

# Project WOZA

„come, join in“



max born berufskolleg





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## Preface

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Dear Friends in South Africa, dear Students, dear Apprentices, dear Parents.  
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the training companies, Sponsors and Supporters,

we are a technical vocational college with over 3,100 students and since 2009 have been a certified European School of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. This shows that we think beyond national borders, are open for new things and are ready to network around the world. I am pleased that we have now agreed on a school partnership even beyond the European borders with the Shongwe Boarding School in Mpumalanga, South Africa.

First exchange visits took place and I had the pleasure to be present at the first contact in South Africa. The special feature of this partnership is the focus of practical vocational education, the involvement of apprentices and the encounters on an equal footing. When renovating a laundry, the students of both schools became close very quickly. Our apprentices painters, bricklayers and insulation fitters, were confronted with unfamiliar, foreign materials, different ways of constructions and work procedures in that hot climates required great flexibility from our apprentices. Some craft work in this form was completely new to the South African students. By opening their eyes for these occupations the students' chances on the job market will certainly increase. On both sides, the collaborative work and the exchange reducing prejudices and developing mutual acceptance and tolerance. The renovated laundry - on many levels an impressive result!



In this brochure we document our school partnership and thus give many interested people a clear insight into the actions of both partners. In addition, it was always possible to be very close to the actions via a travel blog and you can also always find up-to-date information about the project on the homepage of Max Born Vocational College. I would like to thank all the students, the teachers and partners, who wrote the texts, took pictures and designed the pages vividly.

I wish many more fascinating encounters as well as lively exchanges between us and our partner school and I am sure that further friendships will develop.

# Project WOZA

„come, join in“



## Projekt WOZA

Since September 2016, the school partnership between the Max Born vocational college Recklinghausen and the Shongwe boarding school in Driekoppies, South Africa has existed. The main focus of this school partnership is on the vocational education in the craft sector.

In preparation for a permanent school partnership, two initial exchange visits were arranged in 2016. Four teachers, two apprentices and students from both schools gained valuable first impressions at both partner schools. We got to know the people and region. Furthermore, we developed a first project idea with our partners.



Then in the spring of 2017, the first corporate project „WOZA“ was realized. In SiSwati, one of the 11 national languages in South Africa, „WOZA“ means something like „come, join in“. Taking this as our motto, eight apprentices, two teachers and a master mason from the Ruhr Area made their way to Driekoppies in the region of Mpumalanga in South Africa, over 9000 km away. Together with South African students, we renovated the laundry of the Shongwe Boarding School.

Our first trip took place within the framework of the ENSA program. ENSA, the development policy school exchange program of the Engagement Global gGmbH, is run as commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

To us development means the establishing of structures in crafts and the personal development of young people. The project was about dealing with prejudices, new situations and various encounters at the other end of the world.

A lot has happened after the project trip: Follow-up seminars, billing of costs, to fill in various forms and working on public relations. To this effect, we had the opportunity to inform the South African Ambassador Phumelele Stone Sizani about our project. After the completion of this brochure, the preparation of the visit of our partners in the spring of 2018 follows. This way we will continue the successful implementation of our very special school partnership.



## How was your holiday in South-Africa?

The answer to this question by some colleagues after the trip for the South-Africa Exchange Project does not come easily. Not because it is difficult to summarize the experiences of two weeks in a short statement. Rather because the word "holiday" sounds completely wrong to me. Just because I was able to work in a different environment and probably better weather than in Germany for two weeks, a feeling of "holiday" doesn't come. At the airport in Düsseldorf, a certain tension arises, as I am responsible for the apprentices. None of them has been in South-Africa, most of them have not been outside Europe before. In addition, I am worried whether the plans that had been made in advance will work.

After some formalities, we get our rented cars and start our new part-time job as taxi-drivers. As public transport in South-Africa is poorly-developed, we companions are responsible for the mobility of the group during the entire trip. Despite some driving experience, it is still irritating to drive on the "wrong" side of the road and to adapt to road conditions in South-Africa. Until we arrive at our school, we also have to provide the group with food and local SIM-Cards. During the project period, our schedule is filled with more shopping trips, arrangements with the South-African partners, interpreting, cash management and explanations in the Kruger National Park. Although our collaboration with the colleagues of Shongwe School and Bheki of the Mpumalanga Scouts works perfectly well and they take off many tasks, that still does not sound like my idea of holidays.

Of course, I was not expecting a holiday after my experience with previous project trips and the preparations for this one so far. These preparations started with the visit of the South-African delegation last year and already became very concrete in the formulation of the ENSA-application. More applications and many sponsor requests followed until the end of the year, as it was our goal to make a participation of all interested apprentices possible. The funding has kept us busy until departure and beyond.

