



**EUROPEAN - AFRICAN  
YOUTH EXCHANGE  
MAKING THE CASE FOR ACTIVE  
CITIZENSHIP AND SOLIDARITY**

*6th – 8th May 2019 Bonn*



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Conference Report



# EUROPEAN - AFRICAN YOUTH EXCHANGE

## MAKING THE CASE FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AND SOLIDARITY

“Change is not happening in an empty space, not in organisations alone, but through dialogue and discussions, and learning from each other’s strengths.”

Silvelin Havnevik

The symposium hosted by Engagement Global in cooperation with France Volontaires and the Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC) provided a space for conversations about the landscape of youth exchanges and voluntary services between agencies of the African and European continent. Various government representatives, civil society actors, partner organisations and other stakeholders from diverse European and African regions and countries came together to exchange information, network with long-term partners or new acquaintances, and take advantage of the opportunity to gain new perspectives.

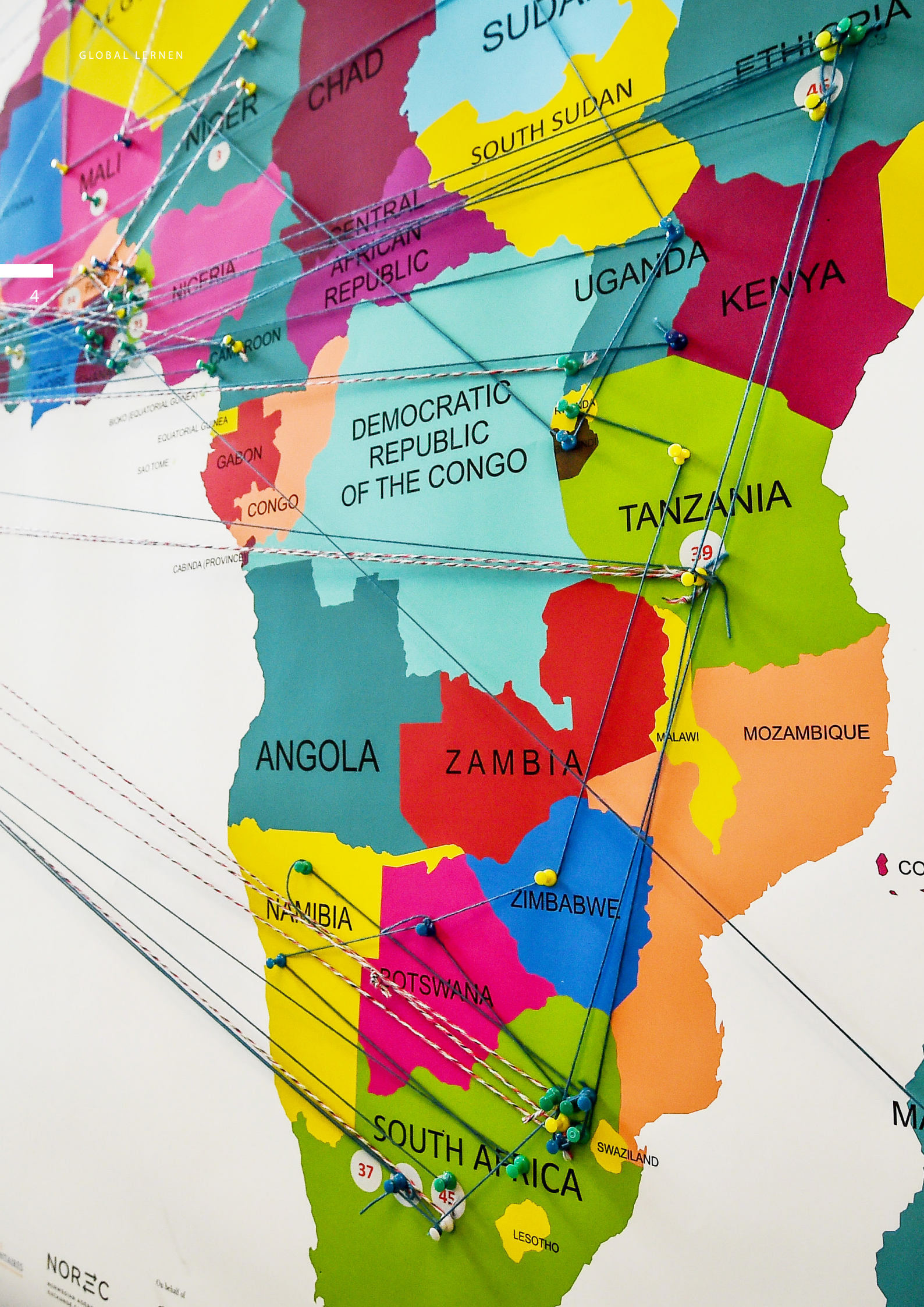
Input was provided on a wide range of topics and knowledge was gathered during workshops. The discussion topics ranged from equality and standards in partnership, alumni engagement, digitalisation, the SDGs and challenges of climate change, to creating value through exchange. Reciprocity and solidarity were the key focus of the discussions. The current challenges to equity in partnership relations were addressed and ideas were shared on how to promote more reciprocal relationships. There were plenty opportunities to share experiences, concepts and ideas on how youth exchanges can be implemented in order to reach their full potential for global citizenship and sustainable development.



Conference participants

Photo: Neil Baynes, Engagement Global, 2019, Bonn, Germany







# CONTENT

Introduction	3
Abbreviations	6
 <b>Day 1 - 6th May 2019</b>	 7
Welcome remarks and opening of the symposium	8
Keynote speech: Expectations around youth exchange and international volunteerism	9
Highlights of the panel discussion: Structures and expectations around youth exchange and international volunteering	11
Break-away sessions: Equality in partnerships	13
Session: Reciprocity as a goal	13
Session: Inclusive access as a challenge	14
Session: Racism as a reality	15
 <b>Day 2 - 7th May 2019</b>	 16
Talking round: Shaping joint standards in diverse places and structures	18
Talking round: Good practice in pedagogy of youth exchange and international volunteering	20
The challenges of measuring the impact of assignments on the achievements of SDGs	22
Parallel workshop sessions	23
Workshop: SDGs as a methodology	24
Workshop: Potential of digitalization and new virtual spaces	25
Workshop: From participant to change agent: How can Alumni stay engaged?	26
Plenary session on policy processes relevant to European-African Youth Exchange	27
Using SDGs for transformative change - processes and institutions around the 2030 Agenda	27
Reimagining volunteering for the 2030 Agenda: The Global Plan of Action	29
International Decade for People of African descent	31
 <b>Day 3 - 8th May 2019</b>	 32
Reciprocity and partnership in exchange and volunteering	33
The value of exchange	35
Closing panel and discussion: Making the case for active citizenship and solidarity	37
Final round of shared impressions	39
 Participating organizations	 40
Information, material and further links	42



## Abbreviations

AGYI	African German Youth Initiative
AU	African Union
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
BKJ	German Federation for Arts Education and Cultural Learning
EU	European Union
COE	North - South Center of the Council of Europe
EG	Engagement Global
EC	European Commission
FV	France Volontaires
GIZ	German Corporation for International Cooperation
GPF	Global Policy Forum
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NOREC	Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation
TYC	Tanzania Youth Coalition
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas
WESSA	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa



## Day 1 - 6th May 2019

Time	Programme		
13:30 – 14:00	Arrival and registration		
14:00 – 14:30	Welcome remarks Dr. Jens Kreuter, Managing Director (Engagement Global) H.E. Josseline da Silva Gbony, Ambassador of the Republic of Benin to Germany Jean-Daniel Balme, Délégué Général (France Volontaires)		
14:30 – 15:00	Keynote speech Expectations around youth exchange and international volunteerism Aya Chebbi (African Union Youth Envoy)		
15:10 - 16:00	Opening panel Structures and expectations around youth exchange and international volunteering Dr. Jens Kreuter, Managing Director (Engagement Global) H.E. Josseline da Silva Gbony, Ambassador of Benin to Germany Jean-Daniel Balme, Délégué Général (France Volontaires) Aya Chebbi (African Union Youth Envoy)		
16:00 – 16:30	Break		
16:30 – 18:30	Break-away sessions: Equality in partnerships Impuls speeches in plenary followed by three group discussions about the following topics:		
	Reciprocity as a goal  Input: Helge Espe (NOREC) Facilitator: Dr. Joy Alemazung (Engagement Global)	Inclusive access as a challenge Input: Claudia Gerbaud (transfer e.V.) Facilitator: Dr. Sascha Müller (bridge_it! e.V.)	Racism as a reality  Input: Tshiamo Petersen & Julia Richter (Eirene e.V.) Facilitator: Dr. Keith Hamaimbo (Welthaus Bielefeld e.V.)

