



HORIZONTE VERBINDEN.  
CONNECTER LES HORIZONS.  
CONNECTING HORIZONS.



Issue 13: March 2019

**"And to those who are sending young adults to places all around the world: I know it is frustrating to organize the exchange and it is a lot of work and sometimes as young adults we really don't cooperate well or not at all but keep doing it. You are changing lives one volunteer at the time and by that changing communities and eventually countries for the better."**

Victoria "Kokie" Boshoga  
Alumni Voice March 2019  
See over page

### INSIDE



### Take a LOOK

## 'S YOUTH VOICE - POWERFUL & WISE -

Over the months of February and March, WESSA was privileged to engage with a number of exchange alumni through various AGYI related calls for participation to different projects - and the **WOW moments** were both frequent and humbling! News-bite thought it would share some of these inspirations .....

### ON the SDGs .....

"Although we are people living in different parts of the world, we need to realise that we are part of a global community that seeks to better the living circumstances of all- a quality of life that will not compromise the lives of the future generation."

"... set of objectives intended to remove the world from its persisting and stubborn obstacles which deprive it from a healthy growth, peace, equality etc to a foreseeable better and a more problem free world."

"We need to develop and entrench a very different kind of mindset and culture to what is the norm. and with a global workforce that is mainly over 25, implementing this kind of culture will be very difficult because it needs time to develop. It needs a younger generation to be taught to be out of the box thinkers and doers."

### Youth as agents of change .....

"Not only have their [youth] voices been heard, but the demonstrations changed the discourse, shaping what the media reported, paying attention on these views."

"..... youth voice will see our generation take on these challenges and bring innovation and new trains of thought to addressing these social ills and not only solve it but continue to develop a means to carry on the sustainability and improvement of these solutions. Instead of generalising a blanket solution, rather come up with unique, specialised and indigenous solutions to specific problems in specific contexts."



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Join the Southern African Alumni NETWORK ..... [southernafricanalumninetwork@gmail.com](mailto:southernafricanalumninetwork@gmail.com)

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"Gender equality is a fundamental human right. We protested in eight out of nine South African provinces. We handed a memorandum of demands to our respective mayors and Cyril Ramaphosa, South Africa's president was there to receive our memorandum of demands at the Union Buildings."

"The greatest challenge for youth is the freedom of expression, being censored and also not being given the necessary support and that is why you do not find them in parliament, in boardrooms and important decision-making places."

### On Agenda 2063 .....

"The current generation is unmarred by the political and social injustices of the past which makes us uniquely qualified to push forward the values and targets set out in Agenda 2063. With youth being the drivers of social change and with technology enabling them to create a continental culture and environment for change."

"..... speaks to patriotism! It wants change to be driven by Africans, for Africans, so this is a framework which is set to give birth to a generation of African leaders who are initiators of change."

Manelisi Billy (left of photo), exchange alumni and social change activist, attended the AU Digital Management Systems Workshop in Addis.

See p4 for report



alumni


  
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**Victoria “Kokie” Boshoga** 30 years of age, but forever 26

**Living** in “crazy” Pretoria

**Event coordinator** @ Tshwane Leadership Foundation (TLF)

**Exchange Program** - Europawärts

**Aspiration** – “Owner of my own events company”

**Hobbies** - hiking (also known as getting lost), reading and travelling (getting lost on a national level)

This amazing opportunity for 6 youth arose out of the partnership between TLF and another cryptic abbreviation organization GIZ (aka Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), together with LoveLife and AidsHilfe.

We were placed in different schools during the day to assist in English language training and they were also sent to conferences to exchange experiences of Aids and how it is afflicting the two countries. I also spent time at Beach and Camp E.V., a (surprise) beach camp at a village around Dresden. There I helped organizing volleyball matches and worked in the Kiosk (a sort of tuck shop but with beer, Bratwurst and Bockwurst, NO sweets...Germans, hey).

**It is very important to note that I still work as an event coordinator, so I can say that I found my professional passion during this time.** I also put my theoretical knowledge in International Communications, of how to engage people from various backgrounds into practical use – and believe it or not – it got better. **Due to my experience of going to Germany with this program, I can now relate better to people coming from Germany to volunteer in our organization and I can prepare our new volunteers who are going to Germany in a better and more honest way.**

When I came back from my time in Germany and the opportunity arose for other people from South Africa to go to Germany, I immediately put my heart and soul into the organizing of the program so more people could experience what I had the pleasure of experiencing (like the rain, the cold and the Döner- google it people) and learning the language, the culture and some punctuality.

And finally, some words of encouragement. When I was selected, **I did feel fear and anxiety regarding almost everything that was awaiting me in this country 10.000 Kilometres away:** Would I get along with the German people?



Would I be able to do the job I was sent there to do? Would I find people I connect with? Would I miss home too much? Would I be able to live with about 3 hours of sun per day (sometimes none)?

There were a lot of questions on my mind and the answers were all in that far away country. But I did find the answers there. Yes, I did get along with the German people. Yes, I was not only able to do my job, but I did it well. Yes, I found great people I connected over common interests (and the occasional Radeberger beer) with. I did miss South Africa, but I was never homesick. And yes, 3 hours of sun is doable.

