

DEPARTEMENT CULTUUR, JEUGD & MEDIA

Delegations

South Africa:

From the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) of the Government of South Africa:

Head of delegation: Mr. Sifiso Mtsweni, Executive Chairperson NYDA

- Ms. Ankie Motsoahae, Executive Director of the National Youth Service (NYS)
- Ms. Kenalemang Notsi, Manager of the Flemish Cooperation Programme
- Mr. Buhle Ntsenge, Provincial Coordinator of Northern Cape
- Ms. Mamosebetsi Nkalane, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit
- Ms. Ikanyeng Modubu, Manager in the CEO's Office

From civil society organisations in South Africa:

- Mr. Ronny Tshabalala, NPO Representative, Making Us Youth
- Mr. Lebohang Selema, NPO Representative, Lejweleputswa Public Motivators

Flanders:

From the Department of Culture, Youth and Media of the Government of Flanders – Division Knowledge & Policy – Cross-sectoral & international team:

- Mr. Jan Vanhee, EU youth affairs attaché – European and international youth policy officer
- Ms. Lien Wyckmans, European and international youth policy officer

From the Flemish Steering Group of the bilateral cooperation with South Africa:

- Ms. Sofie Van Zeebroeck, Deputy Director of JINT
- Ms. Eva Hambach, Director of Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk
- Ms. Els Van Effelterre, Director of JES
- Mr. Guy Redig, Prof. dr. youth policy of Vrije Universiteit Brussels
- Mr. Pepijn Hanssens, Director of Vlaamse Dienst Speelpleinwerk

Adoption of the report of the previous Subcommittee on Youth

The South African and Flemish delegation adopted the last report of the previous Subcommittee on Youth, held on 13-19 August 2018 in Durban, South Africa.

The Joint Standing Committee meeting in Pretoria on 4 December 2018 was attended by Kenalemang Notsi. The Committee agreed that youth development was and is a success. Koen Jongbloet from the Government of Flanders (Department of Foreign Affairs) expressed his commitment to continue the cooperation and the support. Jan Vanhee and Kenalemang Notsi agreed to finalise the content of the text proposal to the report of the Joint Standing Committee.

Political state of play in South Africa

Ankie Motsoahae gave an update on the political situation in South Africa (PPP in attachment):

- **Land expropriation**
There are discussions ongoing about the distribution of land. The premise is land expropriation without compensation. Leasing is not a solution.
- **Youth voter education**
South Africa will hold national and provincial elections in the next three months. In order to encourage young people to vote, the NYDA has organised a Voter Education Programme of one week in all 9 provinces. The programme reached 60.000 youth and resulted in one million youngsters registering to vote. Particular attention was made to reach first-time voters.
- **Migration and refugees**
Zimbabwe is facing many challenges, such as inflation and military removal of leaders. This uncertainty results in a large migration to South Africa. An estimated 6 million Zimbabweans are currently residing in South Africa, putting a lot of pressure on domestic structures and resulting in rising criminality. The South African delegation emphasised the need for humane policies to address these challenges. The Flemish delegation identified parallels with the situation in Europe, where migration is influencing youth policy as well. Both delegation agreed to discuss deepening their cooperation on the topic of migration and refugees & will exchange practice related with the youth perspective.
- **Integrated Youth Development Strategy**
The point of departure for South African youth policy is:
 - Economic participation;
 - Education, skills and second chances;
 - Health care and combatting substance abuse;
 - Social cohesion and nation building;
 - Effective youth development institutions.
- **NYDA**
Within the NYDA, two different units are being created. One unit will deal with HR, legal and corporate services, while the other unit will deal with communication and IT. The NYDA had its 4th clean audit, with performance ranking higher than 90%.

Year IV (2018-2019)

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Volunteering is popular in South Africa. The cooperation provided a framework and resulted in increased recognition for volunteering. The Flemish Steering Group was impressed with the results and suggested giving the volunteering activities more visibility.

