

CHANGING WITH THE

PERSPECTIVES IB VAP

editorial

In this autumn edition of our Newsletter, we would like to share with you some impressions of IB VAP from the last months: Among others *Experiences of volunteers of the programs IB volunteers and weltweit South-North, * Further development of NaDiMa-workshops at the seminars and *the meeting of IB

VAP with the partners in Argentina, apart from that * Caren Sánchez gives an insight of her work as a mentor in Ecuador and we are introducing what stirs and has stirred the interns and the former volunteers. We hope you enjoy reading it!

Andrea Schubert, IB VAP Kassel

events

FREIWILLIG INS AUSLAND IN A NEW DESIGN

Since 15 years on the first Saturday of November the NGOs for Foreign Programmes in and around Kassel organize the Information Event 'freiwillig ins Ausland' in co-operation with 'Jugendarbeit in Stadt und Landkreis'. This year too, 25 Returnees reported their personal experiences with 'Youth Exchange', 'International school year', 'Au Pair', 'Work & Travel', 'International voluntary services' and for the first time also about 'wwoofen' (working on organic farms) in varied workshops. The event design and the new homepage www.freiwilliginsausland.de were new this year. The anonym questionnaire from the public yielded an overwhelming positive feedback and also improvement advices for this successful event.

Michael Priebs, IB VAP Kassel



HESSEN TOTAL INTERNATIONAL

On 11.11.2017 the 11th Jugendinfobörse Hessen Total International took place in the Wiesbadener Kulturforum. Since 11 years the Jugendbildung Frankfurt and the VAP-Team Kassel have been presenting the international opportunities of IB in Hessen and related. This time the VAP-Team Kassel was represented by the former volunteers Alanis Dufrin (India) and Lukas Schäfer (France). We heartily thank for your engagement.

Bernhard Marien, IB VAP Kassel



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events

YOUTH EDUCATION EXHIBITION
ERLANGEN ON 30.09.2017

The IB VAP Team Franken was represented by Anja Vitzthum (Pedagogue) and Nils Klein (former Volunteer/New Zealand) at the Youth education exhibition at Ohm Gymnasium in Erlangen. Among other exhibitors they informed and counselled the pupils about different possibilities for a foreign stay in the framework of EURODESK. The exhibition for schools, travelling, learning and living worldwide offers a view to the vast ways to be away e.g. Student exchange, Language tours, Voluntary work, Au-Pair, Work & Travel, Internships, and International studies.

Anja Vitzthum, IB VAP Franken



outgoing

IB VOLUNTEERS IN PUERTO RICO

Elena, 18 years old, completed the flexible volunteer service with the VAP Franken Team in August/ September 2017. We would like to share some of her impressions and experiences at our Partner Bambú Pueblo in Puerto Rico, a non-profit organization which engages itself for the sustainable and social use of Bamboos:

"The project is still small and the activities were very diverse, e.g. to arrange and clean the area and the building, to harvest and process the bamboos, and hence can be applied in various farm projects."

"It was stressful but later when one sees how much is achieved, also gives a good feeling"

"El Guacio is situated on a small street relatively isolated in the middle of the rainforest. The farm on which we worked with bamboos lies on the boundaries of Mayaguez, close to the sea."



"The people there always shared, regardless of how less they had. I will take this as an example."

Elena, IB Volunteer VAP Franken



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LENIN KAZOBA FROM TYC AS A GUEST AT IB



TYC i.e. Tanzanian Youth Coalition is the head of a network of 120 small NGOs and of 149 Youth initiatives in Dar es Salaam and in entire Tanzania. On the 9th and 10th November we had the opportunity to welcome Lenin Kazoba as the Director of TYC at IB Kassel for a formal discussion. We are pleased that we can continue the current teamwork with TYC for South-North Volunteers in future. The current volunteers from Tanzania, Deo, Daniel, Denis, Kakwaya and Stella were pleased with the contact from their homeland and pestered their responsible Director with questions about the development in their country. As we found out, the newly elected president who is elected since the end of 2016 is taking care of an euphoric atmosphere of a new beginning.

