

We are all part of a global community. The great problems of our time can only be understood and, hopefully, solved through global cooperation. By experiencing an encounter in countries of the Global South or the Global North and meeting their peers face to face, young people become more aware of global contexts. Exchanges based on artistic and creative activities are an effective way to explore development issues in an inspiring setting and contribute to global awareness – to a global citizenship – among young people. The German Federation for Arts Education and Cultural Learning (BKJ) advises and supports cultural education organisations from Germany that wish to develop youth exchanges together with partners from the Global South.

Between 2017 and 2020, this work falls within the scope of the project *jugend.kultur.austausch global* (global youth.culture.exchange) where we provide information and advice on financing international exchanges through the *weltwärts exchanges* fund of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and, at the same time, encourage cultural education practitioners to explore sustainability issues. One of the core findings of the project is that successful youth exchanges are based on fair, solid and stable partnerships with counterparts from countries in the Global South. This practical guide builds on these and other findings.

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This practical guide is based on the three necessary steps to organise international youth exchanges, from initial ideas and the discussion of educational concepts in chapter 1, actual planning and implementation in chapter 2 to the long-term consolidation of international partnerships and sustainable practices in chapter 3. It is not meant to be a set of instructions that have to be followed step by step; readers can start at any point in the material.