

# The path to dreaming of the good life



editorial  
DEAR READERS,

The year 2015 comes to an end and the teams of VAP (Volunteers' Abroad Programs) in Fürth and Kassel are happy to present you the latest newsletter. The continuation and stabilization of our good work with the volunteers, as well as with our partners at home and abroad, has obtained official acknowledgement. Since spring 2015, our two IB VAP locations have been certified with the "Quifd" seal of approval concerning the quality in voluntary services.

Next to this complex certification process, the year 2015 was determined by the comeback of Anja and Bernhard to their VAP-teams, decreasing numbers of applicants, IJFD funding cuts by BMFSFJ and problems concerning visas for South Africa. But also through the expansion of the South-North-Program in Kassel, Frankfurt and Fürth, exciting trainings as well as the Betzavta-Workshop with Jürgen Schlicher in May and the enlargement of the NaDiMa-workshops.

More information about the above mentioned and further aspects of our work will be presented in this newsletter. Enjoy!

P.S.: Pass it on! The application process for 2016 is still running!

P.S.S.: We wish you a peaceful Christmas and a good start in 2016!  
(BM)

training  
BETZAVTA "DEMOCRACY AND DECISION"

In May 2015, a training day for the Betzavta program took place within the course of the pedagogical conference program of the IB VAP. Inspired by that, Michael Priebs and Janina Drude, as well as coincidentally one of our teamers, participated the whole weekend in one of the Betzavta's basic modules with the title "Democracy and Decision".

But what is Betzavta all about? Betzavta means "Cooperation" in German and is a program for democratic, tolerance and human rights education, which is meanwhile widespread within Germany. Originally, the program was established in Israel in 1988.

It is about experiencing, learning and comprehension of a democratic cooperation in context to the personal interaction, as a part of an organisation or society. We were allowed to experience this program at first hand during a 3-day stay at the youth-educational institution Unterfranken, in Würzburg. On the basis of many practical, experience-oriented exercises, we were permanently confronted with our personal behaviour within the group. The mixture of theoretical input and active participation characterised the seminar.

The harmonic and heterogeneous group regarding age, gender and occupation field, was a great enrichment and led to real pleasure. With regard to our hands-on seminars with the volunteers, we collected a lot of suggestions concerning self-responsibility.

We hope to put into practice some of these ideas within our own seminars during the next term. (JD)



FIRST AID



KOFFER PACKEN

Dein Berg ruft...

page 1



eindrücke

where to go?



Zeit vergessen



alles mit IB VAP

Volunteers' Abroad Programs

south-north

VOLUNTEERS FROM ECUADOR

About one month ago, two volunteers from Ecuador, Mariuxi and Ester, arrived in Germany. On November 7th 2015, we met in Erlangen to talk about their first intercultural challenges, their host families and partner organisations. They are both satisfied with their new life in Germany and it is fun to accompany them during their stay. Next year, we plan to add 5 new volunteers from Latin America, two from Ecuador and one more from Nicaragua. We are still looking for host families and partner organisations around Erlangen, Nuremberg and Fürth, who would like to accommodate volunteers. Furthermore, we are looking for new tutors in the area of Erlangen, who have made own experiences in Latin America.

News from Ecuador:

Caren Sanchez from Quito (Ecuador) is our new mentor since 2015. This year, she has 3 IB-volunteers in different locations and already gained some experience. Next year, she would like to cooperate with us again – and vice versa!

Their personal Motto is:

“Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That’s why it is called the present”



In Erlangen, left to right: the two volunteers Ester and Mariuxi with our pedagogue Jacky.



In Ecuador, left to right: Miriam, Niklas, Caren and Henri

current

ENGAGEMENT OF FORMER VAP-VOLUNTEERS FOR REFUGEES

Freiburg, Istanbul, Leipzig, Marburg, Munich, Vienna and Würzburg – in these European cities, former VAP-Volunteers are engaging for people on the run. We are excited about the diverse responses towards our request. Unfortunately, here we cannot show everything you offer and accomplish but we would like to say thank you and encourage everyone to carry on! We will continue collecting your feedback. You are so many and the job you do is indispensable. Keep it up!! Remember applying for the funding of new events within the course of the weltwärts-program. (BM) More information on:

[www.weltwaerts.de/de/wie-erhalte-ich-Förderung-fuer-meine-aktion.html](http://www.weltwaerts.de/de/wie-erhalte-ich-Förderung-fuer-meine-aktion.html)



The young association AMUZA e.V. in Kassel supports children of refugees and ensures a lot of fun and interaction using the AMUZAbags! More information on: [www.amuzabag.com](http://www.amuzabag.com)

Dein Berg ruft...