Michael Prieb, IB VAP Kassel

incoming

ARRIVAL IN KASSEL

At the end of august the situation was so far: in all 9 volunteers from India and Tanzania inside the framework of South-North program arrived in Kassel in order to start their voluntary service. What are their impressions and experiences? We asked Deogratus from Tanzania and Savani from India about the same.

Since day 1, Savani is especially fond of the free and easy going movement for pedestrians on the good constructed footpaths all over the city and also the comparatively less traffic jams. She likes the curious questions of the pupils at her workplace, a school in Kassel. A pupil, for example, asked her if she knows Shah Rukh Khan personally. It surprises her that the pupils don't have classes on Saturdays and there are a lot more options to choose from than the Indian schools.

Deogratus likes his work very much at a residence for the handicapped. The residents have limited speech and therefore nonverbal communication plays an important role.

In his first week, he was bitten by a resident and now can just laugh about it and says "at the beginning she didn't like me that much." He finds it fascinating, how handicapped people are employed and pursue work according to their abilities. In Tanzania the handicapped are supported by the family circle. He often asks himself, why the residents at his workplace in Kassel don't spend more days with their families. Some of them are visited regularly, others not at all. This concerns him a lot, as he has similar feelings of home sickness at the moment. Although he transforms his home sickness into a productive way and is planning to shoot a documentary of the life as a South-North volunteer in Germany, so that it can be used to help for the preparation of the future volunteers.

Sarah Wittwer, IB VAP Kassel



Dein Berg ruft...



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seminars

NADIMA – SUSTAINABLE, DIVERSITY CONSCIOUS,
POWER SENSIBLE THINKING, HANDLING AND FEELING

We – the NaDiMa collective, comprise of Yvonne, Janik and Nils. We are the ones with the complicated Names and the workshops at the seminars. We are writing a few lines for you on the current situation. Again a bit has changed this seminar season..... IB, on the basis of an evaluation, informed us about its wishes, among other topic focused and parameters to offer only one day at all seminars as a lot is lined up for the seminars. Like every year, we met together, this time in the wonderful region of Saarland in June at Yvi's parents and discussed how things should follow. We introduced something new, retain the good and change the old. As always it's about the good life and also amongst us. And what was the outcome?

INA-inner NaDiMa: We took time to reflect on ourselves and also the internal processes. As we are busy in different professional contexts and are stuck in special life phases this year, we counselled each other. Because we wanted to use our competencies, to mutually support an approach of a good life. It was all about questions of reduction in the stressful jobs in the social sector, about relationship counselling, ideas for a Start-up and more. Hence diverse in the sense of "Di" in NaDiMa. It was good and we decided to mutually counsel ourselves per telephone- we can strongly recommend that to everyone. As only when we take ourselves seriously and do good for us, it can function on the outer part.

Workshops: We have determined that we are standing on different points of life and respectively specializing progressively. Hence Max for example has more to do with personal coaching and Yvi with the counselling of women who are victims of violence.

We wanted to bring these experiences in the workshops and also did it. Therefore, it might be that at the seminar you experienced diverse propositions which all run under NaDiMa. Even this describes our diversity. Anyway, NaDiMa ist only one among the many ways to approach the good life and the argumentations related to it. It was a feeling of freedom to match the workshops to one's own capabilities and needs. But we also take a critical look if our new methods comply with our vision and how they affect the learning process of the participants. We are in the process - it is in changing that things find repose.

We are looking back on a great season with many interesting and dedicated participants. We noticed that during the preparatory seminars a lot of negative emotions came up. This is always a big topic of discussion – as on one side we are uncertain of a necessary medium on the other side we do not want to dismiss anyone with a feeling of frustration. We also stick up there. It was beautiful to experience, how these emotions cleared out and transformed in many cases in the final evaluation seminars. Some things just need their time and place. In this spirit, we heartily thank the IB VAP Teams, that they make NaDiMa possible and respect and appreciate our work and also all the participants, who in the process finally engage themselves with us.

