

Call for Mentees for the “Mentoring for ESD-Leadership”-Programme

Why ESD?

Without a global education effort, sustainable development is not achievable. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) reflects this effort through a holistic approach which aims at enabling people to understand the effects of their own actions on future generations and other parts of the world and to operate responsibly in a complex world. This way, local solutions can be developed for global challenges. To contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.7 by promoting the establishment of ESD, [Engagement Global gGmbH](#) in cooperation with the [ESD Expert Net](#) is offering a new programme called “Mentoring for ESD-Leadership”.

What is the mentoring programme about?

Twenty Mentees, five each from Germany, South Africa, Mexico and India, will undergo leadership training through an equal number of Mentors from the ESD Expert Net in a blended learning format. After an initial round of online modules from October to November 2017, the Mentees will go through a week-long face-to-face sessions from 11-18 November 2017 in Bonn, the German city of the United Nations. The sessions will provide a deeper understanding of leadership for sustainability. During this week, the Mentees will get to know their Mentors in person as well as the ESD Expert Net as a whole.

The face-to-face meeting will be followed by online mentoring until February 2018 when the Mentees meet their Mentors in national meetings. The online sessions will continue until April/May 2018. In April/May 2018, the programme will conclude with an international workshop, where the Mentees will be handed out the certificates of participation. The exact dates and venues for these events still have to be finalised.

What do I gain from the programme?

Mentoring is the most effective means of building upon existing know-how and transforming the practitioners of today into the leaders of tomorrow by imparting hands-on experience in ESD. In the “Mentoring for ESD-Leadership”-Programme, the Mentees will get an exposure to the global [ESD Expert Net](#) and a chance to interact with 20 Mentors and an equal number of resource persons representing institutions from across Germany, India, Mexico and South Africa. The Mentors in the programme are members of the ESD Expert Net with profound professional expertise from universities, the private sector, research institutions, schools as well as non-governmental organisations in all the four countries involved. This will allow the Mentees to get to know different perspectives and views on the challenges and solutions linked to ESD.

The programme is flexibly designed to also support people engaged in full-time occupation. It is open to professionals above 18 years of age starting their career, already working on or at least with an interest to work on ESD. The main objective of the programme is to provide career starters with leadership competencies, thus, helping them to develop into reflective ESD practitioners. The training will be practice-oriented and allow the Mentees to elaborate a concrete project in the field of ESD under the guidance of their Mentors.

Who is involved in the programme?

Engagement Global is the central contact agency for development policy initiatives in Germany since 2012. Under its roof it unites institutions, initiatives and support programmes of developmental work with the aim to actively promote a fair global coexistence. Engagement Global is also a key partner of UNESCO in implementing the Global Action Program on Education for Sustainable Development (GAP).

The **ESD Expert Net** was brought into being in 2010 at the behest of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Its goal is to put international dialogue about education for sustainable development on an equal footing with other themes and to exchange ideas with important emerging countries about how education can help to solve global problems. The Expert Net comprises members from different institutions in Germany, India, South Africa and Mexico. These four countries were selected because national action plans had already been put in place there as part of the UN Decade project "Education for Sustainable Development".

How to apply?

Mentees fill in a short application form along with a motivation letter and short project proposal. The purpose of the project should be to implement SDG 4.7: *"By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development."* The project proposal can build on an activity the applicant has already been working on but in any case should include the following information: objective of the project, target group, methodological approach, measures, timeline, and resources.

Kindly submit the following documents:

- Filled out application form
- Motivation letter describing why and how the nature of the programme best fits your aspirations (400-500 words)
- A concrete project proposal (up to two pages)

- In case the fields provided in the registration form aren't enough to highlight your experience, please attach your CV or the relevant certificates.

Who can apply?

Mentees will be young professionals of 18 years and above from Germany, Mexico, South Africa and India with a minimum of one year working experience or those looking for a lateral entry into ESD.

Mentee selection criteria:

- Fluency in English
- Quality of the letter of motivation
- Quality, relevance and feasibility of the project proposal
- Proven professional experience of at least one year, preferably in education, development cooperation or a related field
- Employer support through the length of the mentoring program (*Employers don't have to bear any costs*)
- Availability to attend the face-to-face meetings of the mentoring programme
- Valid passport

How will the Mentees be selected?

Engagement Global, together with members of the ESD Expert Net, will shortlist the applications based on pre-defined criteria and match a selection of shortlisted candidates with each Mentor. Mentor and Mentee will be from the same country to ensure a meaningful cooperation. After the matching, interviews will be conducted with the shortlisted candidates through Skype and the final decisions will be taken on the basis of the interviews.

Deadline for the submission of applications: 20 August 2017

Interviews for shortlisted applicants: 4-15 September 2017

Emails of all the interested applicants will be stored within the norms of the German privacy rights. You will be included in the ESD mailing list to benefit from important updates about the programme in the future. In case you do not wish to be part of the mailing list, kindly send us a short email, once the selection process has ended.