

# Application form: Network Activity

## 1. Basic information

Project information	
Project title	Network Activity - YAT visit to Youth Democracy Festival
Applying DUF member organization(s)	the Social Liberal Youth Party (SLYP)
Partner organization(s)	Youth Agenda Trust (YAT)
Project locality	Denmark
Project period	September 4th - September 9th 2019
Amount applied for (max DKK 50.000)	

### 1.1 Summary of the Network Activity

We, in the SLYP-YAT partnership are at a crucial point in our cooperation. We have recently recruited a new team of peace ambassadors to the project who represent a new generation with new visions for Zimbabwe. Our coming partnership project will incorporate their ideas directly into the project design. But with this project we are entering both a new field of work and new ways of cooperating. Therefore we would like to invite two representatives from YAT to come to Denmark in the beginning of September. During their stay they will take part in the Youth Democracy Festival (Ungdommens Folkemøde) to learn about youth organisations in Denmark more broadly. Their knowledge might be leveraged in the coming project. They will take part in Ungdommens Folkemødes international programme and build a network of organisations working with democracy festivals globally. We will also meet with newly elected MPs from SLYP for a discussion about youth in elected offices. Finally we will have a chance to plan out the implementation of our coming partnership project.

## 2. The partners

### 2.1 Vision and work of the partner organization

Youth Agenda Trust is a youth organization that seeks to empower young people to fully realize their human rights by freely and actively participating in governance and development issues in a democratic Zimbabwe. Young people in Zimbabwe can only realise their human rights fully if they can manage to participate in dialogue outside their political party ideologies and enclosures on critical and common issues that affect them and find common solutions. This is so because the youth have largely been polarised along political party ideologies and enclosures. Dialogue and cooperation becomes the pathway to fully realise their rights, as it enables youth to find common solutions to common issues across party lines. This network activity is meant to serve as a source of inspiration and motivation for YAT as they will experience how Danish youth socialize and engage in political dialogue across ideological differences and party lines at the democracy festival Ungdommens Folkemøde in Valby, Copenhagen.

### 2.2. The capacity and structure of the partner organization

Over the past eight years, YAT has managed and implemented 13 international projects on youth participation in democracy, governance and sustained dialogue processes in Zimbabwe, and possesses great experience in managing and implementing complex projects of international nature. YAT has also successfully managed and implemented a preparatory study, two pilot projects and a partnership project in partnership with SLYP funded by the Danish Youth Council. In addition YAT has participated in two DUF Project Management Seminars and

has become well acquainted with the DUF guidelines for International Projects and Partnerships.

YAT has three formal structures; the board, the membership who are YAT volunteers, and the secretariat. YAT's volunteers are the owners of the project and responsible for project activities planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The YAT secretariat (YAT Director and Programmes Officer) provides the technical and practical advice for the successful implementation. The board provides oversight and related management and advisory role in the management and implementation of the partnership and project cooperation. The secretariat is in charge of the financial management is responsible for the writing and submission of all narrative and financial reports as well as other relevant information to SLYP. The steering committee, which compose of the Peace ambassadors, are purely volunteers, heir tasks include: organising project activities, recruiting or mobilising fellow youth to project activities and facilitate project activities.

### **2.3. The partnership and cooperation**

SLYP and YAT entered a partnership following a partnership identification trip in August 2014. SLYP identified YAT after having assessed its capacity to successfully manage and implement international projects. Following the identification of YAT, a preparatory study was carried out in January 2015, which informed the development of a pilot project that was successfully implemented from August 2015 to December 2015. Here, the first group of peace ambassadors were trained and brought together. In October 2016, we carried out a Network Activity, where YAT visited SLYP's general assembly. YAT and SLYP have also attended two of DUF's one-week seminars in Denmark in 2015 and 2016 as well as a DUF partnership conference in Zimbabwe in 2015. This was followed by a partnership project in 2017 which included youth leaders selected from both SLYP and YAT who underwent training and came in to aid implementation of various activities in conjunction with the peace ambassadors. In 2018-2019 we carried out a pilot project, which will form the basis of our next partnership project, which we expect to launch in November 2019.