Yvonne, Janik, Max and Nils from NaDiMa-Collectiv



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CHÉ! -

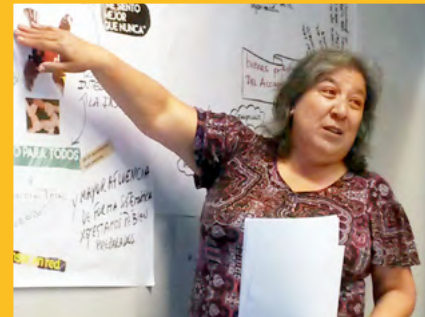
PARTNER MEET IN ARGENTINA

For the first time we conducted a 3-day workshop with our partner organization in Argentina. The 14 participants came from 10 different workplaces from the metropolitan area of Buenos Aires, La Plata, Salta, Posadas und Villa General Belgrano. With interactive and participative methods there was a large exchange of experiences. The questions concerning the participants were: What are the roles and tasks of the volunteers, workplaces, sending organizations, and the mentor on site? What are the challenges to support a German volunteer and in the weltwärts program? How do we deal with psychological crisis and emergencies? We equipped ourselves with culturally aware communication in relation with German volunteers. It enabled a deep know-how of self-value and personal learning area. The partners valued the connection among themselves. There is a high hope of a yearly meeting. Marta de Kuffer from the institution Renacer heartily invites the group in November 2018 to Villa Genera Belgrano.

Kornelia Bodach, IB VAP Franken



The IB employee Kornelia Bodach collects the negative preconceptions about "The Germans" at the workshop of culturally aware communication.



Marta Quinteros explains her vision of the work with volunteers of her workplace El Arca Moreno



Blind volunteers and mute workplaces – the challenges are big with the volunteer work. – Humour helps in this, just as this exercise shows.

partner

THE SANDERSHAUS

Since the beginning of this year there is a new attraction in east Kassel, which is supposed to be a less-favoured part of the city with a large part of it covered by trade and industries: The Sandershaus. In the former administration building of the Haferkakao factory a project has risen up with its goal of interaction of people from different platforms: Amal (a communal refugee accommodation), a hostel, a Bar with cultural events all under one roof along with diverse possibilities and room for creative initiatives. The Kulturfabrik Salzmann e.V. organises the weekly Salonmusik, the Verein Weltskultureerbe organises film and concert evenings. There are regular activities such as Ping Pong, Repaircafe and regular community cooking event.



The seminar business was started with the 3-day seminar for the volunteers of weltwärts in June this year by VAP-Team Kassel. Such a socio-cultural centre calls as a provision for a work- and learning place for volunteers. We saw this opportunity and supported the colleagues with the recognition process as a BFD workplace. Since September Laura works here as a BFD volunteer and Denis from Tanzania is also working since October in the framework of South-North Program as a volunteer in Sandershaus. www.sandershaus.de

Bernhard Marien, IB VAP Kassel



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CAREN SÁNCHEZ FROM ECUADOR
ABOUT VOLUNTEER SHIPS

Are you afraid or have a doubt about doing a volunteer ship? You should have this: As this means a full coming change of culture, language and habits in a foreign country. You also have this doubt because you have an interest and the motivation in yourself to change something in the society and give others something more from your side.

I decided this when I was 17 in my home country Ecuador. Although I was supposed to start studying at the university, my priority was to do a voluntary service with youths and children far away from my city. That was my first experience with young people, who lived through different social (adaptive-) difficulties and learnt there that violence and inequality continue to exist in a lot of families in my homeland and at the end affects the smaller ones in the families. In spite of that it became clear to me with time that the most important thing in a day was to sympathise with them and give them something from oneself and to see them smile.