Kenalemang Notsi presented the results per building block for the Year IV (2018-2019):

- **Capacity building**

The Volunteer Management Toolkit is translated into all official South African languages and is accessible online. Currently 300 civil society organisations (CSOs) have been trained in using the toolkit.

The NPO Incubator Programme, which is the former mentorship programme, trained non-profit organisations in conflict management, report writing skills and organisational development.

The NYDA also provided support to local youth offices. 200 civil servants working in the field attended the workshops and are involved in the Integrated Youth Development Plan for local communities.

- **Knowledge generation**

Mamosebetsi Nkhalane made an evaluation of the four years of the cooperation (*see Impact Evaluation 2015-2018*).

- **Marketing and communication**

The online volunteer database MyHandsAndHeart is very popular, especially in Gauteng and Capetown. However, there is still lack of access to WIFI in certain areas of South Africa. Eva Hambach suggested making printouts of volunteer opportunities available in public libraries to reach youth who do not have access to internet. <https://www.myhandsandheart.org>

- **Lobby and advocacy**

The first lobby and advocacy meeting with youth units from the government department, EPWP, NDA and CSOs was held in December 2018.

The Flemish Steering Group took official stock of the current state of play of Year IV (2018-2019) & the Midterm report.

Year V (2019-2020)

The Flemish Steering Group officially accepted the programme proposal for Year V (2019-2020), presented by Kenalemang Notsi. Both delegations agreed to finalise the proposal by 15 February, so that the current – outgoing – Minister for Youth Mr. Sven Gatz can sign the Year V agreement in the beginning of April 2019.

The Year V programme will focus on the local level. It will furthermore continue the work on volunteer policy. The NYDA will also increase marketing and communications by providing small-size manuals on volunteer guidelines, print, media and outdoor advertisements, by improving the database as well as by implementing the ambassador programme and ensuring volunteer activation.

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Other suggested plans were the following:

- **Youth volunteer summit**

The South African delegation expressed its interest in organising a Youth Volunteer Summit in order to create ownership of the volunteer programme with its beneficiaries and to draft the future programme with participants in the summit. The purpose is to inspire, to present policy developments and the impact evaluation of the volunteering programme as well as to plan ahead beyond 2020.

The summit will consist of workshops and sessions with small groups. The approximately 100 participants will come from civil society organisations, volunteers, the private sector and local municipalities, with a focus on grassroots organisations who are implementing the NYDA programmes. The participants should become ambassadors of the programmes by engaging and disseminating the information of the summit to other stakeholders. The Flemish Steering Group therefore noted the importance of making a good selection of participants. The Steering Group furthermore agreed that, for now, it is too soon to invite aldermen from Flanders to the summit as to connect them with their South African counterparts.

The NYDA explained that it expects the Flemish Steering Group to showcase during the summit how volunteering is implemented in Flanders. The Steering Group confirmed that there is a strategic importance in attending the summit, namely to bring people from the field and find support for volunteering.

The South African delegation will prepare a concept note on the Youth Volunteer Summit.

- **Young researchers network**

The NYDA will gather a network of young researchers in order to increase research capacity. The Flemish Steering Group offered to link & involve the European network of researchers (EKCP). Both delegations agreed to add a new building block on research to the next cooperation action plan.

Future cooperation (beyond 2020)

Ankie Motsoahae and Kenalemang Notsi presented potential areas of future cooperation beyond 2020:

- Continue the policy work on youth volunteering;
- Recruit more civil society organisations for the programme;
- Implement the programme at the municipal level;
- Identify and achieve funding opportunities;
- Review the Volunteer Management Toolkit;
- Organise a Youth Volunteer Summit and turn 16 June into a day of volunteerism, inviting volunteers with speakers from all provinces.

The Flemish Steering Group suggested that strengthening volunteering in local communities should be the main aim of the future cooperation. The Steering Group proposed the following:

- Anchoring good practices in local communities;
- Giving more attention to young people in vulnerable situations as a new dimension;
- Adding two building blocks on research and on finance to the current four building blocks.

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The Flemish Steering Group noted many links with developments in Europe, especially regarding moving from a focus on personal (skills) development of young volunteers to their impact on their communities and strengthening of social cohesion. The Flemish Government highlighted the link with the new European Solidarity Corps programme.

