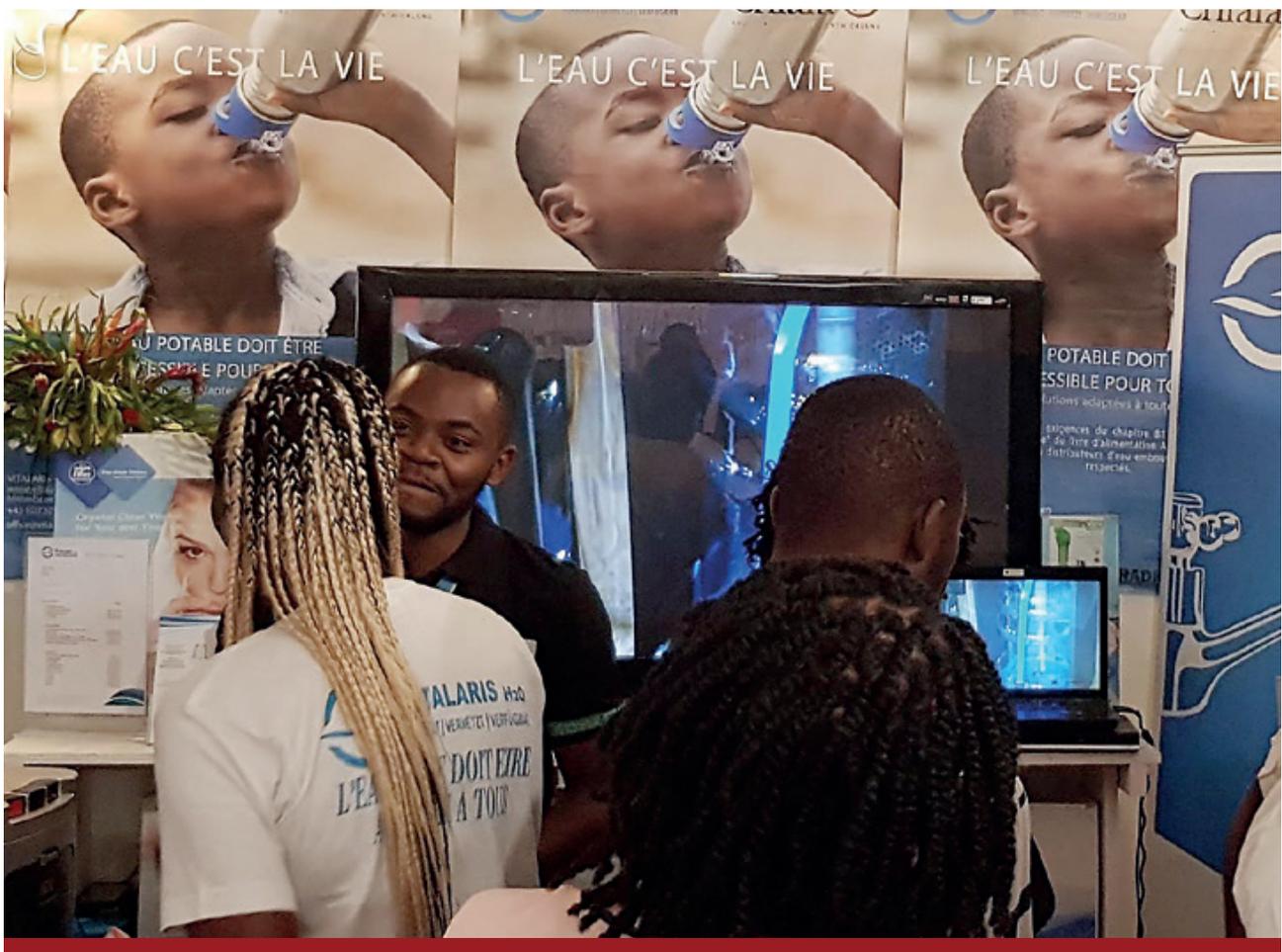


Transnational African Diaspora Engagement in Austria

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Basic issues: discussion papers on development policies, international cooperation
and south-north cultural exchange, as well as anti-discrimination campaigning

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author, and not
necessarily those of the editor/VIDC.

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FOREWORD

Diaspora communities have a significant impact on the economic, social and political development of both their countries of origin and residence. Their transnational engagement is manifold: health and educational projects, investment in start-ups, remittances to their families, know-how transfer, especially during the COVID-19 crisis, along with solidarity activities for social change. In addition, African diaspora initiatives run awareness-raising programs and anti-racist campaigns.

As part of its focus on migration and development, the VIDC established a diaspora dialogue and cooperation program in 2011. The aim was to learn more about the potential, priorities and needs of diasporas, to make diaspora engagement more visible, to strengthen their capacities and to facilitate a more enabling environment, including funding mechanisms within Austrian development cooperation. This is achieved through joint events and dialogue formats such as the Afrika Club, counselling and training workshops, research and case studies, as well as public relations.

This study focuses on the transnational engagement with Sub-Saharan Africa. Previous research was conducted with communities from the Near and Middle East. Other recent research focused on diaspora engagement program in five European countries.

The present study was carried out by three young researchers from the *AEWTASS – Advancing Equality Within The Austrian School System* initiative. The VIDC asked experts from the diaspora community itself to conduct the research work to add their perspectives to the debate.

Our thanks go to the authors, Sina Aping, Maida Schuller and Gudrun Klein for their incredible efforts and passionate work during the COVID-19 pandemic. We would also like to thank all the activists and experts from the African associations who agreed to be interviewed and kindly provided us with information, knowledge and details of their experiences. Last but not least, we thank the Austrian Development Agency for the funding and their openness to participate in further dialogue on diaspora engagement.

Franz Schmidjell
VIDC Deputy Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The African diaspora plays a central role within the Austrian society. Projects and initiatives are as diverse as the African diaspora itself; a significant number of People of African Descent engage in initiatives and associations that work towards the improvement of society in various areas – both in Austria and in African countries. As the narrative about the African diaspora is often based on racist stereotypes, this study aims to deconstruct these inaccurate narratives by highlighting the work and achievements of the African diaspora in Austria. The goal is to make projects and initiatives visible to the wider public and attract not only interest, but also the financial resources necessary to guarantee their success. Therefore, the focus of this study is on the circumstances and motivations which led to the foundation of these associations, on challenges in general, and with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic, on the role women play in these organisations, as well as on everyday challenges and good practices.

The research was guided by the following questions: What is the composition of the African diaspora and communities in Austria; how do they engage in the area of transnational cooperation and awareness raising? A total of 69 associations across Austria were contacted, of which 28 completed questionnaires, 17 were interviewed either in person or online, and one was included from a former VIDC study.¹

The following findings emerged from the research, and in particular from the interviews with 17 associations (a full list can be found under “Outlook and Recommendations”). They are divided into sections: recommendations for individuals and diaspora initiatives,

recommendations for public institutions, civil society and the Austrian government and recommendations for further research:

- Gender equality and justice should be pursued in all associations and initiatives, ideally anchored in statutes or guidelines.
- Paid and unpaid working hours should be equally divided with regards to gender.
- A women’s quota in the board of editors should be considered.
- Larger initiatives and registered organisations should use their resources to further support smaller initiatives in terms of overcoming bureaucratic obstacles when it comes to founding and funding an organisation.
- Funding organisations which work in the so-called “development sector” should strive to have a more diverse and inclusive workforce.
- The proposal review in funding processes must be carried out by an objective consortium.
- Organisations should be evaluated in terms of their qualifications and the viability of their proposed projects, rather than in terms of the length of their existence. This focus should also consider diversity, intersectionality and be wary of reproducing neo-colonial structures.
- Funding programs should include the costs of administrative work in their respective calls.
- Laws must be enacted and implemented that hold racist and discriminatory actions accountable, especially in the workforce and in educational settings.

¹ In the Annex we have listed all organisations contacted, their locations and whether or not they are engaged in projects on the African continent. It should be noted that not all are still active and some did not respond. One possible explanation for this relates to the timing of the study, which was conducted during summer, and the often voluntary commitment of some persons. It could also be due to the fact that some have received little support and/or appreciation for their work. Nevertheless, we think they should be mentioned here in order to highlight their important work and engagement for the African diaspora.

1. INTRODUCTION

African diaspora initiatives and associations in Austria have been carrying out significant development, cultural, educational, social and anti-discrimination work for years. But this commitment receives little visibility, respect, resources, and, in particular, funding. Hence, our main goal is to make the engagement of the African diaspora in Austria more visible and to highlight the diverse perspectives of Black people and People of African Descent. This study examines eighteen initiatives and associations founded and run by representatives of the African diaspora and Black people who are active in Austria and various African countries. It focuses on the circumstances and motivations which led to the foundation of these organisations, on challenges in general, and with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic, on the role women play in the organisations, as well as on shortcomings and good practices. The results will be presented to public institutions, policy makers and the public. Additionally, a TV documentary on diaspora engagement will be made by Radio Afrika TV. These joint efforts contribute to raising awareness of the meaningful engagement and contributions made by the African diaspora in Austria. This report includes a theoretical framework that presents critical approaches and concepts related to African diaspora engagement in Austria and development aid. Critical approaches, as well as intersectional perspectives, allow for sensitive engagement with the topic. This is clarified in the findings section. Topics such as diversity and networking, so-called “development aid”, racism, gender, as well as funding and bureaucracy, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement came to the forefront of our analysis.

Research Questions

The main questions that guided our research are as follows:

What is the composition of the African diasporas/communities and how do they engage in the fields of transnational cooperation and awareness raising?

The African diaspora in Austria

As the narrative about the African diaspora is often based on racist stereotypes, this study aims to contribute to the deconstruction of these inaccurate narratives by highlighting the impressive work and achievements of the African diaspora in Austria. It is impossible to provide a comprehensive definition of the African diaspora here, as the discipline of diaspora studies is incredibly broad and detailed. The term “diaspora” has a complex, long and controversial history. In this study, we borrow the definition of the term from a study commissioned by the Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC) on Somali Diaspora Engagement in Austria, written by Suad Mohamed and Jamal Mataan (November 2020).² Accordingly, we use the term to describe the experiences of people whose place of residence was originally attributed to a different country to that where they currently live – in this case, predominantly from the African continent. We are aware that this definition perpetuates the notion that Black people and others who are not perceived as white cannot “originally” be from Europe or Austria. Nevertheless, we use it in the context of this study to stress the particular position of the African diaspora and Black people in Austrian society and the development scene. To give an example, several association representatives we interviewed told us about situations when their competence and skills were either unrecognised or undervalued, which prevented them from taking on roles as experts and leaders of development initiatives.

The African diaspora plays a crucial role in Austrian society. Along with taking part in the labour force and paying taxes, many People of African Descent engage in initiatives and associations that work towards the improvement of society in various areas – in Austria as well as in African countries. Other important areas of engagement by the African diaspora on the African continent take the form of remittances – which in some African countries are higher than the amount received in the form of development aid – as well as business

² Mohamed, Suad & Mataan, Jamal (VIDC) (2020) Somali Diaspora Engagement in Austria https://www.vidc.org/fileadmin/franz/2020/report-somali-diaspora_fin.pdf [last access: 13.09.2021]

Table1
THE TEN BIGGEST GROUPS WITH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP

Country	Number
Nigeria	7,329
Somalia	7,120
Egypt	6,215
Tunisia	2,511
Morocco	1,553
Ghana	1,350
Algeria	1,158
Kenya	895
South Africa	863
Gambia	671

Table2
THE TEN BIGGEST GROUPS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Country	Number
Egypt.	15,153
Nigeria	8,248
Somalia	6,091
Tunisia	4,353
South Africa	3,213
Morocco	2,579
Ghana	2,387
Algeria	1,579
Ethiopia	1,411
Kenya	1,354

cooperation. These aspects however are not covered in this study and require further research.

Additionally, with regards to the increasing importance of international development cooperation, especially at the EU level, as well as the increased interest of European states in economic cooperation with African states, the African diaspora is an indispensable actor and potential partner with a deep knowledge of the realities of the situation in Austria and on the African continent. Or as Nina Grossfurthner put it: "Diasporas are often characterised by displacement and otherness, but Afro-Austrians, like diasporas elsewhere, exemplify this simplification. They have complex linkages with their countries of residence, just as much as their countries of 'origin'".³ The engagement of the African diaspora thus plays a crucial role in international development cooperation and needs to be recognised as a key actor that can significantly contribute to meaningful international policies.

