

**-English Version-**

**Protocol**

**31. January 2024**

**II. Global Think Tank – How to bring city partnerships to life?**

**14:00 – 16:00**

**-- 14:10 pm --**

**Contacts:**

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- Project manager at the Service Agency Communities in One World from Engagement Global;
- Works in the field of global partnerships between German and African municipalities.

**Notes:**

- ENSA programme has no support options;
- German database for explicit school partnerships:  
<https://www.austausch-macht-schule.org/foerderprogramme>

**- Presentation round -**

**- City Partnership: Mwanza & Würzburg  
Presentation by Dominik Wershofen & Billy Brown -**

**Content:** Short overview about the city partnership; Focus areas and recent activities as well as challenges & key factors for success → a sustainable and vivid city partnership;

**Mwanza:** second largest city in Tanzania (population around 600,000); very well connected with other East African countries;

- City partnership began in the 1960s;
- Very active city partnership → several sub-collaborations and different interactions with the city of Würzburg have brought many benefits and growth for the two cities.

**Würzburg:** much smaller than Mwanza (population of around 130,000 inhabitants);

- It's located in Bavaria;
- Despite its smaller size, it is the regional center for the region of Lower Franconia with a university.

**History:** In the 60's (after many African states gained their independence) there was the idea to extend the city partnerships to the African continent → this led to the creation of the city partnership between Würzburg - Mwanza in 1966;

- A change of political leadership in Würzburg led the city partnership to fall dormant → however it was brought back to life in the 90's due to the strong interest of the civil society in both cities;
- It was brought back to life from bottom-up after being signed top-down;
- Today, there are several collaborations with universities + a primary school partnership.

### **Projects implemented in the last years:**

#### **1. Public health care:**

- Clean drinking water in Ijinga (island in lake Victoria): the city partnership implemented the project through NACOPA support funds → developed a station to treat water drawn from lake Victoria;
- Capacity building development for the Nyamagana District Hospital: improvement to the neonatal section in the hospital (supported by the Engagement Global); ability to train several doctors in the neonatal section + equipment for the hospital (monitors, ultrasound machines, etc.).

→ These projects have not only been supported at the administrative level, but they are also by the University of Würzburg and the Catholic University of Mwanza & by the civil society.

#### **2. Renovation of German colonial building into a cultural center**

- Functions not only as a space for a critical approach to postcoloniality but also as a space to create new perspectives and to talk about current topics → used for exhibitions, workshops (the powerpoint presentation shows a photo of a group of women in a self-help group, being trained in basic economics and business administration to have their small enterprises flourish), among others.

**Challenges:** Difficult access because it's located on a hill. However, there are efforts being done to bring more life to this renovated building.

#### **3. Climate Partnership**

- It has existed since 2011;
- Support from Engagement Global → supporting cooperation in climate protection and climate change adaptation;
- Projects on Solar Energy (for example, solar fishing lamps) in collaboration with the Technical University of Applied Sciences in Würzburg, the Mwanza EV, but also the Tanzania Renewable Energy Association in Mwanza;
- Projects on Waste Management;
- Workshops in Würzburg (as part of the climate partnership) → partners from Mwanza come to Würzburg to attend these workshops;
- Coordination of joint activities → World Clean Up Action Day → raise awareness about pollution; population is called to collect waste.

**Challenges:**

- Communication with different means;
- Distance;
- High workload of colleagues in the different departments;
- Administrations are overburdened with activities for their own respective city;
- Challenges at the political level (if, for example, there is no support from mayors for the city partnership);
- Bureaucracy at different levels → makes it hard to match all the guidelines and regulations from the various levels (bureaucracy from different institutions and from the different city offices)
- Relying on external funds.

**Success Factors:**

- Better communication despite the cultural differences;
- Engagement Global → facilitated the process of knowing each partner's cultures → better communication & preventing of misunderstandings;
- Strong network and involvement of other partners and stakeholders (NGOs, universities, civil society, schools and experts at different levels) in the city partnership;
- Support from Engagement Global → SKEW services;

**- Support Instruments from SKEW -  
by Eva Heuschen**

Main task is to support partnerships between German municipalities and municipalities of the Global South in all issues related to municipal development cooperation:

- Offers a broad support service, not only financing projects but also financing the cooperation (like delegation visits between municipalities + personal instruments to support the staff in the municipality, both on the German side and the side of the Global South);
- Assistance in looking for and establishing partnerships;
- Vivid & active partnerships → not only through visits but also through the exchange of knowledge, having delegation visits, having frequent contact with each other, having fixed contact persons, and also implementing certain projects on both sides.
- To keep a partnership sustainably alive → involvement of different persons, not only the administration, but also civil society, the local population;
- Funding options for the implementation of certain projects;
- Opportunities to participate in projects such as the climate partnerships + to be advised on how to continue with the partnership and how to set up a certain action plan for the partnership;
- Provide advice & recommendations for projects and partnerships.

