

An equitable international youth exchange The trilateral project “Young Verified Leaders”

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Abstract

What are the challenges and obstacles associated with a trilateral project involving Tunisia, Algeria and Germany? This article explores the Young Verified Leaders programme, highlighting how the participating organisations connected with each other and the experiences they had in working together. The programme was initiated for two reasons: one, to strengthen cooperation with the North African partner organisations and revive the trilateral partnership that had suffered gravely during the Covid-19 pandemic; and two, to maintain contact post-pandemic and come up with ideas for further projects for the future.

The programme was a mix of hybrid and in-person activities in an international, multidisciplinary and multilingual environment. It served to promote the transfer of knowledge between full-time workers and volunteers, strengthen international youth work in all its facets and assist participants in improving their management skills. On the agenda were practical and theoretical modules with various activities. During the 18-month project, participants attended a number of online workshops as well as three in-person exchanges in the participating countries.

While the Young Verified Leaders programme was designed in response to the organisations' desire to encourage a continuous intercultural exchange between young people and experts from the three countries, the coordination team was equally motivated by the wish to actively promote diversity. Equitable cooperation with North Africa requires lending the partnership a post-colonial framework and giving visibility to the connection between many differentiating dimensions.