It is quite difficult to find exhaustive and reliable information on the population of African Descent in Austria. Austria's Federal Statistical Office (Statistik Austria) collects information on African citizens living in Austria, as well as on people who previously held citizenship of an African nation. However, as children of mixed de-

scend must choose between Austrian and African citizenship, they disappear from statistics representing People of African Descent. It is therefore impossible to determine the number of second, third and fourth generations of African migrants living in Austria.

At the beginning of 2021, there were 36,278 people with citizenship from African countries living in Austria (Table1).

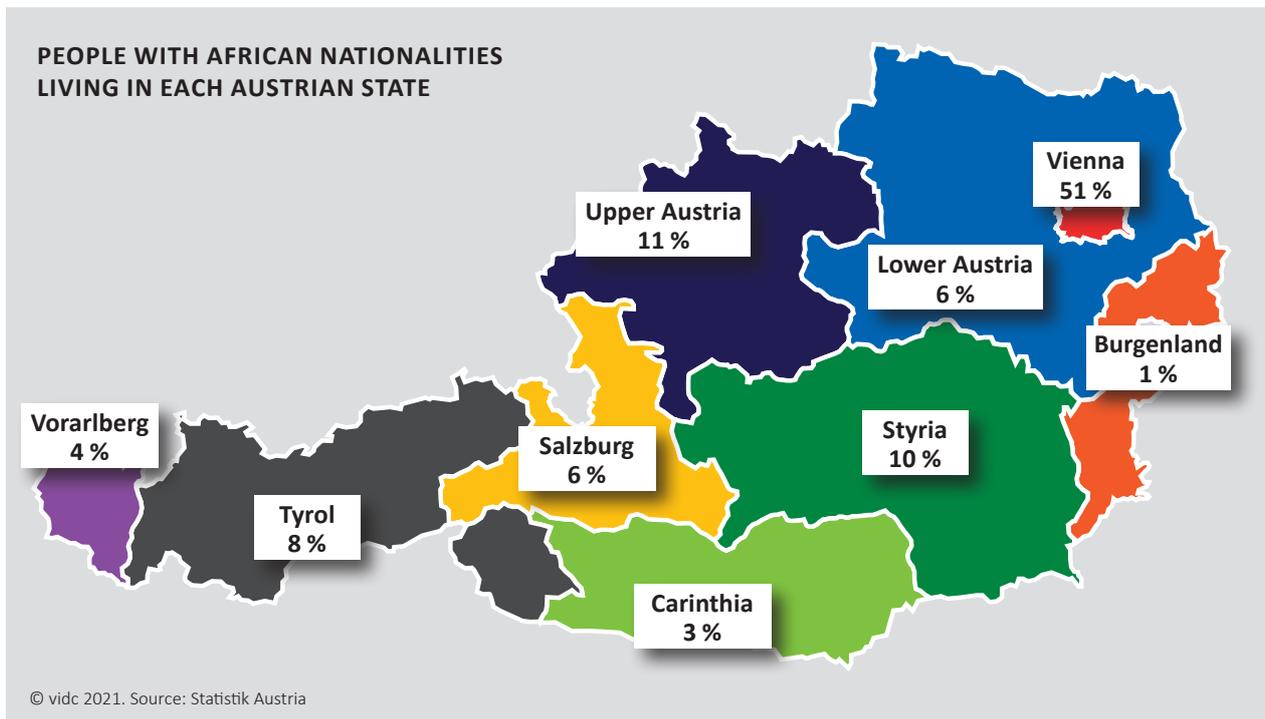
At the beginning of 2021, 56.666 people lived in Austria who were born in African countries (Table2).

At the beginning of 2020, there were 35,599 people with citizenship from African countries living in Austria, of whom 57.7% were men and 42.3% were women. 32.3% were under 25 years old (11,497) and 67.7% were 25 years and older (24,102). The largest age group were 25 to 49 year olds (58.2%).⁴ Since 1981, 30,582 people who previously held citizenship from an African country have been naturalised in Austria, of whom former Egyptians (39.6%) are by far the largest group, followed by Nigerians (15.2%), Tunisians (9.4%) and Ghanaians (8.1%).⁵ Even though people with Somali citizenship are the second largest national group from Africa in Austria (19.5%), only 572 have received Austrian citizenship since 1981, equating to only 1.9% of all peo-

3 Grossfurthner, Nina (2019) Lifting the veil on Afro-Austrians. LSE Blog. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2019/04/12/lifting-the-veil-on-afro-austrians/> [last access: 31.08.2021]

4 Ibid.

5 For the year 2014 the data is provisional, as according to a 2013 amendment to the Citizenship Act, minor legitimate children born before 1 September 1983 could apply for citizenship under §64a(18) until the end of April 2014. Many of these procedures have not yet been completed, as confirmations from foreign embassies still have to be submitted for the persons concerned. Only after these procedures have been completed can a final number of naturalisations for 2014 be determined.



ple who had previously held citizenship from an African country.⁶ Between 2010 and 2020, 74% of People of African Descent who were naturalised in Austria were born in African countries.⁷ Since it is not permitted to hold dual citizenship in Austria, these numbers tell us that there are up to 66,000 people of African Descent living in Austria.⁸ This number includes also the second and third generation.

The African diaspora is not, of course, a homogenous group in terms of nationalities, residential status, languages, interests, skills, professions, requirements etc. This study thus attempts to include diverse initiatives/associations from various backgrounds and with different experiences, aims and approaches. One of the goals is not only to highlight initiatives/associations founded and active in Vienna, but also to include as many initiatives/associations from outside the capital as possible. The only data obtainable that allows us to estimate the population of African Descent in each federal state is the number of people with African nationalities.

Of the 36,278 people with citizenship from African countries living in Austria at the beginning of 2021, 18,403 were living in Vienna. For Upper Austria that number was 4,170, for Styria 3,711, for Tyrol 2,890, for Lower Austria 2,202, for Salzburg 2,194, for Vorarlberg 1,415, for Carinthia 991 and for Burgenland 302.⁹

Methodology

The research for this study began in the spring of 2021 and is based on secondary and empirical research. Initially, we carried out desk research to collect data on the current composition of People of African Descent and Black people in Austria, as well as on their initiatives and associations. As much data available online is out of date, the first step was to find out which organisations/initiatives are still active in Austria. To identify active initiatives/associations, we relied on our networks, our own position within the Black community, our involvement with the initiative *AEW TASS*, and the

6 Statistik Austria (2021) data obtained upon request

7 Statistik Austria (2021) Einbürgerungen.

http://www.statistik.at/web_de/statistiken/menschen_und_gesellschaft/bevoelkerung/einbuengerungen/index.html [last access: 24.07.2021]

8 This number however does not consider deaths or emigration to other countries.

9 Statistik Austria (2021) Bevölkerung nach Staatsangehörigkeit und Geburtsland. https://www.statistik.at/web_de/statistiken/menschen_und_gesellschaft/bevoelkerung/bevoelkerungsstruktur/bevoelkerung_nach_staatsangehoerigkeit_geburtsland/index.html [last access: 04.09.2021]

expertise from VIDC.¹⁰ This allowed us to collect contact information for almost seventy associations run by, with, and for Black people in Austria. We were able to collect information about initiatives/associations in seven of the nine Austrian federal states, although associations from only four federal states (Vienna, Upper Austria, Styria, Tyrol) participated in the research until the very end.

The criteria for our research were as follows: initiatives/associations run by Black people or People of African Descent; initiatives/associations with predominantly Black members or People of African Descent, especially in executive positions, and focus on furthering the well-being of Black people and People of African Descent in Austria and sub-Saharan African countries; initiatives/associations whose work focuses on the African continent in the areas of development cooperation, relief work, humanitarian aid and social entrepreneurship, and; initiatives/associations which work on education and awareness raising in Austria. The description of these initiatives/associations in this report is crucial as it highlights the work of Black people and People of African Descent in the field of developmental aid, where often non-white people are portrayed as “objects to be helped”, rather than as self-organising and self-supporting key players within their communities.

In the first phase, participating initiatives and associations completed questionnaires, which were used to determine their suitability for this study. In the second phase, association representatives were interviewed. Questions covered the following topics: the association’s background story; their collaboration with other African diaspora associations; their projects in countries on the African continent; the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on active and planned projects; their funding situations, and their successes and challenges. It was however our intention to give Black people and People of African Descent the opportunity to talk about issues relevant to them and the work of their initiatives, rather than reproducing perceptions deemed by researchers to be “interesting”. We therefore conducted the interviews as openly as possible. All questionnaires and interviews were completed between June and September 2021. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic,

the majority of interviews were conducted online. The search was not limited to associations officially registered in the Austrian register of associations, as we wanted to extend this platform to younger and less-known initiatives. We contacted 69 initiatives/associations across Austria via email or social media (mostly Instagram and Facebook) and received initial replies from 29 of these groups. Only eighteen associations however participated for the full duration of the research process, which included at least one interview. (Note: We were unable to locate any African diaspora initiatives/associations in Burgenland.)

Due to limited resources, this report is not exhaustive and does not represent the totality of African diaspora initiatives in Austria. In Vorarlberg for example, we spoke with Dr. Mike Chukwuma, co-founder of the African-Club Vorarlberg. The main goal of the African-Club Vorarlberg is to connect the African community in Vorarlberg and to strengthen relations with other communities in Austria. The association’s activities have currently been put on hold however due to the lack of a director, as well as challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the African Club Vorarlberg will not be presented at length in this report. It is necessary to mention that a striking number of responses came from initiatives/associations that have personal connections with the research team or the VIDC.

Limitations

For the quantitative data collection, we mainly used statistics from Statistik Austria. However, as Statistik Austria only records the number of people with current or previous African citizenship, African descendants with European citizenship or any citizenship other than African (including second or third generation) are erased from the statistics on Black people in Austria.¹¹ As the Austrian census does not include questions on ethnic group or race – as do countries such as England, Wales, Brazil and the United States among others – it is only possible to estimate the number of the Black and African descendant population in Austria. Furthermore, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain reliable data on the employment situation of people with Afri-

10 The three authors of this study are members of the initiative Advancing Equality Within The Austrian School System (*AEWTASS*). In particular, we are part of the group C ((Re-)flecting Realities: Scientific analysis of Austrian textbooks and Critical Whiteness Workshops. It should thus be noted that we were commissioned to carry out the VIDC study as members of *AEWTASS*.

11 Furthermore, not all migrants from African countries are Black.

can nationalities, let alone Black people, in Austria. The annual report on Migration and Integration published by the organisation Österreichischer Integrationsfonds (mainly financed by the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs) presents comprehensive data on, among other things, the employment situation for migrants and their children.¹² However, when it comes to countries outside the EU, it only distinguishes between Ex-Yugoslavian countries, Turkey, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and “other states”.

Another limitation is that the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented us from travelling freely to the federal states. Not being able to personally meet and interview the associations’ representatives hindered the building of trust and longer-lasting relationships. Moreover, we suspect that had we been able to meet in person, we would have been able to reach more associations outside of Vienna, as most associations that agreed to meet with us virtually were those we reached through our networks.

We gathered the data for this study between June and September, which meant that the already difficult task of collecting questionnaires and scheduling interviews was further complicated by the summer break. Many respondents told us they would reply after their holidays, which did not always happen. In the case of associations we did not know personally beforehand, it was sometimes hard to find out whether it was an association run by a majority of Black people and/or People of African Descent. In Salzburg we interviewed a representative of an association carrying out important work in Senegal. However, as the key persons running this association – who have created and implemented various development projects – are white Austrians, ultimately it did not meet our criteria. Last but not least, some associations decided not to participate in this study, as they receive many requests to speak at events, give interviews and provide their expert knowledge without ever being compensated for this work.

12 Österreichischer Integrationsfonds (2021) Migration & Integration. https://www.integrationsfonds.at/fileadmin/user_upload/MigInt_2020.pdf [last access: 21.07.2021]

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This section provides brief details of the theoretical approaches that framed this study. First, we give a summarised history of Black and African communities in Austria, followed by a short discussion on terminology, a critique of “classical” development aid concepts and a presentation of the concept of “intersectionality”. The latter illustrates the close connection between individual approaches and points to the need for contextualisation and questioning. All this is necessary in relation to the present study in order to be able to address the complexity of African diaspora engagement in Austria. In this way, racism, gender aspects, questions of power and social inequality in general should be considered and deconstructed in relation to the field of development aid.

