

Work in a developing country join an intercultural business project!

What it is

Many young people in Europe have a dream to become involved in development work. However, it is quite difficult to get a chance and even for internships opportunities are quite rare.

The Business Machine follows a different approach: In a partnership between motivated people from Europe and Ethiopia, business ideas are worked out and implemented jointly. The credo is that "development through economic growth" will become more important in the future.

It is at the same time part of the project idea that the kind of business to work on is not decided in advance but during the project development with all the involved partners from both the South and the North.

The basic ideas behind the project

Although there are many good development projects in the countries of the south, they often create a dependency and may finally 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. Yet in the current system many of them remain rather passive.

Compared to other nations, Ethiopia is currently on a rather low level of economic development. This means that there are many opportunities to start a business. Innovation is the key for sustainable development. Together with qualified and motivated people from Europe and Ethiopia the project wants to find new creative solutions.

The entrepreneur principle

As the name goes, *The Business Machine* is a business, not a job. People working for the project as entrepreneurs will not receive a salary. You will be required to invest working time and a certain amount of starting capital into the project. Yet this is not a classical investment project in which people from the west bring money to countries in the south. Your work force, creativity and network are equally important.

Your contributions (money and time) will be the basis for the calculation of your part of the company's shares. According to your contribution you will benefit from the company's profit – if there is any.

The first steps

A pre-selection of possible European partners will be done until the end of October.

This group will prepare a brainstorming meeting between a team of 3 to 7 partners from Europe and 3 to 7 partners from Ethiopia.

For this meeting, the European group will spend one week with the partners in Addis Ababa. During seven days business ideas will be created and analysed together. The aim is to have at least one convincing idea that can be worked out in detail afterwards.

After this meeting, the participants will have to decide if and how they want to continue working in the project. It is of course also possible to withdraw if the created idea doesn't match your expectations.

If you decide to continue you may have to work in Ethiopia or to support the project from your country.

All expenses for this first meeting will have to be covered by the participants. It is on the other hand possible to combine the meeting with an additional week of travelling in Ethiopia and to discover a beautiful country (to be discussed with your contact person).

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* offers an opportunity to become involved in development work
- The intercultural environment gives invaluable opportunities for learning experiences
- It is an alternative kind building up our future world together

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
- Ability to work with people from different cultural backgrounds
- Communication skills in English
- Capacity and readiness to invest at least some money and your (unpaid) working time into the project¹
- There is no need that you already are an "entrepreneur". For the project this term describes an attitude rather than an achievement. Inexperienced and young people are welcome, too.

How to apply

Are you interested in the idea? Check out our website (www.business-machine.org) for more information. If after that you are still convinced you want to join the team, please contact us so that we can send you put you on our list of interested people. Depending of the number of applications, there will be a pre-meeting somewhere in Europe where more specific information 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

Contact details

Stephan Brun, Bern, Switzerland:

stephan.brun@business-machine.org, +41 31 326 29 22 (office), + 41 31 371 60 81 (home)

¹ 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.