

6th Edition: June 2014

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News and Events

1. Fresh breeze: Six new Zugvögel volunteers are flying in August to Germany!
2. On the Search: We are still looking for host families, who want to give the new volunteers to a second home – more can be found under the section “wanted”.
3. Moving ahead: a successful General Meeting on the Castle Lohra was held.
4. Easy & costless: The Zugvögel can still be supported while online purchasing, without any additional costs in many online shops:
<https://www.boostproject.com/de/charities/380>.

The volunteers

The excitement is growing as in two Months **six new Zugvögel** will arrive in the country! Two of the Volunteers come from Ecuador: **Andrea** Villacis will do her volunteer service in a forest-kindergarten in Freiburg and **Paola** Solis will be working in the Iwalewa House in Bayreuth. From Rwanda we expect three volunteers this time: Uwabeza **Diane** starts in August in the elementary school “Berg Fidel” in Munich, Muhizi **Richard** is for one year in the diaconia in Mannheim and Ndagijimana **Ernest** will work in the “Theater of the young world” in Leipzig. The Group is completed by **Sudarshan** Bhatarai from Nepal, who will be doing his voluntary service in the “Workers' Welfare Association” in Dresden. The Volunteers have already partly started German classes and are

preparing for their departure in August.

Meanwhile the responsible persons from the **coordination of the volunteer program** take care of the negotiation of the contracts and the booking of flights and also play a valuable role in the process of visa application procedures.

Certainly the **unusual imbalance** will be noticed with regard to the **sending countries**: as there are three volunteers from Rwanda, "only" one of the volunteer from Nepal is arriving. Although there have originally been selected two volunteers from our partner organization BEYOND Nepal, in the preparation phase there have been some complications, which ultimately led the Volunteers to the decision not take part as a Zugvögel-volunteer this year. BEYOND considered the time to prepare another person as too short and therefore decided to send in this voluntary cycle only Sudarshan. For several reasons, the decision to offer the so-vacated position to another volunteer was taken. Since our Rwandan partner organization Akanyoni Kaguruka had initially selected three in their eyes, suitable volunteers, taking the third volunteer from Rwanda appeared to be the best option.

The other Zugvögel, who returned already to their home country are chirping currently in the media. So ZDF (second German television) showed in their show called "people - the magazine" a **brief report on Shaban** and his volunteer service.

The episode can still watched under following link: bit.ly/1ni3fN9.

Mauro, Zugvögel-Volunteer of the first Generation, has written an **article about his experiences in Germany** and his (new) view on his home country Ecuador in an issue of "globalista", which is worth reading. Here a small excerpt:

"In Germany, I could experience a problem that exists to this date, as I was always harassed with questions and ideas such as: Is there Internet in Ecuador? Or: Are there computers in Ecuador? Or that we are poor because we do not have the amount of wastefulness and rubbish as in they have in Europe. Further: Mauro, what have you learned in Germany, that you take to Ecuador to help the poor people? I answered, I have learned that my country is beautiful and the people friendly and cheerful. We have Problems, like all other countries as well - and above all I have learned in Germany to appreciate my country " The entire text can be found at: bit.ly/1nMVT5W.

Marthe, volunteer from the third Zugvögel-generation, is currently involved in an exciting project: at her work place, the Youth Museum in Berlin-Schöneberg, she has designed an own room within the scope of the project "**Villa Global**". Marthe says that she wants to show the visitors something about her home country Rwanda with her room. An article about the exhibition was published by the Tagesspiegel: bit.ly/1ni4ETJ.

More information on the project itself can be found at bit.ly/1qoFGXL.

News from the association

At the start of May the **spring reunion of all members** of the Zugvögel was held. Quite a lot of Zugvögel traveled to **Castle Lohra** in the forest of Thuringen from all over Germany.

In order to make our reunions more efficient we have aimed at preparing our meeting beforehand in the regional groups and on the internet. At the reunion itself we spent four days debating, dedicated time to exchanges about certain topics, took decisions concerning the structure of our association and developed a new concept for our future work. Central topics of these days were the inclusion of new partner countries into the volunteer program, our political positioning as well as a change in our self concept.

The isolated location of the castle was very helpful to our work as we could fully focus on our task. With all our heads working on high speed and all the controversial discussions we could not have survived without the necessary supply of energy - at this point we would like to thank the kitchen team for the splendid food they provided!

On the last evening we then had the chance to adequately celebrate our success in a raging feast.

In the frame work of the "Iddenforum" last year we had already worked out a new proposal for the **self concept** of our association. During the months following the forum we continued to work on it. In the general meeting we then finally came to voting on this new proposal. The new version is notably more political than the last and you can already have a look at it on our website.