Contrary to popular belief, Black people in Austria are not a “new” minority but are embedded in the nation’s history. Black people have lived in the region that is known today as Austria for centuries. There are records of African people in Austria dating as far back as the 14th century¹³ Two of the most famous Black persons in Austria, Angelo Soliman (1721-96) and his daughter Josefine (1772-1801),¹⁴ lived in the 18th century¹⁵ The first Black and African initiatives in Austria date back to the 1960s. Their intention was to offer support among people of the Black communities.¹⁶ Some of these initiatives laid the foundation for the work that is being done today.

Terminology: Black & white

The history of Black people and People of African Descent, the colonial past, as well as the transatlantic slave trade, is inseparable from topics such as migration, post- and neo-colonialism, development studies and related critical approaches, such as the critique of

racism. It is important to remind ourselves that the environment Black people and People of African Descent live in is not a neutral one and that their initiatives/associations operate within racist structures. Some of the initiatives/associations described in this study work precisely to combat structural racism.

In the following, we attempt to clarify some of the terms we use, such as Black and white. These terms must be read as political categories rather than simple approximations to phenotypical characteristics. The notion of Blackness has been reinterpreted by racialised/ethnicised subjects. The “capitalisation” of the word “Black” represents a written irritation on one hand, as well as an empowering self-designation. Supposed biological differences are not central here. The term symbolises the way skin colour and other phenotypical characteristics are a social construct to emphasise differences and establish a hierarchy, of which white people are at the top.¹⁷ Whiteness refers to the subjects who occupy a privileged position as a result of the processes of racialisation and unequal power relations created and reproduced by them. Similar to Unterweger, we choose to write the term in italics to emphasise, as with the term Blackness, that whiteness is not a phenotypical naturalisation of groups of people, but has instead been constructed in political, historical, and economic processes.

“Development Aid”

The post-colonial critique of classical “development aid” states that white people/people from the Global North are seen as experts who, under the paradigm of (economic) “development”, “show” people from countries of the Global South how to achieve similar levels of prosperity and measurable economic success.¹⁸

13 Grossfurthner, Nina (2019) Lifting the veil on Afro-Austrians. LSE Blog. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2019/04/12/lifting-the-veil-on-afro-austrians/> [last access: 31.08.2021]

14 Angelo Soliman enjoyed high regard from the royal house because of his intellectuality. He associated with great personalities, such as the composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Nevertheless, his fame did not prevent his body being stuffed and exhibited after his death, by Emperor Joseph II. For years, his daughter campaigned to be able to bury her father’s body with dignity, but to no avail.

15 Spanbauer, Vanessa (2020) Schwarze Minderheit. Die Sabotage der Ungerechtigkeit – Schwarz sein heißt politisch sein. Initiative Minderheiten. <https://initiative.minderheiten.at/wordpress/index.php/2020/03/schwarze-minderheit/> [last access: 07.09.2021]

16 *ibid.*

17 Unterweger, Claudia (2016) Talking Back. Strategien Schwarzer österreichischer Geschichtsschreibung. Zaglossus e.U., Wien.

18 <https://oxfamapps.org/fp2p/powershifts-resources-anti-racism-in-development-and-aid/>

We regard this approach as “ahistoric, unsustainable and perpetuating (neo-)colonial images, discourses and practices”.¹⁹ This study demonstrates alternatives to neo-colonial practices of development aid and presents development projects within African communities crossing transnational borders, carried out by experts who have vast knowledge of the historical, geographical, gendered and political conditions of the region they work with/in, as they themselves are often embedded in the local community or have strong connections to it. More than half of the organisations in this study (thirteen from eighteen) carry out “development projects” in countries on the African continent. These projects – while not entirely free of hierarchical power relations – represent a relatively egalitarian form of development cooperation.

Intersectionality

Intersectionality is an indispensable tool for the critical analysis of racism and should not be left out in the context of African diaspora engagement.

“Intersectionality is a theoretical concept, an analytical approach, and a legal and policy tool that captures the various layers of advantages and disadvantages everyone experiences based on societal and structural systems. These systems include capitalism, colonialism, patriarchy, and racism”

(Dr. Emilia Roig, Why We Matter 2021. Centre for Intersectional Justice).

The origin of intersectionality lies in the Black Feminism movements. Representatives of intersectionality argue that the experiences of white Western women should no longer be regarded as universal. The formerly-enslaved woman, Sojourner Truth, had already advocated for intersectionality in the 19th century, but it was the legal theorist, Kimberlé Crenshaw, who coined the concept. Crenshaw used the term to describe multidimensional categories of discrimination. She compared intersectionality to a crossroads, where so-called axes of power intersect, cross and overlap.²⁰ Accordingly, intersectionality identifies forms of inequality and discrimination from a multidimensional perspective. The concept of intersectionality gained particular attention during the debates around racism and the Black Lives Matter movements last year, after the death of the Black American George Floyd. It is important to point out the necessity of an intersectional perspective and to consider the close interweaving of different theoretical concepts such as post-colonialism and Black feminism – concepts that are indispensable in critical racism, migration and development, as well as in diaspora studies. These principles guided our search for diaspora organisations and the topics that were discussed with them.

19 Kothari, Uma (2006) ‘An agenda for thinking about ‘race’ in development’, *Progress in development studies*, 6(1): 9-23.

20 Winkler, Gabriele & Degele, Nina (2009) *Intersektionalität. Zur Analyse sozialer Ungleichheiten*. Transcript: Bielefeld

3. FINDINGS

Based on the 17 interviews, 28 completed surveys and email correspondence with 69 Black and African diaspora associations and initiatives across Austria, we categorised the following findings:

Diversity and Networking

Significant networks exist connecting individuals and initiatives/associations of the Black and African diaspora. Many of our interview partners have previously collaborated, initiated projects together or assisted each other in a professional capacity. This cooperation within the African diaspora is not confined to federal or national borders. A large number of joint projects are carried out at a transnational level: several associations work with diaspora initiatives in other European and North American countries, as well as with associations on the African continent. These include the Africa-Europe Development Platform (ADEPT) and the African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe (ADYFE) whom we have included in this study as several people in Austria are either part of their leadership or strongly involved with their work. Collaboration and networking however does not only take place among the Black communities themselves, but also with other migrant initiatives and organisations. One of the associations interviewed, for example, has been involved in a joint literature and writing workshop project with a Kurdish women's organisation. Initially, they created a space where participants could discuss and write about their experiences of flight, war and violence. The next step involved strategising to improve the situation for migrant women on a global scale.

Several individuals have carried out impressive work for the Black community over the past years, and even decades. The names of a several people were mentioned by a number of our interview partners as having inspired and supported their work. These are people whose work cannot be localised in a single Black association, but rather in many different initiatives. The groundwork laid by these role models is greatly appreciated and recognised by several associations. During

one interview, it was mentioned that many of the associations represented in our report would not exist today if it not for the work of these role models.

Our findings also demonstrate that some associations attract employees and members who were born and raised on the African continent, while others attract those who were born in Austria (second and third generation), as often these groups pursue different interests. Some interviewees argued that this circumstance made it difficult for people migrating from an African country to Austria to find a connection within the Black community, as the Austrian-born Black community is perceived as tending to keep to itself. Representatives of another organisation told us that people who migrated to Austria from an African country and those who were born and raised here have different interests. While the first generation feels more connected to the country they were born and raised in and prefers to invest their time and skills in building up those countries, the second and third generations are more invested in improving the situation in Austria. However, it is crucial to note that other studies (such as the Somalian study) show that the diaspora plays a crucial role as the first contact in the new country and facilitates integration.²¹

One interviewee stated that networking with other African diaspora associations can often be challenging because People of African Descent have often brought their colonial heritage and so-called "ethnic conflicts" with them from African countries to Europe and Austria. Collaboration between African diaspora associations was also described as a matter of rivalry. Another interviewee stated that individual diaspora communities tend to keep to themselves and maintain rivalries with other ethnic communities. Nevertheless, it is important to note that collaborative projects have been carried out by a diverse group of associations/organisations. One example is Afrophobia. This project was carried out in 2015/16 with the aim of raising awareness about the need for more recognition for people of African Descent and Black Europeans in Austria, and was organised by Radio Afrika TV in collaboration with

21 Mohamed, Suad & Mataan, Jamal (VIDC) (2020) Somali Diaspora Engagement in Austria https://www.vidc.org/fileadmin/franz/2020/report-somali-diaspora_fin.pdf [last access: 13.09.2021]

Südwind, the European Network Against Racism, Presse Club Concordia and OKTO.

Gender & Intersectionality

Black women and women of African Descent have been organising themselves for years. Often their work is inspired by role models who laid the foundation for the empowerment of Black women in Austria today. During the interviews it became clear that a significant number of women occupy administrative positions in the associations or take up both the position of chairwoman and secretary, while chairmen tend to outsource administrative tasks to other organisation members. Most of the larger associations founded by African migrants are run by men, however women also found their own initiatives and do important work for the communities.

The topic of intersectionality was not discussed explicitly in the interviews but was rather implicitly expressed in various instances. Women's initiatives are not only located in larger African cities but are often targeted at marginalised rural areas. One interviewee noted that while the major cities generally already had development programs in place, often run by big developmental players, rural areas were neglected. Women in more remote areas are particularly marginalised as a result of the intersection between their gender, race, ethnicity and economic status. Development engagement in these areas, especially projects carried by women's initiatives, shows that although not explicitly mentioned, intersectionality is an impacting factor in their work. This demonstrates that many African diaspora initiatives take social structures into account when planning development projects.

Within one women's organisation there were different opinions on certain political issues and directions, however these differences were set aside for the greater good and to ensure the well-being of other Black women and women of African Descent. One interviewee spoke of their initiative's involvement in Tigray, with participating women having a range of views on how to handle the situation in the conflict region. Despite their differences, members of the initiative came together in order to protect women who fall victim to sexual violence.

Another issue that emerged is that in associations which are mainly run by men, gender distribution and equality does not play a primary role in terms of internal work processes. With regards to the beneficiaries

however, women are often the target groups. A high proportion of women are active, often voluntarily, in social and cultural areas.

Funding & Bureaucracy

Eight of the associations interviewed work on a voluntary and unpaid basis. Very few receive regular funding from the Austrian government or the EU, the remainder receive small donations and sponsorship from civil society or other organisations. The majority of association members are employed elsewhere and work for the associations in addition to their regular jobs. In most interviews, the scarcity - and sometimes total lack - of funding came up as a key issue. Financial obstacles faced by smaller initiatives in particular are immense, as applications to donors such as the Austrian Development Agency or the European Union require an extensive number of working hours to complete project proposals. Very few diaspora associations interviewed receive funding from Austrian development institutions. Among the sponsors and partners are the African Union (ADEPT and ADYFE), and through the participation in EU-projects, the European Union (ADYFE and Radio Afrika TV), as well as international and church-run organisations.

A significant obstacle is the bureaucracy involved in the registration of new associations. According to several interviewees, understanding the exact procedure required to register an association in Austria is extremely challenging. The difficulty of starting an initiative and registering an association as a Black person was also brought up. The interconnection of racist stereotypes, class and challenges particular to Black people and People of African Descent in Austria becomes especially visible in this situation. In terms of financing, it was strongly emphasised in the interviews that the administrative work for founding and funding an association is rarely compensated for in monetary terms.

Some of the larger, institutionally-anchored organisations offer consultancy services to assist small and medium-sized initiatives with funding applications. It appears however that awareness of this form of support is not widespread among African diaspora initiatives, as it was only mentioned once, during an interview in which a smaller initiative described being offered a budget to carry out workshops.

The interviews were conducted exclusively with highly-educated people, most of whom possess uni-

versity diplomas. This demonstrates that it is predominantly highly and formally educated Black people and People of African Descent who are willing and able to put their resources into projects that benefit both their country of residence and the country to which they feel a strong connection.

Current global events: COVID-19 pandemic & Black Lives Matter

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a disruptive factor for Black and African diaspora initiatives and organisations. Many initiatives became fragmented as meetings could only be held online and community-building activities had to be suspended. One association that produces radio shows was unable to produce their program inside the studio for almost two years. Several associations were forced to cancel activities and even international trips that had already been paid for, resulting in the loss of a significant amount of money, that for some had come from their personal pockets. Some business partnerships that were on the verge of being established before or at the beginning of the pandemic were discontinued.