FIRST AID



ADIOS

KOFFER PACKEN

page 2



eindrücke

where to go?



Zeit vergessen



alles mit IB VAP

Volunteers' Abroad Programs



**FILM "BLICKWECHSEL" AND 15 IB-VOLUNTEERS AT INFORMATIONAL EVENT IN KASSEL**

In the course of the annual informational event "Freiwillig ins Ausland" (Voluntarily abroad), the team of IB VAP and supporters managed to present the film "Blickwechsel - Perspektiven auf deutsche Freiwillige in Südafrika, Ghana und Gambia" (Change of perspective – Perspectives on German volunteers in South Africa, Ghana and Gambia) at the Bali-Cinema in Kassel on November 6th. Word has spread that there are not only good sides when young people from Germany go abroad for their voluntary service. But there are numerous reasons to venture the encounter outside of Germany. Both aspects are treated in the film.

The filmmakers exclusively interviewed people who worked with at least three or even more German volunteers in the respective country. My personal highlight: two young people of one institution in South Africa, who grew up with several generations of volunteers.

One of the two filmmakers, Christian Weinert, was positively impressed by the good feedback of Kassel's audience. The team of IB VAP did also invite former volunteers and in fact, recently returned volunteers met others from older generations for this occasion in Kassel. Volunteers from countries of the global South as well as volunteers from countries of the global North. Frederick Semaında, one of the recent South-North volunteers, watched the film together with his instructor of Kassel's Kindergarten "Kleine Knilche" and other co-operation partners. The small cinema has been well-filled with an audience of about 60 people.

On the next day, the informational event "Freiwillig ins Ausland" took place at Kassel's Kulturbahnhof. In the morning and in the afternoon, two hours each, former participants gave a detailed report about their international encounters e.g. school year abroad, work & travel, AuPair and even about voluntary services in Europe and overseas. During the workshops, they acted as a qualified contact for about 250 interested people. Karo (primary school in Tanzania), Steffen (youth hostel Scotland) and Freddy (South-North voluntary from Tanzania) reported for the team of voluntary services IB VAP. A big thank you for your strong solidarity goes out to the three of you and to about 15 former volunteers of IB VAP. Thanks for coming! (MP)

*experience*

**MEINFREIWILLIGENDIENST.DE**

Share your experiences on the recruitment platform: [www.meinfreiwilligendienst.de](http://www.meinfreiwilligendienst.de)

International volunteers invest a whole year of their life in learning abroad. Next to the volunteers, the sending organisations and operation sites bear the main responsibility for the year's success. Therefore, former volunteers have established an internet platform for the description and evaluation of sending organisations and the locations of deployment: At the beginning of 2002, during a conference of former volunteers, the idea of evaluating sending organisations through volunteers emerged.

In May 2006, concrete planning started and the project finally went online in 2009. Out of a simple idea, finally a project with the aim of information, quality, transparency and evaluation was born. The database now includes 422 sending organisations and 866 evaluations in total. The IB VAP Franconia as well as the IB VAP Kassel are already represented: [meinfreiwilligendienst.de/entsendeorganisationen/](http://meinfreiwilligendienst.de/entsendeorganisationen/)

We appreciate every participation and evaluation of our former volunteers! Filling out the evaluation form, you make an important contribution towards more quality and transparency within international voluntary services. Want to take part? See the following link: [meinfreiwilligendienst.de/bewerten/](http://meinfreiwilligendienst.de/bewerten/)



experience

INTERNSHIP AT VAP KASSEL

In spring and summer, Elisabeth Schweiger, Johanna Dohl and Elisabeth Ortloff have performed an internship at VAP Kassel for 6 to 9 weeks each. Elisabeth S. who has been a volunteer in South Africa in 2010/11, gained some practical experience at VAP Kassel before she started her Master studies in Gothenburg. In 2011, the VAP Kassel sent Elisabeth Ortloff to Cameroon before she started studying Cultural and Educational Sciences in Lüneburg. Next to the insight into this working environment, she was interested in the field of planning and realisation of seminars and furthermore to independently develop a unit for biographical work. Johanna Dohl has also performed a voluntary service in 2011/12 in cooperation with the Karl-Kübel foundation in India. After her bachelor degree in "Intercultural European and American Studies" with a focus on France, she did an internship at VAP Kassel. She also supported the partner organisations in France and the company of the new South-North volunteers from India and Tanzania, as well as the seminars of the Kassel VAP. Elisabeth, Johanna and Lissy have been a great support and enrichment for our team and we would appreciate further exchange and expansion of perspectives. (AG)

