
ENSA - EXCHANGE VISITS

Guidelines relating to the support letter of the school management

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ENSA - Bringing global learning to life

The development school exchange programme (ENSA) of Engagement Global, financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), promotes school partnerships between schools in Germany and their partner schools in countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and South Eastern Europe. ENSA offers an educational programme and provide funding for school partnerships. There are two different programme lines for this purpose: initiation visits and exchange visits.

The ENSA programme is aimed at youths from 14 years old of all secondary school forms in Germany and the respective partner countries. It is important for us to involve pupils with various social backgrounds.

For more information about the ENSA please visit our website: <https://ensa.engagement-global.de/start-en.html>

What are exchange visits?

Exchange visits are aimed at schools which already have a partnership with a school in a country in Africa, Asia, South America or Southeast Europe. It can either take place in Germany (incoming) or in the country of the partner school (outgoing). ENSA supports visits that last at least up to 14 days (plus joint arrival and departure). The schools can decide that the visit should last longer if they raise the additional funds for this themselves.

Up to 12 pupils and teachers can take part in the exchange visit. Members of the school management may also travel, as well as staff of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), if they accompany the partnership. The focus of the visit is on joint work on a topic of the pupils' choice in the field of global learning.

The application is submitted for either the incoming or the outgoing visit. Ideally, a return visit will take place the following year. These applications must be submitted separately the following year.

An important part of the ENSA funding is the **content accompaniment** of the initiation visits, which supports an embedding, processing and critical reflection of that the students have learned. Professional workshop leaders accompany the school partnership at joint conferences, which are designed to the needs of the youths and teachers. In addition, the conferences support the school projects in embedding the school partnerships as well as the contents of the Global Education into the schools in the long-term.

The aim is to establish long-term school partnerships based on reciprocity. Through exchange visits partner schools can deepen their cooperation and network more closely with NGOs more closely.

Through regular encounters between the partner schools, dealing with global issues becomes part of the students' everyday life. They immerse themselves in other life realities and can develop ideas for further engagement of their own. Pupils who meet and get to know each other through the joint

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project of the trip can practically experience how global connections work and what this has to do with them and their lives.

For more information about the exchange visits please visit our website: <https://ensa.engagement-global.de/how-do-exchange-visits-work.html>

The support letter

The school partnership should be institutionally anchored and, in terms of sustainability, ideally supported by several people, both within the teaching staff and outside the school (e.g. by the municipality or NGOs). If possible, the topics of the school partnership can also be anchored in the lessons. For this, the support of the school management in Germany and in the partner country is particularly important and helpful. This is because the school management can create space for the teachers, support and accompany them - or, in negative cases, block activities.

The letters of support prove the approval and commitment of the school management for the ENSA funding application of their schools.

Key questions

When creating the support letter as a part of the ENSA application documents please look into the following questions:

- 1. Which benefits do you see in the fact that your school has this school partnership?**
With the presentation please look into both the participating pupils as well as your school on the whole (e.g. into the potential anchoring of the topics processed in the project into the school curriculum).
- 2. Since when have you supported the activities within the scope of your school partnership?**
- 3. In which form do you support the exchange visit, for which an ENSA funding is applied for?**
- 4. How is the contact to the partner school so far according to your knowledge?**
- 5. Which possibilities for development do you see for the school partnership?**

Important notice

Funding cannot be guaranteed. It is an application only. However, please note that both schools are not allowed to spend any money on the trip received through ENSA funding until the German partners have signed the contract with ENSA. Funds spent prior to contract completion are not eligible and may result that the project can be disqualified from funding.

Thank you very much for your hard work!

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