

Project description

SDG - Saxony thinks globally - Saxony and Uganda well connected

Duration 1.1.2023-31.12.2024

1. applicant / project management organisation

The Development Policy Network Saxony (ENS), founded in 1995, is an association of more than 60 Saxon associations and initiatives. As an umbrella organisation, the ENS aims to bundle the interests of development policy organisations in the Free State of Saxony and to represent them vis-à-vis the public, the state government, the state parliament as well as the political parties and the media. In order to inform people in Saxony about the problems of the so-called developing countries and to raise their awareness, the ENS carries out intensive educational work. This includes campaigns, conferences, discussion evenings, advice and information for groups and interested parties, organisation of exhibitions as well as specialist and educational publications. The ENS is a member of various interdepartmental advisory groups of the Free State (State Working Group on ESD in the SMK, expert group on development cooperation in the SK, advisory groups of the SK on the State Strategy on ESD).

The primary purpose of the ENS is to promote international understanding between developing countries and Germany with a focus on the Free State of Saxony. This results in many domestic activities, which are described below for the sake of completeness. In addition, the ENS also represents the interests of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that are exclusively dedicated to development projects in countries of the Global South. The project described here is aimed at this target group.

The ENS currently employs two co-managing directors, six advisors, an administrative project assistant and an FSJ student as well as two volunteers. The voluntary board of the ENS consists of seven people who are elected from the ENS members.

The ENS is essentially divided into three work areas "Business and Human Rights", "Migration and One World" and "Alliance Against Racism", which are described below.

The "Alliance against Racism - for a Just and Humane Saxony" was founded in 2016. Umbrella organisations and associations operating throughout Saxony have joined forces in the Alliance to jointly draw attention to the many forms of racism. The alliance is the only actor within Saxon civil society that is organised across several organisations operating statewide and thus counteracts racist acts and structures in the Free State. The strength of the alliance lies in the great diversity of its member organisations. Meanwhile, 56 initiatives from different social sectors are organised in the alliance across Saxony. These include trade unions, welfare organisations and migrant self-organisations, as well as various NGOs, church groups and umbrella organisations such as the Saxon Rural Women's Association and the Saxon Allotment Gardeners' Association. Together, the alliance advocates for a society in which human rights are respected in accordance with the UN Human Rights Charter, so that everyone can live free of racism and discrimination in Saxony, regardless of origin or religion. Through joint campaign work, high-profile events and numerous formats of educational work critical of racism, the Alliance against Racism has grown into a strong civil society voice against racism in the Free State in the past three years.

2 Business and human rights: Human rights violations in supply chains of consumer goods are widely documented. However, despite multiple initiatives and clear standard setting, little or nothing has changed in the reality of fashion production and the manufacture of many other consumer goods. In individual cases of uncovered violations, companies have reacted and taken concrete measures to remedy them. More needs to be done, however, to improve the wage situation, for example, to enable workers and their families to live in dignity, i.e. to implement the UN-recognised human right to a living wage.

The issue of fair trade relations and, in particular, of a public sector purchasing policy oriented towards human rights and the environment is also a difficult one in Saxony. Here, ENS is active in the alliance "Sachsen kauft fair" (Saxony buys fair) together with BUND Saxony, the Protestant Regional Church, the Bishopric of Meißen-Dresden and DGB Saxony.

Migration and One World/Migrant perspectives in Saxon educational work: After many refugees found their way to Germany in 2015 and strong xenophobic movements became established, there were disputes about fundamental questions in the years that followed. In addition, established Saxon associations would like to have more comrades-in-arms with a migration history. On the one hand, migrants are indispensable partners for us in development education and awareness work, on the other hand, they have a particularly hard time in everyday life in a social climate that tolerates or even supports xenophobic movements. Furthermore, committed migrants, especially from the Global South, have many difficulties in bringing their valuable experiences into development education work. Especially in the rural areas, those who stand up against the growing nationalist tone tend to be rejected rather than recognised. Here, the ENS is actively working on solutions within the framework of the "Qualification Series Political Education/Global Learning/BNE for Migrant Speakers" or also at school level in the project "genialsozial" together with the Saxon Youth Foundation. The department is intensively involved in the implementation of the state strategy on ESD and is also a member of an advisory group.