Zwischenzeit  
Jul. 2017 - April 2018

Broschüre  
Final → 14. Juli 2017

Sponsoren  
Suche

Niklas + Oli + Pia  
+ Daniel  
↓

← Susanne

Prüfung in 5  
Prüfungen in 5  
Mehrfachen da

2 Freizeitlege  
(Scouts) die  
nach Südafrika  
Landeskunde

→ Komu  
kinder

Furthermore, the apprentices had to be prepared, too. They got weekly extra lessons in English and South-African history and culture by Ms. Biederbick and Ms. Feldkamp.

The ENSA-program attaches great importance to the preparation and follow-up of the participants, too. We were supported by two female instructors who planned and taught the content of the preparatory and follow-up weekends. On the first weekend, the group got to know each other better and dealt with scenarios posing a potential for conflict. This was particularly important since the tour group was put together from different classes and courses and we consequently hardly knew each other. We were set to live and work together in a confined space thousands of miles from home for two weeks after all. Fortunately, the meeting quickly showed that the group works well together.

It is important for such a journey to cope with new situations with serenity and openness.

Instead of discomfort or even fear, curiosity should prevail to be open to new experiences. We have worked on the development of this attitude with different exercises at the seminar.

To reflect on our experiences, we did several night talks with the apprentices and a review with our South-African partners during the trip. Back in Germany, there was another meeting headed by our two instructors. This time, we looked at the experiences with a certain distance and evaluated them. As ENSA is a government funding program, several evaluation sheets and various documents had to be completed. I hope this report shows the many different tasks and activities behind such an exchange trip.

Fortunately, the group did their part to make the trip pleasant and successful. The encounters with our partner school friends resulted in great experiences, too. The positive feedback of the participants makes up for many an hour of extra work.



Benedikt Feldmann - Project leader and teacher for construction technologies

B) -> Kon  
dukt

## Touring around Mpumalanga

During our 14-day project trip, we stayed in the province of Mpumalanga and experienced some amazing things. Mpumalanga translated means „the place where the sun rises“. This province is located in the north of South Africa and is 76.495 km<sup>2</sup> in size. About 4.0 million people live there. The capital is Mbobela, which was called Nelspruit during Apartheid.

The country was already populated in the 13th century by the Swazi tribe. The Shangane and Ndebele tribe then settled down around this region in the 15th and 16th centuries. In the course of colonisation, the first Dutch settlers, the so-called Voortrekkers, invaded the region in the 19th century. In 1852 they founded the independent Boer Republics, the Transvaal. After Apartheid, the eastern part of this republic became the present-day Mpumalanga province.

Because of its mineral resources such as gold, platinum, chrome ore, iron ore, copper ore and coal, the province of Mpumalanga is now one of the most important industrial regions of South Africa. Not only in the soil you can find valuable raw materials, but also above the ground, important goods are growing for South Africa. These include mangoes, avocados, bananas, papayas, grenadills, guaves and citrus fruits.

On our way to our partner school we saw large orchards and so we stopped at an orange farm and got some delicious oranges and freshly squeezed orange juice there.

The province of Mpumalanga has many scenic beauties to offer. The best known is probably the Kruger National Park. Since the southern end of the Kruger Park is only 40 km away from our partner school, we took advantage of the opportunities and visited this beautiful national park.

When we had a day off on Freedom Day (which is a public holiday to commemorate South Africa's first free elections in 1994), our hosts organized a tour that gave us an insight into their homeland. First we drove to the Naas Open Market. There you could buy things like clothes, food and traditional medicine.



Then we made a short trip to the Kingdom of Swaziland, 20 km away. There we could stroll around a small market and collect entry as well as exit stamps for our passport.

Towards evening we drove to a museum village, the Mazamo Cultural Village. Henry, a teacher of our school, is a member of a South African dance group. Especially for us there was a traditional performance with dancing and singing. Two students of our group put on the traditional Swazi clothes and joined the group of dancers and singers.

After completion of our project, we went on a short trip along the panorama route. This green scenic road is a tourist attraction in Mpumalanga and leads from Kruger Park towards

Johannesburg through the Drakensberg. We first visited the Waterfall Loop, then we went on to the well-known viewpoint Gods Window. Afterwards we enjoyed a cool dip near the Lisboa Falls. On the way to Johannesburg we could see the coal mining area of Mpumalanga from the highway.

The province of Mpumalanga has had an international country partnership with our state since 1995. The connection NRW-Mpumalanga exists among other things because of the coal mining here and in Mpumalanga, because there are the largest coal mines of South Africa.



## SiSwati - The native language of our partners

Students at our partner school learn two languages: SiSwati and English. But these are just two of 11 languages spoken in South Africa. Since the end of Apartheid South Africa has 11 official languages: English, Afrikaans, isiZulu, SiSwati, South Ndebele, Sesotho, Sepedi, Xitsonga, Setswana, Tshivenda and isiXhosa. This diversity is due to its settlement history. South Africa has been inhabited since 200 AD by people of various San and Nguni tribes. European colonialism added English and Afrikaans. Afrikaans is similar to the Dutch language. It is a language that carries a burden as it was forcibly introduced to the black population in during Apartheid. For many people of the black population, Afrikaans is therefore still the language of the oppressors.