insider

VISIT OF A GERMAN SCHOOL IN MALAGA

In mid-October, I had the chance to visit our oldest partner organisation and the local volunteers in Ojén, situated in the province of Malaga, Spain. The school is located on a mountain which offers a wonderful view. I was welcomed by the administrative director Gernot Fuchs. Next to a lot of funny anecdotes from the previous years, we talked about the circumstances of voluntary service and its future. Furthermore, I was able to accompany Domingo Miras, director of the kindergarten, and we talked about the challenges and possibilities concerning volunteers. I also met the friendly janitors of the school.

What I personally enjoyed was seeing my volunteers Alicia, Anna, Katharina (kindergarten/shelter) and Robert (janitor). It was interesting to hear their opinion on how life and work in the school feels like. I am very happy about this lasting and wonderful cooperation, which I value a lot. It is shaped through great openness and I thank them for being welcomed so warmly. It has been a real pleasure to meet the people and the rooms of which I read so much. Want to learn more about the school? Follow the link: [www.youtu.be/iAEP7lv7Po](http://www.youtu.be/iAEP7lv7Po) (AV)



Outside the school in Malaga



View from the volunteer's living room

Dein Berg ruf...



FIRST AID



#AROUNDTHEWORLD



KOFFER PACKEN



ADIOS

page 4



eindrücke

where to go?



Zeit vergessen



alles mit IB VAP

Volunteers' Abroad Programs

on the way  
ANJA DOWN UNDER

A one-year break, away from the office to discover new expanses... I dreamed of going away for ages and finally time had come: for 12 months, I was travelling the eastern coast of Australia up and down, to the left and to the right, together with my van 'Tweety'. I shared a flat with several others, lived in hostels or with a family I met. Sometimes even Tweety had to give me shelter. But what else can I do being in Australia? Well, I guess I can work, for the IB of course! Seriously, I had the time to visit one of our partners, the TTHA and its volunteers! The TTHA is an old people's home in Bayswater, a suburb of Melbourne. At this time, we had 5 volunteers working there: Lene, Anna, Eva, Leo and Torben, who performed affectionate care of the inhabitants. They supported different areas like the kitchen, the café, helped to repair things, gave advice at the front desk or simply lent an ear. I now understand how challenging working with people is, who find themselves in the last period of their lives suffering from dementia. On the other hand, I learned that this kind of work can be very enriching and the volunteers make great experiences.

The love and appreciation my volunteers met with the seniors really impressed me. There was more than "just work", I could feel it.

Except of them, I also visited other old partners like L'Arche Sydney and Brisbane to talk to them about the future of international voluntary services. Furthermore, I was able to pop in at some of the new partner organisations to get an insight of how they work. In this year (2015/2016), 3 of them already started to welcome young German volunteers. Sarah Jane (Melbourne Montessori School), Katharina (German Language Centre) and Darren (Kalyna Care), thank you very much, we are very happy about these new cooperations. What's left to say? I am very grateful for the support and contribution of our partner organisations, who gave us the possibility to offer voluntary services abroad and for the young adults, who are engaging in the social sector for one year doing a great job! Last but not least, the IB played a decisive role and made it possible for me to gain experience in down under. Cheers! (AV)



Anna and Anja at the TTHA Christmas market



Anja and Tweety



SOUTH-NORTH VOLUNTEERS IN FRANKFURT AND KASSEL

After the first successful year of South-North volunteers, we were able to launch the next round with an even higher number of participants. Instead of 3, currently 5 volunteers are spending a year in Germany. In spring, Azdren from Kosovo started to work in Frankfurt. Since summer, Joyce and Frederick from Tanzania, as well as Sae and Tanvi from India, are doing their voluntary service in Kassel.

After a beautiful autumn with comfortable temperatures, our volunteers, who are normally used to warm weather, are now preparing for winter. We are hoping for a sunny, cold and snowy winter for them. We already had to cope with the first cold mornings and degrees below zero. Special appreciation goes out to the deployment sites of the volunteers.