Against the advices of my family and friends of not becoming a volunteer, as going directly to university was the most important for them, I continued to do this work and after some time completed my studies of organisational psychology.

Thankfully to IB I got the chance to work as a mentor for the German volunteers in Quito (Ecuador). The longer I executed my tasks, the more I got to know their feelings, their home sickness of their families and friends and also their favourite food, and surely also their courage to stay and to help.

And that was exactly what initiated my wish to go further and experience the same as my volunteers. To decide to travel to another place, where your language is not spoken and where the customs are so different from your native place is not easy but also not impossible. One should just give a push and have the desire to learn.

I, as always, had this doubt due to my family, my colleagues and friends, who used to say that I should not work as a volunteer and rather do a proper job or get married (It is funny, but it is so, what the society tells us what we should do.)

As per my opinion, there is no perfect age to do a voluntary service. Professional and unexperienced people can contribute a lot from their personalities and their knowledge, although I also think, what they gain for themselves through this, is worth a lot more. Thus I succeeded with my will to work as a volunteer and I am here. Two months later, am getting used to this stage of my life, to get to know new people and friends, who are so amiable and talented, that they motivate me daily to work in a new way. I am really thankful to them for this.

The voluntary service has a purpose and a motivation; use them as an engine to continue your travel, as at the end you will always want to go back.

Caren Sanchez, IB VAP Franken



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6PLUS4 -

THE FIRST INCLUSIVE SHARED
APARTMENT OF SAXONY

I could have never imagined that I myself would be one of the residents, who would be standing on the other side of the door, to invite guests in the first inclusive shared apartment of Saxony. For that, my life had begun quite unspectacularly. Born in a small sleepy city in Erzgebirge, as the fifth child of a large family, I went in the typical education system from the primary school to the intermediate school and completed my secondary schooling with majors in nutritional science with chemistry in June 2014. Starting studying immediately after school was out of question for me. In the 12th Class, my then English teacher, organized a workshop related to Work and Travel organizations. This form of a gap year was not agreeable for me in any form. I wanted to start with something sustainable in this time and at that time I was inspired by the idea that only helping and improving the 'poorer third world' would be a meaningful contribution. In February I introduced myself at the orientation seminar by IB –VAP and was initially interested in a school project for blinds in Poona/India. I wanted to qualify myself for a teaching career as soon as possible.

Thankfully at that time Andrea and later Janina from IB VAP Kassel accompanied me on my way to find the right project. In the course of my exhausting search phase of my voluntary year, I decided to engage myself not in Poona but in a residential project for people with and without disabilities in Bologna/Italy. I find this today as a very good decision.

There is so much to tell about my year in the Arca comunità „L'arcobaleno“ Bologna, that an entire article would not be enough for it. The least I can say to this is that I got to know a lot of inspiring people, got to know myself in totally new situations and lastly had the chance to learn the model of inclusive living.

What inclusive living concretely means is described in 5 points on the following website:

wohnsinn.org/ueber-uns

In short, the time was pressing and the farewell in September 2015 was really difficult for me. A few tears rolled too. How would I have known, that 2 years later almost on the



same day I would become a founding resident of such a shared apartment? Of course the way there was rough. In Italy, I already had applied for a higher teaching degree for German and History but was not taken in due to a grade. With a bit of trials and tribulations in Dresden I then got admitted for a higher degree in German and History through the lottery system and resorted in search of shared apartments. If it was a coincidence or luck, I do not know, but I bumped on the 2nd click itself of a well-known search portal on the project "6plus4". The story of this project is also excessive to relate it in its entire form.