All of the eleven languages are officially recognized. English, however, is the common language, because it is understood by most people in South Africa and it not necessarily linked to the former Apartheid regime.

The native language of the students and teachers of our partner school is SiSwati. SiSwati is mainly spoken in our partner region Mpumalanga. But it is also the native language in neighboring Swaziland.

Because my English is not the best and in our group it was called „topsy turvy English“, I thought I was starting to learn SiSwati, the language of my new colleagues and friends. So I prepared a list of SiSwati words.

My South African colleagues found it great that I kept asking them what certain words mean in their native language. So, the first contact was easier for me, because this way I got easier and more often into conversation with the people instead of just talking about work. Of course, my South African colleagues wanted to know a few German words, so one of the students also made a list of English words, which they asked me to translate into German. Very soon I welcomed my new friends in SiSwati and they answered in German. A funny way of starting the day.



As an example, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in two languages:

In German: Alle Menschen sind frei und gleich an Würde und Rechten geboren.

In SiSwati: Bonkhe bantfu batalwa bakhululekile balingana ngalokufananako ngesitfunti nangemalungelo.



## Deutsch

Nase  
Mund  
Zähne  
Wasser  
Sonne  
Hund  
Gesundheit  
Guten Morgen  
Guten Tag  
Guten Abend  
Gute Nacht  
Hallo  
Hallo  
Tschüss  
Bitte  
Danke  
Ja  
Wie geht es dir?  
Wie geht es euch?  
Mir geht es gut.

## SiSwati

Impumulo  
Umlomo  
Matinyo  
Emanti  
Elangni  
Intja  
Makhosi  
Kusile  
Kusemini  
Lishonile  
Ulale Kahle  
Sawubona (eine Person)  
Sanibonani (mehrere Personen)  
Salakahle  
Wamukelekile  
Siabonga  
Yebo  
Kunjani  
Njani  
Nigikhona



Pia Ludwig - Painter apprentice in her second year of training

## Culinary experiences

Before I had the pleasure of tasting the delicious biltong from various South African animals, I had the opportunity to get to know the South African cuisine a little bit.

On our first evening in Mbombela, we visited a Chinese restaurant near the Scout Center. There were typical Chinese dishes with fried noodles or rice and sushi. Well, not so different to Germany.

The next day we made our way to our partner school in Driekoppies. On the way there were small fruit shops along the roadside, mostly women who sold freshly picked oranges, papaya, bananas or freshly slaughtered chicken, which they flame-grilled themselves.

Grilled food was also available on the first evening in Mpumalanga. We were invited by our South African hosts to a braai in a township pub. Braai is the South African term for barbecues. They do it on an open fire that is made with wood instead of charcoal. There was meat and the South African Boerewors sausage. The word Boerewors comes from the Afrikaans and means farmers' sausage. It is a coarse and very greasy sausage. They also served toasted bread and chakalaka, a red spicy sauce with vegetables.

Every day, we were well provided by the school canteen. In addition to the three meals, they brought fruit and drinks directly to the building site. On the first construction day we had breakfast for the first time in our partner school.



For us a bit unfamiliar, we got cooked chicken and pap early in the morning. Pap is a light sort of porridge made from softly grounded maize, which some of our group did not like that much. Alternatively, there was toast, peanut butter, jam and Russian sausages, which are similar to the little Krakow we know from back home. For lunch and dinner, we also had meat and pap with toasted bread, chakalaka, cooked and pureed pumpkin porridge as well as mixed salad with dressing.

On the last evening, there was an excellent South African buffet for all participants. Besides the already known food, they served a cereal porridge, which was refined with peanuts and a vegetable, which is very similar to the spinach we know. But these were pumpkin leaves that are cooked, seasoned and also mixed with peanuts.

I had the impression that the South Africans we met are meat lovers, as there are meat variations in every meal. Personally, I liked Biltong best. It is meat dried in the open air. Biltong can be bought at every corner, petrol station or supermarket. The selection is huge. You can choose from different animals the biltong comes from, for example the kudu, buffalo, springbok, ostrich, crocodile or impala. Then you also decide on a spice mixture. Biltong is what South Africans eat for a snack, as we eat chips or sweets. All in all, the South African food that I ate is very high in protein, flavorful but very yummy.



