eVolve Future Mobility Study Programme: Germany 2026

9th –21st October 2026

Funding programme

Partners in Transformation
developPPP

Implemented by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Introduction

The develoPPP Classic program, promoted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), fosters cooperation between the private sector and development cooperation organizations to advance sustainable development in developing and emerging countries.

At the end of 2024, within this framework, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Mexico and ZF Eurofren Investment (ZF) launched "eVolve: Boosting Vocations for the Vehicles of the Future," a three-year project (2024–2027) aimed at improving the employability of young people in northeastern Mexico by strengthening the skills and competencies required for electromobility and the vehicles of the future.

As part of this effort, a study trip to Germany is being organized from October 9 to 21, 2026, bringing together faculty members from universities and institutions in Mexico. The programme will combine specialized technical training at RWTH Aachen University with visits and exchanges with German universities, research institutions and automotive technology companies, providing participants with exposure to applied R&D and Germany's automotive innovation ecosystem.

The delegation is expected to include representatives from:

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- ZF Friedrichshafen AG
- Clúster Automotriz de Nuevo León (CLAUT)
- Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León (UANL)
- Universidad Tecmilenio
- Universidad de Monterrey (UDEM)
- Instituto Tecnológico de Nuevo León (TecNL)
- Tecnológico de Monterrey
- Olinia

Objective

The study programme aims to strengthen the technical, research and teaching capacities of participating faculty members in electric, connected and automated mobility, while facilitating peer-to-peer exchange and future cooperation between Mexican and German academic, research and industry stakeholders.

A central element of the programme is its knowledge-transfer and multiplier approach. Participants are expected to adapt and integrate relevant knowledge, methodologies and practices into teaching, research and capacity-building activities within their institutions in Mexico, extending the benefits of the programme beyond the direct participants.

The study trip ultimately seeks to:

- Strengthen capacities in emerging automotive technologies, particularly ADAS and automated, connected and electric mobility.
- Transfer and adapt relevant knowledge, methodologies and good practices from the German automotive research and innovation ecosystem to Mexico.
- Enable participants to act as knowledge multipliers within their institutions.
- Promote longer-term cooperation between Mexican and German universities, research institutions and industry stakeholders.
- Strengthen academia–industry collaboration and contribute to a stronger talent and research ecosystem for the vehicles of the future.

Proposed study programme

The programme below presents the main proposed components of the study trip. Specific agendas and activities will be further developed and confirmed with each participating institution.

RWTH Aachen University: Specialized Training on AD/AS and Automated Driving

The first week of the study trip will be dedicated to an intensive five-day specialized training programme on Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) and Automated Driving, to be delivered by the RWTH International Academy in collaboration with the Institute for Automotive Engineering (ika) at RWTH Aachen University. The final structure and detailed contents of the programme will be defined jointly with RWTH Aachen University according to the technical profiles and learning needs of the participating faculty members.

The training is expected to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the main technological and methodological components involved in the development of ADAS and automated-driving systems. Potential areas of focus include functional system architecture; environmental perception, localization and sensor technologies; object tracking and prediction; vehicle guidance, control and actuation; connectivity and V2X communication; control theory and mathematical foundations; datasets and databases; artificial intelligence and machine learning; vehicle dynamics; human–machine interaction and measurement technologies; as well as AD/AS

development processes, simulation, verification and validation, and scenario-based testing methodologies.

The programme is also expected to combine theoretical learning with practical and applied elements, including exposure to research methodologies, simulation tools and simulator-based exercises, testing environments, and exchanges with experts involved in automotive research and development. Particular attention will be given to verification, validation and assessment approaches, as well as to identifying knowledge, methods and tools that participants can subsequently adapt and integrate into teaching, research and capacity-building activities within their institutions in Mexico.

University of Stuttgart: Academic Exchange

The half-day visit to the University of Stuttgart will provide participants with an opportunity to learn about the university's current work and research activities related to mobility and the automotive sector, as well as its approaches to collaboration between academia, research and industry within the Stuttgart innovation ecosystem.

A central purpose of the visit will be to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange between German and Mexican faculty members, creating a space to identify common interests and explore potential mechanisms for continued academic exchange, knowledge sharing and future research collaboration between institutions in both countries.

Vector Campus: Industry and Technology Exchange

The half-day visit to Vector Informatik's headquarters in Stuttgart will provide participants with direct exposure to one of the leading technology companies supporting the development of software-defined, connected and automated vehicles. Vector develops software, embedded components and engineering tools used throughout the automotive development process, including solutions for vehicle networks, diagnostics, testing, simulation, embedded software and ADAS / automated-driving development.

