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News & Events

1. Heated discussions, smoking heads and a lot of fun – we have completed another successful general meeting!
2. Now it is set in stone: In summer 2015 we are again going to welcome 6 volunteers from Ecuador, Raanda and Nepal to the voluntary service of the Zugvögel Program.
3. New volunteers also imply the search for new projects and new host families. More information on that and how you can support us in the section “Wanted”.
4. A series of decisions concerning the improvement of our volunteer program will result in rising costs during the next year. That is why we are all the more grateful for your support! More on that also under “Wanted”.

The volunteers

The new Zugvöfel Generation has now spent about 3 months in Germany. A lot has happened during that time: From the arrival seminar to starting life in the host family and starting to work in the projects up to two big events in November.

And all the while our volunteers show a lot of **presence in the media**. The *Sächsischen Zeitung* has recently published an article about our volunteer Sudarshan from Nepal (<http://bit.ly/1zcoQP6>). It mainly deals with his work in a Residence of the AWO Group in Dresden for disabled people and about his first winter in the icy cold of Germany. Diane from Rwanda stood before a camera for the first time last week when they were filming a sequence on her voluntary service for the *Lokalzeit*

Münsterland in the WDR. The sequence was shown on the 11th of December at 7:30 pm. After that you will be able to access the video during one week under the following link: <http://bit.ly/1CUVuZv>.

In November our volunteers had two great events to attend to. We were very happy that all of them accepted the invitation to our **general meeting** at the Petershof in the Odenwald in Hessen. The volunteers were able to gain new **insights** into our work there and were able to contribute considerably to our discussions. They also had the chance to meet many new Zugvögel members and got to see again some they already knew.

Immediately afterwards all our seven volunteers started a trip to Berlin. The *federal ministry for economic cooperation and development* had invited them to join their event **Zukunftstagen** ("days of the future") from 23rd until 25th of November. The central aim of the event was to tackle environmental issues and work on a charter for the future. The **charter** was then handed over to the chancellor of the Germany Angela Merkel. More information on the event and its results can be found here: <http://bit.ly/Rbfl6U>. Even though the organizational framework was a challenge to our volunteers they experienced the content of the workshops and the presentations as very interesting. In addition to that for most of them these days were their first – but certainly not last – trip to Berlin.

Jennifer from Uganda will return to her home country already before Christmas after a one year voluntary service at a *children's school* in Bremen. Jennifer has founded an **Initiative for the promotion of reading skills** called *Alanyo Project – Reading to succeed in school*. Further information and ways to support the project can be found here: www.rtsis.blogspot.de.

News from the association

For the second time this year, Zugvögel from all over Germany flew to attend the **General Meeting**. At the **Petershof** in the rural very idyllic Erbuch in the **Odenwald** the regional groups of Karlsruhe and Freiburg had organized the reunion.



In big and small groups there was a lot of **space for exchanges**, work on contents, **planning and discussions**. Central and exciting topics were for example the privatsphere of our volunteers, the inclusion of a new partner organization into our program as well as design of our visa campaign. (page 4). Apart from the intense work there was never a lack neither of a great atmosphere within our

group nor of magnificent food.

The people who, until then, assumed an important position in the **orga team** (executive committee) received **special attention and appreciation** at the general meeting: For the coordination of the volunteering programme Anna Meyer-Weitkamp and Lisa Ruppel did a remarkable job during the past one and a half years. Meanwhile, Lucian Kirschbaum was committed in administrating the finances. Lena Danner mastered a number of tasks as the association's responsible person for external communication during the past six months. Felix Kraus assumed the membership administration in the past year and also Steffen Haag received recognition for his work as the coordinator for the association's political work



special thanks to the orga team

Of course the vacant positions were meant to be newly assigned. A number of **new Zugvögel members** will bring **new momentum into the orga team**. Claudia Schmidt-Cotta and Joscha Lauer will resume the coordination of the volunteering programme.

Laura Kersting will be responsible for the internal communication for the next year. For external communication issues Jasmin Fetzner will be responsible in the future. Hauke Pflüger resumes the treasurer's position and Karl Enzo Kloß now holds the office for membership administration. We wish them all a lot of success and energy for coping with the various upcoming challenges!

Of course, the decisions made during the assembly were not limited on the distribution of positions. In terms of the **volunteering programme**, some **new provisions** have emerged:

Pocket money for volunteers as well as the budget for language courses will be raised starting with the coming generation of volunteers. Additionally, host families can get monthly financial support for accommodating a volunteer. Should there be another case during which a volunteer who has already been chosen by our partner structures gets denied his visa, he can count on (even) more support by our association. As an example, this can mean the allocation of financial means and legal consultation for a lawsuit against a denied visa.

The decision to cooperate with the **partner structure Ts'ununetik** from the Mexican federal state of Chiapas caused great anticipation. It is planned to welcome the first volunteers chosen and prepared by *Ts'ununetik* for their voluntary service in Germany **in 2016**.