Both delegations will discuss the Draft Action Plan for 2020-2025 and a background note during the Youth Volunteer Summit (June, tbc). The Flemish Government will demand an upgrade of the budget for the cooperation with South Africa.

Impact evaluation (2015-2018)

Mamosebetsi Nkalane presented the impact evaluation of the working programme from 2015 to 2018. The evaluation was carried out by an external service provider. Young volunteers and representatives of 150 civil society organisations gave their opinion through surveys and focus group interviews. The full report will be shared shortly with the Flemish Steering Group.

The South African delegation agreed with the results of the impact evaluation and highlighted the added value of researching the impact of the volunteering programme. Next year the evaluation will focus on volunteers, CSOs and policy. The South African delegation furthermore noted that the NYDA unit capacity will be increased in order to ensure the sustainability of results.

Celebrating 20 years of cooperation

Both governments agree that the cooperation has presented a remarkable added value to their respective ministries and to their youth sectors, and reiterate their historical commitment to supporting and strengthening youth policy and youth volunteering. Therefore the South African and Flemish Government agree on continuing their cooperation for the future.

In order to make the cooperation more visible, a documentary and publication will mark 20 years of cooperation:

- **Documentary**

The South African delegation presented the draft documentary that, once approved, will be distributed digitally. They commented that the purpose of the movie is to give an overview of the cooperation. Therefore, more testimonials from a variety of young people taking part in the volunteer programme should be included. The movie could use existing photos and videos from the past. The logos of the NYDA and Flemish Government will be featured more prominently.

- **Publication**

The Flemish archive of the cooperation will soon be finished. The Flemish Government collected testimonials for the publication from different key players in the cooperation and will share the edited version with the South African delegation. The South African delegation agreed with the publication and will provide also provide an own account. Ankie Motsoahae suggested contacting Minister Pahad, Molefi, Lwazi, Jabo, Ntsuseng, Clayton, Maputu and Daniel Van Vuren for their testimonials in order to add those to the publication. The Flemish

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Steering Group asked the South African delegation to highlight anything in the publication that might be sensitive, not clear or not well formulated. Since the prior pre-election deadline is no longer feasible and thus the sense of urgency is gone, both delegations agree to finalise the publication by July 2019.

Next steps and timeline

- **Proposal for Year V (2019-2020)**
The proposal for Year V will be finalised by 15 February. Minister of Youth Mr. Sven Gatz will sign the Year Plan V beginning of April 2019.
- **Impact evaluation report (asap)**
The South African delegation will send the impact evaluation report as soon as possible.
- **Reports for Year IV (before 30 April 2019)**
The operational report and the financial report for Year IV need to be finalised before 30 April 2019. The South African contribution has increased.
- **Youth Volunteer Summit (June 2019, tbc)**
The NYDA will organise a Youth Volunteer Summit in June (tbc). Purpose of the summit is to take stock of the current programme and its impact, to engage relevant stakeholders, and to involve them in preparations of the next action plan beyond 2020. The South African delegation will prepare a concept note on the Youth Volunteer Summit.
- **Documentary and publication (before July 2019)**
The documentary and publication about 20 years of cooperation need to be finalised before July 2019. Guy Redig will send more detailed instructions about the testimonials by 18 February. Jan Vanhee will send the note on research by 18 February.
- **Subcommittee on Youth (August 2019)**
The next Subcommittee on Youth will take place in August 2019 (or later) in South Africa.
- **Draft Action Plan 2020-2025 (September 2019)**
The draft action plan 2020-2025 will be discussed during the Youth Volunteer Summit and the next Subcommittee on Youth. The draft plan will be presented to the new government in Flanders (September 2019).
- **Migrants and refugees**
The topic of migrants and refugees is touching both South African and European societies and has become a political issue. Both delegations discussed about sharing experiences and informing each other about the role of youth work in helping young migrants and refugees. The Flemish Steering Group explained that there are many projects addressing this issue and

