

Become an entrepreneur for development join an intercultural business project!

What it is

The Business Machine is a project that wants to create business ideas for Ethiopia and implement the most promising of them. The whole project is designed as a partnership between people from Ethiopia and from different European countries. The kind of business that will be started is not yet fixed. It will be decided in the course of the project. Should you be selected as a partner you will become a part of this process and you will decide about it in a joint meeting together with all stakeholders. This meeting will take place in January 2010 in Ethiopia.

The basic ideas behind the project

Although there are many good development projects in Ethiopia, they often create a dependency and may become an obstacle for sustainable economic development. Ethiopia's main resources are its many young and motivated people that can bring the country to further development. This country needs more innovation and growth!

The entrepreneur principle

As the name suggests, *The Business Machine* is a business, not a job. People working for the project as entrepreneurs will not receive a salary. Your work will increase the share of the company that you co-own. The annual shareholders meeting will decide if the profit – if there is any – will be reinvested into the business or paid out to the shareholders.

Every shareholder is required to invest a certain amount of money and to work for the project. These inputs are used to calculate your share in the project.

The first steps

A pre-selection of possible partners will be carried out until November. Besides the formal criteria (see below) the goal of this selection process is to assure that a very diverse group with different points of view and experiences is created.

This group will prepare a brainstorming meeting between a team of 3 to 7 partners from Europe and 3 to 7 partners from Ethiopia. In this meeting, which will take place during one week in January 2010 in Addis Ababa, first business ideas will be created. The aim is to have at least one business idea that can be worked out in detail afterwards.

The actual project will start only after the termination of this meeting: Every participant has to decide after this week if and how he or she wants to continue with the selected business idea. The rules of involvement and investment (how much capital and working time will be required) will be negotiated during this week.

Time schedule

- September to October 2009: Selection of the team
- November 2009 to January 2010: Preparation of the joint meeting

- January 2010: Meeting of all partners from Europe and Ethiopia (in Addis Ababa)
- March 2010 to ????: Preparation and implementation of the project

Why should you join the project?

- *The Business Machine* is a great opportunity for practical learning in an international environment
- You can promote the development of your country in an innovative way
- If the business is successful, you might make a living from it in the long run

Profile and requirements

If you want to join *The Business Machine* you should fulfil the following basic requirements:

- Very motivated personality
- Innovative, independent and creative character
- Special knowledge or skills in a very specific area (your strength)¹
- Ability to work with people having a different cultural backgrounds
- Ability to express yourself in English (written and spoken)
- Capacity and readiness to invest at least some money into the project²
- Capacity and readiness to invest (unpaid) work time into the project
- Readiness to take certain (personal) risks

How to apply

Are you interested in the idea? Then check out our website (www.business-machine.org). If you still want to join then you can contact us so that we can put you on our list of potential partners. Depending on the number of applications there will be an information meeting where more specific details will be given and questions may be asked. After this meeting, the process of formal application will start. You will have to hand in the following documents:

- Official application form (get it on www.business-machine.org)
- A copy of your highest educational degree
- A recommendation letter from a person of your choice

Application deadline

31st of October 2009

Contact details

Zinare Mamo, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Zinare.mamo@business-machine.org, +251 913 47 20 27

¹ The project is looking for people with different experiences and skills. Diploma and formal education are not the only criteria that matter. Informal human capital (like experiences in a handicraft, a special biography etc.) are equally valued.

² The exact amount is not yet determined and may be changed in the course of the project. It will only be due if you continue the project after the meeting in Ethiopia.