2. problem analysis/initial situation (including 3. genesis of the project)

In the coalition agreement *Preserve what has been achieved, make new things possible, connect people: Together for Saxony 2019-24*, the plan was adopted to "set up a development partnership with a specific region" (p. 117). The Saxon State Chancellery (SK) has been promoting civil society development cooperation not only since then and intensively involves development policy organisations or members of the Entwicklungspolitisches Netzwerk Sachsen e.V. (ENS) in the planning, e.g. for the closer cooperation with an African country envisaged in the coalition agreement. Since 2018, the ENS has been contributing to the deliberations of the SK with positions agreed among the ENS members.

From the ENS' point of view, civil society connections are important because they can make effective positive contributions to international cooperation and therefore contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 "Partnerships to Achieve the Goals" as well as the Saxon State Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). In our assessment, civil society activities in Uganda are also possible in a comprehensive way. Since the State Chancellery selected Uganda as a possible partner country from the proposed African countries, also after a detailed analysis of the existing civil society networks, the Development Policy Network Saxony e.V. (ENS) has also pointed out the human rights issues

surrounding the current Ugandan government or its family members and was also supported in this by Stiftung Nord-Süd-Brücken. The Saxon State Chancellery is aware of the unfavourable human rights conditions in Uganda, but it believes that civil society organisations should make small but effective positive contributions to changing the situation.

In addition to a possible partnership with Uganda, the ENS continues to call for civil society links and project partnerships to be adequately promoted in other countries of the Global South beyond the official closer cooperation/partnership with Uganda (e.g. via the Small Project Fund Abroad).

Due to the many years of accompanying preparatory work and the existing competences regarding networking, international partnerships and development cooperation as well as the implementation of the SDGs and the ESD national strategy, the ENS sees itself as a suitable partner with regard to the development and expansion of partnership relations with Uganda.

Nevertheless, due to a high workload among ENS staff and a lack of financial support for consultancy and networking, it is currently hardly possible to implement the following tasks and activities for development cooperation in partnership:

- Accompany/advise 25 ENS member associations/organisations with partnerships in the Global South
- Approx. 10 other organisations that apply to the North-South Bridges Foundation, be NGO or genialsozial for funds for measures in the Global South or use, advise and accompany donations.
- or the rather unknown private sponsors who are among the 130 developmentally committed people identified by UNU Flores in a study in cooperation with ENS.¹

Under the Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) and partly together with the municipal development policy managers (kepol), there is support for the commitment of the cities of Chemnitz, Dresden and Leipzig in particular with their partner cities in the Global South and for socially just and ecological procurement. In smaller and medium-sized cities, there are hardly any partnerships with municipalities in the Global South, but thanks to great civil society commitment, Fairtrade Towns have been founded (e.g. Markleeberg, Eibenstock) and development policy measures of civil society promoted (e.g. municipal representatives from Uganda were invited to talks in Zwickau). In some cases, the ENS can provide support through the *Global Sustainable Communities (GNC)* project, in others it is evident that despite a committed civil society (e.g. the Görlitz Sustainable Working Group), the municipality itself is not/can not become active.

The ENS has been supporting the Free State of Saxony's considerations of closer cooperation with a country/region in Africa since 2018. Since 2020, a small working group consisting of four ENS member associations has been meeting to provide professional advice and support for the possible partnership. Currently, this working group is being expanded in order to put the planned project work on a broader footing.

