
ENSA - INITIATION VISITS

Guidelines relating to the support letter
of the school management

Gefördert von

**ENGAGEMENT
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Service für Entwicklungsinitiativen



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Bundesministerium für
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit
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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 to involve pupils with various social backgrounds.

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

What are initiation visits?

Initiation visits are aimed at schools that want to establish a new partnership with a school in a country in Africa, Asia, South America or Southeast Europe. It is important to ENSA that the partner schools visit each other, therefore, the initiation trips always consist of two trips within one calendar year:

- a visit of the German school to its partner school abroad (outgoing) and
- a return visit of the partner school from abroad to Germany (incoming).

The funding applies to a group size of a minimum of four to a maximum of six people per school and initiation visit. The participation of at least two students from each school is mandatory. The participation of the head of the school is recommended for both schools. Members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are allowed to travel along if they accompany the partnership.

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

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

The 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 would like to build up this school partnership?**
- 2. In which form do you support the planned initiation visits, for which ENSA funding is applied for? Will you also travel as a participant?**
If you take part: What do you want to specifically achieve or implement on site? Consider for ex-ample coordination with the partner school, the set-up of a network and getting to know further partners who may be taken into consideration, the involvement of the parents as well as the specific preparation of future meetings of the pupils in both countries.
- 3. Which possible focuses can you imagine for a joint agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) concerning 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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