

7th Edition: September 2014

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News & Events

1. Become a host family! We are still looking for a home for our volunteer Richard from Rwanda in Mannheim or the surrounding area. More information under the section “*Wanted!*”.

2. An article about Jennifer and her voluntary service in the Children’s School in Bremen was published by taz: <http://www.taz.de/!143168/>

3. The next general meeting of our association is coming: This time we will meet from the 20th-23rd of November on the Petershof in Erlbach.

4. If you do your shopping online, you can easily support Zugvögel without having to pay more. Instructions and cooperation partners (e.g. DaWanda, Bahn and Amazon) under <https://www.boostproject.com/de/charities/380>

The volunteers

Last month some of the volunteers finished their voluntary service with Zugvögel.

At the end of July the regional group in Leipzig therefore organized a **final seminar** with the two volunteers Marte and Nass from Rwanda.

In the inviting rooms of ArchitekTür **in the heart of Leipzig** the volunteers and Zugvögel had an exciting weekend.

Three days with a colorful program left **space for reflection**: From review to outlook, a critical view onto voluntary work and fabulous journeys.

Finally a picnic with the whole regional group took place.

For **Nass** however the reviewing seminar did not mark the end of his voluntary service.

Nass' project - the Sportjugend Rheinland-Pfalz - is very satisfied with his work and would like to keep him as a volunteer a bit longer.

In addition, Nass completed a car driving license during the last year, so that he can now drive alone with the "Playbus" (Spielmobil) from the Sportjugend to events, which is a great help for the project.

Since the **extension of the voluntary service** our association is no longer contract partner of Nass. But we will still be connected with him in friendship and wish him for the coming half year all the best!

While for some the voluntary service with Zugvögel is coming to an end, for others it is just starting:

Six young people from different corners of the world are in Germany since late August and recently arrived in their new home towns.

Unfortunately, the visa process again was partly strewn with obstacles.

This led to a delay of two days for two volunteers from Rwanda regarding the introductory seminar.

One more reason to continue with our campaign against the unfair award practice of visas.

More information under the section "*news from the association*".

As the **introductory seminar** was planned for a duration of one week, the late visa delivery forced us to

improvise, but we could still mount a successful seminar.

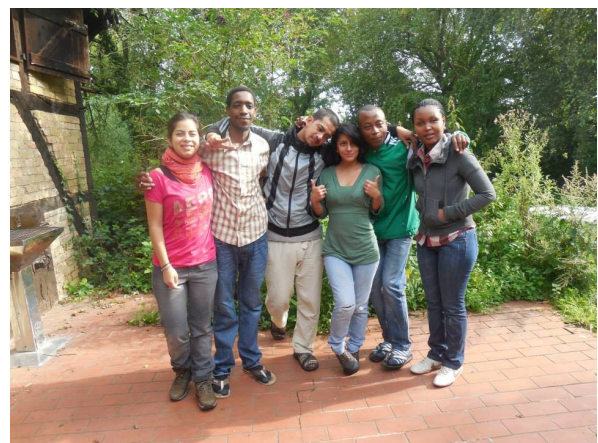
Sudarshan from Nepal, **Paola** and **Andrea** from Ecuador, as well as **Ernest, Diane** and **Richard** from Rwanda got to know the rural area of Germany during their first days: The seminar organized by the regional groups Ruhr area and Münster took place in the village Hembergen in Münsterland.

Volunteers, as well as team members found the atmosphere during the days spent together as friendly and open minded.

That provided a good foundation for the discussions on **intercultural perception**, expectations and fears regarding the coming year as well as for the one-day lasting **empowerment-workshop**.

Besides organizational tasks, it was enough time for an exciting simulation game on international relations.

The highlight for all involved was the city rally through Münster, in which tasks of the daily life had to be solved in a playful way.



Paola Solis from Ecuador reports about her first moments in Germany:

The adventure starts... My time in Germany already counts to the best experiences in my life.

There are many feelings during the arrival in a foreign part of the world.

But the best was to know that there are people waiting for you.

People that do not know you yet, but who still know your name and like to know you better.

I enjoyed the introductory seminar near Münster.

I have met good people, with whom I could talk, laugh and learn together and share wonderful moments.

The most important thing was that I never felt alone or sad.

It is incredible that different people can meet at one place!

We are six volunteers in this generation, everybody with his or her own history... Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe united at one place... sharing and enjoying life.

I am not just a single person, we are not just two volunteers from Ecuador, we are not just six volunteers - we are many human beings that are united through a feeling, without any borders.

In the meantime I arrived in Bayreuth, where I will do my voluntary service. I am enjoying every detail of it.

My regional group and my companions have welcomed me very nicely.

I would like to thank Zugvögel and Aves de Paso in Ecuador for this experience!

This year just started, but will surely hold many surprises for us.”)

