an e-commerce store, established logistics with DHL, and provided training. Despite challenges like language barriers and limited internet access, they successfully launched the e-commerce store, partnered with DHL, and created a product catalog, leading to positive impacts and valuable learning experiences.
Mohan Krishna
MIM 2023, Switzerland
CYBERPEACE INSTITUTE

The CyberPeace Institute investigates and evaluates the human consequences of systemic cyber threats, provides free cybersecurity assistance, monitors the implementation of international laws and norms, and predicts threats to cyberspace.

Key Project Areas: Data Analysis, Threat Intelligence, and Information Security

Rahul Srivastava
MBA 2023, Berlin
GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO BERLIN

Give Something Back to Berlin is a renowned organization connecting migrants, refugees, and locals to foster an open and inclusive society. Its vision is a world where migrants, refugees, and locals collaborate in solidarity.

Key Project Areas: Optimizing Internal Processes, Developing Data Collection and Analysis Systems, Board Management

Saurabh Pathak
MBA 2023, Bosnia-Herzegovina
POST-CONFLICT RESEARCH CENTER

The Post-Conflict Research Centre (PCRC) is based in Sarajevo and focuses on peace-building efforts following the conflict (1992–1995) in Bosnia-Herzegovina. PCRC’s mission is to foster peace in the Western Balkans region through conflict resolution and reconciliation strategies, aiming for a society where diversity is viewed as a source of prosperity rather than conflict.

Key Project Areas: Fundraising for Peace Monuments, Implementing Community Surveys, Creating Pitch Decks

Sascha Schneider
MIM 2023, Cambodia
IDE (INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISES) – INNOVATION LAB

iDE is a global catalyst for change, empowering rural entrepreneurs in developing nations by facilitating access to economic markets and resources. The organization pioneers sustainable economic growth through market-oriented solutions.

Key Project Areas: Organizational Development and Empowerment of Rural Entrepreneurs through Incubation and Acceleration Programs

Tudor Dima
MIM 2023, Brazil
2.5 VENTURES

2.5 Ventures is a venture builder and VC focused on nurturing impact and ESG-driven early-stage startups in Brazil.

Key Project Areas: Platform Development, Startup Screening, Investment Fund Establishment

Antariksha Rajkumari
MIM 2023, Argentina
MANOS VERDES

Manos Verdes collaborates with schools, universities, municipalities, and local organizations in Argentina to advocate for sustainable use of natural resources and promote environmental awareness. Through various partnerships and training initiatives, it supports the growth of small-scale female-led Argentinian businesses.

Key Project Areas: Scaling Female-Led Argentinian Businesses and Branding Support in Germany

Responsible Leaders Fellows

SOCIAL IMPACT PROGRAMS AT ESMT BERLIN
Launched in 2017, the Industry Immersion Program is a collaboration between iiAfrica and the European School of Management and Technology (ESMT) in Berlin. It is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ) through the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). This program facilitates the transfer of expertise from a leading European business school to African graduates. Throughout the 5-weeks program, participants delved into various topics critical to navigating the complexities of today’s business landscape. From mastering the fundamentals of general management to harnessing the power of data analytics, from understanding the intricacies of people, teams, and organizations to honing skills in marketing, sales, agile leadership, and entrepreneurial strategy, this program offered a holistic approach to cultivating well-rounded professionals. The program further aims to connect African STEM graduates with German companies in Africa, offering internships and post-graduate employment opportunities that ease the transition from academia to industry.

In 2023, 114 students benefited from this program. The dedication and expertise of each professor played an instrumental role in equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary for a transition to applied industry. We want to acknowledge Zoltan Antal-Mokos, Ulf Schaefer, Raji Jayaraman, Johannes Habel, Matt Bothner, and Henry Sauermann for their commitment and engagement in teaching the program.

**INDUSTRY IMMERSION PROGRAM (IIP)**

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<tr>
<th>Graduates</th>
<th>Internships</th>
<th>Unplaced</th>
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<td>114</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>40</td>
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Applicants: 220

Graduated Male/Female

- Kenya: 21.1%
- Ghana: 10.1%
- Rwanda: 19.7%
- Cameroon: 39%
- South Africa: 10.1%

Learn more at iiAfrica.org/IIP
Embracing Decolonization: A Workshop with the Black Academy

Our institution collaborated with the Black Academy to host an impactful workshop on decolonization, equipping our students with essential insights and tools for their upcoming social impact projects. The primary goal was to empower participants to dismantle entrenched systems of oppression through dynamic discussions and interactive sessions.

The students explored the intricacies of racism, colonialism, and white privilege, emerging with a deeper understanding and new perspectives to engage in their projects. The workshop specifically focused on how these issues manifest in the field of international development, fostering critical dialogues on racial visibility and the complex interplay of aid.

At the core of the workshop’s objectives was the exploration of concepts, approaches, strategies, and tools for fostering anti-racist and decolonized practices. Practical exercises and collaborative learning experiences encouraged participants to envision alternative paradigms rooted in justice and equity and to incorporate diverse perspectives into project planning while advocating for inclusive policies. By engaging with challenging concepts and questioning prevailing norms, students gained the knowledge, skills, and dedication required to effectively work on their projects and collaborate with partner organizations and their recipient communities.

Nicole Amoussou, from Benin, has been involved in international project work since 2010, including in Benin, Germany, France, and Cameroon. Since 2012, she has advised institutions and NGOs like Engagement Global, STUBE, and Friedenskreis Halle on anti-racism and non-discriminatory processes. Her work also focuses on capacity building and empowerment for diaspora organizations and migrants, as well as decolonization and reflecting on colonial continuities. Nicole is active in community work and process accompaniment for BKA, Amnesty International, and the BMZ ASA exchange programs.

Audrey V. Noukeu Petnguen, originally from Cameroon, graduated in International Development Studies with a focus on natural resource management. After working in development cooperation, she concluded that sustainable development must address structural inequalities and colonial legacies to be effective. Since 2020, she has supported organizations in development cooperation on their decolonization journeys, developing structures and practices to counter racism and colonial continuities.

Learn more at black-academy.org