As has already been made clear in the last edition of Zugvögel-News we want to **take clearer political stances** in the future and have a say in political matters - if only for that a modification of our self concept was essential for our future work.

To coordinate this new field of activities and to anchor it within the organizational structure of our association we have created a **new position in the orga-team**. Steffen Haag is going to take on that responsibility during the following year.

Furthermore, we have decided to reflect on our activities as an association in the context of racism. We will do that with the help of an organization that has experience in reflecting and evaluating processes with regard to racist structures. With that we hope to gain new insights on our own structure and activities and if necessary restructure them accordingly. To coordinate this we have created a new forum.



Activities of our Regional Groups

At the start of the new semester many Regional Groups took the opportunity to spread the idea of our association. With the result that many groups can now welcome **new members!**

At the moment the Regional Groups in Dortmund and Münster are occupied with preparing the **arrival seminar** for the 6 new volunteers who will arrive in August. The seminar will take place in Münster at the end of August. All the Regional Groups which will take on the **guidance of the volunteers** from Rwanda, Ecuador and Nepal are working full-time at the moment. Right now is the time to find a suitable host family, to intensify the contact with the project and to organize a language course so that everything works flawlessly once the volunteers arrive.

In some places the Regional Groups were partying quite a lot during the last months to raise money for our association. The Regional Groups in Berlin and Dresden organized **Soli-Partys** and **live concerts**, in Münster they danced with "Fly into the May" into one of the most beautiful months of the year

The Regional Group in Mannheim was at that time able to satisfy some hungry stomachs with selling culinary delicacies at their University.

An important project within the framework of our new political conception is a **campaign** with which we want to raise attention for the lack of transparency and the unfairness of the current **visa process**. The concrete reason for us starting this campaign was the denial of a visa to one of our Ugandan volunteers by the German embassy in Kampala. Sadly this denial was not a singular case and we see a pressing need to question the practice of granting and denying visa and to structure it in a fair way in the future. The responsible working group has already met several times. Further meetings, networking with other organizations and most of all putting into practice all their ideas are already in planning.

Already before the reunion of all members a group met in Nuremberg to work out a comprehensive **concept for the pedagogical guidance** of the volunteer service. Based on the evaluations of previous seminars they agreed on some essential topics for the respective seminars and worked on them contentwise as well. Proceeding like this they have established orientation documents for all types of seminars which are surely going to be a big help for planning in the future.

Already at the start of May the Regional Group in Mannheim organized a two days **training on the topic of post colonialism**. The commencing event was a presentation done by the association *glokal e.V.* with the title *Aspirin in a cruel world - postcolonial perspectives on development politics*. Following the presentation was a heated discussion between the audience and the presenters. The next day the whole topic was worked on in depth in the framework of a workshop with 15 participants.

In the months of summer the Zugvögel are represented in a lot of events all over the country: In Münster there was a **summer picnic** held on the 22nd of June including a soccer tournament with different local initiatives competing with each other. On the 28th of June there was the “**parade of the cultures**” in Frankfurt where we informed people about the work of our association.

Updates from our partner countries

Nepal

Our partner organisation *BEYOND Nepal* will send one volunteer to Germany in August, like described above.

The **preparations** for Sudarshans voluntary service are processing at the moment. We hope that he will get his visa soon.

Rwanda

Many things are happening at *Akanyoni Kaguruka* as well: Our partner organization in Rwanda is currently busy with preparing the three volunteers Diane, Ernest and Richard.

The preparation of the volunteers will especially take place in the form of two seminars. One of the two seminars was held already - with the satisfaction of all who were involved.

Walid and Shaban, the two returned migratory birds, will help to create the second **preparation seminar**. A **German language course** shall start soon, too. As soon as the preparation for the new volunteers will take less time, *Akanyoni* will run a post-briefing seminar for Walid and Shaban.

Ecuador

The selection of the volunteers in Ecuador has finished for some time as well - in the meantime Paola and Andrea are in the middle of the preparations for their voluntary service.

The **visa applications** are on the way and both of them started learning German already. So, *Aves de Paso* is providing lots of preparation work at the moment. They also suggested that the volunteers could contribute to the costs, which are occurring during the preparations. It seems to be important to them that the volunteers also contribute something financially, of course without bringing them into financial difficulties.

Wanted!

Become a host family!

Opening the doors for a young person from another country can be an enriching experience. From **August 2014** on we are looking for families in following cities who would like to accommodate a volunteer for one year: **Bayreuth, Dresden, Freiburg, Leipzig, Mannheim & Münster.**

If you are interested, please send a message to info@zugvoegel.org !

We are always **looking for exiting projects**, which are interested in a cooperation with our association and can imagine welcoming a volunteer. We are looking forward to your expressions of interest and

project recommendations to info@zugvoegel.org !

Masthead

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