



## Ventao Partner Newsletter – No. 6

Welcome to the sixth issue of the ventao partner newsletter!

Our main topic for this newsletter will be accompanying measures in the weltwaerts program. What is this about? On the weltwaerts website it reads (...) through accompanying measures the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) “is promoting measures which encourage the quality of the ‘weltwaerts’ program and raise its profile as a development learning service.” What does this mean, how does it work and how do you might be able to benefit from it? We hope to clarify these points with this newsletter. As always, please feel free to get in touch, in case you have any questions.

With best regards from Berlin

Jan Wenzel, Nathalie Bambalinkenga and Anette Schwitzke

### A short Introduction: ventao – Who we are and what we do

ventao is a German acronym and stands for “Association of weltwaerts Exchange Organizations in Development Cooperation”. As an association of currently 37 exchange organizations, we have two main fields of action:

1. We are a so-called “quality association”, which means that we are an association for sending organizations, providing services and advice on all issues regarding volunteer services to our member organizations.
2. We are also a shared interest group representing the interests of our member organizations regarding the weltwaerts program towards the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and other political institutions like the German Parliament.

We currently have three staff members:

**Jan Wenzel**, the managing director with a full-time position, who is responsible for the overall administration of our association and for the political representation.

**Anette Schwitzke**, the quality management consultant works 30 h/week. She supports the members with regard to questions of quality management, organizes events and writes newsletters and manuals.

**Nathalie Bambalinkenga** has a mini-job and supports our accounting.

You can get in touch with us at [info@ventao.org](mailto:info@ventao.org).

## 1. What is an accompanying measure?

An accompanying measure is a short-term project within the weltwaerts program, which aims at improving the quality of the program itself.

Funding priorities:

- Qualification and training for mentors and partner organizations with regard to supporting volunteers
- Cooperation and networking among partner organizations
- Stronger integration of groups, which are under-represented in the volunteer program, such as young people with a professional training, with a disability or with a non-German ethnic background.

The applications will be reviewed according to the following criteria for eligibility:

- Needs orientation
- Target group orientation
- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Sustainability
- Developmental relevance

There are two application deadlines each year for accompanying measures:

Measures that should start between May and September must be applied for by **1<sup>st</sup> January**.

Measures that should start between October and April of the following year can be applied for until **1<sup>st</sup> June**. The BMZ will cover up to **75 per cent** of the costs of an accompanying measure. The challenge is always to secure funding for the remaining 25 per cent. As a rule, the **maximum amount** of funding is **50.000 EUR**.

### The framework conditions in a nutshell

- Two application deadlines per year: 1<sup>st</sup> of January and 1<sup>st</sup> of June
- Maximum funding of 50.000 EUR
- Funding period max. 24 months
- The Federal Ministry is covering a maximum of 75 per cent of the overall costs

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For more information see:

<http://www.weltwaerts.de/en/accompanying-measures-for-the-programme.html>

## 2. Who can apply and how?

German sending organizations can apply for an accompanying measure alone or together with their local partner organizations. Only applicants from Germany are eligible, i.e. all charitable sending organizations that are recognized as part of the "weltwaerts" program - or sending organizations and their associations (such as ventao), as well as recognized charitable associations of returning volunteers.

Many sending organization do have experiences with this instrument. Please note, however, that the administrative effort for the instrument may be considerable, including a lengthy application process with many inquiries from the donor and little planning security.

## 3. Examples of accompanying measure from within ventao

- Seminars for mentors in Germany or in the host countries with the aim to strengthen mentoring skills and discuss common challenges
- Partner workshops on different topics, such as the weltwaerts quality system
- Regular visits of weltwaerts partners and the projects hosting volunteers by German partners
- Visits of local partners to Germany to attend volunteer preparation seminars and enhance the understanding of how the German partners work
- Support for South-South cooperation and emerging networks of partner organizations and host projects
- Orientations for host families and development of a host family manual
- Outreach measures (e. g. informational events) to increase the percentage of underrepresented volunteers (e.g. with a professional training)

## 4. Key documents

So far, the key documents relating to accompanying measures are only available in German. On <http://www.weltwaerts.de/de/weltwaerts-infomaterial.html?pubtype=3> you will find e.g. the concept and a funding application form. For further information, please get in contact with your German partner organization.

## News

### Conference report of the partner conference in South Africa released

A substantial conference report of the last partner conference in South Africa in April 2016 has been released by SAGE Net. It includes a list of participants and all key presentations. The report can accessed here: <http://www.sage-net.org/?m=5&s=1&idkey=722>  
(Please click on the logo below to open the document.)