

Call for Application

German-Namibian Exchange of Educators and Training in the field of Education for Sustainable Development

Together, Suni e.V., the Light for the Children Foundation, the University of Namibia, and Trier University are organizing an Exchange of Educators and a training programme in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) for 16 educators from Germany and Namibia from 2026 to 2027. We are looking for motivated and enthusiastic participants who are eager to explore new ideas, expand their knowledge, and think creatively beyond the usual boundaries.

Goals of the exchange

First, by bringing together German and Namibian educators, we foster intercultural exchange and offer new perspectives on both Germany and Namibia. During the preparation phase and throughout the exchange, participants will engage with topics such as equality, power, racism, colonial continuities, and the formation of stereotypes. We will reflect on ourselves, our ways of life, and our perspectives as educators.

Second, we address Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 4: *Inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all*. To this end, German and Namibian educators will receive training in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) from experts in both countries. Participants will gain insights into the partner country's educational system and collaborate on implementing a German-Namibian educational project. Importantly, all participants are expected to apply what they learn in their own professional practice, integrating ESD principles into their teaching during the programme.

Our third goal is mutual learning and professional growth, enhancing education in both countries. We aim to explore new approaches to teaching while enjoying the process together. Participants will discuss, present, play, learn, laugh, and occasionally push beyond their comfort zones. Each educator will actively contribute to the planning and design of the programme, enriching the exchange with methods, ideas, concepts, and games drawn from their professional experience.

The exchange programme offers the opportunity to meet passionate educators and collaborate in a diverse team. Participants will not only receive expert-led training but also have the chance to develop their own learning materials and bring their ideas and visions to life. This programme provides a unique experience in the field of education, allowing you to broaden your horizons and gain formative life experiences. Most importantly, it offers the chance to make new friends, expand your knowledge, and become an even better educator!

Programme

The German-Namibian Exchange for Educators begins in **May 2026** and concludes in **July 2027**.

The programme starts with a weekend workshop from **22nd to 24th May 2026** in Trier, Germany, and in Gobabis, Namibia.

The first encounter will take place in Gobabis, Namibia from **4th July to 24th July 2026**. This encounter includes a seven-day training at the Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust (NaDEET) and a job shadowing placement at a Namibian school. The German participants will spend one week at a Namibian educational institution and live with one of the Namibian participants. The encounter also includes project work in the field of ESD, as well as a visit to the



University of Namibia. German-Namibian teams will develop projects on UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 and will implement these projects by **March 2027**.

Additional workshops will be held from **16th to 18th October 2026** and from **15th to 17th January 2027**.

From **8th March to 26th March 2027**, the second encounter will take place in Trier, Germany. This encounter includes training at the University of Trier, Department of Geography and its Didactics, as well as job shadowing for Namibian educators. The Namibian participants will spend one week at a German educational institution and live with one of the German participants. The encounter concludes with project work in German-Namibian teams.

A final workshop, the publication of the project results, and an evaluation will take place from **23rd April to 25th April 2027**.

In addition, monthly online sessions and webinars will be held, usually on the **last Thursday of each month**.

Requirements

To participate, you must either be working as an educator or teacher in Germany or in the Omaheke Region of Namibia, **or** be enrolled as a teacher training student at the University of Namibia (Khomasdal Campus), Trier University, or the University of Kassel.

Very good English language skills and strong intercultural competencies are essential. You should enjoy working in a team, feel comfortable in diverse environments, and be open to learning new things. Participants should be able to compromise and demonstrate excellent communication skills.

All participants must comply with country-specific laws and child protection policies. In addition, you must be willing to receive the required vaccinations for travel to the partner country.

To take part in the exchange, you must have a functioning smartphone and access to a stable mobile network.

Each participant must be comfortable hosting a visitor from the partner country for one week. Your guest will need a safe place to sleep, as well as access to a toilet and washing facilities. If you are unsure whether your home is suitable, please contact us—we will find a solution together.

Each participant must also agree to organize an internship placement for their visiting guest at an educational institution. This may be your own workplace or another suitable institution.

Participation in **all** scheduled dates is mandatory. Partial participation is not possible.

Namibian teachers enrolled in the NaDEET training programme in 2026 cannot participate in the German-Namibian Exchange of Educators at the same time. Namibian teacher training students may only apply if they study at Khomasdal Campus. Namibian teachers may only apply if they work or live in the Omaheke Region. German teacher training students may only apply if they study at Trier University or the University of Kassel.

Teacher training students in geography at Trier University and in biology at the University of Kassel may have their participation in the Exchange of Educators credited toward their studies as part of a compulsory elective module. Please contact Barbara Scharfbillig (Trier University) or Tim Hartelt (University of Kassel) for more information.

Costs

All accommodation and travel costs during the encounters and workshops, material costs, and food expenses will be covered. This includes the flights to Namibia and to Germany. Travel costs for participation in workshops will be covered if participants use public transport or ride-sharing. All costs related to the planned activities and project work during the programme will also be covered.

For Namibian participants only, visa costs, costs for compiling the required documents, travel insurance, and travel expenses for the visa interview at the German Embassy in Windhoek will be covered.



Each participant agrees to host and provide meals for a guest from the partner country for one week. There will be no reimbursement for this week. Costs for passports are not covered. Other personal expenses—such as pocket money, vaccinations, fees for public toilets, mobile phone or Wi-Fi charges, or costs for activities that are not part of the programme—will not be covered. Each participant agrees to become a member of Suni e.V. for the duration of the programme. The minimum membership fee is €16 or NAD 160 per year.

The project is funded by the German-African Youth Office's Teams Up! Programme. Additional supporters include the Directorate of Education at the Omaheke Regional Council, the Development Network Rhineland-Palatinate e.V., the State Chancellery of Rhineland-Palatinate, Suni e.V., and the Light for the Children Foundation.

Application process

Please send us the following documents as **one single PDF file** via e-mail or via WhatsApp. The PDF should include:

1. A motivation letter (maximum of 2 pages).
2. Your résumé/CV (maximum of 3 pages).
3. A copy of your teaching qualification **or** a confirmation of enrolment in a teacher training programme.
4. Your full physical address
5. Please provide a reference from your current employer or academic institution.
6. Please do **not** include a photo of yourself in the application.

We would like to emphasize that applications from people with disabilities, individuals from minority communities, marginalized groups, minority language groups, and/or people with special needs are **strongly encouraged and welcome**.

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Selected candidates will be invited to an online interview in March 2026. As we aim to assemble a team that is as diverse as possible, the final selection will be based not only on qualifications, but also on the interview, fields of work, (language) skills, and the perspectives of the applicants.

The application deadline is 15th March 2026.

Please send your application for the **German team to Barbara Scharfbillig** at (+49) 015773106325 or tsjaka@sun-ev.de

Teacher students from the University of Kassel are asked to CC Dr. Tim Hartelt hartelt@uni-kassel.de

Please send your application for the **Namibian team to Gijsbertha van Rooyen** at (+264) 0818819188 or gijsbertha@lightforthechildren.com

