



Team works! The first tandems:

Erica Amponsah-Kusi & Friedhelm Ochmann, and Max Orthey & Dr Uwe Sperling

NEW: We are running Team works! **SES is a partner of the African-German Youth Office (AGYO)**

The Senior Experten Service (SES) is one of the key partners of the new African-German Youth Office (AGYO). We will be responsible for heading up “Team works! Young Expert Exchange for Sustainable Development” – one of the two initiatives of the Youth Office, announced by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on 24 June in Berlin.

The AGYO facilitates encounters between young people from Germany and Africa, with the aim of encouraging sustainable development. This exchange is intended to strengthen community spirit on an international level and raise awareness of global interrelationships and common challenges.

The new Youth Office comes under the aegis of the BMZ and will be managed by Engagement Global – Service für Entwicklungsinitiativen (Service for Development Initiatives), both long-standing partners of SES. The AGYO comprises two separate initiatives. The first one of these is Team works!, which will be overseen by the SES, and the second one is Teams up!, which is an exchange programme for youth groups.

Team works! is aimed at specialised professionals from Africa and Germany who are aged between 18 and 30. The pro-

gramme gives young people from Africa the chance to carry out a one-month work experience placement in a German company and provides young German people with the opportunity to go to Africa as part of an SES assignment. The best thing about the initiative is that both instances are supervised by an SES expert, providing support in what is – initially – unfamiliar territory.

The first participants are Erica Amponsah-Kusi, an electrical engineer from the Ghanaian capital Accra, who will soon be spending time at a photovoltaic company in Germany's Ruhr region, and Max Orthey, a promising chemistry lab technician from Cologne, who will be working in a laboratory in Ng'inya by Lake Victoria in Kenya. Both have been paired up with SES experts Friedhelm Ochmann and Dr Uwe Sperling.

For more information: www.dajw.de/en

Dear readers,

“The future? Let's shape it together!” is a slogan on the recently launched AGYO website. At SES, we know that that's the only approach that works. Our experience in the field of development cooperation – as well as in others – has taught us that building partnerships on an equal footing has always been rule number one.

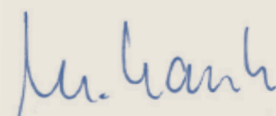
During our first discussions with the BMZ about our participation in their new Youth Office, it became clear to us that this initiative was a good fit for us. After all, we've spent the past 40 years, or thereabouts, fostering communication between expert professionals. Africa has also been one of our focal points for a long time, and so has cross-generation communication.

This is why we are delighted to be part of the AGYO and to take on responsibility for bringing expert professionals together. Team works! expands our portfolio in the perfect direction and gives us the opportunity to give this a fresh focus.

Before the AGYO was launched, we spoke to some of our experts about Team works! and asked young professionals for their opinion. You can read some of their responses in this issue of SES today.

As we expected, the concept was met with enthusiasm. It's now time to press on with the implementation. We're very much looking forward to it!

Kind regards,



*Dr Michael Blank
Executive Director, SES GmbH*

TEAM WORKS!

What our experts are saying



DR RALF P. SCHAAB: *Agricultural engineer, Wiesbaden. A total of 24 SES assignments since 2003, including 15 in Africa (Egypt, Algeria, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia and Zimbabwe)*

The chance to go to Africa with Team works!? That's a great idea, if ever I heard one! And I'd definitely take a young colleague with me, too. The reason I'd do this is that I was still very young when I took on my first SES assignment. They made an exception for me because back then, it was only retired experts who were sent off on assignment – officially. I'm obviously a good negotiator!

Today, everything's above board because there's the Weltdienst 30+ for professionals like me. And I'm hoping that this programme will get me to Zimbabwe soon. People are needed there to improve the quality of organic farming of garlic, turmeric and ginger. I'm just wondering, is there anyone out there who knows anything about this? If so, I'd love to be their tandem!



KLAUS GENGENBACH: *Travel industry consultant, Berlin. A total of 16 SES assignments since 2016, including 6 in Africa (Madagascar and Morocco)*

Holidays are my living – other people's holidays, that is! So much can go wrong when people go on holiday. I could go on for hours about this, but that's not the point here. Holidays cost a lot of money, but they also generate a lot of revenue, too – which is all the more reason why everything should go to plan.

If you're interested in an assignment in Africa and work in the travel or hospitality industry, I'd be keen to take you with me! Once the coronavirus pandemic is over, of course. I hope to get going again then and help share my knowledge in back office, housekeeping, marketing, customer services and many other areas. And when I say 'many', I mean 'many'! In other words, I really have my work cut out for me on my assignments. There's easily enough work for two, which is why I think Team works! is a fantastic idea!



MARIA REDDIG: *Kindergarten teacher, Rodenbach. A total of 4 SES assignments since 2018, including one in Africa (Morocco)*

Everything's better when there's two of you! That may sound simplistic, but it's true! Of course, you've got to get along well and work as a team. However, when there's the right chemistry and the two people complement one another, I don't know what could go wrong – in fact, it would be just the opposite!