### **Jules Antoine Diedhiou**

- **City partnership between Schwabach (Bayern) - Gossas (Senegal)**
- This partnership has been existing for 40 years;
- **Question:** The ENSA program financed by Engagement Global, facilitates exchanges and activities between schools but does not include primary schools. Is there a possibility to enable the exchange between primary schools? To have children from the age of seven exchanging and, this way, make a partnership more sustainable?

### **Answer from Eva Heuschen:**

- Main responsibility and support of the Service Agency Communities in One World from Engagement Global (SKEW) → the cooperation of municipal partnerships → it supports mainly projects related to mandatory tasks of municipalities → schools are normally not part of these mandatory tasks;
- Funding possibility from SKEW: KPF (The Small Projects Fund);
- ENSA program: finances mainly exchange between high schools (as it is not so easy to send children under the age of 14 years old across the continent);
- Will get more details from the ENSA programme.
- Schools are part of municipal partnership exchange, however support is limited;
- SKEW frequently offers networking gatherings of partnerships (every three years, takes place in Germany) → 2025: 6th Partnership Conference between German and African municipalities.

### **Question from Ingrid Macht:**

- You talked about partnerships between primary schools. I would like to know how this works and which activities are you doing? And do you have any examples?

### **Answer from Dominik Wershofen:**

- Partnership is between the Grundschule Lengfeld in Würzburg and the Butimba primary school in Mwanza;
- Visit from the Mayor of Würzburg and head of the primary school division in the Würzburg administration to Butimba primary school in Mwanza → possibility for a partnership? → the partners in Würzburg reached out to primary schools → one year later, Lengfeld Grundschule did a fundraiser to support the construction of another classroom in the Butimba school;
- **Challenge:** What to do next? (it is hard to send eight years old to Tanzania and the other way around) → alternative: indirect exchange → if someone is traveling, schools are informed in advance so that they can prepare something for an indirect exchange. For example: They choose a topic, such as “life at home”, where children draw something. Their draws will then be taken to the other city.

### **Ralf Mützel:**

- Topic for future meetings: The common tasks regarding climate mitigation, when it comes to partnership work.

- **City partnership between Drakenstein (South Africa) and Neumarkt** → big focus on fair trade (first fair trade city in South Africa) → strengthen the market in fair trade, worldwide.
- **Question to Würzburg - Mwanza partners** → for example: there is funding from Engagement Global and a project is implemented on site in an African municipality → this is more or less on a one way level. However, it should not be the only way. What do you think about this? And are there any examples where Würzburg learned from the partner municipality, especially in the sustainability field?

**Answer from Dominik Wershofen:**

- It is important to have this eye-level partnership → joint application for funding from a third party → teamwork feeling + having to work together on the application and implementing the projects together;
- What is really needed? How can we build on existing structures? What is already there in Mwanza and what is already there in Würzburg? And how can we tie it together?
- Close communication & close exchange → good results
- Lessons learned from cooperation and exchange:
  - local consumption is much more present in Mwanza (they buy everything from local suppliers);
  - Projects in the medical field: medical institutions in Würzburg learned from their Tanzanian partners, especially in research which accompanied the drinking water project on the Ijinga island → medical doctors of the Bugando Medical Center and the Catholic University have much more experience with these diseases → knowledge transfer to the university in Würzburg and ongoing exchange with guest lecturers from both places;

***- Which instruments are available to promote a lively partnership between African and German communities? What are the biggest challenges and which solutions are there? And how can municipalities support each other to develop joint solutions? -***

**Question from Louis Zulu**

- Partnerships are composed of various smaller projects → we call them city partnerships, yet these partnerships are direct connections between institutions in Malawi and institutions in Germany;
- **Challenge:** sometimes there is no central office which is coordinating all these small different projects → “So I wanted to learn from the partnership between Würzburg and Mwanza and how they are doing it.”

**Answer from Dominik Wershofen**

- Some activities are managed by the civil society both in Mwanza and Würzburg → regular exchange with the civil society organizations in Würzburg (meet every three to four months) → exchange about what every organization is doing, how can they

support each other, is there room for a joint project or a joint application, if somebody else has made some good or bad experiences, etc.

- It is good to have an international office (one in Würzburg and another one in Mwanza) for coordination and offering support;

**Additional answer to the previous question by Jules:**

- Partnerships must transcend the differences in political parties → There has to be a common ground for the partnerships to be sustainable;
- Challenge: if there are different political parties in the municipalities / if there are changes on the municipal level and if one party is against the other → problems can arise and jeopardize the partnership;
- Suggestion: Engagement Global to participate in as many exchanges as possible to ensure that the partnership does not get lost in political conflicts.

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**Conclusion**

- This Global Think Tank is actually about two things concerning city partnerships:
  - i) *'How can they be brought to life if it's not only an affair between the city governments, but between the people of the respective cities?'*
  - ii) *'How can these city partnerships contribute to fighting climate change?'*

**- End at approximately 16:10 -**