AGYI Monthly News-bite 

To improve communication across the sector, the AGYI will be producing a brief monthly news-bite to inform, share and highlight developments, challenges and successes in exchange. All stakeholders are invited to submit content to us before 22nd of each month should they wish to have it included in the news-bite. Keep it brief if possible and provide on-line links should there be a need for readers to access further details. We will, at times, call on stakeholders to submit specific content for sharing, but ultimately this is a platform that can be enjoyed and utilized by all who engage in exchange.

“Innovating for the Growth of Quality Exchanges”

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP 22 – 24 January 2018
Johannesburg- Southern Sun OR Tambo
Thank you to all who participated in the second AGYI workshop, titled Innovating for the Growth of Quality Exchanges. Diverse experience, international representation and new entrants to the exchange sector made for a stimulating and powerful learning journey.

ALUMNI NETWORK – Workshop & Launch

Preceding the stakeholder workshop, 20 alumni met to pioneer the development and launch of a Southern African Alumni Network. The workshop was conceptualized, planned and facilitated by a voluntary working group of south north alumni and supported by an African Union intern, Walusungu Ngulube, on the WESSA AGYI project team.

While the initial focus of the workshop is African German exchange alumni, the network envisages becoming something larger than this into the future. The working group has set database targets for April and the website is a work in progress along with the finalization of governance and structures.

A detailed workshop report and alumni network update will be provided in the May AGYI News-bite.

The Network was launched at a lively and appropriately themed dinner event on the first day of the stakeholder workshop - Contemporary African – and delegates were treated to great entertainment and a very informative evening.

See photos over page.

“Young people are disengaged because of a sense of powerlessness and irrelevance as opposed to apathy or disinterest. Overcoming these requires access to opportunities for participation as individuals, as well as a generation. Young people’s sense of efficacy increases when they are connected to issues that matter, and key civic actors and institutions are encouraged to see young people as valuable resources.”

(South African National Youth Commission)
**Monthly News-bite**

**AGYI South Africa** - key activities and dates for stakeholders and roleplayers

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**Quality Guidelines**

- Guideline working group meet
- Guideline Draft V2 circulated for comment
- Guideline re-drafting
- Guideline final draft approved
- Guideline circulated to sector

**Impact Study Report (Pan African)**

- Publication of Impact Study Report (Pan African)
- All SA Stakeholders Implementing Orgs Project Partners

**Stakeholder engagement workshops**

- Site visits and stakeholder workshops in JHB & CT
- Host & Sending organisation Government

**Project team**

- German Study Tour (AGYI 2)
- Partner Meeting (Germany)
- Project Steering Committee Meeting
- Thematic Workshop - Germany (AGYI 3)

**Alumni making the case at the launch**

*Click to read*

WE SSA is the Implementing Organisation for the Africa German Youth Initiative in South Africa

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**Featured Program**

ENSA is the development policy school exchange program run by Engagement Global on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

- We are experts in promoting partnerships between schools from Germany and countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and South-East Europe.
- We provide financial support for school partnerships by way of grants to help cover flight costs and accommodation expenses. We also use all our expertise to assist schools with regard to the specialist preparation and follow-up of preparatory visits, helping them to establish networks with non-governmental organisations (NGOs).
- We provide support for school partnerships which can be shaped by all participants as equals.

The ENSA-Program has two supporting programs:

**Preparatory Visits**: Schools from Germany who wish to establish a partnership with other schools from a country in Africa, Asia, Latin America or South-East Europe are entitled to apply for ENSA support for their preparatory visits. We provide specialist support to the schools on content, along with financial support for the partnership itself.

**Learning exchange visits**: Our learning exchange visits are designed for schools that already have an established partnership with a school in an African, Asian, South American or South-East European country. Visits are aimed at deepening the collaboration between partner schools and create space to tackle discrimination and jointly deal with specific issues.

Within the framework of the African-German Youth Initiative, the ENSA Program financed 240 participants from African countries within its exchange projects in 2016.

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**STORIES OF CHANGE**

**Grant Bellairs** - exchange student

ASA North-South Program

April – June 2014

Our project was to do a comparative analysis of youth unemployment between the city of Aachen and the city of Cape Town.

Being an exchange student changed me, definitely!

My time abroad made me more aware of global issues and about the difficulties people in other countries face. I had always thought that as a first world country Germany did not experience the same issues as we did, I was proven wrong. We face very similar social ills such as unemployment and issues with refugees. Meeting young people from Germany widened my very narrow view of the world and opened my eyes to new possibilities for South African youth.

I grew in my time there – Not only learning independence but also responsibility. Having to navigate an unfamiliar world with very different systems, made me able to adapt quickly and learn my way around these new environments. It stimulated within me a desire to know more about other cultures and visit other places.

I am grateful for my time abroad, it has helped me a lot.