



Bonn, August 2017

Dear readers,

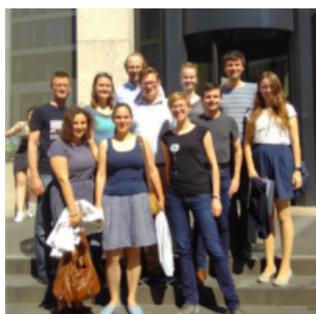
As summer arrives, bringing pleasant temperatures, sunshine or devastating floods, it also marks the period where students around the world face some of the more significant challenges of the academic year. Exams have to be passed, essays finished and dissertations submitted, accompanied by the feeling that everything that follows depends on meeting these challenges. Studies Without Borders is proud to give so many young, socially active people in our target regions the opportunity to worry about such things. With your assistance, we have been able to accompany them through another year, offering them the best support we can muster.

It is often the case that our scholarship holders' social projects really take off once they graduate. With every successfully completed course of study, another scholarship place opens for the next round of young, motivated people eager to rise to the challenges of higher education and make a positive difference in their local environment. In the past months we have once again received and evaluated a mountain of applications from promising candidates. And there is also good news from Germany: we have gained a new addition to our association structure, and reinforced our network through stronger links to other student initiatives engaging for the future. So join us in celebrating the past months and read on for all the latest from SWB Germany, our projects running in Afghanistan and Mweso (DR Congo) and our emerging projects in Burundi and Guatemala.

Enjoy the read,

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

Foundation of 'Friends of Studies Without Borders'



Founding members

The inaugural meeting of the Friends of Studies Without Borders association took place in Berlin on 18 June 2017. The newest association in the SWB family emerged from the idea of some former members of Studies Without Borders who wanted to maintain links to the organisation after graduating. The Friends association will begin recruiting members from those formerly involved in the SWB organisation from the end of the year onwards. The Friends association aims to offer our Germany-based 'alumni' and other supporters a way to pursue the goals of SWB on an ad hoc basis (e.g. networking, fundraising etc.). The Friends association however will not be involved in the organisation's project work.

[More](#) about the association

Membership in the Association of German Student Initiatives

The 'Verband Deutscher Studierenden Initiativen e.V.' (VDSI, Association of German Student Initiatives) is an amalgamation of the 10 largest student initiatives in Germany. It creates a platform for exchange between different initiatives and champions the interests of student voluntary work in general, for example, university credit recognition for involvement in a particular organisation's work. After an exciting six months in the VDSI with the status of 'observer', Studies Without Borders is now pleased to have become the 11th full member. We are hugely looking forward to being part of this extensive network of over 20,000 students and to seeing the benefits of exchange and collaboration with the other initiatives.



[More](#) about the VDSI

The latest from our projects

Read on to find out the latest from our projects in **Afghanistan, Mweso in the DR Congo, Burundi and Guatemala**. News from our projects in **Sri Lanka, Chechnya and Kindu in the DR Congo** is set to follow in the next newsletter in November 2017.

Herat, Afghanistan (Local groups: Stuttgart, Bonn)

From the over a hundred applications for our two scholarship places at Herat University, we eventually settled on Bashira and Saifullah who impressed us with their ideas for voluntary work. They were accepted onto our scholarship project in March and they have both successfully developed their voluntary projects over the past five months.



Bashira working in the lab

Bashira is studying Microbiology and puts her skills to good use by supporting the overburdened staff at the university labs and offering courses for younger students.

Saifullah studies Computer Science, and has set himself the aim of educating others about women's rights - an issue often neglected in Afghanistan. As part of this, he has set up a blog, launched a poster campaign and brings this topic into the open by addressing such issues as the status of women in the Afghan constitution in public spaces with his fellow students.

Unfortunately there is also less positive news. Our scholarship holders have spoken of a noticeable deterioration of the general security situation in Afghanistan for some time now. The north-western city of Herat, where our project is based, has been relatively stable up till now but the unrest has begun to take its toll there as well. Fortunately, our scholarship holders and their surroundings have not been directly affected to date and they are able to continue their studies and voluntary work.