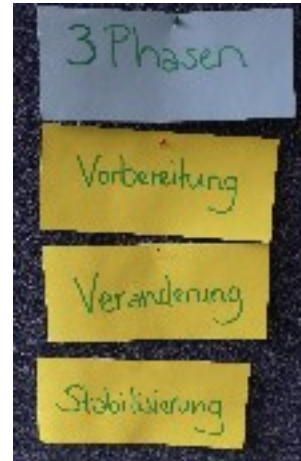
Our campaign “Visa wie? - Against discriminating visa processes!” continues to pick up pace: In the beginning of November, *Zugvögel* members met with cooperation partners from other organizations. A **common concept** was developed for the campaign. Furthermore, we received professional support by a lawyer specialized on this subject. Additionally, a part of the campaign team performed a workshop on the reviewing seminar of a north-south volunteering program. Thereby, dominant injustices in the visa process and possibilities to do something against them were discussed.

A great success and an encouragement means the **support of the campaign** by “Bewegungsstiftung” (<http://bit.ly/1G5m4gN>). Besides a generous financial support, we can build on ideational and process support by a foundation that brings in a lot of experience in campaigning work.

During the past general meeting in May, we decided to rethink our own activities with the help of an anti-racism **process support**. By doing this, we wish to be able to see the association's structures and actions from a new perspective and, if necessary, to recreate them in a new way.

Therefore, it was important to us that our association's activities and structures are being analyzed by external and independent persons. That is why we turned to **glokal**

e.V. from Berlin – an organization which has experience in the work of process support. The process support by *glokal* e.V. can be maintained for a time period of maximum two years.



Change as a three-phased process

A first workshop with *glokal* e.V. has already taken place in Berlin this September. We started the planning of the process support and took a **closer look at the association's structures**. Perhaps the most important result of this workshop is that the focus during the process support does not have to be on an anti-racism perspective only. In December, there will be another workshop with *glokal* e.V. This time, it will be decided where the focus should be. That way, in the process it can be reflected if we live up to our political profile and our self image or how we can achieve more effectiveness of our political work. We are looking forward to the results of the workshop and further process support by *glokal* e.V.

Activities of our regional groups

Not only at the General Assembly and in our working groups was there a lot of activity over the past months. The Regional Groups all over Germany never get bored. In a lot of places the **search for exciting projects** for our next generation of volunteers has begun. In August 2015 we expect another 6 volunteers. In order to assure that everything works smoothly we are trying to collect as many potential projects as possible until beginning of next year. So at this point we appeal to all reader: If you know a project or an institution that fits our purposes please contact us with your suggestions at info@zugvoegel.org.

In Münster at the middle of November they celebrated their traditional **solidarity party** at the Aasee. A band that the group is friends with took care of setting the scene and so soon it turned into a glittering party. Apart from that they also received a considerable amount of donations.

In a lot of Regional groups there will soon be Christmas celebrations with the volunteers and their respective host families. Such is the case for example in the Regional Group in Bayreuth, where there is a traditional **Christmas Dinner** with the volunteer Paola from Ecuador and her host family in planning - with baked apples, dumplings and Feuerzangenbowle (mulled wine

with a rum-soaked sugarloaf lit above it).

Updates from our partner countries

Nepal

BEYOND Nepal has now started the selection of the volunteers who will start their service in summer 2015.

In order to do that they have already started to publish adverts that call upon young people to send in their applications. Right after having selected the volunteers they are going to start with their preparation for the year in Germany.

Rwanda

Our Rwandan partner structure organized a **post-processing seminar** for the volunteers Marthe, Walid and Shaban in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda in October this year. On this occasion they talked about the personal experiences of every single one of them, the ups and downs and they took a look into the future together.

At the end of November Akanyoni also published the **adverts** for the next voluntary service starting in summer next year.

Ecuador

Since the two volunteers Paola and Andrea left Ecuador in August our partner organizations Aves de Paso has had the chance to take a deep breath and things calmed down a bit. They have restructures the team a bit so that it is now

composed of three former Zugvögel volunteers.

By now they have finished the **annual plan** for **selection** and **preparation** of the next volunteer generation. Since they received so many applications last year, the application phase is set to a duration of only four weeks this year and start already in December. Until then they plan to improve the internet appearance of Aves de Paso and the modes of contacting them. Until end of February they plan to have finished the selection of the volunteers. That way they can start early with preparing them for their voluntary service.

Wanted

Even if it seems a little early – we are already right in the middle of our preparations for the voluntary services of the six volunteers we expect starting in August 2015! Do you happen to know **exciting projects** or institutions that could be interested in taking part in an international voluntary service?

Or are you interested in welcoming a young person from Nepal, Rwanda or Ecuador into your home for one year? Many **host families** see this as a highly enriching experience. If you are interested we are more than willing to facilitate you the

contact of former host families of Zugvögel volunteers.

At the General Assembly we have taken some decisions aimed at improving the quality of the voluntary program. However with increasing the pocket money, the budget designated to language courses and the option of offering financial support to our host families we are facing increased costs as an association. That is why we are **grateful for your support!** We equally welcome one time and long term donations! You can easily donate via the bank account provided below, or on our homepage www.zugvoegel.org via PayPal.

Imprint

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