

Forum "Projects Development Partnership " - Forum PEP --

Policy Statement concerning Project work, Development and Partnership

(As of 31 December 2009)

In view of global environmental challenges on the one hand and the coalescence of the global economy on the other, there is an increasing awareness of the inter-dependencies and the demand for a common scheme in terms of the development in partnership.¹

The following points serve for the reflection and qualification of OneWorld (Eine Welt) work in Bavaria.

1. Our basis: Many grown and growing relationships

For many years, relationships have existed between Bavaria and all regions of the world, with greatly differing forms of living conditions². Numerous charitable associations and organizations, fair trade shops, churches, religious organizations, schools, communities, business institutions, individuals, ministries and other government agencies in Bavaria maintain contacts with partners in the South and East, initiate collective learning processes, support the partners in the implementation of development projects and work in multilateral networks.³

¹The authors are aware that with the combination of "partnership" and "development" two equivocal words are juxtaposed and brought into connection. This Statement is however not a theoretical introduction of "development partnership", rather, it is based on the diverse and long experience of the member groups of the Eine Welt Netzwerk Bayern eV.

²See e.g. List of States of the DAC (Development Assistance Committees list, the organization of 22 donor countries of the OECD): <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/23/34/37954893.pdf>

³An overview of the variety of projects and partnerships in Bavaria from municipalities, parishes, schools and NGOs can be seen on the Bavarian partnership and education portal "Bayern-EineWelt" www.bayern-eine-welt.de, initiated by the Eine Welt Netzwerk Bayern e.V. and financed by the Bavarian State Government and the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Bavaria.

2. Our aim: development in partnership

Our objective is the joint development in partnership. The basis for this are human rights, justice, peace, solidarity and integrity of creation / preservation of the natural foundations of life - worldwide. All people should be able to lead an independent life in dignity. All are to take part; observing the principle of assisting to achieve self-help.

2.1 **Development** is an ongoing process which requires constant attention. Success is achieved through shared learning and action.

1. Development conceptions are discussed jointly with all parties. They serve as a common basis of the partnership.

2. Development must be in terms of sustainability - in economic, environmental and social matters. This is our commitment in Bavaria and we work together with like-minded parties in many countries of the South and East .⁴

2.2 **Partnership** is the goal and way. We want a partnership of equals.

1. Partnership needs autonomy: each partner should stand on his own feet.

2. Partnership needs encounter and reciprocity. It is based on the exchange of experiences, knowledge, spiritual, human and financial resources. It consists of more than financial transfers and project work: from working together and mutual learning.⁵

3. Partnership requires the willingness and commitment to persevere and obligate.

4. Partnership is an inter-cultural learning community. Differences and strangeness between people of different cultures, even in the working world, are to be endured. It is particularly beneficial to identify and establish areas of common ground.

5. All parties are committed to the partnership and assume joint responsibility for it, and wish to avoid dependency and maintain autonomy.⁶

⁴"Our commitment is steady and credible, if we develop a way of life that is simpler, more environmentally conscious, and shows solidarity and a readiness to talk. Development must begin with ourselves and [...] leading to self-restraint by a different approach to money and possessions, with nature and man. [...] As much as development in each individual begins and creates an atmosphere for a change in attitudes, it is not adequate to be self-sufficient, and should not flinch from external resistance in the political and economic structures", Walter Ulbricht, Campo Limpo e.V., in: 'Global vernetzte, lokale ökumenische Solidaritätsarbeit', 2000, p. 19, p. 21

⁵The spiritual dimension of partnership and project work must not be underestimated. When this happens, the effectiveness and sustainability often suffers, for people in other cultures, everything has a spiritual essence (of course not necessarily Christian spirituality). I know that in Latin America the element of celebration is essential - without a fiesta, it's not a good project. For our partners in Africa and Papua New Guinea there are religious services / prayers with symbolic acts and always a meal with appropriate ceremonies, "Jens Porep, Mission EineWelt - Center for Partnership, Development and Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria.

⁶Fair Trade demonstrates how gender equality can succeed: each partner acts responsibly in their field as trading partners, they support each other and are mutually dependent. Another good example is the partnership of micro credit lending in Oikocredit.

6. Partnership is solidarity: each partner uses their strength and experience also in networking for the benefit of others.

7. Partnership always takes into account the political, economic and sociocultural context and attempts to change positively.

8. Partnership must always be critically looked at. In this instance external consulting can be helpful.

3. Our Practice

In order to achieve partnership development, we rely on, amongst other things, exchange and dialogue, common interests, common projects and programs, education- and information work as well as lobbying.

