



Ventao Partner Newsletter – No. 4

Welcome to the fourth issue of the ventao partner newsletter!

Our main topic for this newsletter will be diversity and inclusion in the weltwaerts program. By this we mean the institutional efforts for attracting more volunteers from currently underrepresented backgrounds to join the program – especially people with disabilities, people with a migration background and people who already finished a vocational training. If you have any experiences or ideas you might want to share please feel free to do so.

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 association of exchange organizations we have two main fields of action:

1. We are a so-called “quality association”, which means that we are an association of 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 and voluntary services towards the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development 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 organizes events, writes newsletters and manuals and supports the members with regard to questions of quality management.

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

You can get in touch with us at info@ventao.org.

1. Diversity and inclusion in the weltwaerts program – what is it all about?

When the weltwaerts program was substantially evaluated in 2010/11 the evaluation report came to the conclusion, that the program had reached its goal of enabling young adults to do a volunteer service in the Global South. It fell short, however, on reaching all groups of society, especially young adults with a disability, from financially not so well-off families, without a high school degree but instead with a professional training, with a migration background and those from the Eastern part of Germany were not adequately represented in the program. The typical weltwaerts volunteer is a young woman from the Western part of Germany and an academic family background and is thus not representative of the group of young adults living in Germany as a whole.

A working group took these results up and developed a concept for reaching out, especially but not exclusively, to the following target groups:

- Young adults with a disability
- Young adults with a professional training
- Young adults with a migration background or non-German citizenship

Based on these recommendations three so-called “competence clusters” were established in 2015. We would like to briefly present them to you.

The issue of reaching out to the whole spectrum of young adults has been high on the priority list of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Thus this initiative has to be seen as politically motivated. Its main direct impact will be the capacity building of sending organizations through guidance and training offers. It is not to be expected, however, that the composition of volunteers will change substantially in the near future.

And obviously the profile of future volunteers, which should reflect the needs of their respective placements, is something that you as a partner organization are free to negotiate and discuss with your German partner.

2. Introduction: The three competence centers for diversity and inclusion

I. Bezev – volunteer service for people with impairment/disabilities

Since 2008, bezev is a weltwaerts sending organization and annually sends 15 to 30 volunteers with and without impairment/disability abroad. In the frame of the pilot project “weltwaerts alle inclusive!” (English: “worldwards for everyone!”), which bezev implemented from 2012 – 2014, many experiences have been made with inclusive sending. bezev has built up a network of sending and partner organizations which are open for volunteers with impairment/disability. Furthermore, bezev has, in the frame of the pilot project contributed significantly to structural adaptations within the weltwärts program:

Special successes were, for example ensuring the funding of higher costs of volunteers with impairment/disability as well as the raising of the age limit for volunteers with impairment/disability. Furthermore, a handbook has been published for the inclusive sending of volunteers in English, Spanish, French and German. A copy can be obtained by contacting Rebecca Daniel at alleinklusive@bezev.de.

Tasks of the Competence Center

The competence center for inclusion of volunteers with impairment/disability undertakes, amongst others, the following tasks:

- For young adults with impairment/disability:
We address young adults with impairment/disability directly through relevant media and networks and consult them if they want to make a voluntary service abroad. We bring together applicants with impairment/ disability and all open sending organizations that we know.
- For sending and partner organizations:
We consult and accompany sending and partner organizations individually regarding inclusive implementation of their voluntary services. We bring together interested sending and partner organizations and also offer consultation in cross-organizational meetings. Regarding questions related to additional costs, we function as connecting point between the BMZ/weltwaerts program and the sending organizations. Furthermore we evaluate the experiences of different weltwaerts volunteers with impairment/disability as well as their sending and partner organizations in the frame of expert talks and questionnaire-based interviews.

Offers include:

- Consultation with regard to additional needs and costs of volunteers with impairment/disability
- Training for organizations and individual staff
- Support with the matching/placement process of volunteers with impairment/disability
- Support with finding suitable placements for volunteers with impairment/disability
- Networking and information sharing
- Collection and evaluation of experiences

Contact:

Rebecca Daniel

Email: alleinklusive@bezev.de

Phone.: 0049 201/1788963

<http://www.bezev.de/>

A note on our own account: ventao is planning a workshop together with bezev in June 2016. We want to explore options, offer advice and share experiences on volunteer services for people with impairment/disability.

II. IN VIA – volunteer service for people with vocational training

IN VIA Köln e.V. started over hundred years ago as a Catholic association for social work supporting women and girls. Since 1997 they have been offering Aupair and volunteer services. Since 2008 they have been a weltwärts sending organization, and in 2015 started to take volunteers in as well. In 2012 they started with so-called “accompanying measures” (German: Begleitmaßnahmen), targeting volunteers with a vocational training, for whom a volunteer service abroad is not an obvious choice.

Offers include:

- A network of almost 20 sending organizations sharing information and conducting joint projects
- Informational events at schools and youth centers.
- Consultation for potential volunteers and sending organizations
- Trainings for former volunteers, teachers and social workers to act as multipliers
- Public relations and preparation of information material

Contact:

Melanie Baechle & Sabrina Cali

Email: melanie.baechle@invia-koeln.de / sabrina.cali@invia-koeln.de

Phone: 0049 221 931810-36

<http://www.invia-koeln.de/international> (only in German)

III. SAGE Net e.V. - Competence cluster migration

The competence cluster migration is currently being set-up and is expected to become operational in the first half of 2016.

It consists of a network of organizations coordinated and administrated by the South African German Network e.V. (SAGE Net), a sending organization and member of ventao.

The other partners are:

- transfer e.V.
- Mutoto e.V.
- Jappoo-NRW e.V.

All partners will share their expertise and work together on clearly defined tasks.

Offers include:

- Kick-off and information meetings
- Inhouse trainings
- Train the Trainer
- Consultation, assistance and coaching
- Empowerment workshops
- Support for young talents

Contact:

Carola Blendermann/ SAGE Net e.V.

Email: carola.blendermann@sage-net.org

Phone: 0049 30 31 99 12 56

<http://sage-net.org/>

News

South-North volunteer service is growing

The South-North component of the weltwaerts program started in 2015 with 250 young adults coming to Germany for a volunteer service. As a political decision the Federal Ministry for Economic and Development Cooperation has now approved budget resources for up to 800 South-North volunteers in 2016. If you are interested in sending volunteers to Germany get in touch with your German partner organization for more information.

FYI: Partner Conferences in 2016

The following partner conferences have been approved and will take place this year:

South Africa (organized by SAGE Net): 13.04.-16.04.2016

Berlin/Germany (organized by ICJA, for partners from the South): 09.05.-14.05.2016

Bolivia (organized by German Red Cross - Volunta): at some point in the first two weeks of October 2016

Cambodia (organized by Vereinigung Junger Freiwilliger): at some point in the last two weeks of October 2016

Ghana (organized by German Red Cross Soziale Freiwilligendienste): 12.12.-16.12.2016