YAT and SLYP share common views on democracy and dialogue and a good personal and working relationships. This forms a solid ground for starting this pilot project. YAT's extensive knowledge of the Zimbabwean political context is an opportunity in this partnership and the growing relationship between the project partners and peace ambassadors has created leeway to work productively through creation of contacts within Goromonzi and Epworth. The shared dialogue tools, and democratic engagement in SLYP will continuously aid the engagement and empowerment of young people in Goromonzi and Epworth hence changing the future. Another strength is the peace ambassadors from the 2015 pilot project and 2017 partnership project who now possess a great deal of knowledge and experience on how do conduct projects in their communities. The weakness of our partnership is the issue of community ownership. The YAT members' wish for more influence on activities inspired us to conduct a pilot project in 2018-2019 with a strategy for more involvement of peace ambassadors in the development of upcoming projects. The pilot project involved a boot camp in which Peace Ambassadors were given training in project formulation and management while developing their own ideas for short term project activities in their respective communities. The pilot project ended with a follow up workshop where the peace ambassadors reported on their experiences from the short term activities and developed ideas for a partnership project while reflecting on the feasibility of these ideas. Finally YAT and SLYP facilitated evaluation exercises to evaluate the pilot project and basic social media training to encourage and inspire the use of social media in promoting peace and dialogue and upscaling the reach of project activities. Both SLYP, YAT and the Peace Ambassadors are experiencing a momentum in the partnership and the Peace Ambassadors, especially are eager to continue their work and live out their visions for their communities. While there is an urgent need to satisfy this eagerness there is also a need to attune expectations and further operationalize ideas.

## **3. The Network Activity**

### **3.1 Planning**

The Activity has been planned on the request of YAT who called for new learning opportunities to further enhance their capacity as facilitators of peaceful dialogue and cooperation. SLYP acknowledged that there is an imbalance in the partnership in the sense that it has been several years since members of YAT has visited Denmark while SLYP members have visited Zimbabwe several times during the last few years. To respond to this request SLYP members reached out to people in their network who help arrange Ungdommens Folkemøde. SLYPs enquiry about the opportunity to invite international guests was applauded based on the experience that international guests contribute with new perspectives that help spur discussions and debates at the festival. Ungdommens folkemøde also has a programme on Friday tailored for international participants, because they aim to emphasise international engagement on youth participation more in the coming years. YAT will thus also become part of a network of organisations working with democracy festivals globally. This programme can be found in Annex C. Furthermore, the SLYP project committee has reached out to SLYPs secretariat and leadership with a view to be put in contact with newly elected SLYP members in the Danish parliament who are willing to share their thoughts, reflections and experiences about representing youth in politics.

### **3.2 Purpose of Network Activity (AK)**

The purpose of the Network Activity is to provide inspiration and new capacities to YAT, strengthen the relationship between YAT and SLYP and contribute to ensure a successful implementation of our second joint partnership project, which we aim to launch in November 2019. It is expected to add value to the partner organization in three ways. First, the visit to the Youth democracy Festival will allow YAT to get a first hand experience of a democracy festival in Denmark and meet with a range of Danish youth NGOs which work with dialogue and democracy. This will give YAT new perspectives, ideas and contacts, not only within the fields YAT and SLYP have previously cooperated on but also from a wide range of organisations working with topics that are not typically within SLYPs area of expertise. This is especially relevant as our coming partnership project increasingly focuses on skillsharing and entrepreneurship. We expect that both partners will gain knowledge and contacts we can draw on in their daily work in Zimbabwe. Second, meeting the newly elected parliamentarians from SLYP will give YAT a new perspective on what it means to be a youth politician and represent the interests of youths in Denmark. We believe the story of the young SLYP members can serve as inspiration for the YAT volunteers in Zimbabwe. Finally, we expect the Network Activity to add value to our partnership. First and foremost by reanchoring the project in Denmark. Even though the SLYP members have visited Zimbabwe during project activities, there is a sense that the partnership has been more and more detached from the Danish context and from SLYP's members and leadership. Visiting Denmark and interacting with SLYP will emphasise that our project is a partnership between youths in both Zimbabwe and Denmark. Our partnership has been through a turbulent period. Cash shortage, poor internet connection and unrest in Zimbabwe has caused delays in our activities, which has been a frustration to both parts. Although we have managed to get through despite these challenges, we have not yet had the opportunity to discuss in-depth how we can use these lessons to improve our work in the future, and how SLYP can help enhance the capacity of YAT to tackle such challenges. The network activity enables us to have such important discussions as well as plan out how we want to implement our coming partnership project as this work requires the Danish project group to be a lot more updated on the situation in the communities we are working in. We believe the Network Activity will contribute to build the capacity of YAT, mainly within the area of membership involvement and empowerment, which, as already mentioned in section 2.3 are a key focus point in their work. Here, meeting and engaging with SLYP and other NGOs can provide inspiration for how to better empower and educate its young members

to take up leadership roles through trainings, meetings and activities, and we believe these can serve as an inspiration for YAT.