3.1 Exchange and dialogue

Due to the improved possibilities in communications and easier spatial accessibility, there occur constantly more and better possibilities to exchange information and dialogue. Our awareness of the OneWorld is growing and is increasingly influencing our lifestyle.

Often, the partners have different motivations and expectations. There exists the need for specific experiences and efforts, such as through discussions, exchange visits and personnel exchanges in both directions, including South-South / East-East. It is about openness and having complete sympathy for each other.

Dialogue has to take place on a par. This is especially true for our Bavarian participants, that care must be taken to learn and integrate the experiences of the project partners.

3.2 Common interests

The negative consequences of globalization are felt worldwide. Our partners in the South and East are particularly affected by the adverse effects. Alone there is little one can do. For this reason we therefore commit ourselves to work together. Many possibilities for change towards sustainable development exist with us in the North. It is our responsibility for us to stand for fair conditions in the world. Likewise, our partners are encouraged to strive for fairness and health in our world.

3.3 Joint projects and programmes

Projects in countries of the South / East currently play an important role in OneWorld work, but they are only part of partnership development.

1. Financial support (in the form of short-term emergency relief, short-term projects or large programs) is currently an important part of specific OneWorld work. A possibility is to motivate those who do not at present participate, as this would appear to many as the most effective form of solidarity.

But projects pose dangers: One of the dangers is that giver solely determines the project. Also, it is hardly possible to take into account all the effects, or to control them. Since financial project assistance could help to perpetuate unequal relations, it must always be geared to make it obsolete and to change unjust structures. The aim must be that the present recipients have more and more resources in their own country.

Transparency is important for both sides when using financial resources: On the one hand it should be clear from where the invested funds originate and with which expenditure (actions, product sales, applications) they could be made available. On the other hand, the dealing with the financial resources must be documented and be traceable. Joint participation is an important principle here to make clear the commitment of both sides.

2. Projects are carried out independently by the local partners (identification and ownership)⁷.

3. Projects have for all parties also non-commercial gain.

4. Project work requires qualifying development education and affects it.

In the context of volunteering, collaborating on OneWorld projects, is an experience especially for young people after school or training. After their return, their experiences may be the basis for engagement in the development education. Volunteers must be properly qualified and accompanied. The project partners in the South or East as well as the volunteers and the sending organizations must benefit.

5. Participation in projects shall be open to all people - citizens of the South and East as well as the North.

Consequently, volunteer programmes are not to be a one-way street, but should aim to provide volunteers in both directions.

3.4 Education and information work

Education and information work is necessary for the arranging and the training of development cooperation - as well as here as in the countries in the South and the East.

Education and information work is done in the context of global learning. (e.g. Eine Welt Netzwerk Bayern e.V.- "Erklärung zum Globalen Lernen")

Experiences gained from the development programme will form an important basis for a realistic and lively education and information work.

3.5 Lobbying

We inform the public and responsible positions in politics, economy and society, together with our partners, where appropriate as representatives, of deficiencies in the areas of human rights, justice, peace, solidarity and integrity of creation / preservation of natural resources with which our partners have to combat.

⁷"For Africans, a good project, is one in which we understand ourselves well, and if at the end, the intended target is achieved, they find it all the better. Should only the intended target have been met, but the good co-existence has come too short, the after-effects of the project remain rather low (the house is empty or it comes to mismanagement, because it was not even their own projects, but only that of the partners and they remain responsible ...). The question of ownership of projects is crucial. It must be the project of the local people, in a way they want it and not in a way the "experts" from overseas, from development agencies and from consulting firms. This also applies for the purposes and goals that are connected with us and the technocratic, educated people from the north are then often suspect, "Jens Porep, Mission EineWelt - Center for Partnership, Development and Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria.

We operate based upon our own knowledge and activities, on requests and from our dialogues with those concerned.

Through information campaigns, petitions and alternatives to legal bills, we try, as an advocate of our partners, to influence on politics and business; in order to effectively achieve this, we have formed the Eine Welt Netzwerk Bayern e.V.. We represent the concerns of our partners also in committees.

4. Invitation to participate

This statement is part of a discussion and learning process which is supported by the Projects Development Partnership Forum (Forum PEP) in the Eine Welt Netzwerk Bayern e.V. (see Forum PEP [www.eineweltnetzwerkbayern.de / pep](http://www.eineweltnetzwerkbayern.de/pep)). We invite everyone in Bavaria who are involved in development programmes and their partners in countries of the South and East to participate in the discussion and learning process and to sign this statement.

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