The ENS accompanied the trip of the Minister of State Oliver Schenk to Uganda (June 2022) and publicised it through a social media measure (Instagram story). An important goal of the trip for the

¹See also UNU Flores study - 2020/21 conducted jointly with ENS: <https://www.einewelt-sachsen.de/nichtregierungsorganisationen-sind-tragende-saeule-der-saechsischen-entwicklungszusammenarbeit/>

ENS was to identify comparable civil society groups that could critically accompany the planned partnership together with the ENS. In addition to talks with Margaret Nakato from the Katosi Women Development Trust on 19.06.2022, Dorothea Trappe met with three women's organisations on 24.06.2022 that showed interest in networking with each other and in long-term support for the partnership:

- Foundation for Women Affected by Conflicts (FOWAC) represented by the Executive Director -Grace Arach
- AFRICA EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (AFRICA ELI) led by Zaharah Namanda
- African women and Girls organisation (AWAGO) represented by Judith Nassali

A small social media campaign on the 16 Days Against Violence Towards Women (16dayscampaign.org) is planned for autumn 2022 in order to learn together what to look out for in a future partnership and joint monitoring of the Free State's partnership. Basically, it is important to keep in mind that it was not so much the Ugandan partners who were looking for a closer partnership, but that this project idea was strongly influenced by associations in the Global North/Saxony - all the more important will be a kick-off meeting in which common goals can be set.

In addition to the active ESD associations, partnership groups and associations, also in the church sector, individual school partnerships are known, but not yet generally recorded. The ESD activities of cultural institutions and social projects should also be identified more precisely and integrated into a possible partnership with Uganda. In addition, an expansion of the partnership activities to other associations, e.g. in the field of sports, is desirable.

The partnership between Uganda and the Free State of Saxony should be discussed and critically monitored in the ENS. In the best case, both partners, consisting of networks of different actors, act on an equal footing. The ENS will work with Ugandan civil society partner organisations to ensure that the cooperation has a positive impact on the lives of the people in Uganda.

Overall, closer cooperation or partnership in a vibrant civil society can also spill over into the wider partnerships of associations, municipalities and schools.

4. goals & measures/ 5. services

Overall objective

SDG 17 "Partnerships to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals" is addressed and implemented in Saxony.

Project goal

The closer cooperation/partnership of the Free State of Saxony with Uganda is professionally supported and accompanied by civil society. Participating civil society actors are strengthened and advised. A network partner in Uganda contributes its expertise to the partnership.

4.1 Objective "Initiate process"

It is necessary to initiate the partnership process and its civil society accompaniment by defining the goals of the partnership together with all stakeholders involved. This should form a basis for

long-term projects in the sense of partnership cooperation (which the Free State may finance or recognise as "its" partnership).

SDGs should be integrated into the process by the stakeholders identifying areas that should be addressed by the partnership in terms of sustainable development and in which the Free State of Saxony and Uganda can learn and benefit from each other (possible topics from the minutes of one of the first stakeholder meetings with the SC on 09.04.2019: digitalisation, communication, population, promotion of democracy).

- The needs of the Saxon and Ugandan sides should also be identified and integrated into the process

Once the objectives have been set, milestones in the process should be defined.

Furthermore, an understanding of the roles of the different stakeholders in the partnership process is needed.

At present, about 7 Saxon organisations are known to maintain partnership relations with Ugandan organisations or to be active in international development cooperation. In addition, it can be assumed that there are other organisations, groups and individuals who also maintain relations with Uganda. It is important to identify these, establish appropriate contact and involve them in the partnership process. The existing ENS working group "Partnerships" will be expanded. The following organisations are currently working with partners in Uganda

- Afropa e.V.
- Akifra - Action group for children's and women's rights e.V.
- ArchenoVa - Initiative for People in Need e.V.
- Geninsa - Society for International Development Saxony e. V.
- Know-How Global e.V.
- Schools for Uganda e.V.
- Shisasay e.V.