The visit is expected to include an introduction to Vector's role in the automotive software ecosystem, exchanges with technical experts, and demonstrations or discussions around relevant development and validation tools. Particular attention will be given to understanding the competencies increasingly required by industry in areas such as automotive software, embedded systems, connectivity and ADAS, while creating a space for dialogue on how universities can better integrate these technologies and skills into teaching, laboratories and applied research activities in Mexico.

ZF Friedrichshafen AG: Industry and Technology Exchange

The visit to ZF Friedrichshafen AG in Friedrichshafen will provide participants with direct exposure to the research, development and innovation activities of a global automotive technology company working on technologies for the vehicles of the future. The visit will offer an industry perspective on current technological developments, while helping participants better understand how these trends are influencing the competencies and profiles required from future engineers and researchers.

The exchange is expected to include discussions with ZF experts on current and emerging priorities, industry expectations for universities and opportunities for stronger academia–industry collaboration. As ZF is a key private-sector partner of the eVolve project, the visit will also provide an opportunity to connect the technical knowledge gained during the study trip with the skills and research needs identified by the automotive industry in Mexico, and to explore potential areas for future cooperation with participating universities.

Requirements for participation

Institutional profile

- Be a full-time faculty member or professor, at one of the participating universities, with teaching responsibilities in a field relevant to the study programme.
- Be in a position to integrate and disseminate the knowledge acquired through teaching, research, curriculum development, or other capacity-building activities within their home institution.

Technical knowledge: Ideal profile

Participants should ideally demonstrate the following technical background:

- Postgraduate studies in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, or related field.
- Practical experience with Python and data-processing libraries.
- Experience with structured programming and Object-Oriented Programming (OOP).
- Experience in advanced mathematics and/or control systems.
- Minimum English proficiency of B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), as all training sessions, technical exchanges, visits and networking activities will be conducted in English.

Logistical and administrative requirements

- Hold a valid passport with validity extending at least until May 2027.
- Have full availability to travel to Germany from 9 to 21 October 2026, including the ability to participate in the complete study programme and related travel between cities. Proof of authorization and/or institutional approval from their home university to participate in the full programme will be required after preliminary selection.
- Be able to comply with the travel, administrative and reimbursement procedures established for the study trip.
- Have the financial ability to cover personal expenses, meals not included in the programme, and local transportation expenses not covered by the project. International flights and the main intercity transportation required as part of the official study programme will be covered by eVolve.
- If required, be able to temporarily advance accommodation costs, which would subsequently be reimbursed in accordance with the established procedures.
- A valid U.S. visa is desirable, but not mandatory, as it may provide greater flexibility in the selection of flight itineraries.
- Inform the organizers in advance of any dietary, mobility, health-related, or other logistical requirements that may need to be considered for the trip.

How to apply

Faculty members who meet the technical, institutional, logistical and administrative requirements described above are welcome to apply. Women are particularly encouraged to apply, in line with eVolve's objective of promoting greater participation of women in the automotive and mobility sectors.

Interested candidates should complete the following application form:
https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/HynjyZTdQz

Applications will be open until August 28, 2026. Shortlisted candidates will be informed by September 7, 2026.

Additional documentation and participation requirements will be communicated to shortlisted candidates as part of the final selection process. These may include, for example, a support or authorization letter from the participant's home institution, confirmation of availability for the full study trip, and any additional information required for travel arrangements.

Submission of an application does not guarantee participation. Final selection will consider the candidate's technical profile, potential for knowledge transfer within their institution, and the overall composition of the delegation.

General agenda

Dates	Location	Planned activities
FRI Oct 9	Mexico	Departure to Aachen
SAT Oct 10	Aachen	Arrival to city Exchange with study trip participants
SUN Oct 11	Aachen	Aachen City Tour
MON Oct 12 to FRI Oct 16	Aachen	RWTH Certificate Course - AD/AS Advanced Driver Assistance Systems and Automated Driving
SAT Oct 17	Aachen	Visit to RWTH Aachen Startups Travel by train to Stuttgart
SUN Oct 18	Stuttgart	Visit to Porsche Museum & Mercedes Benz Museum (optional)
MON Oct 19	Stuttgart	University of Stuttgart: Academic Exchange Vector Campus: Industry and Technology Exchange
TUE Oct 20	Friedrichshafen	ZF Friedrichshafen AG: Technology Exchange Networking dinner
WED Oct 21	Travel	Travel to Mexico through Frankfurt