

Go Africa... Go Germany 2012/13

Call for Papers: Germany/Senegal - Ghana

The Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung/bpb) is granting fellowships to students and young graduates, enabling them to take part in a five-week seminar to be held from 11th to 29th August 2012 in Germany and in February/March 2013 in Senegal and Ghana.

By organising a five-week exchange programme – which is implemented for the sixth time on the initiative of the former Federal President and under the patronage of the Federal President Christian Wulff – the Federal Agency for Civic Education is aiming to help overcome the lack of knowledge that exists between African reality and German perception and, vice versa, between German reality and African perception. The personal, intercultural encounter between young and upcoming academics and the interdisciplinary exchange are aimed at promoting advanced professional training and at acquiring multipliers for a German-African future that is based on the spirit of partnership on eye-level.

The fellowship holders are invited to participate in an education programme that will both encompass talks with political decision-makers, personalities from civil society and industry, academics and journalists from both countries and also give participants the opportunity to take part in political and cultural events and excursions. The participants are to contribute towards implementing the programme by assisting in organising lectures and facilitating group discussions. They will also work on a common study focussing on an academic subject that will be prepared in Germany and will be written between September 2012 and April 2013.

The event is directed at students and young graduates from Germany and West Africa. Applicants should be between 21 and 28 years old and be studying or have a degree in political science, modern history, international relations, economics, business administration, African studies, cultural studies, media and communication studies or law.

The seminar will be delivered in English; the number of participants is limited to 24, twelve from West African countries and twelve from Germany. The Federal Agency for Civic Education will cover the costs. **Furthermore, there will be an obligatory preparatory seminar for the German participants from 22th to 23th June 2012.** For more detailed information about the Federal Agency for Civic Education, please visit the website: www.bpb.de or www.bpb.de/goafrica.

Students and graduates who are interested can apply to the Federal Agency for Civic Education by submitting an essay comprising a maximum of three A4 pages (approx. 6,000 characters) written in English. The essay must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae in tabular form, a letter of motivation comprising no more than one A4 page and a photograph (the following information must be provided: surname, first name, gender, date of birth, place of birth, profession, job/field of study, place of study, place of work and place of residence). Applicants must also issue a declaration stating that they wrote

the essay without any help from third parties. Please note that the Federal Agency for Civic Education is not able to cover costs for obtaining visas of the German participants or for vaccinations. The acceptance of African participants to the programme only becomes final when the German Embassy in the participant's home country has issued the relevant visa. It is not possible to legally claim participation in the programme.

A further condition for receiving a grant is that applicants must be able to participate for the entire period. The students should be willing to participate in an intensive and compact programme schedule.

Full applications must be emailed to the Federal Agency for Civic Education at goafrica@bpb.de by 15 March 2012.

You may choose any one of the following topics (1. or 2. or 3.) for your essay. All three questions below one main point must be answered in each case.

1. Political party funding in Ghana and Germany

Ghana reintroduced a multi-party system and the division of powers between the president and parliament, when a referendum of a new constitution entered into force in 1993. The Ghanaian parties have to bear all costs by themselves, as there is no public party funding. *Article 21(1) of the Political Parties Act 2000, Act 574* regulates the financial reporting constitutionally. The political parties have to submit a statement of account to the Electoral Commission within the second term of the year. It has to include the sources of their funds, the dues paid by the party members, as well as the party's contributions, donations and properties. Only Ghanaian citizens and certain organizations are allowed to contribute and to donate in cash or kind. This form of party funding is to guarantee a transparent record of the parties' method of operation as well as to ensure their service as essential institutions of democracy.

Party funding in Germany is regulated by the Act on Political Parties, Article 21. In contrast to Ghana, political parties in Germany receive public funds. The share of the tax-funded contributions depends on the public and electoral success of the political parties. This includes: how many votes a party has won in the last Bundestag (Federal Parliament), the Landtag (the State Parliament) and European elections, as well as the current number of party members. German parties additionally receive financial support from contributions made by office holders and donations.

1.1. The Ghana's political landscape is now shaped by two major political parties – the ruling NDC (National Democratic Congress) and the NPP (New Patriotic Party) as the main oppositional party. In your opinion, how does the funding system affect the capacity for political action on the part of the governing party and on that of the parties in the opposition?