News from the association

Already for a while the idea existed to create a concept **to prepare host families and project places** for their time together with the volunteers. In July a group of Zugvögel from all over the country came together in Berlin to develop a **workshop-concept**. After a busy weekend a foundation was created, which was finally reviewed by an external expert. The first regional groups have already done the workshop with members from the host family and representatives from the project place - and have drawn a positive conclusion.

We are happy to announce that the volunteer generation, which will arrive in Germany in autumn 2015, will be again supported by the Federal Government through the **weltwärts South-North-Program**. The government will **finance four volunteers**.

On the last general meeting in May we decided to start with a **new cooperation with another partner organization**. Inquiries from single people and organizations from Mexico, Tanzania, Malawi and Togo who would like to become a partner organization with Zugvögel are existing. A decision regarding that matter has to be done on the next general meeting in November.

In addition, we are currently assessing how we can improve our communication with existing partner organizations. In particular the involvement of organizations in decision-making processes that affect the volunteer program will be discussed.

The complications in the allocation of visas to the Rwandan volunteers of the new volunteer-generation have once again made clear how important it is that changes stuff on the practice of issuing visas.

Therefore it is good that our **campaign** is taking big steps forward. It has now the Name "**Visa wie?**" what means in English "Visa how?". It fights **for a fair and transparent Visa-issuance**: An open letter to the members of EU parliament is being prepared regarding the upcoming revision of the Visa politics, an photo-action and a video for the campaign and a petition is being prepared.

Also, people and organizations outside of the Zugvögel have already become aware of the

campaign and want to help us to achieve the goal of the campaign.



The actual start of the campaign is scheduled for the end of October - therefore in the next issue of Zugvögel News - there will be some many things about the campaign for sure.

Activities of our Regional Groups

The so called "summer hole" is not really big this year for the regional groups: The **search for host families** has regional groups in the respective cities in recent weeks kept busy. Furthermore the organization of the final seminar in Leipzig and the arrival seminar in Münsterland. And also **preparations** for the **next general meeting** in late November on the Peterhof in Odenwald Erlbach started: While the Karlsruhe regional group takes care of the organizational framework of the meeting, the Freiburg regional group is already working on the elaboration of the thematic issues for the meeting.

The Berlin Zugvögel said **farewell** to the volunteer Marthe after a common year. At her host families place a farewell celebration was organized. This was also used as an opportunity to thank her family for their hospitality.

The Bremen regional group was present in early July at the **International Summer Festival** at the University of Oldenburg. A world map in an unusual design led to discussions with the visitors and aroused interest for the Zugvögel.

It was also possible to test your geographical knowledge in a quiz about countries of the Global South.



Updates from our partner countries

The experience as volunteers began for the new generation long before their first day of work in the project. Our partner organizations in Nepal, Ecuador and Rwanda **selected the volunteers** and supported them in the **preparations for the upcoming year.**

The Nepalese partner structure BEYOND Nepal organized **German lessons** for the volunteers Sudarshan and prepared together

with him the necessary documents for the visa in the embassy.

Akanyoni kaguruka organized in Rwanda for the three volunteers Ernest, Diane and Richard two **preparatory weekends**: In the first the main part was discussion and reflection about the themes “complex reflection” and “communication in an intercultural context”.

Then on the second weekend the topics have been “global learning” and “racism”. The **participation of former volunteers** Walid and Shaban, who could offer some insight into experiences and changes during her year in Germany, was seen as enriching and helpful.

Also in Ecuador the focus of Aves de Paso was put on the preparation of Andrea and Paola. One seminar was held during several days in the north of the country. Here also two former volunteers joined: Gaby and Mauro from the first generation of volunteers shared their experiences they had during their voluntary service. **Dreams and expectations** for the coming year were discussed. Furthermore there was space for cooking and attending a ballet performance.

Wanted

To **become host family** for a Zugvögel volunteer can be a very special experience! Maybe also for you the inclusion of a Zugvögel in your nest can be a great addition? We are always looking for families

who have interest in hosting a volunteer while he/she is on duty.

Currently we are still looking for a host family in **Mannheim** (and surrounding) for **Richard from Rwanda**. Richard is a very open, fun and friendly person. He already speaks a little German and is highly motivated to expand his knowledge. He already since September 1 works in a project for disabled people of "Diakonie Mannheim / Neckarau" and is expected to be there working for the rest of the year. If you are interested, you can contact info@zugvoegel.org. On our website you can find more information www.zugvoegel.org become the host family. We would be delighted if you forward our current search to a friend and on relatives in the area Mannheim! Furthermore we are always **looking**

for exciting projects that are interested in cooperation with the Zugvögel and can imagine hosting a volunteer. We are happy for every expressions of interest and project recommendations to info@zugvoegel.org!

Imprint

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