

WELCOME TO ISSUE 9

AGYI PHASE 1

THE JOURNEY TO DATE

The month of October provided an opportunity to reflect on the first phase of the AGYI, an 18-month period from March 2017 to September 2018. The second phase of the pilot will end September 2020.

Like all projects or initiatives, it is a journey of discovery, sharing of knowledge and a constant reflection to appreciate where one can strengthen their work.

Our point of reference is our **THEORY OF CHANGE**

“The overall desired effect/impact of the AGYI for WESSA, in the context of the issues and opportunities available for South African youth to bridge the gap between learning and the workshopce. If the AGYI contributed in some way to bridging this gap then WESSA will view the initiative as having had impact.

WESSA believe that there are two “arms of action” that will potentially lead to bridging this gap. These are:

First arm of action is developing key and long-lasting partnerships. This, WESSA believes, can be achieved by enduring a cohesive and collaborative exchange landscape which has multiple scales or layers. This specifically includes paying attention to developing more government support and involvement as well as Pan-African involvement. Another core mechanism for ensuring key and long-lasting partnerships is to ensure that there is a well-supported Alumni network. A core mechanism for ensuring a well-supported Alumni network is to support alumni change projects that are responding to environment and/or sustainable development.

The second arm of action is building the capacity of stakeholders. Key to enabling this is to work with the funding power dynamics and the project steering committee (PSC) and broadening communication and opportunities. A core mechanism for enhancing capacity development is innovating with existing and/or new exchange formats that are relevant, inclusive and expansive. As part of building capacity, effective tools, training materials, data-collection, data management and data representation software must be developed.”

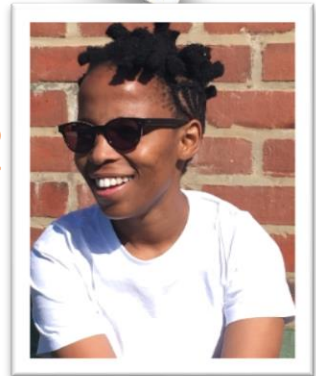
To date we have concentrated on improving the quality of exchanges – to make them more meaningful, relevant and enabling; building the capacity of stakeholders – to enrich the exchange experience; providing opportunities for building new, or strengthening existing partnerships and relationships of cooperation and enhancing the profile of exchange and volunteering at the local and continental levels.

Phase 2 provides the AGYI with an exciting plan to respond strongly to the African Call – skills and employability. While it is acknowledged that exchange and volunteering in the existing formats do contribute substantially to skills and employability, as well as global learning and education for sustainable development, the call is to identify and drive specific hard skills for the growth and development of African youth.

Continued next page



Alumni VOICE – page 3



SPECIAL DAYS
NOVEMBER
Page 4



INNOVATION FUND

African Union

CONGRATUALIONS - Southern African Alumni Network and Masifunde Learner Development (NPO) awarded Innovation Fund.

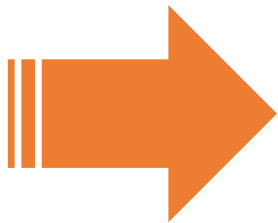
The Innovation Fund has been set up within the framework of the AGYI to enable alumni, civil society actors in the exchange landscape and exchange networks to access funding that will bring tangible benefits through capacity development and change-action-projects.

In the absence of a Tanzanian submission, two proposals from SA were awarded funding. Further calls will be advertised.





Project Approach



Activities – Actions – Interventions

Resources & Profiling

On-line Geo-spatial Mapping and Databasing Platform
Southern African Alumni Network

Information and awareness profiling monthly

Guidelines for Good Practice and Responsible Exchange & Volunteering

Local & Continental

Hosting of AUYVC volunteer 12 months
African Union Continental Linkages Platform and Policy workshop
National Youth Development Coordinating forum
Innovation Fund Working Group

Study Tours

Study Tour 1 – Capacity development of implementing organisations

Study Tour 2 – Connecting Horizons

M&E Frameworks for AGYI Workshops

Forums

Partnerships for youth exchange and global learning in the context of education for sustainable development
- 57 Participants

Capacity Development & Information Workshops

Workshop 1 – AGYI activates in South Africa

- 45 Participants

Workshop 2 – Innovating for the Growth of Quality Exchange

- 72 Participants

Workshop 3 – Strengthening the South African Weltwaerts Landscape Southern & Western Cape