### 6 May 2019 – Day 1 Structures and expectations in youth exchange and international volunteering

The first day of the symposium created a common ground by bringing up similarities and shared topics in youth exchange and volunteering as well as revealing different perspectives. The keynote speech advocated for youth exchange and the multiple be-

nefits it can bring to participants and societies by fostering understanding and solidarity. The break - away sessions addressed the topic of equality in partnerships from different angles with discussions about reciprocity, inclusion and racism.



## WELCOME REMARKS AND OPENING OF THE SYMPOSIUM

„Going further is also to say that we, regardless of difficulties and maybe even opposition we should not reduce our ambitions! Quite the contrary! The challenges of climate change, mobility challenges, or even challenges of social and professional inclusion notably of youth, are all common issues that we share.“

Jean-Daniel Balme

Dr. Kreuter (Engagement Global) expressed his pleasure in hosting the symposium, warmly welcoming the participants and partners. Having participated in various youth exchanges himself, he emphasised the positive impact it had on his life and in later sparking his professional interest in the international youth exchange sector. He also underscored the importance of the symposium, given that the results and conclusions will feed into the evaluation of the first phase of the African-German Youth Initiative, which took place over the last three years. The results, findings and conclusions of the conference will guide future programmes and projects.

Her Excellency Ambassador of the Republic of Benin, Ms da Silva Gbony spoke about Benin and the national implications of youth exchange. She emphasised the contribution of youth exchange alumni to national development and how it enhanced for their professional profile and increased their employability. For the Beninese government, volunteering is an important tool for development. In addition, it is a participatory mobilisation mechanism for youth engagement in favour of their communities, especially during periods of increased vulnerability. On this occasion she expressed her gratitude to all the

volunteers for their important contributions to sustainable development.

Mr Balme (France Volontaires) expressed his great pleasure at taking part in this conference, working together jointly with numerous European and African organisations and calling for active citizenship and solidarity. Developing reciprocal exchanges between France and various African countries has become a priority of France Volontaires in the last several years. Volunteer exchanges lead to innovative solutions and conversations about shared challenges, particularly peace, development and climate change. Even in difficult times and moments of controversy, ambitions should not be reduced but rather doubled. Climate change, mobility, adequate social and professional inclusion especially of youths are challenges facing both Africa and Europe.



# KEYNOTE SPEECH

## EXPECTATIONS AROUND YOUTH EXCHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERISM

Holding the symposium's keynote speech, Aya Chebbi, the African Union Youth Envoy, first emphasised the opportunity given by this joint conference to create a space to reflect on the role of youth exchange between Europe and Africa. It also provides broad opportunities for networking with diverse partner organisations as well as offering options for closer interaction and more in-depth structural collaboration.

After explaining how her life was largely shaped by constantly being on the move, she then drew the connection from her personal experiences to her work as African Union Youth Envoy. Youth exchanges are crucial, because they create life-changing experiences for young people. The current young generation, the millennials, probably is the most innovative, creative and inspirational generation of all time. For millennials it is very important to transcend barriers of distance or differences because this is a generation of globals who believe in a borderless world. Although the internet appears to be a borderless space, the windows of opportunity it promises are very exclusive. The power of information is vastly unequal and the disconnected can be invisible. It is therefore up to those with access to bridge the existing digital divide. Underscoring the importance of youth exchange, Ms Chebbi presented five main points describing what youth exchange should be about:

**„Youth exchange is about  
shaping narratives.“**

It is about shaping narratives: The world is constituted of narratives shaping politics, policies and opini-

ons – but whose voices are heard? There need to be authentic narratives from young people themselves. Stories of exchange, collaboration and friendship can inspire others and in turn provide alternative narratives to the current global challenges. Voices that would otherwise go unheard therefore need to be amplified to become mainstream. It is also about perception and dialogue: The way we perceive the world, our society and ourselves is always shaped through interactions with others. During an exchange, openness creates understanding; being the ambassador of one's own country or region creates learning. Exchanges give us opportunities to realise that we often face the same challenges, and to then create common struggles, common causes and common purposes.

Furthermore, it is about the future of work. Given our increasingly global workforce, we need to know how to work together with respect for each other. Youth exchange and volunteering is also about transnational solidarity: It is about being united in solidarity, being unified and collaborative. Pan-Africanism lies at the heart of the African Union and is a global value as it is about togetherness regardless of class, skin color, gender and religion.

**“The support and investing resources in the  
Alumni network is extremely important!”**

Lastly, it is about activism: supporting everyday activists and bringing in more active youth into political leadership. Volunteering is important for activism and international volunteers should have some sort of campaigning spirit aimed at achieving



Keynote speech by Aya Chebbi  
Photo: Neil Baynes, Engagement Global, 2019, Bonn, Germany

the goals of Agenda 2030 (of the United Nations) and the aspirations of Agenda 2063 - The Africa we want (of the African Union). In order to benefit from activism and volunteering, it is important to invest in building alumni networks. These networks will serve to share values, leverage knowledge and skills. Alumni voices should be promoted to the mainstream because they are the ones calling for diversity, collaboration, positive change and action.



Koudoussou Laourou, René Fadonougbo, Aya Chebbi and Basile Ouedraogo  
Photo: Neil Baynes, Engagement Global, 2019, Bonn, Germany



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PANEL DISCUSSION: STRUCTURES AND EXPECTATIONS AROUND YOUTH EXCHANGE AND INTER- NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING

“At the end of the day youth exchange should become an equal system.”

Aya Chebbi

Dr. Kreuter identified two key aspects that make an exchange successful. First, there are the learning aspects for the young person taking part in the exchange. The best learning experiences are produced when the exchange is facilitated by organisations enabling reflection on the experiences made. Mobility as such does not automatically create learning experiences. Second, there is an additional effect after the participants return home and reapply the learnings to their daily lives, thereby bringing about change to their own societies. Regarding the surroundings of the participants, the effects on the parents and extended family can be observed. Hosting volunteers enlarges and enriches the environment in which they are placed. It is the responsibility of the organisations sending the participants to prepare both sides in order for the exchange to succeed.

Her Excellency Ms da Silva Gbony emphasised the need to look closely at what is meant when talking about volunteering. It also happens on national levels as volunteers work in disadvantaged areas. Mobility very often is accessible only to the privileged. Hence, volunteering could lead to a greater exchange between social classes.

From a Beninese perspective, awareness could be

raised among the middle class to donate more of their time for voluntary activities. However, it is very important to supervise activism and volunteering in order to prevent negative situations such as manipulation or exploitation of youth.

In Mr Balme's view, success in youth exchange is not easily defined as there are various actors involved. It depends on how partnership is addressed. It is essential to listen to all actors, especially youth and partner organisations. There is a need for more systematic studies to demonstrate the extraordinary social impact of youth exchanges and to measure the effects of exchange programmes on world views, social and political engagement, or issues such as racism. Participating in exchanges has a highly beneficial effect on the individual, and it is therefore essential to create financial, structural and social conditions that allow more youth to participate. At the European level, opportunities to interact via exchange programmes or volunteering formats are vital to creating a common identity.

The internet also provides a new space for online exchange, Ms Chebbi noted. However, virtual exchange does not provide a human connection, nor does it create a life experience. Advantages offered

by general or thematic exchanges include the opportunity to learn from societal systems, to regard phenomena like climate change from another perspective and to benefit from networking opportunities. Volunteering is important for creating a positive impact. In particular young people in grassroots organisations have the potential to effect change. Ms Chebbi also referred to certain challenges. For

instance, the average age of African leadership is 66 years. The generation gap that needs to be addressed could be filled by active youth. Another challenge is the labour market offering 21st century jobs while the educational system teaches 20th century skills. Young people are very political, and exchanges help them get to know other contexts and better understand their own.



