

Our Story

35 Years Skat				
Milestones				
Year	Institutional Form	Services		Collaborators
		Resource Centre	Consultancies	
1978	Establishment of Skat association, University of HSG/ILE St.Gallen Schweizerische Kontaktstelle für Angewandte Technologie (Swiss Centre for Appropriate Technology)	Documentation Q+A Formation of networks Wide thematic scope		
1983-	Mission statement approved Evaluation of Skat	SDC support mandate Documentation Bookshop / publishing Knowledge capitalisation & dissemination	Thematic focus - Water - Building - Energy	
1989	New mode of financing	Additional support mandates	Consultancy assignments	
1992	Disengagement from University of HSG/ILE			
1994	ISO 9000 certification	Consolidation of experiences	Several backstopping and support mandates	
1997	Internal reorganisation		Sharpening the profile	
1998	Establishment of Skat Consulting (Share holding company)			
2000	Skat evaluation	Loss of several SDC support mandates Documentation centre closed	Consultancies in post disaster reconstruction	
2002	Establishment of Skat Foundation as non-profit arm of Skat Consulting	Methods and concepts in knowledge management		
2003	Growth & increase of turnover	Knowledge sharing - Project documentation - Publication - Guidelines and tools	First project implementation	
2006			Increased project implementation Integration of relevant cross-cutting themes - Governance, Decentralisation - Environment, climate - Economic development	
2013+				

Skat was founded in 1978, attached to the University of St. Gallen, as part of the Institute for Latin American Research and Development Cooperation. The acronym “SKAT” originally stood for *Schweizerische Kontaktstelle für Angepasste Technik*, meaning Swiss Centre for Appropriate Technology. The legal constitution was an association whose members were mostly Swiss development NGOs, some representatives from public and private institutions, and individuals.

Our initial purpose was to establish **a resource centre to document, and make accessible, the experiences of Swiss organizations involved in development cooperation**. Particular focus was on the introduction and scaling up of appropriate technologies.

The role of Skat staff evolved as simple requests from users of the resource centre developed into more complex consultancies on knowledge transfer. To cope with the rising demand, we focused on a few core areas of competence: water & environmental sanitation; architecture & construction; and transport. The spectrum of Skat’s activities and competencies grew steadily, with Energy and Climate becoming established as an expertise.

This year Skat celebrates its 40 Anniversary.

It is this clear thematic focus - coupled with professional skill, learning from networks and sensitivity for a holistic approach to achieve sustainable solutions - that brought Skat to the fore with a worldwide reputation for excellence.

By the 1990s, the funding landscape had shifted and Skat had to adapt to survive; and in 1997, the decision was taken to become a private consultancy. For us, knowledge is wealth to be shared, not hoarded. This ethos was hardwired into the organisation through the establishment of [Skat Foundation](#). These dramatic shifts were successful and a big part of our success has been the balance between commercial professionalism and a strong ethic to serve the needs of the poorest and most marginalized communities around the world.

Today, Skat Consulting Ltd, has an excellent worldwide reputation for high quality, cost-effective work that delivers impact for clients and improves lives and livelihoods for some of the world’s most vulnerable communities and households.

In 2001 Skat’s Board of Directors decided to set up the [Skat Foundation](#) together with the NGOS Helvetas, Caritas, and Swisscontact. The Skat Foundation is a non-profit institution for sharing and disseminating Skat’s longstanding knowledge and experience with partners

 Swiss Resource Centre and
in the developing world in a professional manner, and for initiating new activities to promote the exchange of knowledge and experience in development cooperation. Skat Consulting Ltd. bears all administrative and operating costs of the Skat Foundation.

This unique arrangement means that Skat Consulting Ltd. has practical, state-of-the-art experience in development cooperation implementation, action research and knowledge management that meets clients' needs. Meanwhile Skat Foundation, based on Skat's expertise as a resource centre, unlocks that knowledge and experience so that a much wider audience can benefit from both the work of Skat and our many partners.