Jesse Kortmann - Painter apprentice in his second year of training

## Impressions of living

After we had arrived at Johannesburg airport we hired two cars for the stay in South Africa. Then we drove on the freeway towards Nelspruit to the Scout Center. On the highway we saw the so-called townships on the left and right side. There are poor residential quarters with shacks and corrugated iron huts. These are left overs from the times of Apartheid. In order to have cheap labor to be available near the big cities, black people were forcibly relocated there during the period of racial segregation. These townships were placed at the border directly next to the city of the whites. However, they were separated by a boundary such as a freeway. Although Apartheid was abolished more than 25 years ago, many South Africans are forced to live there because of their financial situation.

On the first afternoon, the teachers of our partner school showed us three townships, which are located close to our school. Some of our students live there.

We visited the football field of the village first. It was more like a reccy on plane grass or an ash place with makeshift gates. But one could see that it did not bother the kids, they were happy with a ball and were happy about our visit. Most of the children were running barefoot.

Then we drove on and saw many small rectangular built stone houses with a flat roof. We were told how the families live there. They live together in confined spaces, and families often have only one room. Most of the houses were not plastered and had windows without window panes. The pit toilets were next to the houses outside.

During our stay, I met a South African, he lived in the neighborhood of our accommodation and showed me his home. I personally found myself almost in tears when I saw how he lives there, with a mattress on the floor and an old rusty stove next to it. Despite all that, he really seemed satisfied.

The following two weeks, he also told me a few things about life in townships. That people escape from the grey everyday life by drowning their problems in alcohol and drugs. In most townships, there are areas with criminal gangs being around. Crime is unfortunately on the agenda there. We did not notice any of that. Whenever we went to a township, we were accompanied by our friends and felt very safe.

What I saw with my own eyes was very thought provoking. Obviously, you can also be happy just with little things. In addition, we should value more what we have in Germany.





Oliver Sobieralski - Painter apprentice in his third year of training

## The work on our construction site

The main task of our „Woza“ project was the renovation of the laundry of our partner school. The condition of the building was very poor. The plaster of the facade was partly loose and the paint was peeled off over a large area. Inside, the paint also fell off and the walls had many cracks.

Together with the South African students, we began to prepare the façade on our first construction day. We scraped off the loose paint and knocked the loose plaster down. Then we primed the facade with a primer.

The next day, the facade was newly plastered. However, we did not do it as we do it on the construction sites back home, but as South African style. The first surprise was when the „sand“ was delivered; the South African colleagues told us that now the plaster needs to be mixed. It was not sand, but earth with small and large stones. It did not take long before the next surprise came up: the mixing of the plaster. This was done on the ground in a mound of earth where firstly, the „sand“ was mixed with the cement and then water was added. Then they mixed it all with spades.

The usage of the tools was also interesting to see. They do not use a normal trowel and smoother, but instead they use a plate as a smoother. The processing of the heavy plaster was a challenge, because they throw the plaster onto the base coat with the help of this plate and not, like we do, apply it smoothly directly onto the base coat with the trowel.

After we finished plastering the facade on the third working day, we started with the interior work. There we scraped off the loose paint and filled the cracks. Then the walls got a new coat of paint. We designed some of the walls with a creative technique, the sponge painting technique. The South African students really liked this technique, as they have never seen anything like this before. On the last working day, we painted the facade in two different colors. The principal chose the colors green and red and we were allowed to plan and decide independently on how we design the surface of the facade.

The result is really impressive.

To me personally, the project was a lot of fun. I am glad that our cooperation worked so well. I think it is great that the people there are so lovely, nice and helpful. I was able to gain many new experiences and I would definitely participate in such a project again.





Daniel Schönfelder - Painter apprentice in his third year of training

## A successful exchange

It was a great experience for the kids at Shongwe to be part of the project because it motivated them to think big, share cultural exchange and the impression of gaining new skills, which includes painting and bricklaying skills. I was personally amazed with the dedication of the German students in a foreign country - despite the weather conditions, which were totally different from what they were used to. They showed commitment and dedication to complete the task. To me the teachers showed good leadership, team spirit and a deeper understanding of working together.

The project also plays a greater role to the community by allowing the Shongwe students to think and dream big about life beyond their family background as many of them come from disadvantaged families. Some of them have never dreamed of sharing such an experience with a different race from such a developed and well-organized country. Overall impression was that I have never seen any racial discrimination between both partnered schools, which means a lot to a country like South Africa with less than 25 years of freedom.







Bheki Sithole - Scout from the Scout Centre in Nelspruit

## Football connects



Football is one of the most popular sports in South Africa. Already during the first two encounter trips we could experience the international connecting character. It was a popular topic of conversation and for the South African and German students was playing on the school sports field a simple and funny way of understanding. The stadium tour of our Schalke Arena, the versatile social work of the football club FC Schalke 04 and the visit of a Bundesliga match caused a lot of enthusiasm among our guests.