Karin Küblböck, Aya Chebbi, Josseline da Silva Gbony, Jean-Daniel Balme and Dr. Jens Kreuter  
Photo: Neil Baynes, Engagement Global, 2019, Bonn, Germany

### Key-takeaways

- Further systematic studies on the effects of youth exchange on world views, social and political engagement are needed.
- It is essential to create better information opportunities, access and financing tools in order to integrate more youth into exchange programmes.
- New dimensions of exchange are offered through social media and online platforms.
- More youth-led, youth-owned collaboration is required.



## BREAK-AWAY SESSIONS: EQUALITY IN PARTNERSHIPS

The simultaneous break-away sessions in the afternoon allowed the participants to choose the topic of greatest interest to them. Input was provided during the first part of the sessions, after which there was time for discussions and, above all, a chance for participants to exchange perspectives and identify solutions to challenges.

### Session: Reciprocity as a goal

The workshop provided room for discussions that centred around four major questions. The first addressed reciprocity as a concept. In some languages, the term does not exist and therefore has to be adapted. Reciprocity means that everyone must be considered equal, as we all have something to share and to learn from each other. In terms of mutual learning, a balance must be found between possessing (formal) knowledge and being open to learning from each other at the same time. Why is reciprocity important and necessary in youth exchange programmes? It is because we are all equal as humans and all concerned by the Global Goals and related targets.

Nevertheless, there are still obstacles to its implementation. Unequal financial powers represent a major barrier to establishing reciprocity. A lack of

political will is also an obstacle. When questions were asked about the options and possible actions of civil society organisations, the conclusion was that more space for exchange is needed between the governments of African and European countries as well as between civil society organisations. It was put forward that an increased interest and technical and financial support to youth exchange and international volunteering among African decision makers, especially governments, would lead to stronger ownership in terms of the definition of objectives and standards. This would also strengthen reciprocity and dialogue to align mutual goals and standards.

The sessions ended with a question to take home for the participants: How and through what actions could each of us contribute to more reciprocity?

### Key-takeaways

- Reciprocity means that everyone must be considered equal, as we all have something to share and to learn from each other.
- The term reciprocity does not exist in all languages and therefore must be adapted.
- Unequal financial powers and a lack of political will are obstacles to reciprocity.
- Ownership in terms of the definition of objectives and standards can strengthen reciprocity and dialogue to align mutual goals as well as standards.

## Session: Inclusive access as a challenge

Claudia Gerbaud (transfer e.V.) presented a study about accessibility to and participation in youth exchanges in Germany ("Zugangsstudie").

The term international youth exchange in Germany covers a wide range of formats. The study focussed on school exchanges, internships, volunteer services and work camps.

The results of the study revealed that, for the majority of young people, the first point of contact with international youth exchange is an organised class trip abroad. Consequently, schools are very good access points to reach out to more youth. It is also important for the social environment and the family to have a positive and supportive attitude towards exchange.

The reasons why young Germans do not participate in international youth exchange can be classified as structural or individual obstacles. The study concludes that socio-economic disadvantages are often interpreted as individual deficits of young people.

Concerns were voiced in the discussion that there is often not enough awareness about the needs and wants of target groups. Making exchange accessible to all, means creating structures that allow access and guidance while respecting diverse needs. Establishing such structures is a process that requires a substantial financial and time investment but could be achieved through additional technological solutions. Moreover, as staff members are literally the face of organisations and therefore the ones shaping their images, a diversity of staff could lead to a similar diversity of participants.

### Key-takeaways

- For the majority of young people, the first point of contact with international youth exchange is an organised class trip abroad.
- It is important for the social environment and the family to have a positive and supportive attitude towards exchange.
- In order to make exchange programmes accessible to all, access must be created as well as guidance provided and structures that respect diverse needs must be established.

Claudia Gerbaud

Photo: Neil Baynes, Engagement Global, 2019, Bonn, Germany





## Session: Racism as a reality

The workshop on racism consisted of three sections and offered practical experience and training. In the first part, EIRENE staff Tshiamo Petersen and Julia Richter provided insight to their organisational transformation. Steps were taken to improve the work environment by eliminating racism in order to change the internal resource policy and recruit a more diverse board. This organisational change process is ongoing and requires time, patience and financial resources.

The input was followed by an exercise in which the participants were given a number of statements on which they were asked to take a position, for example: "Of course I am not a racist", "Development will help Africans", "I have experienced discrimination in my life", "26% of the people I work

with have racist attitudes". After taking a position, the group reflected on the choices that were made and how difficult it was to choose, given that they had not agreed on the definitions of terms, such as for instance "racist", "development aid" etc. beforehand. It was concluded that awareness of generalized statements and sensitivity, especially in regards to language is very important.

Lastly, the group was instructed to role play three different scenarios. The scenarios were then evaluated and the group shared their personal experiences, which included different forms of discrimination. Participants became aware of the need to better understand terms such as privilege, discrimination and racism.

### Key-takeaways

- The organisational change process requires time, patience and financial resources.
- Awareness of generalized statements and sensitivity, especially in regards to language is very important.
- Role playing is a functional means to illustrate and raise awareness about topics such as privilege, discrimination and racism.

Break-away sessions

Photo: Neil Baynes, Engagement Global, 2019, Bonn, Germany





## Day 2 - 7th May 2019

Time	Programme		
08:45 – 09:00	Arrival and registration		
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome and recap		
09:15 – 10:10	Talking round 1: Shaping joint standards in diverse places and structures Erick Crispin Nyoni (Tanzania Youth Coalition) René Fadonougbo (AGYI Network Benin) Rahim Hassanali (Voluntary Service Overseas) Christian Wochele (Engagement Global) Facilitator: Angela Krug (Engagement Global)		
10:10 – 11:00	Talking round 2: Good practice in pedagogy of youth exchange/international volunteering Tamara von Abendroth (Engagement Global) Basile Ouedraogo & Désiré Adade (France Volontaires) Dieter Simon (Welthaus Bielefeld e.V.) Facilitator: Rolf Witte (BKJ)		
11:00 – 11:40	Open exchange in the hallway: poster session, mapping and Q&A board		
11:40 – 12:25	The challenges of measuring the impact of assignments on the achievements of SDGs Raji Sultan (Unité) Followed by an open plenary discussion		
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch		
14:00 – 15:30	Parallel workshop sessions		
	Workshop I: SDGs as a methodology Mike Denison (WESSA) & Stefan Rostock (Germanwatch) Facilitator: Pierre Soëtard (France Volontaires)	Workshop II: Potential of digitalization and new virtual spaces Séraphine Musabyimana (MiGlobe NRW) & Myriam Sikaala (Chat der Welten), Facilitator: Maria Zandt (GIZ)	Workshop III: From participant to change agent: How can Alumni stay engaged? Dolly Afoumba (ASA Alumni-Network) & Carlota Aguado (Eine Welt Netz NRW), Facilitator: Joseph Chileshe (NOREC)
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break		
16:00 – 17:45	Plenary session on policy processes relevant to European - African Youth Exchange Using SDGs for transformative change - processes and institutions around the 2030 Agenda, Wolfgang Obenland (Global Policy Forum)  Reimagining volunteering for the 2030 Agenda: The Global Plan of Action Emma Morley (United Nations Volunteers)  International Decade for People of African descent Dr. Joy Alemazung (Engagement Global)		

## 7 May 2019, Day 2 – Youth exchange and international volunteering in practice

The second day of the symposium focussed on exchange and volunteer programmes in practice. The topics addressed included how to create and implement joint standards, good practices of pedagogy, digitalisation, creating structures for alumni engagement, employing the SDGs as a methodolo-

gy to create transformational processes of change and how to integrate volunteering into the Agenda 2030. Awareness was raised in particular for the International Decade for People of African Descent, an initiative by the UN to bring attention to disparities and discrimination.