5.1 Measures/services "Initiate process"

- Kick-off meeting to jointly define the partnership objectives, milestones as well as the corresponding roles of the actors (SK, ENS, partners on the Ugandan side) in the process.
- Strategic considerations for the identification of further interested districts in Saxony
- Regular exchanges with SK, e.g. as a jour fixe - Evaluation retreat after one year

4.2 Objective "Cooperation with a comparable institution in Uganda"

For a successful and stable partnership, it is also necessary to have appropriate contact persons on the Ugandan side. A cooperation with an institution comparable to the ENS is planned, which coordinates the partnership activities on the Ugandan side. A kick-off meeting will be held with the organisation contacted so far (KWDT, near Kampala) to clarify expectations.

5.2 Measures/services "Cooperation with comparable institution"

- Ensure communication with Ugandan liaison office/network structure (possibly via Katosi Woman Development Trust (KWDT)).

- Annual closed meeting of the target group (1st year kickoff), 3 annual network meetings with different organisations from Uganda in Uganda.
- 3 online networking meetings between KWDT and ENS (especially the WG Partnership).
- Online participation in network meetings of the ENS and other Saxon actors
- Social media workshop for participating organisations in Uganda
- Joint public relations/social media campaigning

4.3 Objective "Civil society actors are networked with partners in Uganda"

Through the establishment of partnership relations, existing partnerships are consolidated and new partnerships between Saxon and Ugandan civil society actors are created. For this purpose, appropriate networking takes place, which accompanies, advises and trains the actors.

Other relevant actors in Saxony and Uganda are informed about partnership opportunities and are supported and accompanied in the establishment of partnership relationships.

The circle of civil society stakeholders and organisations (schools, cultural institutions, social institutions, companies interested in social/sustainable projects) with an interest in partnership relations in Uganda is expanding and diversifying.

5.3 Measures/services "Civil society actors are networked with partners in Uganda"

- Establishing contacts with groups of actors in Saxony and Uganda (initiatives, associations, diasporic individuals (groups), municipalities, etc.)
 - Contacts through the Saxon State Chancellery, currently already identified
 - Cautious interest of Plauen/Zwickau municipalities in school exchanges
 - Omwana e.V. - Musical instruments
- Actors' field analysis of municipalities, institutions and organisations with partnerships in the Global South, especially Uganda
- Form a steering group with representatives from all stakeholder groups that meets once a quarter.
- 3x annual networking meetings
- 1 thematic networking event/conference per year
- Establishing comparable structures in Uganda
- ENS as an interface offers mediation, e.g. for exchange opportunities for schools (ENSA etc.) or for advice on fundraising/epol. work for municipalities. Work for municipalities
- A trip to Uganda or an exchange meeting in Saxony with a Ugandan partner network during the project period.

4.4 Objective "Include Ugandan Diaspora in Saxony"

People with Ugandan biographies have knowledge and competences that can be of great importance for the success of the partnership. Therefore, they should be involved in the process, not least because their competences will be appreciated accordingly.

5.4 Measures/services "Include Ugandan Diaspora in Saxony"

- Establishing contacts with groups of actors in Saxony and Uganda (initiatives, associations, diasporic individuals (groups), municipalities, etc.)

4.5 Objective "Promote qualified and reflected development cooperation with regard to Uganda in the Free State of Saxony"

Through the project, the competences of Saxon institutions/organisations regarding international partnerships and development cooperation will be expanded. Institutions/organisations that have not yet cultivated international partnerships will be empowered in this regard.

The actors in the partnership process are sensitised to power relations in North-South partnerships and a corresponding critical reflection of the partnership understanding takes place. Non-European views, changes of perspective and knowledge of colonial continuities are integrated into their own observations and contribute to a contemporary partnership at eye level.

5.5 Measures/services "Qualify and sensitise stakeholder groups"

- 2 one-day further training measures/services/workshops per year (organisational as well as content-related)
- Individual advice on applications and partnership-based project design

4.6 Objective "Saxon civil society can inform itself about Uganda and the development cooperation of the Free State of Saxony is made known to the public"

As a result of the development of partnership cooperation with Ugandan actors, knowledge about Uganda is growing in participating Saxon institutions/organisations. These institutions/organisations pass on their knowledge to civil society in Saxony and thus promote interpersonal relations on a global level and peaceful coexistence.