- 25 Participants

Workshop 4 – Strengthening the South African Weltwaerts Landscape Gauteng

- 32 Participants

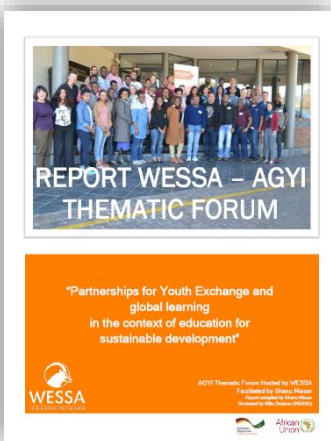
Two Alumni Network Workshops

- 27 participants (total)

Site Visits & Interviews

15 visits to partner organisations & placement agencies

One to one stakeholder meetings



Thank you to Shanu Misser – Facilitator at the **AGYI Thematic Forum** which was held in Johannesburg in August 2018 – for the excellent capture of the three-day forum. The report has been uploaded to the **AGYI Dropbox folder** and can be viewed together with the transcript which was captured by Jamil Khan. Click on the forum report (left) to read or [click here](#) to access to all previously uploaded materials for sharing that have been produced.



HORIZONTE VERBINDEN.
CONNECTER LES HORIZONS.
CONNECTING HORIZONS.

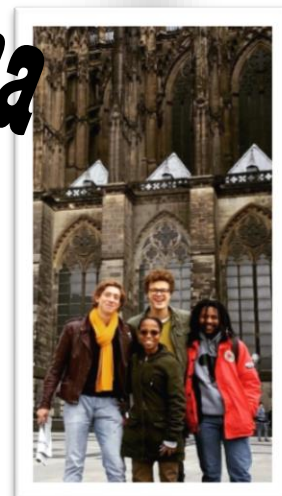
ALUMNI VOICE . . .

Lebogang Mokoena

Programme: South-North component with Weltwaerts
(September 2016- August 2017)

After completing my yearlong voluntary service in Berlin Germany, I have taken with me an understanding of an educational philosophy of Rudolf Steiner which Waldorf kindergartens or schools apply, using a theory on how knowledge and skills are exchanged in an educational context. Waldorf kindergartens, I have learned, instead of focusing mainly on theoretical education and learning remote from real life teaches rather learners to learn from life, through doing and making.

With this exposure, volunteering has expanded my comprehensive lens in which I see the world. It has shaped how I perceive and understand my own identity and those of people I interacted with, issues that affect us in our immediate surroundings, relations of people and institutions, for instance. Voluntary work helped me gain a global perspective.



To a larger extent, the opportunity enabled me to inquire and to explore issues regarding our role (s) and responsibilities in communities as individuals and or groups within our communities. Although I have extensive experience in volunteering for local non-organisational organisations that are children or education oriented, this had a huge impact in shaping my understanding of my community and societal issues. My voluntary services stimulated my probing, going beyond just traditional subject boundaries.

Gaining a global perspective can and has developed transferable skills in the work I do now as a freelance journalist. For instance, I have become very much interested in writing about different issues that I can relate to and at times have experienced first-hand or rather have become fond of either in South Africa or while abroad. I aim to write more on issues that affect people in national environments, as well as those emanating from social structures affecting people at a global level. Some of the themes I am interested in writing about now are on issues of immigration, inequality, and volunteering itself, for example.

Through this experience, I am inspired to make a positive impact where I am through engaging with community-based institutions. And, I do encourage young people across South Africa, Africa and across different places around the globe to start volunteering where they are. Start making a difference and be the light where you are. There is always work that can be done to serve and impact our communities positively through engaging with our local organisations.



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Southern African Alumni Network
Changing Africa one person at a time

Facebook: Southern African Alumni Network
Twitter: @SAAANetwork
Email: southernafricanalumniwork@gmail.com
Website: <http://southernafricanalumniwork.com/website>





AFRICAN GERMAN
YOUTH
INITIATIVE

Assisting you to bring guiding frameworks into your planning & work by aligning to the SDGs through special days, themes and events.

Use these special days to **enrich your volunteer and exchange experiences** and bring the SDGs and other special days into your everyday practices.

2018 NOVEMBER						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 4 World Science Day for Peace and Development
11	12	13	14 World Diabetes Day	15	16	17
AGYI – Steering and Partners Meeting (Benin)						
18	19 World Toilet Day	20 3 Universal Children’s Day	21 14 World Fisheries Day	22	23 12 Buy Nothing Day	24 Birding Big Day
25 5 Int. Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	26	27	28	29	30	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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WESSA would like to thank all stakeholders who have engaged energetically and with a spirit of enthusiasm and optimism to drive the exchange and volunteering sector forward.

While we have enjoyed many successes and developments through this period, the initiative has not been without its challenges. Stakeholders are invited to work closely with WESSA to drive the youth development agenda and we welcome your input, insights and experience to ensure the AGYI remains a relevant and meaningful intervention for the growth of exchange and volunteering at the local, regional, continental and global levels.