### Break-away sessions

Photo: Neil Baynes, Engagement Global, 2019, Bonn, Germany



## TALKING ROUND: SHAPING JOINT STANDARDS IN DIVERSE PLACES AND STRUCTURES

„Standards are meant to bring us together, not to bring us apart“

Rahim Hassanali

The round table discussion benefited from the variety of perspectives contributed by its participants, working on youth exchange and sustainable partnerships, in the area of green economy, in the field of development through volunteering and as a co-ordinator for the weltwärts exchange programme. Sharing experiences from different fields and processes, several key conclusions and recommendations were made:

### The process itself is as important as the standards.

Share the process and ways to set standards. Finding and setting standards should be a collective process and should respect the diversity of all stakeholders. Setting standards and creating a framework is a long-term process rather than something that can be implemented over night. The process of setting joint standards consists of multiple steps. First, one's own organisational standards must be reviewed; gaps and challenges need to be identified. Then those need to be matched with local standards and/or the standards of local partners. The next step consists of examining other standards, such as the German ones, discussing them, and eventually finding compromises before finally setting step joint standards.

### Standards require a dialogue between partners.

Although frameworks are set, it must be ensured that all actors are aligned and that they attach the same meanings to terms and concepts.

### Existing standards should be adapted to the needs.

Find a balance between upholding standards and adapting them to the situation, as standards are meant to bring people together, not drive them apart. Certain questions must be considered, such as: Who would benefit the most from the standards? Are the standards inclusive or exclusive? What are the 'must-haves' and what are the 'wants'?

### The need for sending organisations to cover essential areas.

Duty of care, i.e. being responsible for the safety and security of the exchange participants, and volunteer management, i.e. working as effectively as possible in order to generate a strong impact from the work and measuring the impact of the work. Evaluation is essential to achieving steady improvement. For this purpose, evaluation structures need to be in place as well as structures of alumni management, so that learnings can be derived from the experiences. Sustainability is created by having structures in place that keep volunteers engaged after they have returned.

### Take a listening approach.

Take the concerns of volunteers, beneficiaries, partner organisations and host families into account. Prepare the families hosting exchangees or volunteers. During the placement regular dialogue and more frequent and better communication with





Conference participants  
Photo: Neil Baynes, Engagement Global, 2019, Bonn, Germany

host families can help deal with potential challenges. Engage in meaningful dialogues with different stakeholder groups. Perform evaluations together in workshops and meetings instead of on evaluation sheets.

#### **Consider the knowledge and expertise of volunteers and alumni.**

They can participate in and contribute to the preparation of workshops. At the organisational level, representation units consisting of alumni and elected representatives can promote views, ideas and awareness of needs. In organisations aimed at promoting development through volunteering, beneficiaries are a key stakeholder group that must be considered when measuring impact.

#### **Intercultural communication skills are vital.**

They should be acquired before a partnership starts and the different cultural backgrounds of the partners should be kept in mind during the partnership.

#### **Be clear about the meanings of partnership and exchange.**

Partnership includes transparency and honesty about decision-making processes, which keeps information balanced and creates ownership and sustainability in the results. Exchange is always a mutual, two-way process.

## TALKING ROUND: GOOD PRACTICE IN PEDAGOGY OF YOUTH EXCHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING

“When you talk about standards for me it’s a full package, you are not leaving somebody or some groups out”

Erick Crispin Nyoni

This panel was enriched by different programmes, projects and positions. Participants facilitating school exchanges, with experience in international volunteer programmes or currently working as volunteers, contributed a broad range of perspectives on pedagogy.

Pedagogy in youth exchange and volunteering should focus on three different phases: Before, during and after the exchange.

### In the first phase,

awareness must be raised in order to inform the volunteer, the family and other people in the environment about the meaning of the exchange. The families need to understand that the participant is going to return with a lot of intellectual insights rather than physical assets. The participant needs to be prepared for the intercultural experience and receive support on organisational and administrative issues.

### During the stay,

welcoming structures need to be active – for example, by introducing the receiving organisation’s staff, providing personal tutors, facilitating good integration into workplace and having regular meetings with representatives of the organisation. Mechanisms

should be in place for connecting volunteers to the local community. Mutually beneficial situations are created when volunteers act as intercultural ambassadors while at the same time becoming familiar with different systems, societies and cultural ideas that inspire engagement after the exchange.

### After the stay,

the individual living situation of volunteers and exchangees must be respected. Space must be given for them to derive individual learnings and outcomes from their stay. While structures to welcome alumni are helpful, they cannot guarantee further engagement or activism.

Short-term programmes also need a long-term perspective. The school exchange programme ENSA supported by Engagement Global consists of short-term encounters, but are nevertheless part of a long-term partnership between schools. Such short-term impressions create a single story that participants may later tend to generalise. A good practice is to have a civil society organisation supporting the exchange. The task of the school and accompanying organisation is to help students evaluate their own experiences and deconstruct stereotypes together.





Break-away session

Photo: Neil Baynes, Engagement Global, 2019, Bonn, Germany

Emphasis should be placed on the phase after the exchange in order to help them process and reflect upon their experiences. It was noted that long-term exchanges generate the most profound personal development and therefore have the biggest impact on the personal environment of the returning participant. When suitable platforms and tools for exchange are available for returned alumni, they can make most of their experiences.

### Key-takeaways

- Pedagogy in youth exchange and volunteering should focus on three different phases: Before, during and after the exchange.
- Emphasis should be placed on the phase after a school exchange in order to help alumni process and reflect upon their experiences.
- Short-term programmes need a long-term partnership perspective.



## THE CHALLENGES OF MEASURING THE IMPACT OF ASSIGNMENTS ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SDGS

Raji Sultan (Unité) held a presentation on a model that the Swiss umbrella organisation Unité adopted to measure impact and contributions of assignments towards achieving the SDGs. It should be noted that the model was not developed with youth exchanges in mind but instead with professional volunteers and projects within the international co-operation context.

The three-level concept focuses on capacity development on an individual level, that is aiming at increasing the performance of partner organisations (level 2). The following networking, sensitization, social mobilisation and advocacy will then affect the system level (3) and leading to socio-political and economic changes.

The impact analysis is conducted using a variety of quantitative and qualitative methodologies which both come with strengths and weaknesses. Wor-

king from the bottom-up on three levels (project, country, institution), a qualitative and participatory approach is applied, including among others structured sequences of workshops with representatives of all groups of stakeholders. Aggregated reference indicators are used as well as a selection of SDGs linked to the host and sending societies.

Many challenges arise when measuring the impacts. The qualitative analysis can appear quite abstract, especially in contexts that involve many different languages and cultures. Furthermore, the process is time-consuming and requires a lot of attention from all the actors involved. Inaccuracy of measurement is another challenge. For example, it is unclear how to measure goal 17 – partnerships for the goals – in practice. It is also difficult to assess and measure smaller impacts like changes in personal opinion.

### Key-takeaways

- The key in impact analysis is to identify the long-term effects, since only lasting results can contribute to the SDGs.
- A critical database is needed for extensive evaluation and analysis in order to achieve a balance of costs and benefits.
- Qualitative and participatory methods assist in learning and improving programmes and strategies.

## PARALLEL WORKSHOP SESSIONS

23

Workshop I: SDGs as a methodology

Workshop II: Potential of digitalization and new virtual spaces

Workshop III: From participant to change agent:  
How can Alumni stay engaged?

The three workshops enabled participants to further explore the topics covered during the day. The first one addressed how programmes can be aligned with the SDGs and how the Global Goals can be used as methodology. The workshop on digitalisation presented a wide range of examples and discussed how the internet opens new virtual spaces for exchange. The third workshop explored structural needs as well as practical steps to keep alumni engaged after their exchange.

Workshop

Photo: Engagement Global, 2019, Bonn, Germany



## Workshop: SDGs as a methodology

The workshop addressed how programmes can include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how to embed them in practice. For instance, it was noted that the SDGs themselves are a very good tool for initiating discussions in intercultural youth groups because all participants are concerned. However, the point was made that it may be perceived as contradictory for exchange and volunteering projects to work on the SDGs while at the same time inevitably producing emissions by travelling and flying.

**“Decrease your footprint –  
increase your handprint!”**

Stefan Rostock (Germanwatch) presented an exchange project with young people that focused on empowerment for climate leadership. The applied methodology is based on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The approach taken is to initiate a change of focus away from negative impacts (ecological footprint) towards positive impacts and actions aimed at expanding the radius of action of each individual with the ultimate goal of changing structures (called handprint). In other words, “Successful ESD - projects change structures to help other people to behave more sustainable.”