But I found more than answers to my questions. **I found independence, I found the ability to make things happen for myself and I learned how to do things without the help of others – an ability which helps me until this day and will help me for the rest of my life.**

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ALUMNI VOICE CONTINUED

*I learned a lot about myself, what I like and what I don't like. I grew a lot during that time as a person and whenever I encounter a difficult situation I can go back to that time to seek counsel.*

With all of that said, to all of you who are thinking of engaging with an exchange program: Just do it! And when you do it, put everything you have in it. Do it with all your heart, because an opportunity like that *only comes once in a lifetime and it could be the one thing that sets your soul alive and illuminates the path for the rest of your life.*

# UPDATES

## wwBegegnungen – EXTRA CURRICULAR EXCHANGE

For background on wwB and the partner building initiative see News-bites 11 & 12.

10 organisations have submitted Partner Building Profiles to the AGYI expressing interest in the new wwB format of group exchange in the sports, arts and cultural fields.

To facilitate matching, interested organisations will be invited to matching conferences in Germany over the course of 2019 with a further local matching event to be hosted in South Africa towards the end of the calendar year.

WESSA will engage directly with the interested organisations. If you are interested in being part of this exciting growth initiative, please click on "[partner building](#)" above to access the profile document and send to [youth@wessa.co.za](mailto:youth@wessa.co.za).

## Countdown 2030 & beyond

5 South African and 1 SADC alumni have been selected as the Southern African CD2030 Youth Planning Team for the event in Germany in December 2019.

The team will collaborate with youth teams from Benin and Germany to conceptualise, plan and implement the international youth conference themed "our common future".

3 members of the team will participate in the AU Youth Symposium in April and all members will undergo a year long programme of training and receive support through the AGYI to facilitate this living and learning journey.

## INNOVATION FUND Facilitator Training Southern African Alumni Network

11 – 15 March saw 12 alumni from the Southern African Alumni Network (SAAN) undergo SETA accredited training as facilitators with Intellect Management & Training Consultancy in Johannesburg.

SAAN were successful applicants to the AGYI Innovation Fund call for small projects. The "SAAN Core Team" developed the successful proposal, put out a call for alumni participation and oversaw all logistical and operational aspects to bring about the successful training of the members.

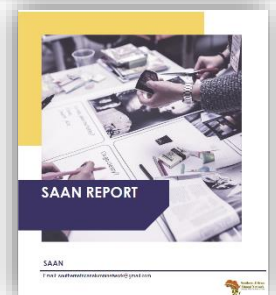
The trainees have agreed to hold training sessions in their provinces with interested SAAN members so as to ensure they are skills multipliers across the network.



Alumni Trainees in JHB



Click for past News-bites



Full report click here

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“Special Days” April 2019

- 2 International Day for Mine Awareness **SDG 16**
- 7 World Health Day **SDG 3**
- 20 – 26 World Day of Actions **SDG choice**
- 22 International Earth Day **SDG 15**
- 22 International Mother Day **SDG 5**
- 25 Malaria Day **SDG 13**
- 27 Freedom Day **SDG 16**



April is  
**CLIMATE  
MONTH**



IMAGE sourced <https://faa.appstate.edu/news/appalachian-hosts-climate-justice-month-april>

Plan special days and SDG activities into your monthly activities and actions



What are you doing as an individual or an organisation that talks to Agenda 2063 & the SDGs? Please share this with us as we are looking to include “your realities, stories and change-choice practices” in our book *Engaging with the SDGs and Agenda 2063 in the Exchange and Volunteering Sector* so that others can learn from them.  
Please contact [youth@wessa.co.za](mailto:youth@wessa.co.za) and be a part of a learning and sharing community of practice

“CHAT between the Worlds” promotes **VIRTUAL EXCHANGE** between schools, student groups, youth clubs and youth associations. CHAT brings with it support, experience and useful resources to allow you to optimise the exchange.

For more, click here



**Digital Volunteer Management Systems (DVMS) – Addis Workshop**

Manelisi Billy, alumni & activist, attended the AU workshop on DVMS. The purpose behind the DVMS is to have a coordinated, relevant and integrated digital system that will enhance work related to the volunteering sector across the continent.

The DVMS will talk to the needs and challenges of key stakeholders in the sector.

**SKILLS in EXCHANGE** has been topical throughout the AGYI to date. The African Union has taken a lead on this and a working group, within the framework of the AGYI, meets regularly to drive this important topic forward.

GIZ commissioned a research into skills and exchange and this will be shared in News-bite 14 next month.

The working group is reviewing and exploring exchange formats as well as other skills development formats across public and private sectors.



DVMS Innovators in Addis

**The International Song Contest “Dein Song für EINE WELT!”** (Your song for ONE WORLD) has been launched for the third time!

**Worldwide** youth between 10 and 25 years of age can respond musically to issues relating to our ONE WORLD and global development and submit their self-written and self-composed songs.

At [www.eineweltsong.de](http://www.eineweltsong.de) you can find full information about the Song Contest, as well as all key information on [terms of participation](#), [prizes](#), [tips for songwriting](#) and other [impressions](#) from the previous rounds.

Further info [To info sheet in English](#)

The deadline for submissions is 25 June 2019.

If you would like to receive the international AGYI Quarterly Newsletter, please register here

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