5.6 Measures/services "Public Relations for Partnership Work"

- Inform target groups about current developments in the partnership process
- Inform potential stakeholders and the general public about milestones in the partnership process.
- Establish "Saxony Partnership Portal" → there is a platform on the ENS homepage with main information, is used
- Networking with official channels of the Free State of Saxony
- Participation in various VAs/advertising of measures/services

6. Indicators

Project objective: The closer cooperation/partnership of the Free State of Saxony with Uganda is professionally supported and accompanied by civil society. Participating civil society actors are strengthened and advised. A network partner in Uganda contributes its expertise to the partnership.

Indicator 1: The project was implemented with the planned measures

Instrument: Comparison of planned and implemented measures

Indicator 2: 80% of the civil society actors involved confirm that the partnership cooperation between Saxon and Ugandan actors has been strengthened and expanded

Instrument: Questionnaire, individual interviews

Indicator 3: 65% of the civil society actors involved confirm an increase in knowledge and competence regarding partnership and development cooperation

Instrument: Questionnaire

Indicator 4: The project-related public relations work has been able to reach parts of the general public in Saxony and the internet platform is used regularly

Instrument: Analysis of accesses to the platform and social media posts

7. Target groups

- Saxon initiatives and associations with project partnerships in the Global South
The primary target group are civil society associations and initiatives that already have existing partnerships in countries of the Global South or directly in Uganda. The project is intended to help the organisations concerned to network and exchange more with each other with the aim of intensifying their work and establishing partnerships with Ugandan partners.
- Winning over other initiatives and associations for partnerships with Uganda
In addition, other organisations should be won over that are interested in establishing partnership relations with Ugandan organisations. These can be other associations from the One World sector or from development work, but also cultural institutions, sports clubs, social projects, etc.
- Ugandan diaspora in Saxony
People with Ugandan biographies living in Saxony should be involved in the process wherever possible. They can be an important link in building partnership relations. At the same time, their involvement means recognising and acknowledging their competences in terms of intercultural relations.
- Indirect target group: Saxon municipalities and schools with partnerships in the Global South/East
According to deutschland.de, only 1.5% of the total of 5,000 town partnerships with German municipalities exist with African cities. It is therefore desirable to involve Saxon municipalities in the twinning process with Uganda. First, interested Saxon municipalities should be identified and approached. In a second step, contact should be established with Ugandan civil society organisations and municipal institutions. The direct contact/target group for this project remains civil society, i.e. processes in municipalities and schools could be initiated through them.

- Saxon population

Through the project's public relations work, the Saxon population is informed about the development of the partnership relations with Uganda. This also results in knowledge of the culture and living situation of the Ugandan population as well as current national and global challenges (e.g. effects of climate change in Uganda and how to deal with it).

Sustainability

The results of the project and the evaluation meetings will be documented and made available to the steering group as well as to the Free State of Saxony in detail - to the ENS members and involved stakeholders in an abridged form, so that even after the end of the project, further partnership work in the sense of SDG 17 will be possible.

When looking for speakers, the ENS makes sure that speakers with a migration history are present as much as possible - overall, diversity is also taken into account here. Travel is also preferably by public transport. When printing flyers, if they have to be printed at all, to advertise the qualification series, we pay attention to ecological aspects (petroleum-free inks on recycled paper). Also for online offers we attach great importance to data protection, use open source software, as well as "green" power supply when hosting platforms we use. Unfortunately, this is not guaranteed in the case of social media.

In principle, ENS makes sure that conference centres with sustainable management are selected - as long as they come into question in terms of price and travel routes. Caterers are approached about organic-fair supply, sometimes even motivated to continue selling fair-trade products beyond the ENS events. In the ENS office, too, attention is paid to energy and resource-saving working methods (recycled paper, green IT, etc.).

Overall, the ENS strives to pay special attention to the situation of target groups that are little represented or paid little attention to in public in its projects and the projects of the member associations. In order to make participation possible for all, we offer childcare on request.