Behind the school building, the Shongwe School has a small football field, which resembles a meadow and bounded on the short sides by two gates. Whenever there was no lesson, we could see the students playing football with great enthusiasm. Regardless of how exhausting the working day and the hot weather was, the end of working time was used for a game. Therefore our trainee also came into contact with students who did not participate in our WOZA project.

Once again, the unifying power of football was to be seen. Strangely enough, all matches went to draw and had to be decided by penalty shootout.

The Saturday of our first weekend in South Africa was all about professional football. Our great hosts had organized tickets for a Premier League game. The match took place in Mbombela's former World Cup Stadium, 90 km away from Driekoppies.

Seven years after the World Cup, opinions about the tournament were different. On the one hand, they proudly look back on a successful and colorful World Cup. It has boosted tourism, created at least short-term jobs (although very badly paid) and improved infrastructure. But what if you can not afford the tickets or do not own a car. The entrance fees have doubled, are about the equivalent of about five euros and are therefore unaffordable for most people. For FIFA, the World Cup was a commercial success, but not for their own country.



Many of the stadiums are rarely used and consume many maintenance costs. The stadium in Mbombela is used more often because the rugby team “Pumas” from Witband uses it occasionally. The utilization has become a bit more effective.

The architectural peculiarities are giraffe bearers, snake-like staircases and zebra-look seating. The design should make reference to the nearby Kruger National Park. It is the only stadium entirely designed by South Africans. The stadium was built seven kilometers from the center of Mbombela. For this purpose, houses, a kindergarten and a school of the township were demolished. Only after the Township residents protested, they receive a small compensation. The construction of the stadium costs 100 million euros - in a city in which there is not even a club in the second division.

So financially necessary, but unimaginable for us, the stadium is occasionally used by other clubs of the Premiere Soccer League. This Saturday, the Kaizer Chief from Johannesburg met Super Sport United from Pretoria. For me a regular stadium visitor it was just as strange, to see the various fan groups standing close together. Many of these groups had drums and brass instruments and supported their teams with great enthusiasm. Although it was a top game, unfortunately the stadium was only one third filled. To our surprise, we were obviously the only whites in the stadium. We were told that whites were still more interested in rugby.

Overall, the game was a modest one and ended with a performance-based 2 : 2.

Nevertheless, everyone was very excited about this wonderful eventful day.



## The Big Five

The Big Five were named after big game hunters. They used to call five specific animals in Africa like this. It was the elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard and rhino. They were not called the Big Five because of their size and weight, but because it was difficult and dangerous to hunt them.

Due to the increasing poaching, these animals are threatened and the wildlife stock decreases more and more. We had the great chance to see the Big Five. However, we were only armed with our cameras

The size of the Kruger Park is impressive. From north to south, it measures about 350 kilometers, from east to west between 40 and 80 kilometers. That is about as big as the federal state of Hessen. Nearly 2000 kilometers of total road length lead through the park. It is possible to book tourist tours or drive yourself with a car through the park. The trails are well equipped with road signs and warnings that inform you about the strictly enforceable prohibitions.

On the first day, we needed more than 8 hours for our self-driving tour to our campsite, which was less than 100 km. After all, we did not want to miss anything. Unfortunately, we were not lucky on our first day. The weather was cold and rainy, so there was not a soul in sight, none of the Big Five. The thrill and the unique impressions should come only on the second day. The joy and excitement was so great that we forgot one or another warning message.



Excitement number one: A large herd of elephants came dangerously close to our car as they were crossing the road. Since we had already formed a traffic jam behind us, we could not drive away and tried to behave reasonably calm and relaxed.

Excitement number two: A lion couple came straight towards us and calmly laid down in the middle of the road just in front of us. One arm length away, we would have loved to stroke the lion's mane. But we were not allowed to open the car's windows under any circumstances in such a moment.

Excitement numbers three: This time it was a horde of rhinos at the roadside. As the group happily and bravely took a number of photos from the open windows and doors, panic suddenly came up, because the rhinos obviously felt disturbed by us and quickly ran towards our car. Very slowly, but totally nervous inside, we made ourselves scarce and disappeared.

A wonderful, but also a slightly dangerous fun. But at least we were lucky to get close to at least three of the Big Five and shoot impressive photos.



Lisa Mielenz - Painter apprentice in her second year of training

## Cooperation on the construction site

Our job was to renovate the laundry at Shongwe Boarding School. So far, this much I can reveal: We have succeeded very well. So what should I write?

The challenge was to work with the tools and materials that were available in South Africa, to work in a team that mainly did not know each other and to cope with the unfamiliar temperatures. But for this reason we are craftsmen and women, to master these challenges. With a harmonious team of German guests, South African students, teachers and workers we have realized a remarkable first project within the six working days. All participants were always enthusiastic and in an excellent mood.