Those who are interested to know it, can help themselves on the following links:

www.menschen-in-dresden.de/2016/sechs-plus-vier-auf-dem-langen-weg-zur-inklusions-wg/
www.menschen-in-dresden.de/2017/6-plus-4-dresdens-erste-inklusions-wg-sammelt-spenden-barrierearme-kueche/
www.sz-online.de/nachrichten/eine-unge-woehnlische-gemeinschaft-3792286.html

Since December 2016 I am a part of this project which was being planned already for 3 years. It was not an easy way for me too; the object was still in its construction phase at this time. I had to also think about an interim solution. Who could have guessed that the construction time would be postponed at the beginning for one month and later for more? I fell again into frustration, doubted everything; my studies, my decisions, the project. I was just about to pack up everything. Thank god that I had great people and potential flat mates at this time around me, who discouraged me to take this decision.

.....

Dresden, 13th of October 2017, 08.12 am - with butterflies in my stomach and with a slight stupid grin I came out of the bathroom. I have not been awake so early since weeks. The last weeks were crazy. The 21th of September was the due date for me. With unending packing,

wild random cartons and 2 shifting helpers, I shifted into the first inclusive shared apartment of Saxony. As I was still thinking of where on the wall should I place my Kafka Portrait, there were conversations already downstairs about the general structure of the apartment. About a month back I found myself, as a part of the client community, in the position of an employer to choose the support staff of the assistance service for the residents with special needs of our apartment. 3 weeks earlier the Saxonian Newspaper was present to formulate an article about us. 1 week earlier we received an email from Rome –Signora Guerini, Phd candidate from University of Rome will visit us in November for 2 days to get to know us. Lastly, there was a film team of MDR at our apartment to make a 6 minute long feature story about us. "I will speak again with the head, but there will be surely 30 mins as an outcome" ensures me the organizer.

In 48 minutes begins the Uni..... I am very late. And I have also not read a single page about the "Historia D Johann Fausten" which was the requirement of the seminar. After the seminar I will be on my way to Berlin with my flat mate. There we are conducting a workshop with Tobi (Founder of the platform for inclusive living <http://wohnsinn.org/boerse>) to show that "it works." A project similar as us is arising in Berlin. I have not understood it completely but it should be as a starting signal of an entire founding-movement in co-operation with the Anne-Ramm-Stiftung. Our task would possibly be to explain our story.

"Maaax, remember that you have to pay me 30€ back". My flat mate Pierre calls me. I have to go. Many a times he pulls me back, that I blabber a lot and forget the time. Maybe that is my form of being handicapped. But for that I have him and 8 other flat mates. Hopefully, I still have time to have my breakfast.....

Maximilian Lippert, former volunteer, IB VAP Kassel 2014/15



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SOLIDAR TRAINING ACADEMY 2017

In line with my internship at IB VAP Franken, I was at the Solidar Training Academy in Ipswich, United Kingdom.

Here it was primarily about the topics "International collaboration" and "work with refugees" with participants from all over the world (predominantly Europe). At the beginning the institutions of the participants and also the programs of the organiser were introduced. Interesting approaches regarding the topic "Empowering" were also led in the workshops. Further, member of the European parliament, Julie Ward held a speech about Brexit and its effect on the international collaboration on the social sector.

The diverse perceptions of Europe, EU and Germany were really interesting.



Although being a small country, we were given a much larger significance of credit than we would give ourselves.

The training academy did not give me a leading knowledge of the task area with volunteers, but was indeed a very beautiful and learning experience for me.

Vanessa Wilke, IB VAP Franken



alumni

INTERNSHIP WITH THE IB VAP

I am performing an Internship at IB VAP Franken in line with my social work studies in Nürnberg. In this framework I am getting to know the pedagogical work in various seminars, in telephone conversations and also the correspondence with the volunteers. The main focus of the internship lies indeed in the participant administration. For this I am mostly responsible for the application process and the examination of all necessary participant documentation. Also, the arising maintenance of the databank and the supervision of contribution entries in the framework fall under my responsibility.

It is a fascinating experience to get to know the structure of a big social agency, with all its strengths and weaknesses and to observe, how it transforms the youth to young adults inside its structures.

Vanessa Wilke, IB VAP Franken

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