As a Montessori teacher, I really appreciate the cross-generational approach of Team works! – the concept of sharing knowledge, working in tandem with a younger person. At the moment, I'm scheduled to go on two assignments in Africa – one in Zimbabwe and the other in Tanzania. Both assignments are at schools. The one is planning on restructuring, while the other wants to improve its management. The additional expertise of a young person would certainly be welcomed!

TEAM WORKS!

What young professionals are saying



Photo: Max Grönert

NADJA LISSOK: *from Cologne, Germany, works as an editor with a local newspaper.*

I understand the programme to be about two-way exchange. So I'd explain how I work in Germany, how I obtain information and how I approach the stories I'm covering. And then I'd like to hear from my colleagues in Africa about how they do these things.

You should never make the mistake of travelling from Germany out into the world and thinking, "Everything is best back at home anyway and the only reason I'm visiting somewhere else is to confirm that." Particularly in my profession, journalism, you can never have enough perspectives to consider.



TAMRYN IYER: *from Durban, South Africa, is a marketing expert.*

My parents were able to send me overseas several times and later I had the money to travel myself. I had these opportunities but others don't have the opportunity to gain international experience and that's why I'm so passionate about this programme. You can learn to think globally.

For me it's all about business skills and business ethics. I really want to learn more about how businesses operate. How do you go from being a small business to being big? If I can learn from German businessmen and women, young and old, I can teach that to the people here. I don't want to sit in a lecture room listening to lectures. Exchanging ideas and discussing things is more impactful, in my opinion.



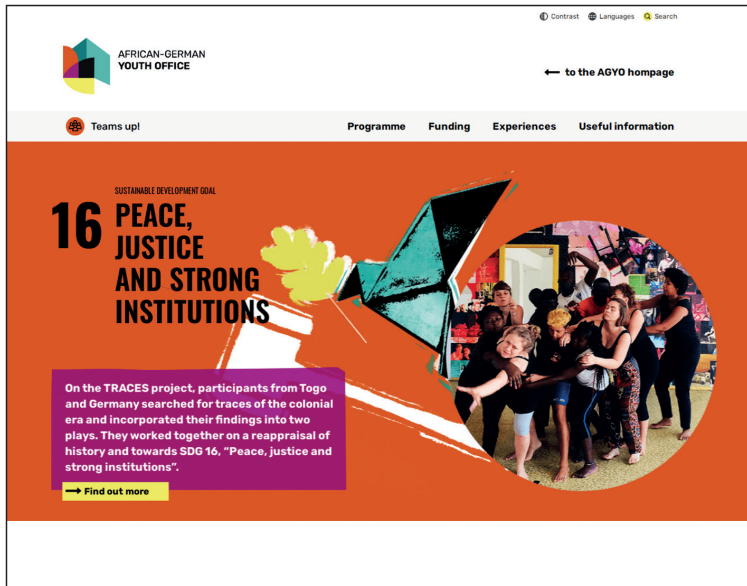
ERIC NJUNG'E NJOROGE: *from Nairobi, Kenya, has just recently completed his mechatronic technician training.*

I want to learn about the culture in Germany. It is very different to my country. I would particularly like to ask how companies in Germany train their technical experts. I think continuing professional development is important; how to improve my skills and knowledge. Team works! would make it possible to share experiences, which would definitely be useful.

In particular, I'd like to gain more experience in industrial automation because my dream is to become a program engineer. I believe I would learn a lot in Germany. Knowledge and experience, which I could share with my colleagues. That would make my employer happy too.

WHAT IS TEAMS UP!

Youth Exchange for Sustainable Development?



The AGYO's Teams up! programme promotes international youth exchanges and related accompanying and model projects. It enables youth groups from Germany and African countries to work together on a project.

Over a period of one to two years, the groups involved in the exchange collaborate on a project. During this period, the groups visit each other in their home countries. Educators prepare the participants for the visits and do follow-up work with them. These activities are supplemented by on-line collaboration phases.

Publishing details

Publisher:
Senior Experten Service (SES)
Stiftung der Deutschen
Wirtschaft für internationale
Zusammenarbeit GmbH
Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft
Buschstraße 2 – 53113 Bonn

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Design: www.pinger-eden.de

Translation: www.gebrauchstext.de

Photos: private, if not stated otherwise

Supported by the



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Global Citizens

The Teams up! programme offers young people between the ages of 16 and 30 an opportunity to develop global awareness and discover the active role they can play in shaping our One World as “global citizens”.

Global Partnerships

These international youth-group exchanges strengthen equality-based, global partnerships and youth exchange structures.

Global Goals

The joint project work carried out by the youth groups is the core of these development-related youth exchanges. Each project deals with one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set out in Agenda 2030 (SDGs). The projects help to raise awareness of the goals and to translate them into practice.

In Focus

- active partnership in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda
- intercultural exchange at eye level
- strengthening the commitment to development policy
- expansion of global partnerships

TEAM WORKS! Want to get in touch?

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