
Approximately 60 participants - youth, exchange alumni, exchange and education practitioners and experts - from the diverse landscape of youth exchange, youth development, education for sustainable development (ESD) and global learning were in attendance.

An enthusiastic opening and welcome by Nontobeko Sibisi, WESSA Board Member – Youth, set the scene for an engaging and lively forum. Ms Ulrike Mann, head of the AGYI at Engagement Global shared the key note with Dr Jim Taylor to effectively situate the theme of the forum for the participants. Agenda 2063, presented by Ademola Adesina of the African Union Commission, HRST Department, and the SDGs, led by Dr Jim Taylor, grounded these key thematic drivers into practical, every day, attainable realities. Excellent presentations on research into ESD, living the SDGs, best practice teaching and learning, alumni experiences and the sharing of organisational wisdoms together with focussed breakaway sessions and networking opportunities led to a highly informative and wonderfully productive three days.

To ensure the forum was not just a talk shop, the final day was consolidated by Donavan Fullard, WESSA GM Schools & Youth, together with Dr Sascha Muller of Bridge-it! from Germany, who lead an open tables session to enable the forging of specific new partnerships for youth exchanges, youth development, driving the ESD agenda and enhancing global learning in the work we do. Of importance here, was the realisation that ESD, the SDGs, Agenda 2063 and global learning are not unattainable concepts, but rather everyday frameworks, goals and targets we can all be aiming for, and contributing towards in our work with youth.

REPORT, PRESENTATIONS & PHOTOS to be available on the AGYI Archive with the September 2018 News-bite
Guideline for Good Practice and Responsible Volunteering and Exchange

This manual has been developed with funding support from GIZ as part of the African German Youth Initiative (AGI) service offer with sector inputs consolidated by a working group of experts in the field of cultural & knowledge exchange and youth mobility.

The purpose of the manual is to provide useful information and guidance for exchange practitioners, stakeholders and roleplayers to improve the quality of youth exchange and lead to responsible growth in the sector. It is recognized that exchange is a broad and diverse sector and it is unlikely that one Guideline will cover every aspect of every type of exchange.

The Guideline will provide useful insights into key considerations for most forms of exchange as it looks at operational, logistical and legislative aspects for the sector. Some aspects may be more relevant to certain exchanges than others, legislation is with reference to South Africa and SADC partners should cross-reference their laws for applicability and some sections may speak strongly to your operational needs and interests while others may not. Click on the image left to view and download the Guideline.

ELIGIBILITY:
Alumni and active African host and sending partners of African-German youth exchange and voluntary service programs based in South Africa, Benin and Tanzania can submit proposals as an organisation/network or in groups (min. 3 individuals). Alumni of other programs are not excluded as long as at least two individuals of their group represent the African-German programs.

SUBMISSION DATE: 15 September 2018
CONTACT: walusungu.ngulube@wessa.co.za for application form.

TOPTAL SCHOLARSHIPS for women:
Empowering Future Female Leaders to Change the World – CLICK HERE

5 Cities Tour
Western Cape and Gauteng Workshop Reports

Click here

Content contributions – email youth@wessa.co.za before the 22nd of the month for any content you wish to be considered for the News-bite
Ronja has been placed as a volunteer support to the teacher at Acacia Tree Nursery School for the past year on the weltwaerts programme. Her responsibilities include taking care of the children at the school and planning and doing activities which can be organised or informal play activities.

Ronja’s placement was a bit of a surprise and she says she did not feel well prepared for the position she took. In some ways she did not mind this as she was open to the experience and had few expectations. She wanted to be in the moment and take what it offered without stressing about what it should or shouldn’t be like.

A pre-departure seminar for 10 days looked at the broader experience and not the specific placement with the roles and responsibilities she would be expected to perform. None the less, she feels this approach worked out quite well for her.

Being new to the country is really exciting as everything is new and different.

This month Walusungu Ngulube – AU Volunteer hosted by WESSA on the AGYI – caught up with Ronja Schuster, a German Weltwaerts Volunteer placed in a Waldorf Pre-School in the Eastern Cape and got her views on her year.

She notes that it was hard to communicate with the children in the beginning because they didn’t speak English so well and she didn’t speak isiXhosa. But over the course of the year, the kids learned more English and she got to know the most necessary words in isiXhosa.

Once the newness had worn off and she was more used to her life in South Africa and at the school, she began to miss home a lot. Part of this was to do with the quiet environment of her placement and that it was difficult to move around easily without transport which meant that initially meeting people her own age was a challenge. To stay positive, she focused on trying to do more local activities and made an effort to make new friends in the area.

She notes that her highlights include time with the children when they are happy and smiling at her, the times that friends and family came to visit her and travelling in South Africa.

Her most important lessons learnt is that we must always care about little things in our life. It’s easy to get upset or sad about little things and that is not worth it. I learned to just live right here and right now.

“Now, as it comes to an end I realize how much I’m going to miss them all and how much this year changed me - I think in a good way.”

Members of the Southern African Alumni Network met with other alumni at the Thematic Forum in Johannesburg. The “Core Team” are planning a capacity building workshop and strategic planning meeting for the end of September.

The network has generated tremendous interest and the alumni have continued to impress stakeholders with their focus, enthusiasm and sense of purpose as key contributors to more meaningful and relevant exchange experiences.

Content contributions – email youth@wessa.co.za before the 22nd of the month for any content you wish to be considered for the News-bite
X-factored youth - based in rural iNanda, 30km north of Durban but with a KZN & Swaziland footprint (registered as Life Lessons Development Institute – LLDI)

**X-Factored 101** is a personal leadership and self-development program which we facilitate as workshops. We have compiled the program into a self-published book in which we deal with various discussion topics that we consider foundational in establishing a life of contribution and purpose. Discussion topics include:

- a) Who Am I? a module on positive self-concept,
- b) What is my role? As a person, as a member of my family and as a member of my community.

In **X-Factored Enterprises** we inspire youth entrepreneurship to mitigate the scourge of unemployment. In this program we secure skills fund grants to offer Skills Programs that youth can readily use and establish business enterprises e.g. cooking, event organizing, garden maintenance, fitness instruction and tour guiding. We also support market access opportunities for youth enterprises through exhibitions at events and conferences, arranging market days and merchandizing the goods of our member enterprises at accommodation establishments and eateries.

**X-Factored Art** is aimed at encouraging youth to participate in different forms of art and cultural activities and use these as vehicles to economic participation. To provide performing and showcasing opportunities, we host events and promote emerging artists as entertainers at private and public events.

**X-Factored Forums** are dialogues, colloquiums, presentations and lectures aimed at activating youth to engage with social issues thereby get a better understanding of current social policy whilst influence future policy.

We strongly believe in varying the experiences of our youth and to this end, we facilitate engagements and shared experiences between youth and visiting guests and volunteers from different parts of the world as well as initiate travel opportunities for youth in the communities where we operate.

Being an initiative hosted at a small accommodation establishment (Ezweni Lodge), LLDI has been an excellent illustration of the contribution a small enterprise can make as a catalyst for community development.

We are excited to be part of the AGYI community and look forward to meeting with, learning from and partnering with other organizations in the pursuit of youth our communities.

[Email: fs@futhisibiya.co.za]

[Phone: +27 31 518 2002]

**X-Factored**