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weltwärts

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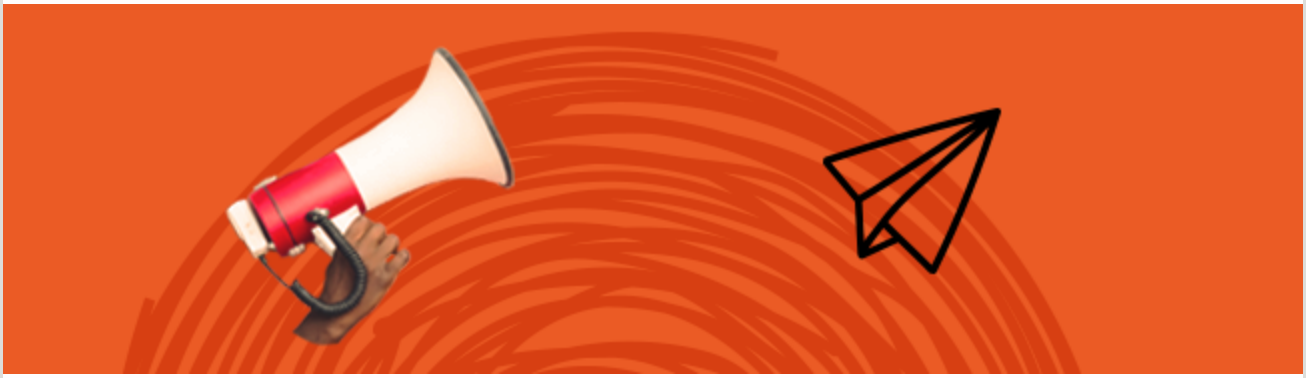

Partners in weltwärts – Newsletter for partners on the weltwärts programme

Dear partners,

weltwärts stands for new perspectives, strong networks, development goals (SDGs) and human rights within the One World. The weltwärts development volunteer service embodies these ideals on multiple levels, in its programme management, at partner conferences and in various projects.

Be inspired and find out more about the wide range of weltwärts assignment opportunities available.

Happy reading! Bonne lecture ! Viel Spaß bei der Lektüre! ¡Disfruten de la lectura!

With warm regards

On behalf of the weltwärts joint operation

Natalie Tawamba Tessa, contact person for partner communication at the weltwärts coordination centre and

Lourens de Jong, PSC civil society representative responsible for the partner newsletter

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Returnee engagement in the Global South can now also be funded

Ideally, former South-North volunteers will continue to engage in development work in their home country after returning. Now funding can be provided to facilitate this in the Global South. To receive this funding, partner organisations can apply for accompanying measures for the programme via their German implementing organisations. You can find out more about the application process and the conditions that must be met here:

→ Here is the link to information about the accompanying measures

Funding rate increase for North-South

Good news for the North-South component: starting from 2025/2026, the maximum funding rate will be increased from 652.00 euros to 782.00 euros per volunteer per month. Sending organisations must still contribute at least 2 percent themselves.

If you would like more information about the current issues the Programme Steering Committee is addressing, please contact your German implementing organisation.

Inspiring remarks from a Ugandan volunteer in Cologne

Kenneth Tuhairwe from Uganda is the 4.000th South-North volunteer. He has been working with people in need at the Bahnhofsmission in Cologne for around one year. He describes (in English) his experiences during his assignment in Cologne so far and the challenges he has faced in Germany in our podcast:

Here is a link to the weltwärts podcast

“weltwärts for diversity. Human rights have no borders”.

- That was weltwärts' slogan at this year's Christopher Street Day (CSD) in Cologne. The event was a loud, colourful demonstration in favour of human rights and, in particular, the rights of the LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual) community. For the first time, weltwärts took part in the demonstration in Cologne with a float, standing up for diversity and acceptance while also spreading awareness of development-related volunteer services. Around 1.4 million people celebrated as part of the demonstration.

- **You can get an idea of how it all looked here**
- **Click here to watch a video of the CSD on Instagram**
- **Click here to watch another video of the CSD on Instagram**

Did you know? As part of the weltwärts programme, around 107 German implementing organisations offer assignments related to equality and inclusion.

Interview with Zoe Marsch, the new PFIF representative

Zoe Marsch has been the new volunteers’ representative (PFIF) to the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) since April 2024. Zoe travelled to India as part of the Deutsch-Indische Zusammenarbeit (German-Indian Cooperation) in 2022/2023, where she worked in a girls’ home in Tamil Nadu, India. She is now studying Social and Cultural Anthropology. We spoke to her about her voluntary work with the PFIF.

What issues are most important to you as a PFIF representative to the PSC?

Zoe: It's really important to me in general to enable more South-North volunteers to take part in the programme. The fact that there’s still a gap in participation is partly down to visa issues and the complex requirements for young people in the Global South to enter Germany, among other things. It’s also important to me to boost diversity within the programme and to amplify the voices of former volunteers.

Was there a particular experience from your own volunteer service that you take with you as special inspiration in your current role?

Zoe: There are both positives and negatives in this regard: I was particularly inspired by the fact that the head of my project in India started the project off his own back. In my opinion, it’s most sustainable when the partners decide themselves what’s important to them and what they would like to implement in their own country.

In terms of the negative, I would say that many of the Indian people I got to know in India would also have liked to take part in weltwärts. But because of visa issues, the large distances involved and the visa requirements, it's very difficult for young people to participate in the

programme. This factor, among many others, is yet more evidence of the inequalities within the One World.

Roughly speaking, what is the proportion of North-South to South-North volunteers at the PFIF?

Zoe: We currently have more North-South volunteers at the PFIF and would like to have more South-North volunteers again in order to boost representation of their perspectives. We are always pleased to see more participants from the South-North component. We would like to invite them to the meetings, which are also held in English, so that they can voice their concerns. They are welcome to reach out via the following addresses: info@grenzenlos.org

➔ **Get in touch with PFIF**

➔ **Here is a link to the full interview**

➔ **And here is a link to the interview with Edmérçio Ricardo, who explained the structure of the PFIF in a previous interview**

Intensive dialogue at the Argentina Partner Conference

During the weltwärts partner conference in Argentina in May, threats to child welfare and protection plans were discussed in depth. See the highlights from the conference in South America with attendees from Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, and find out which other topics were on the agenda:

➔ **Here is the link to the article about the Argentina PC**

Dates

- **Partner conference in India**, 30 September to 4 October 2024, hosted by Deutsch-Indische Zusammenarbeit (German-Indian Cooperation) in collaboration with the German Red Cross in Hessen Volunta and the partners Ecumenical Sangam and Dream School Foundation
- Next **Programme Steering Committee meeting,** 28 November 2024: Partner organisations can add topics of their own choosing to the agenda. To do this, at least ten partner organisations from the Global South must contact Lourens de Jong at lourens.de.jong@ventao.org
- **Partner conference in South Africa**, from 17 to 21 March 2025, hosted by the German Red Cross in Hessen Volunta and Play Handball South Africa
- **Partner conference in Ecuador**, provisionally scheduled for May 2025, hosted by Open Door International and Fundacion Intercambio Internacional Para El Desarrollo (FIIDES)

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On behalf of
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development