On the other hand, there were cases where networking opportunities and even new initiatives presented themselves during the pandemic. Much informal consulting was carried out among the associations and communities during the lockdowns, including the exchange of information about health and education etc. The use of online tools had a positive effect on increasing collaboration across national borders. Larger than usual panel discussions, conferences and meetings were able to be held across transnational borders, with Black activists and activists with African Descent in Europe, North America and on the African continent.

The emerging of a global Black Lives Matter movement after the murder of George Floyd encouraged the formation of some of the newer initiatives. Furthermore, Black people and People of African Descent observe that in the wake of this global social movement, white institutions in Austria have begun to acknowledge the institutional and structural components in which racism influences Austrian society. This also helped their organisations achieve greater visibility and network more extensively with (formerly) exclusively white institutions. It is telling however, that the publication of such a horrific event had to happen for (parts of) Austria's white society to acknowledge and tackle their

own upholding of racist structures, despite the fact that Black people and People of African Descent have been raising awareness about these issues for decades.

Development Aid, Organisations and Programs

The engagement of Black people and People of African Descent on the African continent takes place in diverse ways in countries including Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan, among others. A major focus of African diaspora engagement on the African continent is through various forms of capacity building. One interviewee explained that as finding employment in some African countries can be difficult, training and practical experience is essential, as well as the creation of new jobs.

In the following we present a few examples of initiatives active on the African continent: Radio Afrika TV and Chiala have a project that not only provides people with potable water in Cameroon but also creates jobs and offers professional training. Integrate African Culture provides women and young people in Ghana with seeds, machinery, agricultural training and fields so they can plant and harvest rice, cassava and corn. Sahel Tirol is active in Burkina Faso where they provide agricultural training to young farmers to enable them to run their own farms and for their children to attend school. These, and other, projects will be described in more detail in the next section.

During the interviews, it became apparent that some associations take existing power hierarchies into account and do not want to disrupt current social structures by imposing their own ideas about what the locals most need. Before beginning their projects, they surveyed locals to find out their needs, and how these improvements could be best implemented and made sustainable.

Finally, it was also mentioned that these issues and the predominantly voluntary engagement of the African diaspora are not in the interest of the white man. In this way, attention was drawn to the continuing racist structures in our society. The work of these associations receives almost no support and the issues of the African diaspora receive little attention. As a solution, the researchers propose that a critical questioning of development cooperation takes place, which emphasises the importance of equality in all areas of life, and of fair dialogue.

4. AFRICAN DIASPORA ASSOCIATIONS/INITIATIVES IN AUSTRIA

This section is divided into two parts. The first section presents African diaspora organisations which are active in Europe and Africa, the second describes African diaspora organisations which are only active in Austria. Within these categories, the initiatives/associations are arranged in alphabetical order. Thirteen of these organisations are active in Europe and Africa and five are active only in Austria. Eleven of the initiatives/associa-

tions are based in Vienna (Arts of Banat Mendy, RATV, SaWaShea, Women for Peace, *AEWTASS*/VIAD, fresh-Vibes, SETI, Sugar Honey Black Tea Podcast, AFRIEURO-TEXT, Barka Barka, Gerasaid), two in Styria (Chiala and Tanaka), two in Upper Austria (Black Community OÖ, INAC) and one in Tyrol (Sahel Tirol). The organisations ADEPT and ADYFE operate internationally and have executives living and working in Vienna.

AFRICAN DIASPORA ASSOCIATIONS/INITIATIVES ACTIVE IN EUROPE (PREDOMINANTLY IN AUSTRIA) AS WELL AS ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

ADEPT – Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform

The Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform is a pan-European network of over 200 African diaspora organisations and individuals based in Europe. Bridging the gap between the African and European continents, ADEPT members are active in the European Union and the African Union member states, as well as in Norway, Switzerland and the UK. The organisation's mission is to amplify the influence and impact of African diaspora individuals and development organisations in Africa and Europe.

The organisation was officially established in February 2017 and is currently registered as an International not-for-profit organisation in Brussels. However, its work started much earlier in 2011 as a project. The organisation's work comprises regional and global policy consultations and negotiations; the establishment of a coherent diaspora convening platform; the development of extended partnerships with governments and institutions in Africa, Europe and globally; and the provision of diaspora technical support to partners in Africa. It has participated in deliberation of the Rabat Process and Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA).

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

ADEPT received its Royal Decree as AIBSL (Association international sans but lucrative) in Belgium in December 2016 and was registered on the Banque-carrefour des Entreprises (BCE) in February 2017.

Alexis Neuberg (Radio Afrika TV, RATV) is currently acting president of the organisation, with Karen Kanzeza (African Diaspora Youth Forum Europe, ADYFE) as vice-president. A new board of trustees is elected every three years at the annual general meeting. Kamdem Mou Poh à Hom from Chiala in Graz is a current board member.

The organisational structure comprises the directorate, which is responsible for project implementation and operations; members, including general and associate members; the board of trustees and executive committee of the BoT; an advisory council, and the Project Steering Committee.

GENDER DISTRIBUTION

As of 31 July 2018, ADEPT had 17 general members, of whom five were women; and 21 associate members, of whom nine were women. Of the total 39 members, 14 (~35%) were women. Currently, there are eleven



members of the Board of Trustees (BoT), of whom three are women. The vice-president is a woman.

Since membership of ADEPT is an open system, ADEPT has no control over which diaspora organisations apply and who they send as representatives. The ADEPT Directorate has ten full-time staff made up of professionals from the African diaspora, eight of whom are women. The women hold senior positions of authority and responsibility, including the roles of Executive Director, and Senior Capacity Development Officer.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Currently, ADEPT's activities revolve around the following six pillars:

Good Governance: the organisation aims to professionalise further and support their members to do the same.

Legitimation of diaspora organisations and advocates: ADEPT strives to position individuals and organisations of the African diaspora as contact persons and experts on diaspora issue, by increased lobbying and advocacy work.

Empowerment of diaspora organisations: the organisation aims to help diaspora organisations secure funding by guiding them through application processes as well as lobbying. ADEPT offers accredited training, undertakes research work and runs Diaspora Grant Funds.

Financial Security: while the implementation of the platform has received substantial financial support, the



organisation is looking for new partners and sustainable funding.

Visibility and Communication: the organisation is currently working towards establishing “communication antennas” in each member country to increase the visibility of diaspora's local work, both in social and mainstream media.

Evaluation and Monitoring: ADEPT monitors and evaluates the work of diaspora organisations to better understand the impact of their work and to communicate this to various stakeholders.

PARTNERS AND FUNDING

Through its collaborative work with diaspora-development actors since 2011, the EU and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) as principal funders, along with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), have supported the evolution and development of ADEPT into an effective and impactful service delivery platform. ADEPT works with network partners such as MADE Network, African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of Countries (ACP), Pan African Network in Defense of Migrants' Rights (PANiDMR).

HOMEPAGE

www.adept-platform.org

ADYFE – African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe

The African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe (ADYFE) is an international platform connecting almost 110 African diaspora youth organisations across 41 countries of the Council of Europe. ADYFE's main goal is to contribute to peace and development as well as to the improvement of the lives of the African diaspora in Europe and globally. The organisation therefore focuses on the employability, civic engagement and entrepreneurship of African diaspora youth.

ADYFE has been registered in Vienna since 2018, however the organisation's work began considerably earlier, in 2011. Mali-born Youssouf Simba Diakité, MA, who studied Business and Economics in Vienna, found-



Vienna Office. Karen Kaneza is head of both the Brussels office and the Paris Liaison Office.

The organisation is committed to attracting more women to become active members and to participate either as individuals or with their diaspora organisations, as currently most young entrepreneurs are male. For EU-funded projects, there is also a quota for people with disabilities.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

ADYFE is known for its lobbying work, which focuses on the youth of the African diaspora, their employability, education and training, as well as on their civic en-



ed the organisation Verein der Afrikanischen Studierenden in Österreich (VAS, Association of African Students in Austria). The initial goal was to improve the lives of African students in Austria and to foster intercultural exchange, individual initiative, entrepreneurial thinking and team spirit. By 2014, the idea to connect the youth of the African diaspora more widely across Europe to form a stronger lobby and maximise the impact of its demands at an international level gave birth to ADYFE. Since 2014, the organisation has been one of the main interlocutors on policies and high-level exchanges relating to youth as a whole, and in particular to youth from the African diaspora, to the European Union and the African Union and their various institutions, as well as to many UN agencies.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE & GENDER DISTRIBUTION

Today, ADYFE has offices in Brussels, Paris and Vienna. Youssouf Simba Diakité is currently the head of the

engagement in Europe. A significant number of projects also revolve around entrepreneurship and bi- and multi-lateral business opportunities.

Every second year, ADYFE organises the Accelerated Africa Forum in Austria, which brings together government officials, international institutions such as UNIDO and the AU Commission, young entrepreneurs and diaspora organisations.

Entrepreneurship Development: ADYFE supports 150 young people from the African diaspora by offering entrepreneurship training and networks with African business owners and government representatives. The aim is to equip the African diaspora with the necessary skills and contacts to become active in their African countries.

Employability: Every three months, ADYFE offers online training courses to boost the African diaspora's digi-businesses. The courses focus on various aspects of E-Commerce and are offered in English and French.

Civic Engagement: The project #DiasporaVote came to life before the 2019 European Parliament Elections. Its goal is to raise awareness of the European elections among Europeans of the African diaspora, to encourage them to vote, and eventually stand for election as parliamentarians. ADYFE offers training and support to 15 young influencers from the African diaspora.

Consultancy: ADYFE also offers support to small and medium organisations to help them gain access to funds, and in particular public and private calls for projects in various business sectors.

PARTNERS AND FUNDING

Over the past years, ADYFE has been able to secure funding from various sources. In Austria, the Austrian

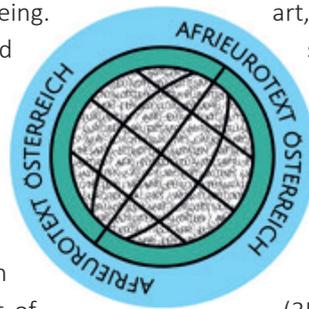
Development Agency and Dreikönigsaktion currently provide financial support to ADYFE. ADYFE has also received financial and/or strategic and organisational assistance from the European Union, as well as from its partners, which include; the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the African Union (AU), the Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT) and Humanity diaspora. In general, it is a big challenge for ADYFE to secure funding for long term projects in Austria. An essential source of funding is ADYFE's own consultancy services (see above).

HOMEPAGE

www.adyfe.eu

AFRIEUROTEXT

AFRIEUROTEXT is a cultural association founded in 2014 by Dr. Daniel Romuald Bitouh, the author of this text. The association runs a specialised bookstore of the same name in Vienna's 2nd district, focusing on African literature in both European and African languages. AFRIEUROTEXT is more than a bookstore, and there is also a café corner where you can listen to African music. The role of this bookstore in shaping the literary ecosystems in Austria should not be downplayed. AFRIEUROTEXT sees itself as a sustainable forum for a differentiated exchange of knowledge, and is thus contributing to a differentiated view of African and European conditions and relationships and thereby to a culture of mutual respect, peace and wellbeing. AFRIEUROTEXT advocates against local and global asymmetries through various projects, events and is committed to educational participation in Austria/Europe and also in Africa. AFRIEUROTEXT Cameroon, the African branch of AFRIEUROTEXT, specialises in vocational training, the creation of sustainable jobs, and the improvement of quality of life for young women and men in Africa.



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND GENDER

Dr. Phil. Daniel Romuald Bitouh, the Chairman of AFRIEUROTEXT, is a literary and cultural scientist, Ph.D postgraduate of the universities of Vienna, Austria and Yaoundé, Cameroon. He studied German and African literature and languages in Yaoundé and in Vienna from 1996 to 2013. He is also a lecturer on African literature and a German teacher. His research fields and priorities include: Restitution Issues, Entanglement of African, Austrian and European Textualities, Literary and Textual practices in Africa, Postcolonial Literary and Cultural Theory, North-South Dialogue and Migration Issues. He is the manager of the project "3RRR – RESTITUTION, REHABILITATION and RECONCILIATION" in Austria. His book, *Ästhetik der Marginalität in Werk von Joseph Roth*, opens new perspectives on the imperial encounter between Europe and Africa.

AFRIEUROTEXT has six board members; three women and three men, the majority with an African background. There is a core group of volunteers, including Dr. Bitouh, who run the bookstore and are responsible for projects and events.



