Youth for Global Responsibility
Young volunteers for Global Development

This is the first newsletter of the EU-project “Youth for Global Responsibility” which informs about the diverse activities taking place from 1.1.2011 to 31.12.2012. The European Year of Volunteering 2011 builds the framework of this project which aims at initiating exchange of knowledge and best practice in International Youth Voluntary Services (IYVS) among involved stakeholders and organisations such as Youth Voluntary Service Organisations, hosting partners in the Global South, educational institutions, politicians, and young volunteers.

Hence this joint project is organised as a network for tool-sharing, capacity-building and lobbying with the aims:

- to foster the commitment of young adults to getting involved in voluntary work in development projects
- to highlight the impact Youth Voluntary Services can have as an innovative tool for Global Learning
- to develop common quality standards and evaluation methods in order to make international volunteering a meaningful experience for the volunteer and guarantee an added value for hosting organisations in the Global South
- to improve the qualification of returned volunteers as peer-educators for development issues both in formal and informal educational settings
- to establish models and extend the implementation of incoming (South-North) programmes for young motivated adults from developing countries which will allow them to volunteer in a European organisation based on the motto: Development co-operation is not a one-way street!

Who we are
Partners of the project

The Hamburg Senate Chancellery with the Department for International and Development Co-operation initiated this joint project with partner communities and NGOs to support young returnees from International Voluntary Services in their commitment to global development issues. Carrying the title of “City of the UN-decade for sustainable development” for the second time (2009), the Hamburg government seeks to create synergies between its agenda on development education and this networking project on International Youth Voluntary Services involving the following partners:

Czech Republic:
- The City of Prague
- Inex-SDA
  http://www.inexsda.cz/en

Denmark:
- The Copenhagen Youth School
  http://www.ungdomskolen.kk.dk/
- Dan Church Aid
  http://www.danchurchaid.org/

Estonia:
- Estyes

Germany:
- German-Tanzanian-Partnership e.V. (DTP)
  http://www.dtpev.de/dtp
- CulturCooperation e.V.
  http://www.culturcooperation.de

Tanzania:
City Council of Dar es Salaam
Project activities

In the following you will read about selected activities taking place in the partner countries and joint European networking events.

Website launch
http://www.contribute-to-change.eu

On the newly created website you will find more information on the project partners, its programme and structure, the aims, the activities taking place in the partner countries and the European networking events.

By presenting surveys from different European and Southern perspectives, various reports and results of international meetings on all core issues concerning IYVS, this website seeks to provide comprehensive information about tasks and aims of such services, the benefit for Southern hosting partners, and the role of returned volunteers as multipliers of development issues from different European backgrounds.

Apart from the project activities, the website is presenting a wide range of information on all core issues concerning International Youth Voluntary Services. You will find discussion documents on tasks and aims from the perspective of sending and hosting organisations as well as volunteers.

You will also come across elaborate information on quality standards and best practice examples of IYVS. In order to prevent misconceptions concerning goals and achievable results of such services and to avoid unachievable demands on mostly unskilled young volunteers with little experience from both sending and hosting organisations, it is absolutely vital that the aims are clearly defined and accepted by all partners involved.

A very important column is about volunteers as multipliers in which you can see how institutions effectively work with returned international volunteers. At volunteers in action you can also read about self-organised activities of young motivated returnees in different European countries. A database of returned volunteers who state their interest in supporting initiatives and NGOs through their voluntary work will be published soon with the goal to create profiles of active volunteers as a pool for institutions which are interested in working with them.

Finally, the column Youth Voluntary Services gives you an overview where and what kind of IYVS exist in European countries and provides information about established European and international networks.

Contribute to change and engage in discussions and exchange!

Local activities

Volunteers in action

Apart from local networking and lobbying between sending organisations, educational institutions, other involved stakeholders and volunteers, all partners organise a local programme involving returned volunteers.

In February 2011 a Caravan Tour of returned volunteers from Dan Church Aid went around all over Denmark meeting 7500 young people (age 13-16) and approx. 250 gatekeepers like teachers, pastors and local youth leaders in 160 locations.

The official opening of the volunteers’ club called “DoK” took place on the 28 April in The Hub Prague. More than 50 active volunteers were present to get familiar with the idea of the club and many of them became involved in thematic working groups.

The returned volunteers want to achieve a higher sensitivity of Czech citizens - especially in the regions outside Prague - to the problems developing countries are facing.

With the self-designed exhibitions “Journey through life, journey through the world” and “Kultur 8” they want to inform the public, mainly young people, in particular about international volunteering and also about the role they play in global justice and development.
In the scope of the newly established sister city-partnership between Hamburg and Dar es Salaam, the German-Tanzanian-Partnership (DTP) is actively building bridges through lobby work and voluntary services between the two cities to enforce renewable energies in Tanzania and support intercultural learning and understanding.

A motivated group of young volunteers published their second edition of the Umeme magazine which gives you an informative mix of reports about Tanzanian politics and history, renewable energy, development policy, interviews and project proceedings in situ. The next edition will deal with the question “Voluntary Service: Adventure holiday or sustainable development?”

**International stakeholder conference on quality in IYVS**
25.-27.October 2011 in Prague

The Czech sending organisation INEX-SDA and the City of Prague will be hosting an international stakeholder conference on the topic of quality standards and evaluation in international volunteering. During the three-day event, participants from many European and Southern countries representing various volunteer sending and hosting organisations attend panel discussions and round tables, meet experts, work in thematic groups and share best practices in evaluating and measuring the quality of international volunteering projects.

More information on all local activities and European events can be found on our website:
http://www.contribute-to-change.eu

Our next newsletter will summarise the findings and outcomes of the Work Camp for International Volunteers in Hamburg.