



# **Narrative Report on the project “The Role of African Diaspora Youth in Switzerland” (Application no. 019/2010)**

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## **Brief narrative of the action(s) carried out in the project**

The training course “The Role of African Diaspora Youth living in Switzerland” was a unique opportunity for young leaders of African Origin living in Switzerland to come together and reflect upon their potential, their challenges and their role as young active citizens in Switzerland as well as in their countries of origin.

The overall aim of the three-day training course was to introduce ADYNE to African Youth Leaders living in Switzerland. The participants had the opportunity to discuss ways how to maximize the engagement of African Diaspora Youth living in Switzerland at their place of residence as well as in their country of origin.

During the training, the participants developed a common understanding of the social, economic, political, cultural and environmental situations and challenges faced by young African Diaspora living in Switzerland.

## **2. Description of the impact of the project in the community/organization/network**

The three-day training course resulted in the establishment of a national ADYNE chapter. The three days in Zurich were a source of motivation to many of the participants and encouraged them to further participate actively in various activities. We still keep in touch with all participants and therefore know that some have been attending conferences, workshops and events, at times even together as a group with their new made friends. Some participants will take part in a training course about project management and youth participation starting in June offered by an organization in Zug/Switzerland. Two participants organized a workshop at their association after participating in the ADYNE training course.

The training course in Zurich generated contacts to the Swiss National Youth Council for ADYNE. Also, the partnership with KfE could be strengthened. As a result of this, a delegate from KfE was part of the strategic meeting “Development – From Aspirations to Practice” hosted by ADYNE in the frame of the third African University on Youth and Development in May 2011.

### 3. Description of the profile of the young people involved in the project.

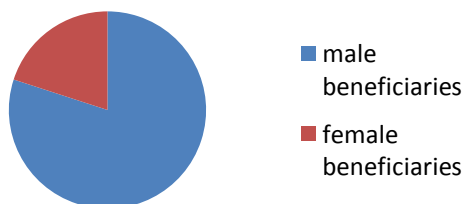
The participants of the training course

- were aged between 18 and 37
- play an active role within a youth organization or network
- were committed to attend the full duration of the course
- are able to work and communicate in English and/or French
- already have some qualification or experience in terms of international youth work and project work
- were able to present the context of their work, their way of tackling problems and challenges they meet and identify
- were and still are committed to be part of the establishment of a Swiss chapter of ADYNE

#### Direct beneficiaries:

a) Number of direct beneficiaries: 5

b) female/male ratio: 1:4



c) Origin and country of residence of beneficiaries:

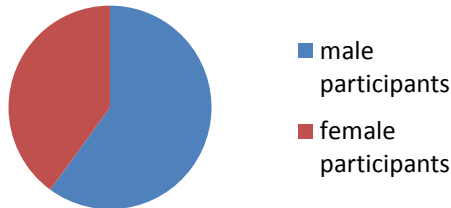
Adeagbo Ade:	England/Nigeria
Balcha Eyob:	Netherlands/Ethiopia
Ifeoma Chibiko Lilian:	Sweden/Nigeria
Rosanwo Babatunde:	Ukraine/Nigeria
Teixeira Ludgero:	Portugal/Cape Verde

## Indirect beneficiaries:

a) Number of participants: 20

(26 applied and were accepted, but some did not come to the program due to various reasons)

b) female/male ratio: 8:12

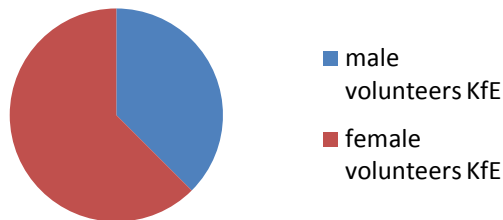


c) Origin and canton of residence:

Aida Sem Tekle:	Zurich/Ethiopia
Anitah Chughu:	Graubünden/Kenya
Fatimata Ndoye:	Geneva/Senegal
Grâce Kaze:	Geneva/Burundi
Nasma Dasser:	Geneva/Morocco
Emilie Graff:	Lausanne/Switzerland
Stefanie Merki:	Aargau/Ghana
Sarhane Saadi:	Basel/Algeria
Ignace Allaba:	Berne/Cote d'Ivoire
Samuel Kahsay :	Zug/Eritrea
Mustafa Abdi Jama :	Zurich/Somalia
Mouhamedine Sall :	Geneva/Senegal
Ali Mudei :	Zurich/Somalia
Kwame Buckman :	Zurich/Ghana
Moussoulimi Issa-Touré:	Basel/Togo
Yonathan Solomon:	Aargau/Eritrea
Dr. Théo Gakubo:	Geneva/Cote d'Ivoire
Tatiana Oyomo:	Geneva
Samson Kidane:	Solothurn/Eritrea
Yared Selassie:	Zurich/Ethiopia (participated in the round table only)
Yanik Sousa:	Zurich/Cape Verde (participated in the round table only)
Abdul Qalimow:	Zurich/Somali (participated in the round table only)

## Volunteers KfE

- a) Number of volunteers: 7
- b) female/male ratio: 5:2



## 4. Description of the main challenges carried out the project

In July 2010, I was a participant at the second African University on Youth and Development. It was at this occasion ADYNE's chair Ludgero Teixeira approached me with the suggestion to organize an ADYNE training course in Zurich. He explained that so far it had been very difficult for ADYNE to reach African Diaspora Youth in Switzerland and that it therefore was challenging for them to find Swiss participants for their training courses. In fact, the problem of how to reach the Diaspora youth proved to be our main challenge as well. It required a lot of efforts to find participants. The Swiss National Youth Council, cantonal integration offices as well as embassies helped us to distribute our call. We also contacted a lot of associations via facebook-groups which proved to be quite effective. Many associations, e.g. African students associations at Universities, don't have any homepage or formal address where they could be found/contacted and seem to organize themselves mainly via the new social medias. We had to extend the deadline for application but finally received 26 applications by the end.

## 5. Description of the follow-up plans foreseen after the project

The main follow-up foreseen was the establishment of a national ADYNE chapter in Switzerland. On the third training day, a full session was dedicated to this establishment and five participants committed themselves to actively contribute to it. KfE is also supporting this creation of a Swiss ADYNE chapter. Further, the Swiss National Youth Council is very interested and ready to offer help or to collaborate. The five participants volunteering for this cause met once a month so far (they all stay in different parts of Switzerland) and engaged in online discussions together. It was asserted that they are facing some problems regarding having a common vision of what ADYNE should stand for as well as how they should organize themselves as a group. Further it is not yet clear how and in what kind of ways other interested persons can engage in that national chapter. Also, they formulated some questions regarding the relationship to the general ADYNE board. Therefore, KfE invited ADYNE's chair Ludgero Teixeira and interim director Dr. Ade Adeagbo to come to Basel/Switzerland for one weekend in June 2011 to work on these issues together with the members of the Swiss ADYNE chapter.

The Swedish organization “African Empowerment Center” is offering the training course “A step forward: Paths to enhance participation and community impact of youth activities” in June 2011. As a partner organization for this training, KfE was to nominate four participants from Switzerland. Two places were given to Swiss ADYNE members.

From 26 - 31 July 2011 the conference “Learning to Live in a Multicultural World: Diaspora and Peacemaking in Europe” will be held in Caux/Switzerland. KfE could make arrangements with the organizing committee so that five participants from ADYNE can participate for free (instead of paying a fee of 55.00 CHF/day including participation, board and lodging).

