

### **Dear InspiredCommunity,**

The year 2025 is now in full swing and – thanks to your support – our projects continue to progress successfully! Still deeply passionate, our ever-growing team of now 34 – almost 40, including irregular supporters – members continues to drive our projects forward. Thanks to you, through our projects, we are able to empower young people to create a better, more sustainable future for themselves and others. For this, the entire Inspiresouls e.V. team thanks you from the bottom of our hearts!

#### **FATE** went cross-continental!

In the last update, we shared insights into the then still ongoing local youth think tank (YTT) sessions. Since then, we are proud to report that not only the local, but also the subsequent cross-continental YTT sessions have successfully concluded!

#### **FATE – The local sessions**

The local YTT sessions – four each in The Gambia and Rwanda, and three in Germany – were a great success, resonating with the participants in all three countries. Our teams collaborated with experts active in a rich variety of green jobs to inform, inspire, and engage the younger generations. School students, university students, and farmers alike showed great enthusiasm and eagerly engaged with the opportunity to dissect crucial issues and questions concerned with building a more sustainable future, both developing and exchanging their unique perspectives and ideas.

Second local YTT session in Foni, The Gambia, on the 21st of February



Third local YTT session in Kigali, Rwanda, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February



Third local YTT session in Foni, The Gambia, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February



Fourth (final) local YTT session of FATE in Foni, The Gambia, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February



The participants are holding the handkerchiefs and bread bags they learned to make themselves during the session to show support for Gambian traditions that offer sustainable, eco-friendly alternatives to wasteful and harmful modern methods. In this case, bread bags and handkerchiefs offer an alternative to newspaper, tissue, and plastic for wrapping and storing bread.

#### **FATE – The cross-continental sessions**

Following the final local sessions, the first cross-continental session took place on the 14th of March. This time, simultaneously in all three countries, the participants connected with each other online. Using Google Meet, they joined a shared video call and got to meet the participants and FATE team members from the remaining two countries. The FATE teams from the three countries then alternated in planning and leading the sessions using both Google Meet and Padlet. Our designated Padlet Team used Padlet to design interactive, pinboard-like digital spaces that complemented the cross-continental YTT sessions.

First cross-continental YTT session in Kigali, Rwanda, on the 14th of March



Second cross-continental YTT session in Foni, The Gambia, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March



Team Germany, Team Gambia, and Team Rwanda gathered online with participants for the fourth cross-continental YTT session on the 4th of April



The core of the cross-continental YTT sessions was enabling and encouraging the exchange between participants as bridge builders even beyond borders. Each country and individual are faced with in some ways similar yet ultimately unique situations and challenges. By exchanging our knowledge, experiences, perspectives, ideas, and solutions, we broaden our horizons, inspire each other, and help each other drive global solutions for a sustainable future. With one session per week, in total, five cross-continental YTT sessions successfully took place, the last one concluding on the 5th of April.

The participants are now eager and prepared to enter the final product creationand subsequently sustainment phase of the FATE project and tackle not only these additional sessions but also contribute to a more sustainable future – even beyond the conclusion of the FATE project.

You can learn more about the cross-continental YTT sessions and how we make use of Padlet in our newest blog post: <a href="https://inspiresouls.org/fate/fate-geht-ueber-grenzen-hinaus/">https://inspiresouls.org/fate/fate-geht-ueber-grenzen-hinaus/</a>















## InspireKids Rwanda - Our mentoring meetings keep going strong!

Our InspireKids project also shows no sign of slowing down! The mentors remain highly motivated to provide the best possible support for the children and young people, empowering them on their educational journey and recently also guiding them through the preparation for their examination period. It is wonderful to hear of great and productive sessions and to see the mentees continue to develop and make progress on their educational journey with the help of the mentors.

Here are some impressions from our last mentoring meetings:









# Congo Street Breaking Art – Providing a safe space for children affected by the conflict in the DRC

We also want to raise awareness of another nonprofit organization and project – Congo Street Breaking Art – led by a previous mentor at Inspiresouls who gave dancing workshops for his mentees. This project supports children in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, by offering them a safe and welcoming space where they can express themselves through the art of breakdance alongside other valuable opportunities for learning and personal development. During a time of great conflict and forced displacements in the region, Congo Street Breaking Art wishes to offer refuge, education on relevant topics, artistic activities, psychological support and counseling services, and dancing as a means to heal and reconcile.

If you would like to learn more or donate to support the project, you can visit their fundraising page:

https://whydonate.com/en/fundraising/CongoStreetBreakingArt

We will hold our General Assembly on May 10th, during which there will be a change in leadership and board structure. Our current chairperson, Antonia, who has served as our Chair Woman and Main Project Coordinator for the 3 years since Inspiresouls' creation, has decided to step down from both the board and the organization to give others the opportunity to take on leadership and responsibility. While Antonia will always remain the Founder of Inspiresouls e.V., she will withdraw from active association activities and pursue other opportunities.

## Thank you for being part of our journey!

It is a great pleasure to have you as a supporting member of our network. Your donations and support enable us to continue to grow and bring about positive change in the lives of many young people. We will continue to keep you regularly informed with updates from our projects and look forward to reaching further milestones together with you.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

With inspiring greetings, Lars Hachenberger & the entire Inspiresouls team



## Inspiresouls e.V.

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