



Photo: Meike Schmitt | House of Yas  
Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and First Lady Elke Büdenbender in the tent of the African-German Youth Office (AGYO) at the citizens' festival in the park of Schloss Bellevue on 14 September. We were there as an AGYO partner organisation.

## Review 2024

### Growing register – stable assignment figures – new names and business areas

As the year draws to a close, it's time for a short annual report. Join us as we take a look at the results of the first eleven months of 2024. Let's start by saying that our overall record is very satisfactory, with almost 14,000 experts and around 5,000 assignments at home and abroad.

**W**e have summarised all the relevant figures for a review of the year on page 2 of this issue of SES today. But of course, a year is not just about figures: there was a lot of movement in 2024 in particular.

We have changed our name to Senior Expert Service (SES) and our VerA mentoring initiative for trainees to VerAplus. With German Senior Experts (GSE) and fundraising, two entire business areas are also new and, since August, so is the management. All of this needs to be publicised and some of it needs to be explained.

And we have done this: not only with our public relations work, but also at around

80 events throughout Germany. These include eight regional conferences and 67 VerAplus meetings for our experts. There were also two workshops in Bonn for representatives from abroad and two major conferences: one with the volunteers from our German offices, the other with the regional coordinators who work for VerAplus all over Germany.

Of particular importance was a round table in Berlin, which brought business and politics together and was extremely successful as a new format. We only had to call off one event: the Parliamentary Lunch planned for 25 November, also in Berlin. This was cancelled due to the collapse of the governing coalition.

#### Dear readers,

*The end of the governing coalition, early elections and a most likely provisional budget management: what does this mean for an organisation like ours that is largely dependent on public funding?*

*Of course, we are also observing the current developments in Berlin with suspense. But our funding applications for 2025 have been approved for a long time, so that we can continue working as usual and are already preparing assignments that will take place in the new year.*

*This is not least due to the smooth and trusting cooperation with the ministries that have been supporting us for years. These are the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).*

*We would like to express our gratitude to both organisations, their managements and the responsible teams. Ultimately it is they who make our work and the commitment of our experts at home and abroad possible in the first place.*

*It is now the middle of December, so I can wish you all a very happy holidays and a healthy New Year.*

Kind regards,

Marion Sodemann  
Executive Director SES gGmbH

# Review in figures

REGISTER	*2024	2023
Experts	13,775	13,278
Weltdienst 30+ specialists	1,886	1,804
Registrations	1,182	1,178
Farewells	768	665
Average age	69	69
Proportion of women (in %)	26.4	25.8

\* as of 01.12.2024

## Register Almost 14,000 volunteers

Good news: between January and November 2024, our register grew by an average of more than 100 experts every month. The register of our German Senior Experts (GSE), which is managed as a separate database, has also grown and now contains 650 entries. Incidentally, our GSEs carried out almost 80 assignments in 2024 – the first year of their existence.

ASSIGNMENTS	*2024	2023
Africa/MENA**	***386	***379
Asia/Central Asia	262	244
Europe/Caucasus	86	91
Latin America/Caribbean	80	83
<b>Total</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>797</b>
<b>Follow-up assignments (in %)</b>	<b>28,3</b>	<b>29,1</b>

\* as of 01.12.2024

\*\* Middle East and North Africa

\*\*\* Assignments in the Team works! division of the African-German Youth Office (AGYO): 70 of these (2024), 58 of these (2023)

## Abroad Slight increase in assignment figures

Truly consistent: this is how our work in the countries of the Global South looks when comparing the first eleven months of this year with the results for the whole of last year. This makes us a reliable partner for German development cooperation. Particularly pleasing: more than 120 assignments abroad have already been finalised for 2025.

ASSIGNMENTS	*2024	2023
VerAplus Initiative	3,896 **1,965	3,904 **1,909
Companies/professional bodies/ organisations	32 **4	35 **6
Schools programme	233 **165	234 **172
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,161</b> <b>**2,134</b>	<b>4,173</b> <b>**2,087</b>

\* as of 01.12.2024

\*\* of which continuing from the previous year(s)

## Germany Strong results thanks to VerAplus

Top as usual: with a total of more than 4,000 assignments just one month before the end of the year, the results of our programmes in Germany are once again excellent. Our VerAplus initiative – a mentoring programme for young people with problems in their training and our most successful single programme for years – made by far the biggest contribution to this.