## **6. Description of main challenges/difficulties encountered in the implementation of the project and identification of key success-factors which could elevate Africa Europe Youth Cooperation further**

During the implementation of the project we did not encounter any problems or difficulties. The program was held at the University of Zurich where KfE is in the lucky position to enjoy full support. So even during the weekend (especially Sunday when the University normally is closed) we were allowed to use all the facilities. Further, technical equipment like computers, beamers and materials like flipcharts etc. were provided either by the University directly or by KfE. Many KfE members were available at any time to take care of the organizational aspects so that the ADYNE facilitators could fully concentrate on their sessions. The participants engaged motivated and actively in the program and seemed to enjoy the three days very much. On Saturday evening, a public round table was organized. Though invitation cards had been sent to more than 60 African associations, only two persons joined the discussions. This was a little bit disappointing and again shows how difficult it is to access African Diaspora in Switzerland.

KfE members were also available in the evenings and spent a lot of informal time with the ADYNE facilitators. All in all, the ADYNE facilitators spent five days in Zurich. On their last day they joined a meeting of KfE where they presented their work and were introduced to more members. This sparked the members’ interest to engage in such kind of partnerships more often and the feedback of the KfE members was very positive. Therefore, it is likely that due to this successful training course a more sustainable partnership between ADYNE and KfE will be established in the long run.

## Appendix

I. Program of the training course	7
II. Photos of the activities	8
III. Video	9
IV. Publication	9
V. List of participants	11

## I. Program of the training course

### ACTIVITIES & SESSIONS

#### DAY ONE: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011

TIME	SESSIONS
10.30am - 11am	Delegates Arrival & Registration
11.00am - 11.30am	Welcome & Introduction
11.30am - 12.00pm	Introduction to ADYNE: vision, mission, objectives and values
12.00pm - 12.50pm	“Open space café” - [PART 1] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Africa: what does it mean to me?</li> </ul>
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm – 3.00pm	“Open space café” - [PART 2] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My vision of Africa</li> </ul>
3.00pm – 3.10pm	Group picture
3.10pm – 3.30pm	Coffee & Tea break
3.30pm – 4.30pm	“Open space café” - [PART 3] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How I can contribute to achieving my vision of African as an African in Diaspora</li> </ul>
4.30 – 5.00pm	Questions & Answers
5.00pm	CLOSE

#### DAY 2: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011

TIME	SESSIONS
9.30am – 10.00am	Reflection: Review of Day one and lessons learnt
10.00am – 10.50am	Open Discussion: “Politics of Policy- the African context”
10.50am – 11.00am	Tea & Coffee Break
11.00am – 12.20pm	Session One: <b>Mock Trial</b> - “Citizens Jury” – <i>African politics on trial</i>
12.30pm – 2.00pm	Lunch Break
2.00pm – 3.00pm	Session Two: <b>Submissions</b> - “Citizens Jury” – <i>African politics on trial</i>
3.00pm – 3.30pm	Tea & Coffee Break
3.30am – 4.00am	Session Three: <b>Judgement</b> - “Citizens Jury” – <i>African politics on trial</i>
4.00pm – 4.30pm	Questions & Answers /
5.00pm – 7.00pm	<b>Public roundtable with Apéro:</b> <i>Topic of round table: The need of an African Diaspora network and the importance of youth participation.</i>

#### DAY 3: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011

TIME	SESSIONS
10.00am – 10.30am	Reflections: Review of Day 2 – lessons learnt
10.30am – 11.30am	Ideas Factory: “My vision of Africa...”
11.30pm – 11.50pm	Tea & Coffee Break
11.50pm – 12.00pm	Group picture
12.00pm – 1.00pm	Action Planning & Next Steps
1.00pm – 2.30pm	Lunch & Close

## II. Photos of the activities



More pictures can be found in an online album here:  
<https://picasaweb.google.com/107247968776851921063/TheRoleOfAfricanDiasporaYouthInSwitzerland#>

### III. Video

A video can be found here:

<http://youtu.be/99fQtZMqg6A>

### IV. Publication

Participant Aida Sem Tekle wrote an article which is to be published in the magazine « AfricanLink: The Voice of Africans in the Diaspora ».