**“(...) there is also a realization that new knowledge and awareness doesn't automatically transfer into actions and just having awareness isn't really enough.”**

Furthermore, it was noted that although the SDGs are formulating global targets, there is greater ownership for African partners in the Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want. The declaration shares a lot of commonalities with the SDGs, but is considered as more of a shared vision for growth and development of Africa. On a practical level, Mike Denisson (WESSA) applies the ‘good-better-best’ approach to evaluating actions according to the level of engagement and resources. Good projects are usually inconvenient, cheap and easily achievable. Better ones are all of the above, but on a more intense level, providing enhanced results. Best practices are the most difficult, time consuming and expensive, but they often generate the most (sustainable) impact. The key step in contributing to the SDGs/ Agenda 2063 is to focus and find a goal your organisation can really relate to, since a meaningful connection is most likely to change actions.

The critical aspect of time was emphasised in the discussion. Awareness raising alone is not sufficient as urgent action is needed to advance structural change in order to meet the SDGs/Agenda 2063.

### Key-takeaways

- Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want shares a lot of commonalities with the SDGs, but is considered as more of a shared vision for growth and development of Africa.
- Actions can be approached by using the ‘good-better-best’ method.
- The SDGs themselves are a very good tool for initiating discussions in intercultural youth groups.



## Workshop: Potential of digitalisation and new virtual spaces

The workshop began with two presentations that gave insights to digitalisation in practice. Myriam Si-kaala (Engagement Global) introduced the concept of global learning with a quiz, followed by a video clip about CHAT between the WORLDS. Both examples showed that the internet provides opportunities for global learning and media skills training in a meaningful and fun way. Séraphine Musabyimana (MiGlobe) provided examples of how digitalisation helps improve the daily lives of people in various African countries, for instance, in the sectors of mobile banking, administration, health services, transport and education. Digitalisation throughout the whole continent can bridge the gap between rural and urban areas, thereby contributing to the Agenda 2030.

The discussion addressed two facets of digitalisation: On one hand, it provides opportunities to work on stereotypes, on the other, virtual youth exchange has both advantages and limitations. Digitalisation must go hand in hand with education, which should teach students the responsible use of media. Fake news has the potential to manipulate and reinforce stereotypes. Using the same online tools can foster a feeling of equality on both sides.

One of the advantages of virtual youth exchange is that it can reach larger groups. This, and the focus and value placed on oral communication, promotes inclusivity. Reaching a wider group of participants creates the need to supervise, guide and organise structures. Virtual exchange may provide an intercultural exchange and, at the same time, the chance to learn about new means of communication. The need for new information and tracking applications can spark creativity. Video telecommunication makes it possible to connect before proceeding to a physical exchange and to keep in touch after the exchange and therefore may be used as a tool within physical youth exchange programmes. The limitations of virtual exchange include poor connectivity, the costs of data and internet access. All need to be considered and may be a factor of exclusion.



[CHAT between the WORLDS](#)

### Key-takeaways

- Digital means of communication and virtual youth exchange formats have a great potential to connect people, but support structures and media education are needed.
- Illiteracy, lack of or poor internet access and costs are exclusionary factors that should be kept in mind and addressed.

## Workshop: From participant to change agent: How can Alumni stay engaged?

This workshop began with two presentations given by alumni on their personal experiences, which revealed different perspectives. Dolly Afoumba is part of the ASA Alumni Network while Carlota Memba Aguado volunteered for a year in Tanga, Tanzania with Kolping through the weltwärts programme.

In the group discussion, the following key factors for keeping volunteers engaged beyond their international exchange were identified:

- The sending organisation needs to establish structures to keep returning volunteers engaged
- Contact should be made through personal email instead of general newsletters.
- Alumni should be informed about opportunities or engagement and contribution well ahead of time. The warning was also given that too much pressure on becoming a change agent is counterproductive, as any activities and creativity arise from an intrinsic motivation.
- Having structures of appreciation in place is beneficial, as appreciation is a recognised factor in uniting organisations and their participants and volunteers.
- Furthermore, the organisation should be

flexible when dealing with alumni and practice reciprocity.

- A global alumni connection linking alumni from African and European countries is another key motivating factor. This connection consists of a mix of personal networks maintained through face-to-face meetings, events and special platforms as well as a digital network. By creating special interest groups, personal priorities can be respected and groups can be prevented from becoming too large and too general.

The conclusion of the discussion was that there are appropriate networking structures in Germany, whereas there is the need for more opportunities in the so called Global South. In addition, expectations towards the returning alumni are very different, as both the families and the social environment are not included in the preparation of the volunteers. Consequently, expectations arise that the returning volunteer cannot fulfil. Another challenge many of those volunteers face is unemployment upon return, unequal structures and financial conditions. These issues need to be addressed in order to better support returning alumni from African countries.

### Key-takeaways

- It is essential to establish structures that promote alumni engagement.
- Personal contact and flexibility are key to maintaining engagement.
- Expectations towards returning participants are different in African and European countries. These expectations could be better managed by including the social environment in the preparation.

## PLENARY SESSION ON POLICY PROCESSES RELEVANT TO EUROPEAN-AFRICAN YOUTH EXCHANGE

„SDGs gave us all a reason to talk to each other and gave us a common ground to discuss on“

Wolfgang Obenland

Following the workshops during which many practical examples were discussed, the focus of the afternoon plenary sessions returned to international policy processes that relate to and shape European-African youth exchange programmes.

### Using SDGs for transformative change – processes and institutions around the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda is also labelled the “transcendent agenda” because it crosses borders and topics. In this session, Wolfgang Obenland (Global Policy Forum) explained how the Agenda overcomes a limitation on environmental goals as it concerns all aspects of life. Compared to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs transcend actor constellations as well as the North-South divide with their global perspective. While the MDGs were a government agenda, all actors in society, including the private sector, must be committed in order to meet the SDGs. The Agenda also transcends the ‘goals narrative’ by working instead on the necessary frameworks.

The 2030 Agenda goes beyond talk about the symptoms. Instead, it addresses issues in our lives and businesses and focuses on topics like neo-colonialism and racism.

Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda transcends time, connecting the past, present and future. Humanity is not on a good track to achieve any of the goals; therefore urgent actions need to be taken.

With regard to other institutions and processes related to the SDGs, this year’s High Level Policy Forum on Sustainable Development, which takes place from 9-18 July and 24-25 September 2019, is worth mentioning. Its biggest drawbacks are the absence of political decision makers and the voluntariness of implementing strategies and reporting.

Besides the Forum, there are various organisations and groups working together towards achieving and reporting on the SDGs, such as civil society working groups and multiple national-level working groups. Globally, there is a wide range of participation mechanisms and diverse dialogue forums. A challenge that many of them face is that the interlocutors are often neither politically important nor influential.



When putting the SDGs into practice and using them as methodological tools to devise programmes, it is advisable to carefully consider the organisation's capacities and resources and avoid getting confused by the magnitude of the goals or caught up in details. After all, the governments are responsible.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

### Key-takeaways

- The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs focus on every aspect of life is demanding action from all actors in societies worldwide.
- Despite a wide range of dialogue and participation forums, international processes may have drawbacks as they are voluntary and lack political power.
- When devising strategies and programmes using the SDGs as methodological tools, their scope needs to be carefully adapted to the organisation's capacities and resources.

Wolfgang Obenland

Photo: Engagement Global, 2019, Bonn, Germany



# REIMAGINING VOLUNTEERING FOR THE 2030 AGENDA:

## THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

UN Volunteers focuses on the question of how to engage volunteers for transformative change towards the SDGs. Today many governments invest in fostering volunteering and engagement opportunities. According to presenter Emma Morley, Chief of Volunteer Advisory Services at UN Volunteers, volunteering is important because it allows people to follow their own interests, engage and find joint solutions. Moreover, it fosters social cohesion, agency and self-esteem in volunteers.

At the global level, most volunteers work informally. This means most of the work is not measured. Estimations of UNV suggested that up to 90 percent of volunteer work in Africa is not formally recognised. The expectations of volunteers are changing, since youth want to understand the impact of the work. Volunteering is often done in groups, in a rather ad hoc, spontaneous way. There are new barriers to keep in mind, such as whether one is online or not; there is also an increasing number of people

who have no time to participate in formal schemes. Times are changing as well, and with climate change creating more urgency than ever, more active youth are needed.

The Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda is a framework through which governments, civil society organizations, the UN and other stakeholders come together to strengthen people's ownership of the 2030 Agenda. Next year, the 'Global Technical Meeting 2020: Reimagining Volunteerism for the 2030 Agenda' will take place with the aim of further reinforcing engagement and the contributions of volunteers to the 2030 Agenda. The following debate touched on several topics. As a civil society, contributing to voluntary national reviews is an excellent way to advocate for volunteering and recognising volunteer contributions, thus advancing volunteering at the policy level.

### Key-takeaways

- At the global level, most volunteers work informally. Moreover, volunteering is often done in groups in a rather ad hoc, spontaneous way.
- There are new barriers to keep in mind, such as when people lack access to the internet or lack the time to participate in formal schemes.
- The 'Global Technical Meeting 2020: Reimagining Volunteerism for the 2030 Agenda' will take place next year. There is a chance to get involved!

## INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

“My advice is that we stop thinking that we have nothing to do with it, because it’s too old. We are living with the traces [of colonialism].”

Dr. Joy Alemazung

The International Decade for People of African Descent started in 2015 and will continue until 2024. Its aim is to raise awareness on discrimination, highlight racism and address problematic situations.

In this session, Dr. Joy Alemazung (Engagement Global) explained that centuries ago, the international slave trade created an imbalance and inequality that was handed down through the generations, leading to a subconscious mindset of superiority of white people today. This mindset ignores certain assumptions of the dependency theory, according to which states rich in raw materials and resources were depleted of them, preventing them from building their own industries and thereby enriching more powerful western states. Furthermore, the Durban Conference 2001 acknowledged that racism continues to be a problem and that people of African descent were victims of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism, and continue to be victims of their consequences and may suffer of multiple levels of racism until today.

**“Because of segregation and discrimination people of African descent don’t get the jobs they deserve – and that’s impacting all of us .”**

The Decade is built on three pillars: recognition, justice and development. The first should make the inhumane history visible, overcome its legacy and fight crimes against humanity and human rights abuses, including discrimination. Justice means equality before the law for every human being, irre-

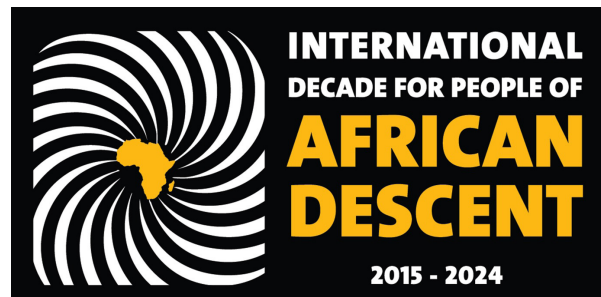
spective of nationality and skin colour. The development of measures to combat unemployment, educate society in acceptance and respect and ensure that people of African descent are not discriminated against, especially in the sectors of housing and health. Overall, government policies need to put an end to structural discrimination. In particular, SDGs 4 (quality education) and 10 (reduced inequalities) are closely linked to the Decade.

**“We have to get into a conversation. It happens to all of us – we all have prejudices!”**

Several critical issues emerge when the International Decade for People of African Descent is placed in context with youth exchange and volunteering.

- First of all, people who create exchange programmes must be sensitised and demonstrate a very cautious approach towards the issue of racism.
- Disparity in the number of participants is an inequality that has to be addressed.
- Language often acts as a barrier as youth are selected according to what they write – spoken language does not suffice.
- Tensions and conflicts are not adequately addressed. While current generations are not the initiators of unequal circumstances, nor are they responsible for them, they perpetuate them with their thoughts and perceptions. How





racism plays out always depends on the regional and national context.

- Organisations that send out volunteers need to make absolutely sure that they are well prepared. This includes determining the mindset of the volunteers, which will ultimately shape the impact they have on their environment during their stay. The key objectives of preparation workshops are therefore to learn about and reflect upon critical whiteness and to raise overall awareness. It is essential to gain awareness about stereotypes and prejudices in order to overcome them.



Dr. Joy Alemazung  
Photo: Engagement Global, 2019, Bonn, Germany

### Key-takeaways

- The International Decade for People of African Descent (2015 – 2024) is built on three pillars: recognition, justice and development.
- In the context of youth exchange, the Decade calls for more awareness about stereotypes and prejudices, a critical reflection on whiteness and greater structural equality.

## Day 3 - 8th May 2019

Time	Programme
08:45 - 09:00	Arrival
09:00 - 09:25	Welcome & Recap
09:25 - 10:15	Reciprocity and Partnership in Exchange and Volunteering Benjamin Haas (University of Cologne) Followed by an open plenary discussion
10:15 - 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 - 10:50	Closing plenary session
10:50 - 11:40	The value of exchange Helge Espe, Joseph Chileshe (NOREC) & Silveline Havnevik (Norwegian Band Federation) Followed by an open plenary discussion
11:40 - 13:15	Closing panel and discussion Making the case for active citizenship and solidarity  Annette Chammas, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Dr. Nils Behrndt, European Commission (EC) Graziano Tullio, North - South Center of the Council of Europe (COE) Rolf Witte, German Federation for Arts Education and Cultural Learning (BKJ) Lidya Maika, Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC)
13:15 - 13:30	Closing remarks and farewell Annette Chammas, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

### 8 May 2019 – Day 3 Bringing forward reciprocity and solidarity in exchange and volunteering

The final day of the symposium highlighted the value and benefits that an exchange can bring to participants in both the sending and receiving societies. An in-depth lecture on cooperation and reciprocity also provided a range of practical recommenda-

tions on further improving existing partnerships. The international processes and policy structures to promote international youth exchanges and volunteering were illustrated and ongoing challenges were identified.

# RECIPROCITY AND PARTNERSHIP IN EXCHANGE AND VOLUNTEERING

“If we talk about solidarity, we have to talk about power structures.”

Benjamin Haas

Benjamin Haas (University of Cologne) presented findings from his study for Arbeitskreis Lernen und Helfen in Übersee e.V. Drawing on Dirk Messner's conclusions, he emphasised that reciprocity lies at the heart of cooperation and is both its key aim and its basis.

The name of the model ‘cooperation hexagon’ is based on its shape. The hexagon consists of six interdependent conditions functioning as boosters that help increase reciprocity in cooperation:

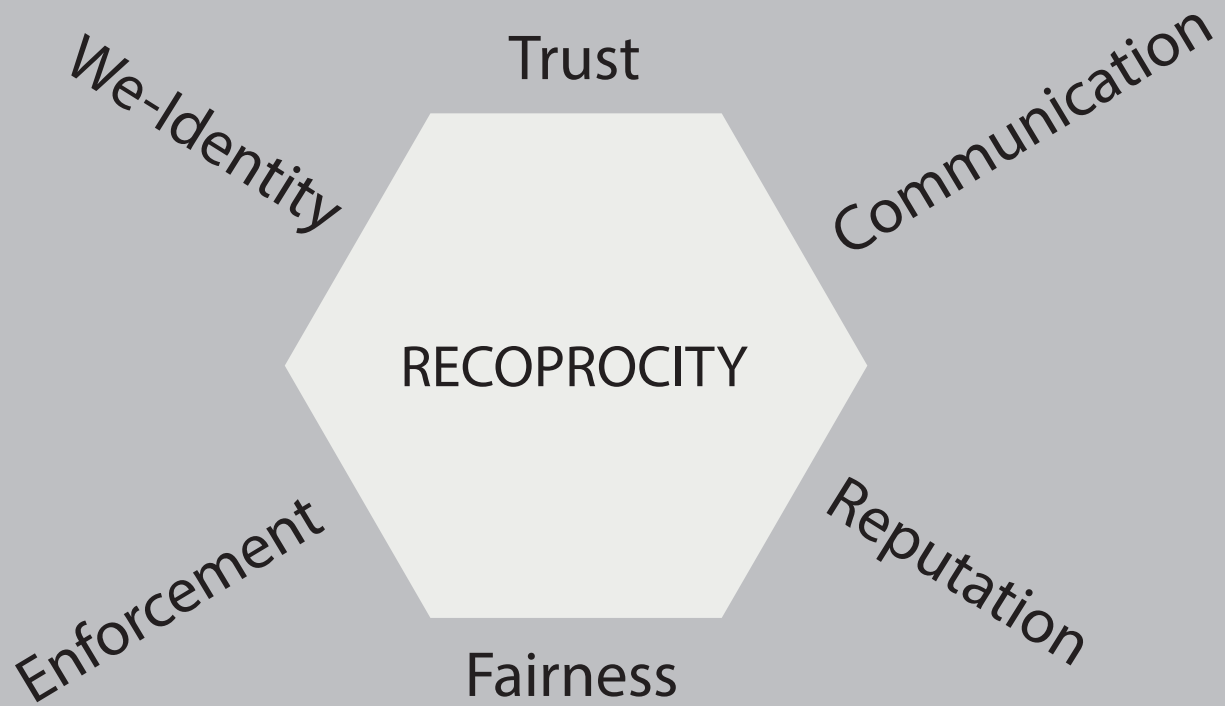
- 1) The first booster is trust. The more partners interact, the more often they do something for the other partner without expecting anything in return. It becomes more difficult to create trust in larger groups.
- 2) The second reciprocity booster is communication. More communication equals more trust. Good communication leads to a self-enforcing circle of trust. Frequent contact boosts intimacy and social proximity, enhances openness to sharing and learning, and leads to dense networking and an intense yet open style of communication.
- 3) Reputation is the third booster, as it is the basis of trustworthiness.
- 4) The fourth booster, fairness, determines whether inputs and shares are perceived as fair. Better communication increases fairness.

