

Our Vision

The Vision of the International Volunteer-Service of the Eine Welt Netz NRW

Since 1991, 'Eine Welt Netz NRW' is the non-partisan and interdenominational umbrella organisation of the 'Eine-Welt-Engagements' in Nordrhein-Westfalen. The dynamic network has a wide range of social contacts and its members count more than 1.700 organisations and single activists. 'Eine Welt Netz NRW' empathises on the work with teenagers and young adults. By delivering volunteering programmes that focus on development policy, we pursue significant aims: Offering young people and other participants the opportunity to experience developments of a global world, reflecting them (self) critically and encouraging solidary participation by each individual.

Voluntary work is not to be understood as a tool of development policy itself but as a tool of education in the field of development policy where both parties may learn from each other. The 'Eine Welt Netz NRW' is aware of potential negative influences that may be caused by international voluntary work. Through its educational approach and guidance, it tries to counteract the reinforcement of stereotypes, to critically reflect privileges as well as reflecting on and reducing prejudices. We initiate dialogues with equal participation, co-operations and partnerships in the 'global south' and 'global north' on a local and international level. Through mutual exchange the participants have the opportunity to learn from each other and gain useful insights and be mutually stimulated in their particular living environment. **We increase the attention for "One World issues". We support volunteers to become multipliers of global learning and education in the field of development policy.** This process is based on the educational and conceptual understanding of global learning in the 'Eine Welt Netz NRW'. Therefore, we raise awareness and offer insights into:

- Perceptions and awareness of global relations and their interdependency with local and individual lives
- The opportunity to perceive different perspectives and reflect their diversity and controversial issues with respect
- A responsible and solidary attitude and behaviour in terms of a sustainable world community

Our partner organisations and we are helping to improve commitment and dedication as a civil society in Germany as well as in partner countries.

The volunteers benefit from their voluntary work:

- They gather international experience and qualifications which are useful for their personal development and career perspectives. In addition to language skills and topics within development policy, the volunteers gain significant qualities in the fields of intercultural communication, sociocultural cooperation and social responsibility.
- The volunteers are able to broaden their minds through not only getting to know the real life situations of people living in a country of the global south but also experiencing the political, economic and social surroundings within their projects.

The partners in Germany and abroad benefit from the volunteer service in the following ways:

- The existing South-North partnerships are intensified through the voluntary work.

- Through cooperation with organisations involved in the voluntary work, the partners can establish new international and national contacts, promoting communication, and exchange of education and information of global relationships.
- The South-North partnerships experience mutual solidarity and intercultural exchange, enriching their work and offering new perspectives.
- The volunteers support the work for the target groups of southern partners and the public relations of both cooperative partners.

The partners work together cooperatively: This requires cooperation on an equal level, preparation and participation of the projects and mutual exchange of ideas and goals of the voluntary work. Both, the northern and southern partnerships have to participate in choosing the volunteers.

The 'Eine Welt Netz NRW', as the sending organisation benefits from the voluntary work:

- It participates more intensely and directly within the Southern-Northern partnerships as a umbrella organisation through contact, vivid exchange and co-operations
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- Through various perspectives and experiences made by the southern and northern volunteers and their partners, the 'Eine Welt Netz NRW' gets to know different socio-economical, social and political processes in the global South.
- The volunteers as representatives of the 'Eine Welt Netz NRW' cultivate solidary, respectful interactions of living together with different people and thus promote social equality through their attitude and behaviour.
- Through dedication of the returnees, the 'Eine Welt Netz NRW' is able to intensify and endure its work within the society and promoting its work for sustainable development issues in the future.

The 'Eine Welt Netz NRW' campaigns for the development of voluntary work:

- By offering special activities, we campaign for particular target groups, which are hard to reach: Young adults with a vocational and professional background and people with a migration history. We want to offer these particular young adults the opportunity to participate in the volunteer programme as they may bring valuable experiences with them.
- Up until now, the development volunteer services has been a privilege for young adults from the global North. We support south-north volunteers who enable young adults from the partner countries to fulfil a voluntary work promoting political development in Germany

In order to achieve these goals, the volunteers take part in professional workshops, before, during and after their voluntary work. They are guided and supervised by mentors from Germany and also in their host country. The global learning is an integral and holistic learning, which addresses all learning dimensions of the volunteers: head, heart, hands. We wish that all participants and their partners, perceive themselves as world citizens and that everyone behaves and acts with global responsibility for the future. We are pleased, if we can enable young people through doing voluntary work to act as multipliers of the global learning. We hope to empower them in their local and global areas of action to face the challenges of future globalization individually and to take on global responsibility. With all our means within the 'Eine Welt Netz NRW' we are willing to support the volunteers and partner projects as far as possible.