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

AFRIEUROTEXT organises regular discussion events on cultural, scientific and sociopolitical topics. AFRIEUROTEXT focuses not only on literature, culture and art, but also attaches importance to the discussion of crucial questions relating to global and local asymmetries, global and local cultural differences and interdependencies in a dialogical and differentiated manner. Throughout 2021, AFRIEUROTEXT has been holding a series of discussion on Restitution, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation (3RRR project).

With proceeds from the sale of books and high-quality African ebony art, AFRIEUROTEXT finances a bakery school for women in Yaoundé/Cameroon. "Education is the future for people here and there," says Dr. Daniel Bitouh. The bakery school provides an occupational alternative especially for young women. As in many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, young people from disadvantaged families, especially girls, are unable to complete their schooling and make easy prey for sellers of illusions, such as human traffickers or smugglers who promise a better life elsewhere.

The bakery school project goes back to Dr. Bitouh's PhD-period at the Institute of German Studies at the University of Vienna (2006-2013). Together with a group of other students, Dr. Bitouh discussed ways to support the improvement of living conditions in Africa, and in Cameroon in particular. The establishment of the bakery school has been a long and complex process and it was finally opened in July 2021.

Between 10 to 30 young people, mainly women from vulnerable families, will be trained within the coming year. During their apprenticeships as bakers and pastry makers, the young women and men will not only

learn to make bread, pies, party pastries and cakes, but will have their awareness raised about forms of structural violence. The aim is to enable the project target group to obtain school leaving certificates, which will lead to employment, either within the framework of the bakery school or in a job placement.

PARTNERS AND FINANCING

Over the years, lectures, personal meetings and new friendships have brought together a core group of supporters. This support also includes companies which donate resources for AFRIEUROTEXT's school Christmas party project. One of these is update training GmbH, an adult education institution located in Vienna's 21st district, where Dr. Bitouh works full time as a teacher of German, along with a team of colleagues directed by Frau Mag. Eva-Maria Gosh.

WEBSITE

www.afrieurotext.at
office@afrieurotext.at

Arts of Banat Mendy

Arts of Banat Mendy is an advocacy and solidarity network initiative founded by literary scholar Dr. Ishraga Mustafa-Hamid in October 2020. The official registration of the association is still in process. The women's network is named after the Sudanese colonial freedom fighter Mendy bint El Sultan Agabna from the Nuba mountains in South Kordufan. The aim of Arts of Banat Mendy is to encourage women and girls in Sudan to empower themselves through creative and art works. Through writing workshops, women have the opportunity to express and process their personal experience of migration, flight, discrimination and violence, as well as to connect with other women globally, to empower each other and to make a contribution to a more equal world through the power of writing.



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE & GENDER DISTRIBUTION

Dr. Ishraga Mustafa-Hamid is the founder of Arts of Banat Mendy. There is no hierarchical structure; the women network with each other on a global level and work primarily online. The work of Arts of Banat Mendy focuses mainly on women, youth and children. The organisation has around 30 active members, however, over 65 women have already participated in online writing workshops. The participants and members are migrant women from Sudan, Eritrea and Algeria, as well as Kurdish women from Syria, who are now living in various European countries, including Austria, Germany, Holland, Norway and the UK.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The first writing workshop took place from January to March, 2021. It was organised by migrant women, for migrant women, under the title "We write our own story/ies". Topics discussed included diversity management, gender equality, intersectionality, empowerment of girls and women and their role in the democratisation process. Arts of Banat Mendy acts as a networking platform – connecting artists and women globally to support creative projects and each other with their shared experiences. The first conference was called Mendy shines from Vienna with Global Visions, and was held online in March, 2021. Around 45 women from Sudan and around the world took part in

wide-ranging discussions about Sudanese women, gender and diversity. The Diaspora Women Network for Peace emerged from one of the panels and will also be introduced in this report.

The projects, workshops and activities are conducted around the world, and the proceeds generated are predominantly directed to the marginalised rural regions of Sudan. This is because projects in larger cities, such as Khartoum, already receive the majority of financial aid from national and international institutions while rural regions are generally marginalised and neglected.

In one example, funds were raised during online digitalisation workshops held for twenty-four women, mainly of Sudanese origin. Eighteen women took part in photography workshops, taking photos which will be made available for sale at an exhibition. Handicrafts created by Sudanese women will also be on display at the planned exhibition.

The Malakat Eldar Stipendium für Brot und Rosen is also a Banat Mendy project, and is named after Malakat Edar, the first Sudanese woman to write a novel. The scholarship was funded by the German organisation Afrika Perspektiven in Münster. The first scholarship was awarded to a writer who had fled the Nuba Mountains to Khartoum, the second was awarded to a young girl from Darfur.

Arts of Banat Mendy has also organised writing workshops for youths; 62 young people participated, of whom 45 were girls.

HOMEPAGE

www.facebook.com/Arts-of-Banat-Mendy-101704298417971

Barka Barka

Barka Barka was founded in 2007 by Irène Hochauer-Kpoda and Walter Hochauer and comprises two organisations; one active in Vienna and the other in Foroteon, a village in southwest Burkina Faso. The organisations aim to support the education of children, to improve the health of women, men and children through the provision of a clean water supply and food, and to contribute to the fight against diseases such as malaria. Additional goals include the empowerment of women through income-generating projects and the increase in the use of modern technologies for the development of the region.

The two Barka Barka associations operate under the motto, “helping people to help themselves”. In Burkina Faso, Barka Barka Tifaafu determines the needs of the population and is in charge of the implementation of the projects, in which a participatory method is used. Barka Barka in Vienna assists by fundraising and running awareness-raising activities.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND GENDER

Barka Barka in Vienna and its partner association Barka Barka Tifaafu in Foroteon have twelve members, half of whom are women. In other villages in the province of Ioba, many “associated” members are involved in the project implementation. All members are engaged voluntarily.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Projects in Foroteon and neighbouring villages range from school construction and providing equipment to the distribution of school materials, including solar lamps for the students and mosquito nets to help protect against the spread of malaria. Annual “Christmas parties” are organised, with presents for all children in need. The shea butter project helped to



increase women’s income and thereby strengthened their economic independence. Additional activities include the improvement of the water supply through the construction of modern wells and the expansion of vegetable gardens.

PARTNER AND FUNDING

Over recent years the two associations have changed their funding strategy. As there was no public funding available, Barka Barka initially focused on collecting donations. In order to move away from the image of being a pure charity, Barka Barka began to hold different fundraising events, including solidarity concerts and creativity workshops, where children “paint” different motives such as animals, using African grains. Certain projects, such as the provision of school equipment, are financed by the developmental association Hilfe direkt, which has provided an annual project budget ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 Euro. Association members have found that much can be done in Burkina Faso with a small amount of money, however a significant proportion of the funding comes from the member’s personal pockets.

In 2015, the associations’ activities were affected by the dramatic increase in the number of refugees arriving in Europe and Austria. Attention shifted away from the needs in the Global South towards integration of newly-arrived refugees. Barka Barka in Vienna supported refugees with donations of clothing and food, while Barka Barka in Foroteon looked for more local resources like those from companies and individuals within Burkina Faso.

HOMEPAGE

www.facebook.com/vereinbarkabarka



Black Community OÖ

The Black Community Upper Austria platform was founded in 2005 as a movement against discrimination and for equal rights. It aims to provide a voice for the concerns of migrants and demands that their rights be respected. The association was founded by Ikechukwu Okafor with the help of Austrian friends. Originally from Nigeria, Okafor has lived in Austria for 31 years and has studied business informatics and philosophy. He was inspired to found the association after the death of Yankuba Ceesay, a man from The Gambia, in a police station in Upper Austria in 2005.

The aim of the association today is no longer only the fight against discrimination, but also educational work and the creation of a positive image of the African continent and of People of African Descent.

Black Community Upper Austria sees itself as a bridge between the so-called Austrian – supposedly white - society and migrants. The main objectives of the work of the Black Community Upper Austria are as follows: to raise awareness of the injustice, disrespect and mistreatment suffered by the Black community, to improve the perception of the Black population in Austrian society and to bring about solutions to these problems. The organisation is open to all migrants. Black Community Upper Austria aims to contribute to the creation of a society free from racism and discrimination, with equal opportunities, tolerance, and mutual respect.



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE & GENDER DISTRIBUTION

Black Community Upper Austria comprises 17 ethnic associations, around 20 prayer communities and four social and cultural associations, including Japo, INAC and Jay Jay O Kulturverein. The association currently employs four part-time staff members and describes itself as “a contact point for Black people”. Several more women work in the various social thematic areas. The office is in Linz.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Black Community Upper Austria platform organises events, as well as counselling and networking with other African diaspora associations in Upper Austria, Austria, and Europe. The association also carries



out educational work, is involved in schools in Upper Austria and functions as a central contact for migrants, in particular for so-called people of colour. The association offers counselling in three areas: Women’s

Counselling, Intercultural Men’s Counselling and “My New Home”. Black Community Upper Austria has a women’s department which runs a consultative project called “Women Power”. The project offers counselling for Black women by Black women.

The platform has its own library as well as a TV-channel called AFROÖ-TV, which shows people from African countries living in Austria and provides an archive for the next generation.

Black Community Upper Austria also organises sporting events against racism and discrimination, as well as an Africa Symposium. Additionally, they organise a literature day focusing on Linz’s cultural history in cooperation with the Adult Education Centre and the City Library with authors from the African continent. There are also family reading afternoons and exhibitions. They also curated a large exhibition called “Don’t look away” - which highlighted discrimination of all forms.

Some member associations implement transnational projects, such as supporting children’s homes and micro-banking systems in countries on the African continent, including Nigeria, Ghana, and Tanzania.

PARTNERS AND FUNDING

The managing director of the association is Mr. Anselm Njoku. The federal state of Upper Austria sponsors basic costs such as office rental. Funds to cover other expenses are raised through project applications or events such as concerts.

Black Community Upper Austria can be defined as an umbrella organisation, with connections and networks throughout Austria and beyond. Black Community Up-

per Austria is connected and networking with organisations including Nanca - a Nigerian association in Austria, Chiala in Graz, fresh, Radio Africa TV and Radio Orange 94.0.

In 2009, two association members ventured into the political arena and ran for election to the provincial parliament. Later they moved into the local council. Accordingly, the association has a good relations with the political parties in Upper Austria.

HOMEPAGE

www.black-community.at

Chiala

Based in Graz, Chiala has been active for almost 20 years. Chiala can be described as an association that functions as a meeting place for mutual exchange between people with and without experiences of migration, as well as between People of African Descent and from other parts of the world. Founded by Emanuel Kamdem Mou Poh à Hom - who was born in Cameroon and has been living in Graz for 25 years - Chiala is a socio-cultural educational institution with a small team and a range of projects. The organisation's name means "main square" or "Hauptplatz" in Ghomala, Kamdem's mother tongue. The founding idea was to create a platform to help empower so-called "migrants" and Chiala was one of the first associations to address daily life issues of migrants living in Graz. Chiala has also been carrying out projects in Cameroon for the past five years.

Several of Emanuel Kamdem's friends were also involved in the foundation of the organisation and it should be noted that they were not only people from Cameroon, but also from the diverse African diaspora. Kamdem describes the challenges of founding Chiala as "Kunst des Scheiterns" ("The art of failure").

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE & GENDER DISTRIBUTION

Chiala's founder, Kamden, is currently the manager. The association consists of a small core team, whose size fluctuates depending on the projects. In total they have around 25 staff members in Austria, with more in Cameroon. The association has a simple structure and is currently working on a new one. Chiala has a board of directors and teams working in different areas: cultural, social and educational. The team meets every two weeks to discuss important matters. There are paid staff in Graz, around 15 to 20 employees, short term project contract workers and volunteers, depending on project funding. Chiala does not have an explicit gender policy, however currently around 80% of members are women, who are involved in social and cultural activities.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Chiala runs various projects and contributes to different cultural and social initiatives, including a very well-functioning social counselling service in Graz. So-



cial counselling can be understood as an umbrella term for low-level social counselling - support or accompaniment for people who otherwise cannot or are still learning to orientate themselves in our "complicated" society. Additionally, Chiala runs German courses and a cultural department that organises workshops in schools and cooperates with various institutions. Other projects include counselling for people with migration experience in areas such as social, housing, employment, family and legal matters. They also hold workshops, including anti-racism workshops at schools and youth institutions, as well as cultural workshops for adults. Particularly prominent is the annual Chiala Africa-Festival, which was held this year in Oeverseepark for the 18th time. The association also organises African film and literature festivals.