The Network Activity will take place right after we have submitted our application for the next partnership project. For the first time, our project design will be based project ideas coming from the peace ambassadors themselves, it is thus very important for the Danish group to discuss these proposals with YAT who are much more familiar with their ideas. We believe the conversations and inspiration we gain during the Network Activity will be crucial in this regard, and a workshop aiming to plan out the implementation will be included in the visit. It will also help us to plan activities with other actors or know how to make use of other youth organisations' expertise when our own knowledge falls short. One of the great challenges in our partnership work is that the Zimbabwean volunteers become demotivated in the periods where there are no project activities. The Network Activity will help us in two ways here. Firstly, an update from YAT will help keep the motivation up as we wait for our partnership project to start. Secondly, we wish to sustain the activities beyond the time span of our project activities, but this is difficult without a minimum of funding to cover administration expenses and transport for our volunteers. We will also get an opportunity to explore ways to address this challenge and eventually seek financial support from other partners in Denmark. YAT exerts influence, mainly by educating and empowering young Zimbabweans, who wish to become leaders in their local communities or even later at the national level. The stories of Danish young parliamentarians can be used in the motivational talks, YAT is already giving to its members. YAT also faces limitation in working with a political organisation as any sort of political work is heavily scrutinised by Zimbabwean authorities. Ungdommens Folkemøde will give them an opportunity to chat to organisations whose work are less political and be inspired.

### 3.3 Activities and time plan

Activity	Purpose	Expected Outcome
a) Ungdommens Folkemøde/ Youth Democracy Festival	To provide inspiration for our festivals in Zimbabwe To get an opportunity to network with other Danish Youth organisations and NGOs and SLYP	The lessons and ideas from the festival will improve the implementation of our partnership project. We will create a plan for how to sustain the dialogue work during periods without project activities, also financially. We will gather inspiration for how to work with skill sharing and entrepreneurship from other youth organisations
b) Meeting with newly elected SLYP members in the Danish parliament	To get an insight into the work of a young Danish MP and their way from local volunteering to the parliament, which can serve as motivation for Zimbabwean youths.	YAT will use the story of the young SLYP members in their interaction with aspiring youth politicians in Zimbabwe, who will become more confident and motivated to represent the voice of youths.
c) Day with SLYP members, which include social activities in Copenhagen and informal meeting with SLYP members	To get a closer relationship to SLYP and get inspiration on how to engage members in leadership roles within the organization	YAT will get to know SLYP members, and we will get a shared sense that the project is anchored in both Denmark and Zimbabwe. Social activities are key to ensure this outcome, as they allow YAT and SLYP members to engage on a more informal and personal level.

	To plan the implementation of our coming partnership project.	We will develop a plan and ideas on how to implement the coming partnership project.
d) Meeting with representative(s) from a relevant Danish NGO	To explore opportunities for collaboration with third partners to improve the sustainability of our project activities and ensure financial capacity outside project periods	We will get a better understanding of our opportunities for involving third partners and get concrete suggestions/advises for how to sustain the activities in our partnership project.

### 3.4 Follow up and learning

The experiences and learning from the Network Activity be anchored and reflected in YAT in two ways. First we will collect notes from reflections and activities throughout the network activity and compile these to a joint document, which we can draw on later in our partnership. We will do a check-out at the end of every day to reflect on what we have learned, both as partnership and as individual organizations. A main focus in these reflections will be how YAT can apply the insights gained in the network activity in their day to day work with the peace ambassadors and implementation of our coming partnership project. Secondly, Flora Mzondo and Sandra Dzvete will conduct a follow-up meeting upon their return from the network activity. This will give the community volunteers, the peace ambassadors, an opportunity to gain new insights and to discuss how these new experiences can serve as inspiration in the Zimbabwean context. This way, the experiences from the network activity will be anchored broadly in the organization, and instead of being just a partnership between two project groups, it will become more of a project between the two organizations. We will also make sure to gather and record messages from people in SLYP to be played to the peace ambassadors. This will contribute to bond between the two organisations as a whole and keep up morale amongst the peace ambassadors until we commence our partnership project.

### 3.5 Participants

Participants from YAT are the Program Officer Flora Muzondo and the Financial Officer Sandra Dzevete. They have been selected because they are the main drivers of YATs activities and sustainers of our relations with the Peace Ambassadors. They have on numerous occasions proven that they are very passionate about the work, knowledgeable about political and social issues and capable of motivating, engaging and organizing youths in Zimbabwe. Peace Ambassadors have not been included in the selection process as we have found it too risky to differentiate them in fear of provoking the impression that SLYP favours some Peace Ambassadors over others. Participants from SLYP are project committee members Tea Meineche, Anne Kirstine Rønn and David Chipeta. All three members are fully or partially available during the period for the network activity and they have all been engaged in the partnership for several years including project related visits to Zimbabwe hosted by Flora Muzondo and Sandra Dzevete.