If we have fine sand in Germany for mixing plaster, then there was a rather coarse sand, which can probably be described as earth. If there is a mixing machine in Germany for mixing the mortar, then in South Africa there was a mixing area for mixing the mortar by hand and with a spade. If there is a special tool for every kind of work in Germany, the South Africans can do it with far less tools. In the matter of these things, we learned a lot from our South African colleagues and felt like apprentices in their first year of training.





From a mix of motivated and gifted South African students, German apprentices and experienced South African workers, formed this previously mentioned harmonic team. Furthermore, we received a really valuable and energetic support from Bheki, a South African Scout, who was in hand with help and advice during the 14 days. Bheki showed us how to make mortar for plastering the outer walls from „earth“, water and cement. Bheki also taught us to apply the plaster with a metal plate - a kind of smoother. Bheki showed us how to strip the plaster with a simple board. Fortunately, we were not completely un-talented, so we were able to quickly apply these new and unfamiliar techniques and provide the necessary support.

When coating with paint, we were the ones who could teach our South African colleagues. Our trainees taught the students of the Shongwe Boarding School the techniques of multi-colored painting.

Curiosity from both sides, frankness and always existing motivation contributed significantly to the success of the project. Through this mutual showing, teaching and therefore learning from each other, it was possible to renovate the laundry of the Shongwe Boarding School in just six exhausting working days.

Rainer Zobus - Master craftsman of the training and service center Vest

## The education system in South

In times of Apartheid, only white children had access to good schools. Black children were legally excluded from it. For them there was, if anything, just the „Bantu Education“. Only basic knowledge in reading, writing and arithmetic was taught. Practical instructions were given in cooking, handicrafts or gardening. The principles of Bantu education were also related to the education of teachers. In addition, the equipment of the schools for black people was limited to the bare necessities. The school system has changed after Apartheid. The 1996 constitution of South Africa enshrined the right to education for everyone. The current school system in South Africa is somehow similar to the German one. However, there is no dual vocational training in South Africa, as we know it from Germany.

Our partner school is a state school and was founded in 2014. It is a boarding school with 650 students, some of them come from villages that are far away. Some do not have the opportunity to go home every weekend. They are all taught by 20 teachers. In addition, there are employees who take care of the students beside lessons.

At school, the language of instruction in the compulsory subjects is English. Compulsory subjects are mathematics, English and science. They can choose from all the other subjects and are partly taught in SiSwati.

Every morning, all students arrive at the schoolyard for singing together. The second day we went to school earlier and listened to this morning ritual and it was really amazing.

Wearing a school uniform is mandatory in all public schools in South Africa. Long hair and braided hair are not allowed. Piercings, tattoos, make-up and eye-catching jewelry are also prohibited.





On our penultimate day I had the opportunity to get an impression of the lessons there. The first lesson was in the subject tourism. I was greeted warmly by the teachers and then I put myself in the back row. The classroom was not very big and it was really tight, because a total of 54 students were taught in there. The first row of tables was only a few inches away from the board, so the teacher did not have much room to move. Like everyone else, I had the table of a classmate right at the back of my chair, which made chair-tilting impossible.

The lesson was about currency. The best-known currencies with its abbreviations, symbols and affiliations were written onto the board. All students had a textbook in front of them and so they collected more information and facts, which were then collected and written onto the blackboard.

The next lesson another teacher came to class, she taught the subject life orientation. Since the weather was really good that day, she decided to hold the lesson outside. She did a little first aid course with us. Two students did exercises on the instructions of the teacher and everyone else watched with interest.

After this lesson, I returned to the classroom, where I continued with the subject agricultural science where the content from the lesson before was repeated because a class test was about to come up.

The lesson observations were very interesting for me. I found it really remarkable that they were able to teach so well with such a large number of students. All students followed the rules and did not disturb the lessons. According to my experiences, the students of the Shongwe Boarding School show great respect for the teachers and they appreciate the good education they receive there.



Niklas Nie - Insulation fitter apprentice in his second year of training

## South African soccer

Football is a popular sport in South Africa. I did not suspect that. We learned that at our partner school, where we were asked to play several times. Everyone played with great passion and joy.

The first football clubs in South Africa were founded in the late 19th century, but only white players were allowed to join. Because of the prohibition that black people are neither allowed to play nor watch, a league for black players was founded in 1951. Many spectators always came to watch the teams playing. It was only after the end of Apartheid that black and white associations formed a federation. The first league is called Premier Soccer League.



The most famous football clubs are:  
Kaizer Chiefs:

The club was founded in 1997 in Soweto, Johannesburg, and has often won the Premier Soccer League. Most students and teachers at our partner school are fans of the Kaizer Chiefs.

Orlando Pirates:

The club also comes from Soweto and has a very good reputation, even beyond the country's borders. As the only South African team they won the African Champions League in 1995.

The Soweto Derby is always sold out.