1.2 Since the reform of party funding in 2002, incorrect reporting of donations has been a punishable offence in the Federal Republic of Germany, and it is illegal to donate a number of smaller amounts in order to avoid public disclosure. This development was preceded by repeated scandals in which politicians from large political parties in Germany had accepted cash donations without disclosing or correctly registering the donations. What is the danger for democracy posed by such donation scandals? Can partial state financing prevent misuse and would this also make sense in Ghana?

1.3 What are the opportunities and risks involved in each country's form of party funding for the political decision-making process and democracy in Ghana and Germany?

2. The significance of renewable energies for economic development in West Africa and Germany.

In 2011, the German government decided to “usher in the age of renewables and swiftly end the use of nuclear power”. By the year 2020 Germany is aiming to increase its power production from renewable energy sources to 35 per cent and at the same time significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. As a country that is not rich in raw materials, Germany is dependent on importing the energy carriers uranium, gas and mineral oil. However, the rising energy requirements around the world and new energy policy players on the world market are increasingly hampering Germany's influence on the development in energy efficiency both at home and throughout the world. For this reason, since 1991

a series of laws and regulations have been introduced that are supposed to ensure climate-friendly and independent energy supplies in Germany.

Owing to the growth in population and the economy, outdated power networks and environmental influences, in West African countries there are repeated shortages in the energy supply. Similar to the situation in the West, their energy supply is based on fossil fuels and traditional biomass. Deforestation, in which wood is used to meet the elementary energy needs of the population, is regarded as a catalyst of the increasing climate change in Africa. The greater use of solar energy, for example, therefore offers a means of fulfilling its rapidly growing need for energy on a large scale while preserving the environment.

2.1 The Renewable Energies Act (EEG), which regulates supplies of renewable, environmentally friendly energies to the Federal Republic, has been in force since the year 2000, and is frequently updated. In your opinion, does such a Renewable Energies Act also provide an opportunity for alternative energy supplies in West Africa, specifically Ghana, in the interests of a more stable power supply and in the interests of environmental production and nature conservancy?

2.2 In West Africa the majority of the population has used traditional biomass for energy generation to date; only around 20% of West African households use public electricity. In your opinion, which projects would enable traditional biomass to be used efficiently and with an environmentally friendly approach? Which role does the population density play in energy distribution, taking Ghana or Senegal as an example?

2.3 Large oil deposits were found off the coast of Ghana in the middle of 2007. The future development of the oil industry is seen as an essential factor for the country's growing energy requirements. How could state income from the extraction of oil be used for the utilisation of renewable energies? Which role could be played by Germany in development policy?

3. Import and export dependency and the consequences for the domestic economy, taking Germany and Senegal as an example

Since 1952 Germany's exports have outnumbered its imports. In 2009 the six times "export world champion" was markedly overtaken by China and in 2010 by the USA. The member states of the European Union (EU) are among Germany's most important trading partners. During the worldwide financial and economic crisis, Germany's economy suffered a considerable drop in imports and exports. In addition to its distinct orientation on exports, energy imports also play an important role as an economic factor for Germany in its position as a country that is not rich in raw materials.

Unlike Germany, Senegal's geographic location in the Sahel means that it is greatly dependent on imports and its exports remain at a minimum. Similar to Germany, the European Union (EU) is one of the most important export and import partners for Senegal's national economy. Senegal mainly imports food, medicine and intermediate goods from the member states of the European Union.

3.1 The liberalisation of international agriculture trade, coupled with the subsidisation of the domestic industry by western industrialised countries, has driven local businesses and smallholders from the market. For example, in Senegal almost two thirds of domestic businesses were forced to close when the import of frozen chicken pieces by the EU between 1999 and 2003 drastically lowered domestic prices. Which possibilities would make the international trade with agricultural products "fairer"? In your opinion, what is the responsibility of the EU?

3.2 The financial crisis weakened economic strength around the world. In your opinion, which consequences and risks are faced by the economy in Senegal and Germany, where there is (over)dependence on imports and exports?

3.3 Trading between Senegal and Germany has remained at a low level so far. The linguistic barriers between the countries and a lack of investment conditions for a German presence in Senegal are viewed as hurdles that hamper the intensification of economic relations. How could trade relations between Germany and Senegal be developed?