[More](#) about our projekt in Afghanistan
[Link](#) to Saifullah's Weblog (Arabic language)

Mweso, DR Kongo (Localgroups: Aachen, Berlin, Jena)

The Mweso project group can kick off with a whole series of highlights:

Thanks to the many committed members who lent their assistance during the selection process, the project group selected ten new scholarship holders in the spring who were admitted in the semester just gone. Another 16 scholarship holders are set to be admitted again in 2017, and the applications for the next round arrived in Berlin two weeks ago. Once again, the selection process is ready to commence and we are already looking forward to the outcome!

Viateur Mujogo, the founder of our partner organisation CADEP, came to Berlin last month on a visit. We were delighted to finally meet Viateur in person and would like to thank him again for the past years of close and constructive collaboration! The meeting was extremely interesting and productive for all the members present, and we gained a wealth of information firsthand about the situation in Mweso and the scholarship holders. We are already looking forward to our next meeting!



Working in a relaxed atmosphere

CADEP sent us the business plan for the prospective 'didactic farm' in Mweso last December. The local group in Jena will continue taking care of implementing and financing of the sub-project. The didactic farm is envisaged as a centre serving educational purposes and should be able to support itself financially.



The slogan '7 reasons to become a sponsor' heralded a month of action for the Mweso project. The local groups in Berlin, Aachen, Dresden and Jena diligently spread the word, raised awareness and canvassed in order to recruit new sponsors. But their efforts have paid off, and the project groups signed up 11 new sponsors in a single month! A fantastic result!

[More](#) about our project in Mweso

Bujumbura, Burundi (Local groups: Marburg)

The contact to our cooperation partner in Burundi was unfortunately lost in the spring and the project group had to find an alternative partner to serve as a point of contact in Burundi and help with running and implementing the project. Personal contacts led us to a suitable and motivated partner in May and we are now looking forward to starting a project together. After intensive discussions, we have made some slight modifications to some aspects of the project concept. Candidates can now apply for a scholarship for their Bachelor or Master study programmes, instead of solely for their Bachelor degree. In addition, scholarship holders now have to commit a minimum of two hours per week to voluntary work alongside their studies. Through this, the scholarship holders should act as disseminators of the knowledge they acquire and thus contribute to triggering social change.

The first selection process is planned for the autumn and will feature an interview process with the five most promising candidates. The first scholarship holder in Bujumbura, Burundi will then be admitted in January 2018. The workload increasingly grows, together with the sense of responsibility in the project group. Two deputy project coordinators were elected this summer and a potential candidate for supervising the sponsors. As ever, we can fully count on support from the project group in Marburg. The project is currently at an exciting stage and the project group is enjoying every minute.

[More](#) about our project in Burundi on our brand new page

Guatemala (Local groups: Göttingen, Dresden)

Hard work continues on the Guatemala project. We have finally succeeded in putting our personal contacts to good use and have established contact with the relevant people at the university in Guatemala. At the moment, the project group is searching high and low for project sponsors. Through the local group in Dresden, a motivated partner has been found, bringing reliable and skilled members to the table. The project group is set to have their first joint meet up in Dresden in October to get to know one another and devote a weekend to intensive work on the project, including to the project's Facebook page.

[More](#) about our project in Guatemala

Support Studies Without Borders

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

Become a project sponsor

Want to directly support scholarship holders like Bashira and Saifullah in Afghanistan, or in one of our other projects? As an organisation, sponsors help us to plan for the long term and directly contribute to funding the scholarships we offer.

Interested? Click [here](#) for more information and our online sponsorship form.

'Friedensgeschenke' - gift donations for peace

Make a friend or relative's day and support our work at the same time. How? Purchase a 'Friedensgeschenke' gift donation and receive a greeting card to pass on or hold onto as a reminder. The donations go towards supporting students striving for peace in the eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo, an area with a legacy of war and armed conflict.

To find out more and order a 'Friedensgeschenke' gift donation, click [here](#)

By the way doing Online shopping

Shop online with a clear conscience. The website called bildungsspender.de redirects users to a range of online traders including Amazon, booking.com or bahn.de, before donating a considerable proportion of its commission to a not-for-profit organisation of your choice - for example, Studies Without Borders! There are no hidden or added costs involved, and around 5% of the value of the purchase will go towards our projects.

Click [here](#) to go to our profile

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 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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