Without you, it would not have been possible to manage the stay abroad for the young adults and furthermore, thanks a lot for your efforts in instructing them in their daily routine. Special thanks to the outpatient service Nordhessen, the parent initiative "Kleine Knilche", the deaconry Wohnstätten and the department of international work of the IB. (JD)

video

EXPERIENCE REPORT USA



We have received an extraordinary video from a former volunteer who performed her voluntary service in the USA in 2014/15. Through the pictures, you can easily understand why she felt so comfortable in the L'Arche in Mobile/Alabama! Thanks a lot Clara!  
See the video here: [www.tinyurl.com/hsd5kr5](http://www.tinyurl.com/hsd5kr5)

change

IB VAP KASSEL CHANGES ITS NAME  
the IB Verbund Hessen e.V. turns into  
IB Südwest gGmbH für Bildung und soziale Dienste

On the 01/01/2016 the Verbund Hessen of the IB e.V. turns into the non-profit private limited company IB Südwest. Within this process of restructuring, the whole Internationaler Bund Verbund Hessen e.V. and all its divisions, including the sector of voluntary abroad programs IB VAP Kassel, will be transferred to its subsidiary IB Südwest gGmbH. This subsidiary is recognized for being a non-profit organisation and an independent sponsor of youth welfare and voluntary services. The IB Südwest gGmbH will agree upon all the concluded agreements discussed with the IB Verbund Hessen e.V. and fulfil these conditions as before. On our daily work within the field of voluntary services and the agreed circumstances, this change has no influence at all. (UM)

alumni

NADIMA – THE LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR A GOOD LIFE  
ANNUAL REVIEW

Think, do and feel sustainable, aware of diversity, sensible about power – that is what we want to reach and implement, together with all the people we meet. We are a group of six within the team of the IB VAP who works on bringing the demand for the good life into the voluntary services. But not only there: The IB also offers interactive workshops for other sectors:

Workshops 2015

This year, more than 20 workshops, mainly for the IB VAP, have been completed for the preparation and follow-up processing of the volunteers. With critical and creative topics like racism, refugees, gender, power structures (concerning international voluntary service), the workshops have been great fun! Again and again, we were surprised by the participants' different reactions. From strong resistance to full agreement, every opinion was represented. The participants left the workshops partly thoughtful but also inspired; particularly as most of them have unfortunately never been informed about the topic's importances. This fact shows us how power structures are presented in the media and education: For example, in most schools the term "Third World" is used without reflection – only few also heard of the Global North and South... There is still a lot to be done and we stay motivated!

Kickoff 2015

At the colourful, powerful and creative site of the cultural hostel Wernershöhe near Göttingen, Max and Yvonne performed the first Kickoff on the last weekend in May. We had a lot of fun with 16 participants and Chocco, our talented voluntary chef. We got to know and valued each other with great openness and interest, made some music, let off steam and worked diligently on our idea of a good life. We shared our dreams, talked about personal problems, encouraged each other, created visions and constructed first steps together. We tested and empowered the confidence in others and ourselves, exchanged funding opportunities, book and film recommendations for training and discussed about topics like racism, being white and being non-white...The members of our group all had different backgrounds, rooted all over the world. Germany, Poland, Russia, Cameroon and China as well as Chile and Brasil – we have literally been "Worldwide at home"!

Qualitätsmanagement im  
Bildungs- und Sozialbereich

EFQM Member  
Shares what works.

Der Internationale Bund (IB) ist einer der großen Dienstleister in der Jugend-, Sozial- und Bildungsarbeit in Deutschland.

IB Internationaler Bund  
Freier Träger der Jugend-,  
Sozial- und Bildungsarbeit e.V.

Sitz: Frankfurt am Main, Vereinsregister Nr. 5259

Volunteers' Abroad Programs  
[www.ib-freiwilligendienste.de](http://www.ib-freiwilligendienste.de)

IB VAP Franken  
Mathildenstr. 40, 90762 Fürth  
Telefon 0911 766108134  
[VAP-Franken@internationaler-bund.de](mailto:VAP-Franken@internationaler-bund.de)  
Der IB VAP Franken ist jetzt auch auf facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/ib.vap.fuerth](http://www.facebook.com/ib.vap.fuerth)

IB VAP Kassel  
Königsplatz 57, 34117 Kassel  
Telefon 0561 574637 0  
[VAP-Kassel@internationaler-bund.de](mailto:VAP-Kassel@internationaler-bund.de)

Herausgeber: Frau Margot Karl Verbund Hessen,  
Frankfurter Str. 73, 64293 Darmstadt

Gestaltung: Beat Sandkühler

[www.internationaler-bund.de](http://www.internationaler-bund.de)  
Ein Unternehmen der IB-Gruppe

Dein Berg ruft...



FIRST AID



#AROUNDTHEWORLD



KOFFER PACKEN



ADIOS

page 6



eindrücke

where  
to go?



Zeit vergessen



alles mit IB VAP

Volunteers' Abroad Programs