The Mbombela Stadium was built in Nelspruit for the 2010 World Cup. It offers space for about 43500 spectators. Here we saw the game of the Kaizer Chiefs against Super Sports United. The stadium was not filled to the last seat, but it was a great atmosphere there.

For the games, the audience comes colorfully painted. The fans are passionate about their teams. The audience is not separated from each other. The game ended 2:2.





Pascal Kruppa - Bricklayer apprentice in his second year of training

# The experiences of the students from Shongwe

I am Morries Prince Nyirenda

I was happy and glad spending time with the German people.

The German people were kind and open. The part that I enjoyed most was when we were playing football and I still remember that time. I also wish that they will come back to

South Africa and visit us again at least next year.

I learnt a many things especially about the differences between Germany and South Africa. In South Africa there are lots rural areas and we also live in these rural areas.

In Germany there are lots of urban areas. South Africa is a developing country and Germany is a developed country.

Truly speaking, I miss these guys.



Samkelo Maxwell Thwala

The time we participated in the laundry project and being busy painting with the Germans

I have learned that I need not be afraid to see people of other races

At the laundry I have learnt skills like painting, plastering and decorating. We were making friends with them. Funny was when we taught them our language. They were not able to speak it but that was not a problem. Pia learnt some of the greeting words. She is now able to speak it. They were playing football with us on the soccer field. That was our friendship.

Vusi Mamba - What I have learned:

When the Germans were around I have learned things such as painting and also plastering by using cement mixed with sand. I have also learned how to cope with people who arrive from a environment, which is very different from mine and how to make friends easily.

I have learned that painting also requires measurements and planning in order for your painting work to look good and to be attractive to many people.

What interested me the most, when doing this project, was when we were communicating with the German people from morning until noon. I liked that because somehow my English has improved. I was getting used to speaking English.





Name: Sithembile Shabangu Grade: 10

School: Shongwe Boarding School

Things that I have learnt and enjoyed when the students of Germany visited our school.

I learnt a lot from these people. It was very exciting working with them. In fact, this was the first thing that I enjoyed doing most and interested me the most. I learned that I must not take handwork for granted. It was so much fun speaking another language with them and that they were talking about their home country. I enjoyed being with people from another country and I liked working with them because they are very friendly and outspoken people with a good sense of humour. Pia didn't know how to greet in my language so that I taught her. I miss Pia and Lisa.

Deborah Mavuso

What did I learn while there were people from Germany?

Firstly, I learnt how to paint and mix different paint to make a new color. It was very nice and I enjoyed being with the Germans. I also learnt how to mix cement, sand and water to plaster a house. We even did practical things we were talking about.

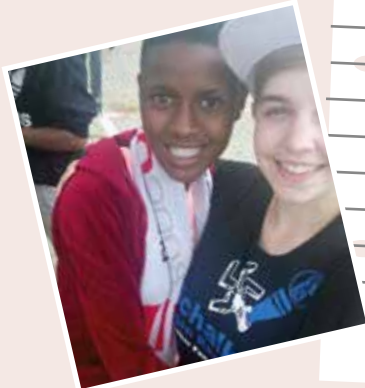
Sometimes I spoke SiSwati with my friends. We laughed and they got a bit angry because they thought that we were gossiping about them. They also did that, but we didn't get angry. That was very fun and we all enjoyed it.



Name: Bongwiwe, Surname: Kihumdo

The things that I learnt about the project that we've done at the laundry was that it was special and skilful because there were many things we learnt e.g. how to paint, mix paint, decorate, plaster and even how to get old paint off and put another back on.

The thing that I enjoyed was having them around, like those who taught us all of these things. We were communicating, laughing and all this stuff and it was fun. We were teaching each other the different languages and we made new friends this way. It was fun and I even wish that they had never been gone.



## The experiences of the students from Shongwe



I am Owethu Ziyander Mashele, a grade nine learner and scout member. I'd like to tell you about what I have enjoyed since the project has started. First of all, I enjoyed getting to know the German people and starting new friendships with them. I learnt painting, which was my favourite work of the whole project. Pascal and Lisa taught me how to greet in their language and I even did the same while we were busy painting. Pia was busy going all over and speaking our language. It was really great being with them. I really enjoyed it. I enjoyed the time when we went to Mbombela to watch soccer. Everyone was very excited and the most painful moment was when they left and went back to Germany

Ishmael Sambo

Things I have learnt from the German people:  
While I was with the Germans, I learned to design a building inside with color.

I also learnt how to plaster and float a wall. I also learnt how to mix sand and soil with cement.  
Now I am happy because I know how to paint a building so that I can work on my own.

Things I like about the German people:  
I like their respect and how they treat others. They show honest respect and we also treated them very nicely. They are not selfish. I also liked the way they communicated. I was willing to work with them.  
I wish I could work with them again.