#### **A.D.Y.N.E.: The Voice of African “Youth” in the Diaspora**

The silence is finally broken as the long overdue need for an organization to represent the voice of African Youth in Switzerland is established. This landmark event is credited to ADYNE (African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe) in cooperation with KfE (Commission for Development Issues) and the African Diaspora Council Switzerland that organized a three-day training course from 10-13 March 2011 at the University of Zurich. The meeting was open to applicants of African descent, between the ages 18-35, living in any of the 26 cantons of Switzerland. I was one of the 20 participants that were eager to get engaged in a dialogue amongst fellow peers of African origin. I attended the conference with an open-mind and longing to meet people with a burning desire to make a positive impact within the African community residing in Switzerland. My expectations were superseded with the level of intelligence and ambition that were present at the seminar. To my delight, quite a range of nationalities were represented, namely, Algeria, Burundi, Cape Verde, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Switzerland and Togo.

Six trainers from ADYNE were present at the conference not only as a source of information, but also as providers of support to aid in setting up a Chapter in Switzerland. During the conference, they also acted as facilitators to stimulate discussion on topics relevant to life as a Diaspora in Europe as well as to address issues regarding the current political landscape in various parts of the continent. Dr. Ade Adeagbo, the Interim Director of ADYNE, made the opening speech ensuring us that the aim of the meeting was not to impose views upon us, but rather to create a space where our voices can be heard.

There were several topics that were put up for discussion, one of them being given the task to reflect on what we relate to as being a part of our African identity. This was quite a challenge, for despite Africa being often implicitly referred to as a single “country”, it is a continent comprised of 54 nations. It is vast not only in the land mass that it covers, but also in the diversity of cultures and customs that it encompasses. Nevertheless, common themes were able to be drawn from what we associated as being a part of our African identity: a spirit of perseverance, a sense of pride, warm hospitality, captivating smiles and delicious food.

In addition, the challenges faced by youth living in Switzerland were addressed. Of the many aspects that were mentioned, one the most of us can probably relate to is the feeling that our value is underestimated and underappreciated in the society. There seems to be a magnifying glass focused on those few Africans that commit crimes, contributing to the already existing prejudices against Africans. Of the many projects that ADYNE intends to take on is to start an annual Youth Recognition Event where those doing good works can be publically appreciated. This is important not only to create a better image of Africans in Europe, but also to have role models in the community that are a form of inspiration.

The data and views gathered at the meeting are the source of material for a publication, which will later on be distributed to African leaders and youth organizations globally. As part of the initiative of setting up ADYNE in Switzerland, six people have been selected to fulfill different management roles. Mr. Joël Hakizimana has been appointed the top position as Coordinator and Mélanie Aardalsbakke as Deputy. The other four people will be heading the following departments: Communications, Networking, Policy and Recognition. Nevertheless, this is only the first step of many years to come which calls for hard work and dedication. It is the mission of ADYNE to be the network that connects organizations and individuals to collaborate and actively participate as global citizens to shape the lives of African Diaspora young people in Europe.

*Special thanks to: Trainers – Ade Adeagbo, Ludgero Teixeira, Lilian Ifeoma Chibiko, Babatunde Rosanwo, Joël Hakizimana and Eyob Balcha. Organizers – Mélanie Aardalsbakke, Corinne Boillat, Gabriela Hertig, Iren Joos, Norina Elsener, David Müller, David Kaufmann and Romain Lare.*

**More information:** [www.adyne.info](http://www.adyne.info)

*Written by Aida Sem Tekle*

V. List of participants

**The Role of African Diaspora Youth 11.-13. March 2011**

**PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Cell phone</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Association</b>
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Samson Kidane	Eritrea		samykidane@yahoo.com	KfE

**PEOPLE HOW DIDN'T ATTEND**

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## ORGANIZERS

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