5) Enforcement is the fifth booster. Means and modalities to enforce set rules, agreements, and appointments can be important for cooperation. Enforcement also provides an opportunity to react if stakeholders do not comply.

6) The last booster is a we-identity. Cooperation works best when actors work on their common goals; this defines a we-identity.

In the second part of the presentation, Mr Haas further explored the cooperation-hexagon model and shared a number of recommendations. With regard to communication and trust, he stated: The more contact, the better! Personal meetings are useful in helping overcome barriers. Transparency about structure, plans and expectations is an essential foundation for trustful cooperation. Furthermore, he recommended working on a we-identity if such an identity is not already perceived by all the partners. It can be created through joint seminars and will ultimately improve cooperation. The enforcement booster requires clear rules, including funding rules that are credible for everyone. It also requires measures to sanction and stop volunteer misconduct. The foundation of fairness is transparency about finances, rules and procedures. Beyond this, the aims and concepts need to be clearly defined and, above all, it must be determined whether





Source: Messner et. al. (2013: 15)

the partners are truly willing to share power. Afterwards, thoughts were shared on power relations in the postcolonial context. Postcolonial issues were often reduced to the level of volunteers while the postcolonial divide in donor and recipient countries persists. In almost all cases, greater financial resources equal greater power.

Various topics were brought up in the ensuing discussion: the question as to whether complete equality is truly feasible, the difference between charity

and solidarity, and concerns about the rising nationalism in Europe and its potential influence on exchange programmes. Additional questions were asked about whether non-monetary contributions such as time, chaperonage and food can be measured and considered as resources. The point was also made that a new definition of resources would be helpful – one that respects intellectual resources, emotional intelligence and communication skills as well as contextual and cultural knowledge.

### Key-takeaways

- Reciprocity lies at the heart of cooperation. The cooperation model consists of six interdependent conditions functioning as reciprocity boosters: trust, communication, reputation, fairness, enforcement and we-identity.
- The more contact between project partners, the better! Personal meetings are useful in helping overcome barriers.
- A new definition of resources should respect intellectual resources, emotional intelligence, communication skills and contextual knowledge.
- Non-monetary contributions such as time, chaperonage and food would receive more recognition.

## THE VALUE OF EXCHANGE

35

“It is an imperative for the Agenda 2030 that we think in equal ways.”

Helge Espen

The 2030 Agenda applies equally worldwide and it is therefore imperative for all to work towards it. This opening by Helge Espe (NOREC) was followed by a short introduction to NOREC, its work and how it is linked to the topic of value. NOREC conducts surveys to assess the value of exchange, asking returning participants what they have learned and what they enjoyed. It became clear that the later the surveys were carried out, the more positive the exchange experience is perceived.

Hence it is worth taking a closer look at the values that are created. Individual values are a person's experiences and learnings that have the potential to create value during and after placement, sometimes even in the context of a career. Institutional values are values created together by two different institutions connected by a common framework. The value of exchange for society can be perceived as a partnership of like-minded organisations that together create value for or in society. During the placement, values are created by learning different communication and presentation formats, thereby mutually learning from each other and taking home different capabilities. It is therefore essential to have mechanisms in place that support alumni in order to make use of any values gained beyond the

exchange. Nevertheless, there are several barriers to realising the values of exchange. These can be mental barriers such as racism and physical barriers like passport and visa issues. A past cooperation between the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice to create legislation facilitating the entry of volunteers into the country was mentioned as an example of good practice.



Helge Espe

Photo: Neil Baynes, Engagement Global, 2019, Bonn, Germany



Joseph Chilesi

Photo: Neil Baynes, Engagement Global, 2019, Bonn, Germany

Joseph Chilesi (NOREC) followed up on the issue of mental barriers, particularly from the perspective of participants from the so-called Global South in Europe. Many former participants felt as if others had looked down on them, in many cases even their colleagues. Some participants have the ingrained belief that the North is superior and that people from the North knowing everything. They also wondered, “What can I contribute in Europe?” Such questions undermine self-esteem and lead to a lack of self-confidence.

After watching two videos about NOREC projects, the importance of preparation was emphasised. Exchanges are prepared by bringing young people together and giving them room to discuss topics, challenge each other’s points of view and providing a safe space to bring up difficult issues. Having these discussions in diverse groups, provides many international perspectives and raises awareness of different positions.

To conclude, Silvelin Havnevik (Norwegian Band Federation) shared experiences and lessons learned from a long-standing exchange between the Norwegian Band Federation and the Field Band Foundation (FBF) of South Africa. Their aim is to exchange music and health workers between Norway and South Africa for the benefit of both organisations and their communities. Their cooperation requires a mutual understanding of each other’s challenges and barriers as well as an understanding of the other organisation’s internal and decision-making structure. Reciprocal cooperation is fostered through regular meetings in both countries to organise and spend time together, co-write applications, calculate budget plans together and co-write annual reports. The presentation closed on this meaningful conclusion: Change does not occur in a vacuum, nor within individual organisations, but through dialogue, discussions, and learning from each other’s strengths. In addition, policy coherence is vital to creating the conditions for successful exchange.

### Key-takeaways

- The values of exchange are created at the individual and institutional level.
- Barriers to realising those values can be mental, such as racism and stereotypes, or physical, like passport and visa issues.
- Change occurs through dialogue, discussions and learning from each other’s strengths.
- Policy coherence is vital to creating the conditions for successful exchange.



## CLOSING PANEL AND DISCUSSION: MAKING THE CASE FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AND SOLIDARITY

The closing panel brought together various actors from civil society, the German government and international institutions to share perspectives and examine the European policy and processes and their impact on European-African youth exchange.

Dr. Nils Behrndt (European Commission) explained the multifaceted role of youth exchange at the European level. The EU's engagement with the African Union allows young people to come to Europe, learn and return. Although its current focus is on professional training and intra-European exchange, this could change at any time. A call for proposals was recently issued for an AU-EU Youth Hub. Civil society is invited to submit concept notes.

**"Improvement is always possible!"**  
**Dr. Nils Behrndt**

German policies demonstrate the significance attached to youth exchange through numerous programs in different ministries, noted Annette Chammas (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development). It is important for youth to become aware of global interactions and gain experiences that can later be fed back to German society. Having a joint steering committee for the German state funded volunteer programme *weltwärts*, was cited as an example of good practice. It includes both young people and alumni who engage in joint discussions, identify challenges and reflect upon the different roles of civil society and the government.

Graziano Tullio (North-South Centre of the Council of Europe) presented his work, which includes creating space for organisations to meet and discuss what structures they need. For instance, the Council of Europe's North-South Centre organizes youth summits and "Universities" on Youth and Global Citizenship. During this week-long event, a forum is provided for youth organisations to meet, exchange, educate, be educated and trained, and discuss various topics. The special feature of this event is that youth can select the topics and trainers according to their needs and wishes.