Furthermore, Chiala is currently setting up the first African media library in Graz. They also offer African buffet and catering services. Through these cultural and social projects they promote the interaction and "coming together" of people in all their diversity and individuality. (cf. Homepage)

In Africa, particularly in Cameroon, the association's most visible projects are the water project and capacity building with young Cameroonians. Chiala encourages



people to find and/or create their own jobs, and organises trainings in order to contribute to the empowerment of people who seek support.

PARTNERS AND FUNDING

The Chiala association has a range of financial resources. They receive financial assistance from the Federal State of Styria and the City of Graz. Not all projects are funded equally. Activities in the social area generally receive little funding. Chiala also has a cooperative partnership with the Schauspielhaus Graz, the Kunsthaus Graz and Vitalaris, an Austrian business which works with Chiala Cameroon to provide drinking water. Chiala is also connected to other African diaspora associations such as ADEPT and Radio Africa TV. Kamdem is a board member of ADEPT, of which Chiala is also a member; this demonstrates the diaspora and organisation's engagement on a European level. The association is in constant contact with the general population in Graz, as well as with politicians and authorities, in order to explain the significance of Chiala's activities.

HOMEPAGE

chiala.at

Garasaid – Development Aid for Somalis



The association, Garasaid - Development Aid for Somalis, was officially registered in early 2016.

As there are no state schools or educational subsidies in Somalia, schooling must be paid for privately. The Garasaid project provides financial assistance to the children of single parents who would otherwise be unable attend school. The association began by supporting seven children - three girls and four boys - between the ages of 10 to 19, paying not only for their school fees, but also for necessities such as school materials and snacks. The association collected small donations from members, as well as contributions from friends and family members. According to Garasaid founder Abdiwahab Adan, “this is not much by European standards, but in Somalia we were able to improve the lives of many children in a sustainable way.”

In 2018, the association expanded its activities significantly. By the end of the 2018 school year, Garasaid had successfully financed school fees and materials for a total of 28 students. Currently, Garasaid supports 71 students in four regions (Mogadishu, Baidoa, Af-

gooye and Xudur), including internally-displaced children in southern and central Somalia. This project has also helped schools and teachers in these areas through an increase in student enrolment.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Abdiwahab Adan is the founder and chairperson of Garasaid and runs the association, together with other students/co-founders in Austria. Students in Turkey and Somalia were also involved in founding the organisation. According to Mr. Adan, one of the project’s advantages is that several founding members are present on location, which means the association is in constant contact with children and parents.

PARTNER AND FUNDING

This project is financed by private donations, general donations, and membership fees. The association organises information evenings to solicit donations and also sells traditional Somali food at events such as Christmas markets. Abdiwahab Adan says that “funding is a challenge, as a large number of families approach the project and we have to turn many of them down. It is also challenging with our local partners who are volunteers and we are unable to pay them a salary for their work”. Garasaid projects receive no funding from development partners, institutions or governments.

CONTACT

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<http://www.garasaid.org>

INAC – Integrate African Culture



Integrate African Culture was founded in 2015 by Ghanaian-born Esther Adwoa Williams. The organisation is registered in Linz, Upper Austria, as well as in Ghana. Initially, INAC's aim was to support immigrants, and in particular refugees, from Sub-Saharan African countries who chose to settle in Austria, by guiding them through the bureaucratic challenges regarding residency and finding employment, as well as establishing businesses. The current focus is on the creation of jobs and opportunities in the agricultural sector in Africa, specifically in Ghana and Nigeria. INAC provides training and resources for youths and adults.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE & GENDER DISTRIBUTION

Esther Adwoa Williams is the sole founder of INAC and currently its head. The co-head is Nigerian-born Richmond Ojobor. An additional seven members work for the organisation in Austria and in Ghana.

On the ground in Africa, INAC relies significantly on women's organisations and church communities to

establish networks and advertise its trainings and projects, as well as to connect with locals and learn more about their experiences. Most participants in INAC's activities are women, at the approximate ratio of three men to seven women.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

At present, INAC is most active in the Volta Region of Eastern Ghana, however the organisation also intends to expand its work to Nigeria. Through capacity building, along with agricultural and agribusiness trainings, local youth, women and others are equipped with the necessary skills to make a living in the farming sector. INAC has developed partnerships with local communities and private companies who have contributed 100 acres of land, as well as seeds for rice, cassava and corn. The organisation is currently seeking further investment to purchase equipment.

PARTNERS AND FUNDING

To date, INAC's work has been predominantly self-financed, while the organisation is constantly on the search for partners and sponsors. Financial support has been received from segments of the African community who own private businesses in Austria, as well as in Ghana. The organisation has collaborated with the African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe (ADYFE), as well as with other project partners in Ghana and Nigeria.

CONTACT

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RATV – Radio Afrika TV

Radio Afrika TV was founded in 1997 by its current president, Mag. Alexis Neuberg. Its initial aim was to connect the African diaspora in Austria, as well as to produce accurate and reliable information about the African continent in order to challenge deeply-ingrained stereotypes. Over time, the organisation has expanded its network and diversified its media activities into national and international TV and radio programs, as well as print magazines.

In 2015, RATV underwent a significant transition and began to position itself as a key actor in development projects in Africa. Today, RATV offers its journalistic, research and marketing expertise to support, promote, and develop projects related to the African continent in Austria – focusing on integration, diaspora empowerment, anti-racism and discrimination (Sprachrohr in Österreich), and in African countries – focusing on development and training (Medien & Entwicklung). The organisation's current focus is on strengthening its position as an information hub, facilitating the exchange of qualitative and reliable information within and between Africa and Europe (South-South and South-North) – (Afrika-News, die verbinden). There are four separate editorial departments: Afrika TV, Radio Afrika International, Africa Press Express Agency and Radio Afrika TV Online.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE & GENDER DISTRIBUTION

The mandate of the board of directors is four years. Currently, Alexis Neuberg is the president of the organisation. All board members but one were born in Africa.

In Austria, Hottensiah W Muchai is the Radio Program Coordinator and Willy Muhozi is the TV Program Coordinator. Three women and one man work in the office. Theresa Mertens is the Content Manager. In Austria, RATV prefers to hire women and people from the African diaspora with equal qualifications.

In Africa, RATV correspondents report from Cameroon, Senegal, DRC and Kenya, among others. More men have applied for these positions than women, however, RATV prefers hiring women with equal qualifications.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Apart from RATV's regular radio and TV segments, the organisation also works on development and journalistic projects.



Media & Development: For the past three years, RATV has worked on a project called Wasserrevolution in Afrika in collaboration with Chiala and VITALARIS (see above). This project provides technical training and water purification machinery to Cameroonians, while simultaneously running media campaigns, trainings and expanding the provision of potable water throughout the country.

Techtele: This project is still in the implementation stage and is being carried out in collaboration with Media Shop and Canal 2. The project involves the building of an online platform, which facilitates the transfer of modern technologies that align with RATV's commitment to climate protection to Africa. Additionally, RATV and its partners provide training and know-how for locals to run and make the best use of the platform.

Africa Press Agency: Through close collaboration with journalists and editors in several African countries, including Cameroon, Senegal, DRC, Nigeria, South Africa and Kenya, RATV provides reliable, high-quality information from Africa to Austrian and European media outlets.

PARTNERS AND FUNDING

RATV's media partners, ORF, OKTO and Radio Orange 94.0, provide the studios and equipment where the organisation's TV and radio programmes are produced. Over the years, RATV's strategic partners have included the Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform, the Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation, Südwind, Chiala, Dreikönigsaktion, Stadt Wien and the European Union. The organisation also has partnerships with the companies VITALARIS and Media Shop, and Ethiopian Airlines provide sponsorship. In Cameroon, RATV partners with Canal 2. RATV also carries out commissioned work and relies on donors.

HOMEPAGE

www.radioafrika.net

Sahel Tirol

Sahel Tirol – Association for cooperation and cultural exchange is a communication platform for projects involved in so-called “integration” work in Tirol, as well as with development cooperation with people in the Sahel region and the opportunity for exchange between people in Tirol and Sahel. Sahel Tirol’s founder, Eric Bayala, BA MA, is a scientist at the University of Innsbruck and describes the platform’s purpose in the following words: “support, education, cultural, health, agriculture and engagement.” The members of Sahel Tirol want to contribute to educational work in the field of anti-racism, multicultural and intercultural exchanges, unequal power relations between European and African countries.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE & GENDER DISTRIBUTION

Sahel Tirol has been active in Tirol and throughout Austria since 2006 and currently has 43 members. It is located in Innsbruck and run by an executive committee of five people; three women and two men. Projects are financed individually following application processes to the regional government of Tirol, the City of Innsbruck and Kultur Impulse Tirol. Companies and individual members also make financial contributions. With regards to gender distribution, it is predominantly women who work in the Sahel Tirol Association, especially in the area of social issues.



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Sahel Tirol is connected with both universities and the African diaspora throughout Austria and the countries of the European Union. The organisation focuses on the following target groups: women, students and teachers, artists, farmers, health and social workers.

The association has also implemented two projects in Burkina Faso: one with young farmers, and a second for school fees. The aim of the young farmers project was to enable four young farmers from Burkina Faso to receive training in agriculture in Tirol. Following the training, the farmers were able to set up their own farms in two villages in the Dédougou region of Burkina Faso. With the help of further donations from the project’s supporters, the association was also able to pay school fees and provide school materials for some



children. This project aims to give children from marginalised families the opportunity to attend primary and secondary school. Between 2008 and 2014, Sahel Tirol was engaged in networking and fundraising, including for co-financing the completion of a lecture hall, as well as the financing of three seminar rooms at the Catholic University of Bobo-Dioulasso. The association also develops courses and seminars on traditional medicine, and organises lectures and debates with people from the economic, social, health, educational and cultural sectors. Sahel Tirol also supports women in the processing of agricultural products such as shea butter, peanuts and spices, etc. Currently Sahel Tirol members are working on five documentary films. Since 2019, Sahel Tirol has been collaborating with three universities in Tirol to build a university for social and health professions in Bobo Dioulasso.

PARTNERS AND FUNDING

Sahel Tirol interacts chiefly with the international office of the Federal State of Tirol for African projects. They are also connected to African diaspora associations beyond Tirol and Austria, in particular to associations in Italy, France, Germany and Slovenia. Beyond Europe, Sahel Tirol contributes to the implementation of projects in the intercultural field in Europe as well as in the development field in Burkina Faso. For this reason, networking with similar associations in Austria and Europe which also run projects in Burkina Faso is very important.

HOMEPAGE

www.saheltirol.at

SaWaShea – The Green Gold for your Wellbeing

SaWaShea – The Green Gold for your Wellbeing was founded by Otafia Sacko and is a social enterprise selling handmade shea butter, produced by women in the northern areas of Cote D’Ivoire.

The initial idea to create SaWaShea began in 2013, when the founder traveled to the northern region of her home country of Cote D’Ivoire to network with five cooperatives producing shea butter.

She undertook surveys to determine the needs of women working in the cooperatives, collected information on the production of shea butter and also took samples to Austria for testing at the University for Bodenkultur (BOKU) in Vienna. After the five samples were tested, Ms Sacko decided to embark upon a collaboration with the smallest of the five cooperatives, called Wobeh, in the city of Ferkessédougo.

SaWaShea was registered in Cote D’Ivoire in 2019 as a sole proprietorship, and acts as an intermediary between the producers and consumers.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE & GENDER DISTRIBUTION

SaWaShea does not see itself as a “typical development organisation”. It recognises and reflects on the power dynamics and hierarchies that come with the work. In Austria, Otafia Sacko currently mainly works alone, in Cote D’Ivoire the work is predominantly carried out by the local women of the Wobeh cooperative. As machinery to process the shea into butter is currently unavailable locally in Ferkessédougo, the product is brought to Yamoussoukro by a local to be further processed and shipped to Austria for packaging. This is done by Ms Sacko herself.



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

SaWaShea’s work focuses on several issues; including education about the many uses of the shea tree, as well as sustainability. “Shea is a slow product, and it should remain so.” Ultimately, the women in Cote D’Ivoire should have the opportunity to market and sell their product themselves.