# Sponsors' Association and Thanks

## Sponsors' Association

Since its foundation in 1983, the SES Sponsors' Association has been campaigning for our interests in public. It also subsidises individual assignments or entire assignment series. To this end, it uses its own funds, but also applies for and manages funds from other sources.

The majority of its income comes from project-related donations from fundraising campaigns organised by individual members.

Between January and November 2024, the association's income totalled 38,956 euros.

Of this amount, 34,491 euros were used to support assignments in Africa and Asia. A further 15,000 euros from reserves were made available to SES gGmbH – to be used independently for the international assignment programme.

BALANCE	2024	2023
Contributions	10,800 €	15,200 €
Donations	27,785 €	58,350 €
Subsidies (project-related)	34,491 €	49,016 €
Subsidies (free)	15,000 €	
Members	307	304
Chairman	Otmar Greiff	
Executive Director	Ursula Roth	

\* as of 01.12.2024

The SES Sponsors' Association works on a voluntary basis and at minimal administrative costs. Membership fees and donations are used exclusively and directly for charitable purposes. Get involved, become a member! The membership fee is 50 euros per year.

### Donations account

Verein zur Förderung des Senior Experten Service e.V.  
Volksbank Köln Bonn eG  
IBAN: DE50 3806 0186 2005 8200 17  
BIC: GENODED1BRS

[foerderverein@ses-bonn.de](mailto:foerderverein@ses-bonn.de)

[www.ses-bonn.de](http://www.ses-bonn.de) > Sponsors' Association



## Thanks

Just before the end of the year, it's time to say thank you. Of course, our thanks go in particular to our experts. But we also want to thank all those who are our friends and supporters.

We would like to highlight the following institutions for their support of our schools programme: BASF, the German Children and Youth Foundation, the Eugen and Irmgard Hahn Foundation, the Globus Foundation, the Erfurt Chamber of Industry

and Commerce, the East Thuringia Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Gera, the Otto Wolff Foundation, Pfefferwerk Stadtkultur, the City of Kassel and the Education and Youth Foundation.

Also important to mention are Siemens AG, the Signal Iduna Group, once again the Otto Wolff Foundation, our Sponsors' Association and our own foundation. In 2024, donations from these organisations benefited our SES gGmbH as a whole.

# Miscellaneous

## Christmas donations

You don't yet know who you're donating to this year? Why not to us?

Every contribution secures our future.  
Thank you very much!

### Donations account

Senior Expert Service (SES) gGmbH  
Sparkasse KölnBonn  
IBAN: DE97 3705 0198 1902 0065 82  
BIC: COLSDE33XXX



## Excellent media response

In the first eleven months of 2024, the media reported on SES 830 times. This corresponds to 75 publications per month and is a remarkable result. Once again this year, the greatest media interest was generated by assignments abroad and trainee mentoring as part of our VerAplus initiative.

What is particularly pleasing is that 443 professionals have registered so far this year because they heard about us from the press, radio or online platforms. This makes the media the second-best 'advertising medium'. Only the experts who are already registered had a stronger multiplier function. We had 494 new registrations in 2024 thanks to their reports among friends and acquaintances.

## News from our representatives in Germany

We welcome Friedrich Hermann as a new volunteer colleague in Baden-Württemberg. The former head of our representative office in Erfurt has relocated to Memmingen and will support our office in Stuttgart from there as a regional representative. His former position in Thuringia is still vacant, but we are already in talks with a potential successor.

We bid farewell to our Berlin regional representatives Stephen Jackson, Ulrike Neundorf and Dr Andrea Viertel-Finkbeiner, their Dresden colleagues Dr Axel Weber and Matthias Wildenhain and their Saarbrücken colleague Brigitte Dill-Dufner. We would also like to say a big thank you to Andreas Scholz from our Flensburg office, to Dr Anne-Rose Haarmann and to Herbert Watermann, who resign from their positions in Wolfsburg and Hanover respectively – two offices that we have now merged into one in the capital of Lower Saxony.



## Contact details?

Have you moved, or do you have a new e-mail address or telephone number? If so, please let us know and pass on any changes to:

[registrierung@ses-bonn.de](mailto:registrierung@ses-bonn.de)

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