Rolf Witte (BKJ) requested an analysis to determine if the right framework conditions for effective work are in place. For instance, the EU is currently not responsible for the youth sector, which is handled at various national levels. EU funding is mostly limited to mobility funding, without regard to underlying projects, processes and structures. It is difficult to raise funds at grassroots level for processes, especially before and after projects take place. The encounters facilitated by extracurricular youth exchange in a new line of the German *weltwärts* programme, manage to overcome this paradigm and are an example of good practice.

**„it is very important when we design  
programs for young people that we include  
young people [in the process]“**  
**Lidya Maika**

When asked about needs not yet addressed by the current framework, Lidya Maika (TYC) emphasised



Panel

Photo: Neil Baynes, Engagement Global, 2019, Bonn, Germany

the importance of considering the people for whom the programmes are designed. If the programme concerns young people, it is essential to involve them in the process. If not, it will result in a good programme that does not match their interests. Therefore it is important first to conduct a needs assessment and collect ideas together. In addition, a close cooperation with the in government is essential to identify needs.

After the panel discussion, the floor was opened to questions from the plenary. Many issues were raised such as the image of Europe as mainly Western Europe in the Global South, which is ignoring divergences and disparities among the European

countries, the relevance of European mobility programmes, the need for diverse programmes reaching diverse youth, and the phenomenon of limiting focus mainly on one's own work due to complex administrative procedures.

In terms of diversity, there is room for improvement but it must also be acknowledged that diversity may pose challenges. It raises the issue of representation, for instance if there are hundreds of partners in a programme, it is challenging to choose only one that then represents all the diverse partners on the board. For the German *weltwärts* programme, Ms Chammas expressed her vision of one day having a South-North alumni sitting at the steering committee. The problem of representation is also known among the European partner ministries.

Rolf Witte voiced the key concern that organisations conceptualising exchange programmes need to be mindful not to create unequal mechanisms by starting cooperation with disparate financial powers. Challenges within existing partnerships were also brought up by Lidya Maika. If programmes are designed in a one-sided manner, for instance in a European country only and there is no common understanding for both governments on the objectives and goals of the programmes, this may create issues such as governments asking for justification for volunteers to stay.

### Key-takeaways

- Exchange programmes allow youth to become aware of global interactions and gain experiences that can later be fed back to their societies.
- Mobility does not equal exchange: the latter comprises a vast amount of underlying structures and processes.
- The people for whom the programmes are designed must be considered. It is essential to have participation mechanisms in place to identify needs and wishes.

## FINAL ROUND OF SHARED IMPRESSIONS

“It’s great to see what we have been able to achieve together since 2017 in strengthening exchange between young people from African countries and Germany with the aim of reciprocity, partnership and mutual respect and learning.”

Aya Chebbi

The aim of the closing activity was to gather the most valuable learnings from this conference, being expressed in one single word. The keywords mentioned were: reciprocity (multiple times), dialogue, solidarity, cooperation, greater equality in terms of exchange, activism, fairness, change, SDGs, joint cooperation, global citizenship, postcolonial, empa-

thy, motivation, learning and sharing, competence, willingness to change, listening to each other and to all involved, courage to talk, meeting and sharing, reflection, knowledge, inclusion, youth, exchange, hospitality, inclusiveness, complexity, need for coherence in policy, open ears, interdependence, modesty in our aims, and equal opportunities for all.

### Closing remarks

Annette Chammas, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

In her closing remarks, Ms Chammas emphasised that this conference provided an excellent opportunity to exchange experiences and new ideas. It is also a reminder that, although we face challenges and frustrations, we are affiliated in many ways and share a close connection with each other. A great thank you was expressed to all participants of the symposium for sharing their experiences, to all the

contributors for their efforts, to the partners NOREC and France Volontaires and the team of Engagement Global for the organisation of the event, and lastly to the moderator Ms Küblböck for hosting it. Finally she called upon all participants to stay in touch and continue the joint efforts in promoting and implementing reciprocal exchanges between African and European youth in solidarity.



# PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

40





- |  |                |  |              |
|--|----------------|--|--------------|
| 1 Agence Nationale de Volontariat des Jeunes Guinée (ANVJ)       | Guinea         | 25 Germanwatch e.V.  | Germany      |
| 2 Agence Nationale du Volontariat au Togo (ANVT)                 | Togo           | 26 Hungarian Volunteer Sending Foundation  | Hungary      |
| 3 Agence Nigérienne de Volontariat pour le Développement         | Niger          | 27 IJAB - Fachstelle für Internationale Jugendarbeit der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e.V.   | Germany      |
| 4 agl-Fachforum Internationale Kooperationen                     | Germany        | 28 Inter Alia  | Greece       |
| 5 Réseau AGYI Bénin  | Benin          | 7 MiGlobe (SKEW) Engagement Global   | Germany      |
| 6 AKLHÜ e.V.   | Germany        | 31 Norges Musikkorps Forbund   | Norway       |
| 7 ASA, Engagement Global   | Germany        | 32 Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC)   | Norway       |
| 8 ASA Alumni Network   | Germany        | 33 Office Béninois des Services de Volontariats (OBSVJ)  | Benin        |
| 9 bridge-it! e.V.  | Germany        | 34 Programme National de Volontariat au Burkina (GIP-PNVB)   | Burkina Faso |
| 10 Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung e.V.   | Germany        | 35 Réseau d'Enseignement Agricole Privé (CNEAP)  | France       |
| 11 Centre National de Promotion du Volontariat (CNPV)            | Mali           | 36 Service de Coopération au Développement (SCD)   | France       |
| 7 Chat der Welten, Engagement Global                             | Ireland        | 37 South African Alumni Network (SAAN)   | South Africa |
| 14 Cool'eurs du Monde  | France         | 38 Southern Africa weltwärts Network (SAwN)  | South Africa |
| 15 Délégation Catholique pour la Coopération (DCC)               | France         | 39 Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC)  | Tanzania     |
| 16 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) | Germany        | 40 The European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity of the Council of Europe/ North-South Center of the Council of Europe | Portugal     |
| 17 Deutsche Sportjugend im DOSB e.V. (DSJ)                       | Germany        | 41 transfer e.V.   | Germany      |
| 18 E-CHANGER   | Switzerland    | 42 Unité   | Switzerland  |
| 19 Eine Welt Netz NRW e.V.                                       | Germany        | 43 Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)  | UK           |
| 7 ENSA, Engagement Global  | Germany        | 7 weltwärts (wwB/ww/wwSüd-Nord), Engagement Global   | Germany      |
| 21 France Volontaires  | France         | 45 WESSA (Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa)  | South Africa |
| 22 France Volontaires Afrique                                    | Morocco        | 47 United Nations Volunteers / United Nations  |              |
| 23 France Volontaires au Bénin                                   | Benin          |  |              |
| 24 Deutsch - Französisches Jugendwerk (DFJW)                     | Germany/France |  |              |

## INFORMATION, MATERIAL AND FURTHER LINKS

### **African- German Youth Initiative**

<https://daj.engagement-global.de/agyi-start.html>  
[www.youthinitiative.info](http://www.youthinitiative.info)

### **AU- EU Youth Hub**

<https://www.aueuyouthhub.org/>

### **CHAT between the WORLDS:**

<https://chat.engagement-global.de/english.html>

### **Education for Sustainable Development (Goals)**

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000247444>

### **Franca Volontaires**

[www.france-volontaires.org](http://www.france-volontaires.org)

### **International Decade for People of African Descent**

<https://www.un.org/en/events/africandescentdecade/>

### **Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation**

[www.norec.no](http://www.norec.no)

### **Unité Modell**

Qualitative and Participatory Impact Assessment of Personnel Development Cooperation

[https://www.unite-ch.org/sites/default/files/content/PEZA/6408\\_unite\\_handbook\\_en\\_2019-4-8\\_gzd.pdf](https://www.unite-ch.org/sites/default/files/content/PEZA/6408_unite_handbook_en_2019-4-8_gzd.pdf)

### **United Nations Volunteers**

Plan of Action: <https://www.unv.org/planofaction>

### **Volunteerism and the Global Goals**

<https://www.unv.org/volunteerism-and-global-goals>

### **Zugangsstudie (Access Study)**

<http://zugangsstudie.de/>



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Im Auftrag des



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