
(start of english version)



Dear all,

Studying often signifies the start of a new phase of life - a time for think about education as a springboard for further action and ask yourself difficult questions. For many of us here in Germany, a university education is such a matter of course that the broader significance of education often gets lost in the hustle and bustle of daily life. But these are not the circumstances everywhere - in our target regions and many other countries of the world, it is not easy even for highly motivated young people to access higher education.

This makes the news from our projects even more gratifying. With your support, we were once again able to conclude contracts with new scholarship holders. Each of our invitations as met with a flood of applications. This enormous interest spurs us on to continue doing our utmost to support scholarship holders and develop our structures to ensure the future. Studies Without Borders operates in decentralised structures in Germany in groups which enjoy relative autonomy. This way of working provides us with considerable dynamism, but certain structures are necessary to coordinate all the people involved and keep us on track to reach our shared goals. To this end, we held one of our most important organisation-wide meet-ups in May, our Federal Coordination Team Conference. We want to use the shared dedication of our members, sponsors and in-country partners to continue to offer ever more and better scholarships.

Enjoy the read,

Ulrik Feuer (Chair) and Dominik Welke (Communications Officer)

Report from our Federal Coordination Team Conference 2017 in Karlsruhe



On the weekend of the 19th-21st May, over 40 members holding leadership positions came together in Karlsruhe. These Germany-wide meets are always demanding to organise due to the decentralised structure of our organisation with its 16 local groups and national-level project groups and departments. But it's worth it: the aim of the annual meet up is to exchange experiences, to develop skills in workshops and to set new goals for the organisation.

In this year's programme, the spotlight was on a range of topics including professionalism and long-term planning,

structuring knowledge transfer, imparting leadership qualities, and a programme block on networking, fundraising and the organisation's public image. Alongside the input, the gathering is also an opportunity to get together with people from other corners of Germany. As so much of the work with Studies Without Borders is done remotely, we often work in close collaboration with other members who we rarely see. The feeling of being part of a larger team is crucial for fostering commitment: the weekend was intensive and we headed home motivated and full of fresh momentum for our local groups!

The latest from our projects

This section brings you all the latest news from our projects in Sri Lanka, Chechnya and Kindu in the DR Congo. We are delighted to have been able to take on so many ambitious and socially committed scholarship holders once again. News from our projects in Afghanistan, Burundi, Guatemala and Mweso in the DR Congo is coming in the August 2017 newsletter.

Scholarship programme in Chechnya



"In Tübingen, I would like to develop my ideas for social education projects, as well as live out my democratic and European values" – Ibraghim

The Chechnya Project has finally welcomed Ibraghim, a new scholarship holder, to Tübingen in September 2017. Despite the impressive numbers of engaged young Chechens in the application process, Ibraghim caught our attention on account of his active commitment to pursuing his vision for Chechen society. Undeterred by a full-time job and his Engineering degree, Ibraghim also volunteers in the social sector, mainly in championing the interests of disabled people, who struggle with limited visibility in Chechnya. Ibraghim would like to spend his year in Germany gathering new ideas for projects and continuing his education so he can later implement his ideas for Chechen society with greater success. The Tübingen project group is looking forward to an exciting intercultural exchange and to supporting Ibraghim in his endeavours.

Click [here](#) to find out more about the scholarship programme in Chechnya.

Scholarship programme in Kindu, Democratic Republic of Congo

Over the course of the last six weeks, more than 70 volunteers have helped out in the selection process, appraising the over 170 applications we received from motivated young people from Kindu. Every application was read and assessed by six of the people on the selection panel. The project ideas from the 16 applicants who we thought held most promise were then sent anonymously to the Congo, where our colleagues Apolline and Basile are currently deliberating which project ideas could potentially be realised and their respective value for the Congolese population. Assisted by our colleagues' extensive knowledge and experience, seven new scholarship holders will soon be selected. We can't reveal much yet, but we were hugely impressed by the number of great project proposals from young people in Kindu!

Click [here](#) to find out more about the scholarship programme in Kindu.

"Action Forum" scholarship programme in Sri Lanka

Our scholarship programme got underway in January 2016 with two students from the rural east of Sri Lanka.



Nasath is currently in his second year studying Medicine at the University of Peradeniya. Despite being in the midst of his degree, he is involved in organising and running health camps, where patients can have their blood sugar levels and blood pressure measured, or receive eye examinations. Such health camps are invaluable for people living in rural regions who otherwise have no regular access to health care. Nasath would like to share the knowledge acquired in his Medicine degree with his fellow citizens to educate them about health issues. He is also involved in the organisation VISION NINTAVUR, where around 20 students offer 45 school pupils extra tuition and exam preparation support.

Akram is in the third year of his Agricultural Sciences at the University of Ruhuna. After finishing his degree, he intends to work together with indigenous rice farmers to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers. Employed excessively, such fertilizers can harm people as well as the environment. Akram would like to share the knowledge acquired in his degree with the farmers to educate them about manufacturing and applying organic fertilizers.



We are supporting Nasath and Akram by contributing a monthly grant of 50 Euros towards their living costs. We are in personal contact with both scholarship holders and wish them success in their studies and the implementation of their projects.

Click [here](#) to find out more about the scholarship programme.

“Infinity Center” scholarship programme in Sri Lanka

Access to the internet and computers in general is very limited in Sri Lanka, meaning that even basic computer skills can open up new job prospects. Since the start of our project in 2013, we have made it possible for 12 scholarship holders to attend an IT course at the “Infinity Center for Higher Studies” in Nilaveli in the north-east Sri Lanka. A further five students are set to receive our support in 2017.

At the end of March, our cooperation partner Christie Samuel, the founder of the Infinity Center visited Germany from Sri Lanka and attested to how our scholarships have helped the alumni to find better jobs and improve their educational prospects. One past scholarship holder now manages the accounts for a business. Two other scholarship holders are now studying at university, another has become a teacher. One alumnus was even accepted onto one of the few, much sought-after internships at the government. To counter the lack of further education opportunities in the region, the Infinity Center has opened up local offices in five other villages. Our scholarship programme has also grown considerably since it first began. The first scholarship holders were involved in the local NGO “YGRO”, whereas nowadays the current scholarship holders pursue their own social projects. One scholarship holder is passing on her knowledge to the people in her village who were not able to attend evening school. Other scholarship holders are involved in women’s rights, environmental protection and educational campaigns around alcoholism, which is a widespread issue in the region. We are exciting to see how our scholarship holders’ stories develop!



Click [here](#) to find out more about the scholarship programme.

Support Studies Without Borders

Our work is only possible because of your support! There are number of ways to get involved:

Donate via text

It has never been easier to donate to Studies Without Borders! Simply text ‘GIB3 SOG’, ‘GIB5 SOG’, or ‘GIB9 SOG’ to 81190 and €3, €5 or €9 will make their merry way to Studies Without Borders. Texts are charged at the network operator’s standard rate plus an additional 17 euro cent service handling fee. **Please note that you can only donate using this service from a German mobile.**

Keep up to date with Studies Without Borders on Facebook

Click [here](#) to go to the Studies Without Borders Facebook page.

For further opportunities to support Studies Without Borders, for example to become a member or make a donations, click [here](#).

All that remains is for us to say a huge thank you to all the active members of Studies Without Borders, present and past, and all the Friends of SWB and sponsors for your support!

Website: www.studieren-ohne-grenzen.org

Facebook: [/www.facebook.com/studierenohnegrenzen](https://www.facebook.com/studierenohnegrenzen)

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