

Dear representatives of the weltwärts partner organisations,

On 15 September 2018, weltwärts will be celebrating its 10th anniversary at an event in Berlin.

In recognition of all that you do on the ground to help make weltwärts such a success, we would like to invite you to attend the event weltwärts will be holding in Berlin on Saturday, 15 September 2018, to celebrate its 10th anniversary. To participate, you will need confirmation that you will be attending the 2018 South-North partner conference.

If you wish to join in the festivities, please let us know on the registration form for the partner conference and we will then automatically register you for the event.

Since the development volunteer service was set up by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development back in 2008, some 34,000 young people have travelled abroad to volunteer in projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Oceania. The things they learn while on assignment stay with them all their lives and the experience encourages them to continue their commitment towards global development even after their time as a weltwärts volunteer.

Much has happened in the past ten years. After a three-year pilot phase, the programme was evaluated for the first time. This resulted in weltwärts becoming a “joint operation”, with the stakeholders representing civil society taking on a more significant role in the management of the programme. A quality system was introduced, incorporating not only quality management measures for the organisations and quality associations but also a volunteer survey and an external certification procedure. Thanks to the South-North component launched in 2013, it is now also possible for young people from the partner countries to come to Germany on a development learning and exchange assignment. In addition, there are now “exchange projects in the context of Agenda 2030”, providing an exchange format for extracurricular groups.

On 15 September, we will come together in the Berlin Congress Center (bcc) to look back at the past ten years, revisit the milestones in the programme’s development and look forward to what the future will bring for weltwärts. Around 1,000 representatives of civil society (sending and host organisations, strategic and international partners and volunteers past and present) and the political sphere are expected to join members of Engagement Global staff for the celebrations.

The event will showcase the impact the programme has - both on the personal and the social level. The morning session will address global partnerships, transformation & volunteering and the future of weltwärts. In the afternoon, the focus will be on honouring the contributions made by the various stakeholders involved in weltwärts.

We would also ask you to inform the weltwärts sending organisation from which you received this invitation whether you will be attending the anniversary event. Accommodation in Berlin will be organised for you from 14 to no longer than 17 September. For more information about the venue, visit <http://www.bcc-berlin.de/> .

Please contact SAGE Net if you have any questions about organisational aspects:
weltwaerts-conference2018@sage-net.org

We look forward to seeing you there!

Regards,

Daniela Heblik

On behalf of the weltwärts 10th anniversary planning committee