Things that I Have learnt while students from Germany visited our school:

I, Vuso Mbukwane, learnt a lot from the other students. In fact, I have learnt to communicate with other people as well as to coat and design with paint. At the beginning it was something I did not really want to do, but when I was there, I realized how important handwork is.

I have learnt a lot during this project.

It was so fun that we were talking English with our visitors the whole day, sharing our countries' stories and their differences. It was very nice. I enjoyed myself being with the students from another country.

During the project - What did I learn?

- I learnt to associate with people of another continent, who are not speaking my language.

- I learnt to exchange words of a different language.

- I made new friendships.

- I gained painting and decorating skills and learnt how to apply different colours of paints.

- Planning is very important is another thing that I learnt from the friends that come from Germany.



Nokwanda Khumalo

What I have learned:

I learned to paint with different colors. Colors can be mixed, then you get a new color

I've learned that there's a first coat of paint and why you have to apply a primer before painting over it with another paint.

I also learnt how to mix sand, water and cement for plastering a house. Something that interested me most is that I was speaking English, which means that I was improving my language. It was really funny when we did not understand each other and used sign language. The even more interesting part was that I was working with someone whose completion is unique as mine: working together as a team.



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Personal thanks and outlook

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This first project trip was a complete success. Although that trip was completed only six months ago our memories are still very vivid.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our South African partners. Many thanks to Headmistress Msesi Liefie Ngwamba, the teachers, the employees and the students of the Shongwe Boarding School – being well aware of that this period was time-consuming and certainly exhausting. Thanks to Bheki Sithole for strongly supporting us in construction projects, including building intercultural bridges

We are very grateful for the hospitality and warmth we received there. We are grateful for the perfect planning of the construction site and the extraordinary cultural leisure program. We felt very well and comfortable at any given moment.

This visit has exceeded all our expectations. We had hoped that our students would expand their social skills and finally, we are sure that prejudices and bias against strangers could be reduced. Our apprentices still talk about the encounters and experiences in South Africa with high respect and a lot of delight. Many thanks to our great apprentices and to our master bricklayer Rainer Zobus for the construction site management.

These positive experiences confirm our conviction that this partnership shall continue. Already next spring, students and teachers of the Shongwe Boarding School are going to visit us in the Ruhr Region. Together with our apprentices, they will take part in practical training workshops of bricklayer's and painter's trade with selected training content at the vocational training center.

A long-term perspective has also been developed. The school management of the Shongwe Boarding School has decided to apply for the establishing of a so-called „Skill Training Center“ with a focus on „painting and plastering work“. In that very rural area, they would like to offer new career opportunities to young local people

So our project live on. We will be very pleased to welcome our new friends in the Ruhr Region soon.



**Benedikt Feldmann — Project leader and teacher for construction technologies**  
**Susanne Biederbick — Pedagogical supervisor and teacher for technical design**



# Project WOZA

„come, join in“

## Epilogue

“There is nothing good, unless someone does it.”  
(Erich Kästner)

The importance of the project tour for our students and our school is barely to overestimate. The encounter with the foreign, the unknown, the analysis of one's own prejudices and values in the form of a journey as well as a school partnership, combined with craftsmanship, are the highlights of the action and project-oriented educational work at Max-Born-Vocational College.

A vocational college has many responsibilities. Besides the implementation of occupational skills and abilities, there is the conveyance of values on the basis of our constitution coming before all curricula and objectives.

Not least, our school program emphasizes the importance of internationality as well as the associated cultural openness. Committed to Max Born, our eponym, education is always related to responsibility.

Living and working together in tolerance and respect, the consideration of everyone's dignity, as well as the appreciative treatment of foreign cultures and religions are the foundation of a pluralistic and peaceful society.

The work for the project trips to the school partnership between the Shongwe Boarding School in Driekoppies and our Max Born Vocational College requires duration, commitment and enthusiasm of everyone who is involved.

Thank you for the courageous commitment to this good project and my best wishes to everyone that the following years continue to be successful.



# Project WOZA

„come, join in“



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## Thanks to all sponsors and companies

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We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following sponsors and supporters. Without them, this first visit would not have been possible

- Builders' guild Recklinghausen
- The Copilot Marketing
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- Förderkreis Max-Born-Vocational College
- Katrin Manzke
- Painters' Purchase Rhein-Ruhr
- Painters' and Varnishers' guild association Westphalia
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- Mpumalanga Forum NRW
- Nangu Thina
- Schalker Fan Initiative
- Training and Service Center Vest
- Umckaloabo Foundation

We would also like to thank the following companies for making this trip possible for their apprentices:

- Construction Company Haverkamp, Haltern
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- Painter Company Dürr, Castrop Rauxel
- Painter Company Kubitz, Recklinghausen
- Pocholeck Wohnen Leben Gestalten, Recklinghausen
- City of Recklinghausen
- TÜV Nord Education Datteln



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