The long-term vision of SaWaShea is holistic; it should not “only” be about the product and consumption, but rather about the promotion of general well-being. Shea butter, or shea, can be seen as the link to a range of topics related to well-being. An online workshop series by SaWaShea with the title “The Well-Being Talk” has been launched, where people can learn about different uses for shea butter, for example for their hair, massages or relaxation.

PARTNERS AND FUNDING

SaWaShea is currently entirely self-organised by the local women and works at a “business-to-consumer” level. One goal is to establish a “business-to-business” model, where products are mainly sold to local, vegan and fair-trade markets. SaWaShea hopes to expand and enable all five cooperatives involved in the Cote D’Ivoire survey to work with them, and ultimately to become self-sufficient, with SaWaShea only acting as a distributor of the final product.

HOMEPAGE

www.sawashea.com



Women for Peace



At the first Arts of Banat Mendy conference, Mendy shines from Vienna with Global Visions, one of the panels focused on the perspectives of diaspora women from the Horn of Africa, who continue to engage in peacebuilding in their home countries. During the meeting it became clear that women from the region were in need of a network and representation in order to be heard, in particular in such (post-)conflict situations. The network began as a WhatsApp group and is currently in process of establishing an association, with the working title Women for Peace / Diaspora Women Network for Peace.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE & GENDER DISTRIBUTION

As the name suggests, the active agents in Diaspora Women Network for Peace are women, most originally from the Horn of Africa region (Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia). Some have migrated to different countries, mainly in Europe, however some members are still located in African countries; making the Diaspora Women Network for Peace a transnational platform.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

With funding from the VIDC and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), a two-day conference was held from June 10 -12, 2021 in Vienna. The focus of this conference was to share the experiences of women from the region and to highlight in particular the role of women, not only as passive bystanders, but also as active participants in peacebuilding processes. Topics discussed included the Tigray crisis, the (post-)conflict situation in Sudan, the implementation of the 1325 UN resolution for Women, Peace and Security in the peacebuilding process, as well as critical analysis of European involvement in the region. Notably, almost all panels were held by female experts from the region. After each panel, participants were given the opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss their positions on different subjects. Another key point of the conference was the establishment of an organisational structure. Here, the core concerns, principles and possible action points were discussed, and a first draft of organisational statutes was made.

PARTNERS AND FUNDING

In addition to Arts of Banat Mendy and the VIDC as important partners of the Diaspora Women Network for Peace, many activists and conference participants are members and founders of other organisations connected to the region. These include the Network for Eritrean Women (NEW), the Himilo Relief and Development Association (HIRDA) and the Sudanese Environmentalist Association and the Women's Awareness Initiative in Blue Nile State in Sudan.

HOMEPAGE

www.facebook.com/Women-for-Peace-in-the-Horn-of-Africa-100468178955580

AFRICAN DIASPORA ASSOCIATIONS/ INITIATIVES THAT ARE ONLY ACTIVE IN AUSTRIA AND EUROPE

freshVibes – Radio Show of the Young Black Diaspora in Austria

freshVibes is a radio show broadcast once a month on Radio Orange 94.0. Founded by Simon INOU and Beverly Mtui in 2019, the first show went to air in March of the same year. Although it is an offshoot of Fresh Magazine, the show mainly operates independently.

freshVibes aims to empower Black people and People of African Descent. The program is not only targeted towards the community however, but also to the “broader” white Austrian society. A particular focus of freshVibes is to create a counter-narrative to the racist discourses in mainstream media about Black people and People of African Descent. Its principles encompass inclusion, empowerment . counter-narratives to racist media coverage, Africa and the diaspora. freshVibes aims not only to highlight the lives, achievements, differences and commonalities of Black people in Austria, but also to discuss issues relevant to the future.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE & GENDER

Since its launch, the freshVibes team has fluctuated from five to ten members. Currently, there are nine editorial staff at freshVibes, seven of whom are women. Beverly Mtui acts as editor in chief, however, the ideas, preparation and execution of the shows is the responsibility of all editorial team members.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The first show was launched on March 28th, 2019, and was entitled Radio Show of the Young Black Diaspora in Austria. Since then, a wide range of topics have been discussed on the program; from music, art and in-

roducing African and Black community associations, to culture, history and politics. In September 2019, freshVibes was able to invite various politicians to talk about their party’s political program in the lead-up to the Austrian parliamentary elections. During the European election, freshVibes interviewed politicians about their proposals to support Black people and People of African Descent in the European Union. Additionally, Black People and People of African Descent were interviewed and asked “what they thought about the EU”.

PARTNERS AND FUNDING

In addition to FreshMagazine as a partner association, freshVibes regularly participates in meetings and activities of other associations of Black people and People of African Descent, in order to present and highlight their work in their radio programs. By way of international cooperation, they have worked together with RosaMag, a German online magazine targeted at Black people and People of African Descent. During the Black Austrian Youth Summit in August 2020, an interview was conducted with activist Julius David Wambogo, who shed light on topics discussed at the Youth Summit, as well as on his activism in Tanzania.

HOMEPAGE

www.instagram.com/freshvibes.radio/



SETI – Promoting Women of Talent



In Amharic - spoken in Ethiopia - SETI means “woman”. The organisation, SETI – Promoting Women of Talent, was founded by Hawa Kebe in 2019 and aims to showcase the hard work and invaluable contributions of women of the African diaspora, as well as of African women. Hawa Kebe was born in Senegal, raised in the Ivory Coast and has been living in Vienna for seven years. Her three passions are entrepreneurship, personal development and Africa, all of which inspired her to create SETI.

Ms Kebe explains that she had long found it frustrating to encounter many great women from the African diaspora who are highly knowledgeable in their respective professional fields, yet often have no place to showcase their expertise. Their contributions, backgrounds and experiences make them impressive role models who can inspire and mentor other women, and the younger generation in particular. It is equally important that by sharing their stories, they have the power to change the narrative about the African diaspora and to encourage society to understand that they can make valuable contributions, rather than creating problems. SETI proudly highlights a growing generation of African women on the continent who are confident, competent and impactful in their fields and beyond.

SETI provides a platform to promote these stories and make them accessible to a wider audience. SETI is also a network of women who offer mentoring, training, and support each other.



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE & GENDER DISTRIBUTION

Hawa Kebe is the founder and head of the initiative. Occasionally she receives support from others and is currently trying to expand and attract permanent team members. SETI is run by women for women, and strives to address some of the specific challenges faced by women of the African diaspora in their entrepreneurial, professional and personal journeys.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

SETI offers seminars and networking events for professional women, as well as for students and youth to provide support and foster mentoring-relationships. The organisation also provides trainings to equip women with the necessary skills to start and develop their own businesses, as well as to boost employability for younger people and students.

PARTNERS AND FUNDING

SETI has collaborated with the platform Dare to be (<https://www.facebook.com/DareToBeMagazine>). Until now the project has been self-funded.

HOMEPAGE

www.seti-women.com

Sugar Honey Black Tea Podcast

Sugar Honey Black Tea (SHBT) is a Vienna-based collective which aims to give Black voices a stage. The podcast offers a space for Black people to exchange ideas on a wide range of topics. It was founded in September, 2020 during the course of the Erasmus+-project Radio V.I.T.A.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE & GENDER DISTRIBUTION

The collective comprises ten members, most of whom are women. Current members are Mbatjiua Hambira, Emily Chychy Joost, Anna Gaberscik, Stella Girishya,, Iris Omari Ansong, Yves Jambo, Iris Neuberg, Jeanne Pascale and Aida Abebe. They divide the workload – which consists of organisation, music, editing, research, hosting the show and social media - among themselves.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The first two programs focused on the concept of “homeland” (Heimat), and what this means for Black people of different backgrounds, as well as the US-American and European divide on this topic. Interviewees included a young Black girl, and Nenda, a Black Tirolean musician, who spoke about what “homeland” means to her in Tirol and London. The third show was



an interview with Anna Gaberscik, who conducted a series of workshops called “through our eyes”, an interdisciplinary project dedicated to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) storytelling.

PARTNERS AND FUNDING

SHBT members network with various organisations, including Schwarze Frauen Community (SFC), Afrikanische Diaspora in Österreich (ADOE) and the collective Schwarze Geschwister für Power, all of whom were invited for the podcast’s one-year anniversary. Some members of SHBT first became acquainted through ADOE meetings and met again later at Radio V.I.T.A. workshops.

HOMEPAGE

www.instagram.com/sugarhoneyblackteapodcast/

Tanaka Graz

Tanaka Graz was registered in Graz in July 2020. In Shona - the official language of Zimbabwe - Tanaka means “the good times that prevail after a long battle, long hardship or great difficulties”. The organisation’s founders are Nigerian-born Precious Nnebedum, Precious Oteng, who was born in Graz to Ghanaian-born parents, and Philippines-born Hannah Ayalon, whose mother was born in the Philippines, and her father in Ghana. The three came together in the context of the global growth of the Black Lives Matter movement. Their aim is to strengthen and empower the Black Community in Graz and provide safe spaces for young Black and other minority groups to support each other and share their experiences. The organisation also explicitly invites people of the majority society to become involved.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE & GENDER DISTRIBUTION

Precious Nnebedum, Precious Oteng and Hannah Ayalon are the organisation’s founders. While all three identify as women, the focus of their work is on all Black and “minoritised” people, independent of their gender.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

DISPLAY – The identity of the youth: in July 2021, Tanaka put together an art fair at Kunsthhaus Graz at which young artists with migration backgrounds were given the opportunity to express and display their ideas about, and experiences of, culture, identity, histo-



ry and their own personal backgrounds. These artists were however not recognised for their place of birth but rather appreciated for their extraordinary artistic talents.

TANAKA GOT TALENT: This event marked the end of the art fair and provided a stage for young people to share their stories musically.

Yard Sale: Tanaka is currently collecting donations in kind to sell at a yard sale. Profits will be donated to selected organisations in Ghana and Kenya.

AFRICAN BALL: Tanaka is hoping to host an African Ball in Graz in 2022.

PARTNERS AND FUNDING

Tanaka is well-connected in Graz and has worked with Chiala and Frauenservice. Kunsthhaus Graz is also one of their partners.



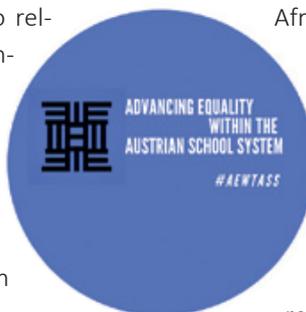
CONTACT

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Vienna Institute for the African Diaspora (VIAD)

The organisation Vienna Institute for the African diaspora came into existence in September 2020. It serves as a sponsoring association for the initiative *AEWTASS* – *Advancing Equality Within The Austrian School System* (established in 2019) and provides the organisational and financial structures required to implement this project. The main goal of VIAD is to optimise the socio-political realities of Black people and People of African Descent in Austria by helping to dismantle the structural, systematic and institutional racism Black people face in this county. One of the most important areas of action for VIAD is the education system, which has been reproducing racist stereotypes, perpetuating inaccurate information, and/or sharing no relevant material at all about the African continent and the diaspora. For the purpose of introducing *AEWTASS* to Austrian civil society, the organisation’s founder and project manager, Ms. Lamptey, organised a series of panel discussions called “Who Speaks For Whom” in collaboration with *kulturen in bewegung* and VIDC.



of historical events, context and analysis of the current political affairs of African states and the contribution of African people to the prosperity of Europe and North America.

Group B ((Re-))Telling Stories – Media literacy in the African Diaspora: this group focuses on the deconstruction of racist content in Austrian teaching materials and provides workshops, strategies and concepts for teachers and pupils to recognise, refute and contextualise racism in teaching materials.

Group C ((Re-))flecting Realities: this group conducts a scientific study of Austrian textbooks with the aim of identifying racist and inaccurate content about the African continent. The findings serve as basis for recommendations for textbook publishers. Additionally, this group offers “Critical Whiteness” workshops for teachers, public and private organisations.

Gruppe D Music connects continents: this workshop offers an insight into the history of African and Afro-American musicians and their impact and influence on European music history.

Group E What’s the real story of Agbogbloshie?: teaching materials for the controversial documentary film “Welcome To Sodom, your smartphone is already here” (AT 2018) and a Ted Talk using the example of Old Fadama/Agbogbloshie (a dump site in Accra, Ghana) are offered to students and teachers, who have watched the movie.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The chairwoman of VIAD and project leader of *AEWTASS* is Mag. Aquea Lamptey. Dr. Bosede Baldauf is the deputy chairwoman. Mamadou Kone, M.E.S. acts in the position of cashier, Mag. Henry Udoetuk is deputy cashier. The secretary of VIAD is Million Berhe, LL.M.

