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Schweizerischer
Verband für Personelle
Entwicklungs-
zusammenarbeit

Swiss association for
the exchange of
personnel in development
cooperation

Association suisse pour
l'échange de personnes
dans la coopération
internationale

Asociación Suiza para el
intercambio de personas
en la cooperación
internacional

Associazione Svizzera per lo
scambio di persone
nella cooperazione
internazionale

Associação Suíça para o
intercâmbio de pessoas
na cooperação
internacional

Mission Statement

What do we stand up for? - Vision

unité is committed to the Personnel Development Co-operation as a form of the international co-operation where the emphasis is not placed on money or technology but rather on encounter, exchange and common learning between people in the North and in the South (as well as in the East).¹

unité and its members campaign for a world where the number of people living in poverty is reduced, where peace, justice and a sustainable handling of resources is possible and where human rights are respected.

unité and its members promote the North-South-North-exchange and the South-South-dialogue. Furthermore, they campaign, by means of awareness raising and public relations, for a Personnel Development Co-operation in Switzerland that has both a development political as well as a domestic relevance.

Who are we? – Identity and Values

unité, as the umbrella organisation, represents the organisations that are active in the Personnel Development Co-operation and that are committed to a social and/or Christian humanism. **unité** campaigns for the implementation of its vision in the South and in the North – in committed solidarity and in social and prophetic critique in the sense of “Active Global Citizenship”.

unité and its members are committed – in the North as well as in the South – to basic values such as human rights and democracy, social, global and gender equity, peace and worthwhile living environment as well as equality of cultures and worldview in terms of mutual respect and dialogue at the same level.

unité, as a working and learning community, is convinced that the partnership dialogue between the cultures, institutions and people is enhanced through the Personnel Development Co-operation.

Three dimensions of the exchange of knowledge and skills are focused on:

- Interpersonal (human)
- Inter-professional (technical skills)
- Intercultural (values, culture, religion).

¹In the following text, the East is also taken into account in the term “South”

Though professional skills are a first basic necessity, they alone are not sufficient. The specialists are also required to have social skills in order to handle cultural and political challenges through dialogue as the emphasis is placed on the goal-oriented co-operation with the partners in the South.

The experiences flow back to Switzerland in the form of awareness raising activities and acquired skills.

What do we do? - Objectives

unité promotes the Personnel Development Co-operation as a specific and effective form of the international co-operation with its clear development and socio-political advantages.

unité-specialists promote professional and social skills in the South through training and consultation. As a result, the institutional development of the partner in the South is encouraged and its networking abilities improved. Such development policy effects spread out to local, regional and national frameworks.

unité promotes the civil society commitment: the Personnel Development Co-operation sees itself as a bridge between the civil societies in the North and South. Awareness raising takes place by means of lived experiences. Moreover, specialists make their work experience available under voluntary conditions.

unité promotes the partnership thought: Member organisations and their specialists from the North and partners in the South work with a mutual responsibility towards the improvement of the living conditions of disadvantaged people.

unité promotes the Knowhow-transfer from North to South, from South to North as well as South to South. Thus, added value on professional, social and cultural skills also develops for Switzerland.

unité enables the association members to use national and international synergies in order to make one's voice for common concerns, development and domestic politically heard.

unité promotes training and exchange under the association members so that the basic values of the intercultural and professional dialog is guaranteed.

unité and its members guarantee the quality of the personnel exchange in the development assignment.