The *AEWTASS*-team consists of 24 people, predominantly with African ancestry, who possess a wide range of expertise, including in the fields of journalism, education/teaching, social work, science and management.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

AEWTASS aims to change the prevailing negative portrayal of the African continent and the diaspora within the Austrian education sector. The range of services includes seminars and workshops for teachers and pupils, as well as conducting scientific research analysis of teaching materials and Austrian textbooks. The *AEWTASS* initiative operates within five sub-groups:

Group A ((Re-))Imaging Africa: offers workshops that provide an evidence-based and differentiated overview

PARTNERS AND FUNDING

To achieve VIAD’s objectives, the association works with representatives of various political parties, other (African) organisations in the field of anti-discrimi-

nation, as well as with activists in Austria and beyond to exchange relevant information about policy advice, funding initiatives, good practice and capacity building. VIAD would like to express their profound gratitude to African activists; including, among others, Mr. Simon Inou, Beatrice Achaleke, Clara Akinyosoye B.A and Araba Johnston-Artur Ph.D, for their earlier anti-racism work done within the Austrian education system. VIAD is in the process of generating funds for the **AEWTASS** project on a national and international level. Especially challenging is the fact that project tenders often fail to

consider compensation for administrative work, despite this being the foundation of every organisation. Since 2019, the **AEWTASS** team has mainly worked without financial compensation, which both demonstrates its commitment to the cause as well as reflecting the reality and challenges of most African-led organisations.

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5. OUTLOOK AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for diaspora initiatives

Initiatives and associations should aspire to connect and network even more extensively to share experiences and expertise, learn from each other and support each other's activities.

Gender equality and justice should be pursued in all associations and initiatives; ideally this aspect is anchored in statutes or guidelines. Paid and unpaid working hours should be equally divided with regards to gender. A women's quota in the board of editors should be considered.

Larger initiatives and registered organisations should use their resources to further support smaller initiatives in terms of overcoming bureaucratic obstacles, in particular during the process of founding and funding an organisation. Initiatives that already have this type of consultancy in place are advised to advertise their services more widely.

Established initiatives and organisations should offer workshops for Black people and People of African Descent on how to set up organisations/initiatives and where to submit applications for project funding. These workshops should be offered in various languages.

Recommendations for funding institutions, civil society and the Austrian government

Funding sources are one of the main challenges faced by Austrian-based NGOs headed by experts of African descent, respectively Black people. Our report provides evidence that with regards to the agendas of most associations we interviewed, local funding possibilities are quite limited.

The following challenges could be identified:

- Funding guidelines (e.g., the rejection of a project application) are often not transparent.
- A positive decision for a project application is often based on personal connections that an association has established with employees of the funding organisation.

- Funding guidelines neglect to include payment for administrative work, which is vital to the existence of projects.

Possible Solutions

- Funding organisations, which are working in the so-called "development sector", should strive to have a more diverse and inclusive workforce.
- The proposal review process must be carried out by an objective consortium.
- In the event that a project is not funded, the decision must be in writing, comprehensible and conclusive.
- Organisations should be evaluated in terms of their qualifications and the viability of their proposed project, not in terms of how long they have existed. Furthermore, this focus should also consider diversity, intersectionality, and be wary of reproducing neo-colonial structures.
- Funding programs should include the costs of administrative work in their respective calls.
- Funding organisations should offer more workshops and support for project funding applications.

Diversity and inclusiveness

Before public institutions or white NGOs engage in development programs in African countries, they should connect and consult with Black initiatives for their expertise and reward them accordingly, or transfer their existing financial resources to these associations for them to design and implement sustainable development programs in their countries of origin.

Laws must be enacted and implemented that hold racist and discriminatory actions accountable, especially in the workforce and in educational settings.

Established institutions and organisations, especially those that are almost exclusively white, should extend their engagement to Black associations and should commit to making their organisations more diverse without reproducing tokenism.

Final remarks

Another recommendation that emerged from the study relates to the importance of raising awareness of the historical background of the African diaspora, as well as of the concerns and challenges that People of African Descent and their associations encounter in our society. This is the only way to increase visibility, support commitment and further appreciate the work of the African diaspora. To be able to break up certain structures and bring about change and appreciation for the commitment of the African diaspora, there is a need for the critical questioning of development cooperation, and, in general, a questioning of privileges and positions on the part of the Austrian majority population.

Finally, the report recommends that the white Austrian population should recognise the obstacles faced by Black Austrians and Black people in Austria on indi-

vidual, institutional and structural levels. Subsequently, the empowerment of People of African Descent and so-called minorities must be further promoted. This requires financial resources; true to the motto, “good things need money”. In this sense, we can hope for more visibility and a positive view of the engagement of the African diaspora.

This report also recommends that further research be carried out on associations of Black people and People of African Descent in Austria, by Black people and People of African Descent themselves, focusing on:

- Engaged individuals and community role models
- Gender equality and justice
- The role of youth and the elderly
- The importance of remittances
- The engagement of LGBTQIA+ communities
- The role of religious initiatives
- The role of disabled communities

ANNEX – CONTACTED ASSOCIATIONS²²

	ASSOCIATION	Location	engaged in the African continent
1	Abaawa Afrika Kulturzentrum (AACC)	Styria	no
2	Advancing Equality Within the Austrian School System (AEWTASS)	Vienna	no
3	Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT)	Vienna/Europe	yes
4	African Diaspora Youth Forum Europe (ADYFE)	Vienna/Europe	yes
5	African Time-Afrikanische Medien Verein	Styria	n/a
6	African-Club Vorarlberg	Vorarlberg	n/a
7	AfriCult	Vienna	no
8	AfriEurotext	Vienna	yes
9	Afrikanische Diaspora Österreich (ADOE)	Vienna/Europe	no
10	Afrikanischer Integrationsverein	Styria	no
11	Afro Rainbow Austria	Vienna	yes
12	AfroDach	Vienna/Germany/ Switzerland	no
13	Afrodiaspora in Austria	Vienna	no
14	All Cameroonian Association Austria Linz (ACAMASAL)	Linz	no
15	AMIRTA	Obmann	n/a
16	Austrian Nigerian Association of Commerce (ANAC)	Vienna	yes
17	Barka Barka	Vienna	yes
18	Black Community OÖ	OÖ	no
19	Black Movement Austria	Vienna	no
20	Black Voices Volksgebehren	Vienna	no
21	Casa Angola - Verein zur Förderung von Angolanischer Kultur und Kunst	Styria	n/a
22	Chiala	Styria	yes
23	Diamani Kouta	Salzburg	yes

²² This list contains all associations contacted for the purpose of the study. It should be noted that not all of them are still active or have not responded. One possible explanation relates to the timing of the study, which was conducted over the summer break, and the often voluntary commitment of some persons. It could also be due to the fact that some have received little support and/or appreciation for their work. Nevertheless, we think they should be mentioned here in order to highlight their important work and engagement for the African diaspora.

24	Edo United Vorarlberg	Vorarlberg	no
25	EXIT	Vienna	yes
26	Garasaid Entwicklungshilfe für Somalier	Vienna/Europa	yes
27	Gemeinschaft der Kongolesinnen in Österreich	Vienna	n/a
28	Ghana Union Of Art And Culture	Styria	n/a
29	Integrate African Culture (INAC)	Upper Austria	yes
30	JAAPO - für Partizipation von Women of Color	Upper Austria	no
31	Jay Jay . O - Afrikanischer Kulturverein	Upper Austria	no
32	Joadre	Vienna	yes
33	Kasumama	Lower Austria	no
34	Kids of the Diaspora	Vienna	no
35	Licht am Horizont	Upper Austria	yes
36	MAP - Music around the Planet	Vienna	n/a
37	Momo Kulturelle und Entwicklungsvereinigung (MOCUDA)	Upper Austria	no
38	Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation Austria (NIDO)	Vienna	yes
39	ODUA Association Graz	Styria	n/a
40	Organisation for protection of old people of African origin (OPOPAO)	Vienna	yes
41	PAC - Pan African Centre	Vienna	n/a
42	Pamoja - The Movement of the young African Diaspora in Austria	Vienna	no
43	Pan African Forum in Africa (PANAFSA)	Vienna	no
44	Plattform der vereinigten Assoziationen der Diaspora der Demokratischen Republik Kongo in Österreich	Vienna	n/a
45	ProHealth - Afrikanische Initiative zur Gesundheitsförderung	Styria	no
46	Radio Afrika TV	Vienna	yes
47	ReadDiverse - die vielfältige mobile Bibliothek	Vienna	no
48	Rwandesisch-Österreichischer Kulturverein (RÖK)	Styria	no
49	Sahel Tyrol	Tyrol	yes
50	SansPapers - die Bunten	Vienna	no
51	SaWaShea	Vienna	yes
52	Schwarze Frauen Community	Vienna	no
53	Seti	Vienna	no
54	Sharing Hands	Upper Austria	yes

55	SITOTA	Vienna	yes
56	Sorinatu	Salzburg	yes
57	Sozialforum Afrikanische Mütter	Styria	no
58	Sugar Honey Black Tea Podcast (SHBT)	Vienna	no
59	Tanaka	Styria	yes
60	Terenga	Upper Austria	n/a
61	Ujamaa - together we can make a change	Korinthia	yes
62	Umoja	Vienna/Europa	n/a
63	UMUCO - Burundesisch-Österreichischer Kulturverein	Styria	no
64	Verein für Jugendliche Ghanas und Österreich	Styria	n/a
65	Vereinigung der Nigerianischen Community in Österreich, in der Steiermark	Styria	n/a
66	Vienna Institute of the African Diaspora	Vienna	no
67	We dey Space	Vienna	no
68	Wir sind auch Wien	Vienna	no
69	Women for Peace / Diaspora Women Network for Peace	Vienna	yes

THE AUTHORS



Sina Aping

is a Berlin-born Black researcher and graduated with a Master's degree in International Development from the University of Vienna. Her focus is on critical development & race studies, intersectionality as well as feminist and postcolonial theories. She wrote her Master's thesis on the topic "Black EU citizens with othering experiences in the Austrian white dominance society: the meaning of perceptions and appearances from an anti-racist perspective". She is mainly concerned

with the visibility of Black narratives and People of African Descent in Europe (Germany & Austria), anti discrimination and approaches that deconstruct power structures. Her current research area includes intersectional perspectives and issues of the African Diaspora, social inequalities. Furthermore, she is part of the educational project *AEWTASS – Advancing Equality Within The Austrian School System*. She has gained professional experience in the fields of development policy and education. In addition, she regularly writes academic articles on the critique of racism and development policies. Since 2021, she has been the local assistant to the Afro-German MEP (Member of the European Parliament) Dr. Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana, who works in the Green/EFA group on Development, EU-Africa relations, women's rights and anti-racism.



Gudrun Klein

was born and raised in Vienna. She completed her Doctorate in Social Anthropology at the University of Manchester. She has researched racism, antiracism and multiculturalism in the Americas for over ten years. She carried out extensive research in England and Brazil, where she looked at the implementation of an antiracism educational law and the everyday practices of activists, teachers and students. For many years, she has worked on various projects with African diaspora organ-

isations in Austria, taught at university and schools, and presented her findings at many international conferences. Currently, she works as middle school teacher and takes part in Teach for Austria's leadership program. She is also part of the educational project *AEWTASS – Advancing Equality Within The Austrian School System* and a board member of Radio Afrika TV.



Maida Schuller

is a Black researcher born and raised in Lower Austria, studied social work at the FH St. Pölten and has recently finished her Master's studies in International Development at Vienna University; with her master's thesis analysing the Prison-Industrial-Complex in the USA by linking politico-economic theories and intersectionality. During her academic career she has worked on topics including political economy, critical race studies, intersectionality, Blackness in Austria and on

a global scale, anti-discrimination and equality. She has also held workshops on topics such as racism and political education with students aged 14 and older. She is also involved with the educational project *AEWTASS – Advancing Equality Within The Austrian School System*. Furthermore, Maida Schuller is an external lecturer at the FH Campus Wien for the seminar “Globale Ungleichheit und Entwicklungspolitik” and was a tutor at the University of Vienna from 2018 to 2021. She has recently started working as a social worker in the context of education and (un-)employment and works for the Mattersburger Kreis for Entwicklungspolitik at the University of Vienna.

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