



Further information on ASApreneurs

Are you working in a company or a business-oriented organisation and pursue sustainability goals of social, ecological and economical relevance? You would like to offer young professionals with a special interest in sustainable economies an opportunity to participate in a specific project and gain insight into your work? You can propose your 2022 ASApreneurs project until 15 September 2021.

The ASA Programme is a learning and capacity-building programme on development policy, offered by ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL gGmbH - Service for Development Initiatives and implemented on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

To learn more about the ASA Programme please read our “Factsheet on your project proposal: ASA Programme”. In the following paragraphs we would like to acquaint you with the specific features of ASApreneurs instead.

What does ASApreneurs stand for?

ASApreneurs is part of the ASA Programme, promoting sustainability in the economy. It is directed towards companies and business-oriented organisations which are guided by social responsibility and principles of social and ecological sustainability. ASApreneurs participants work six months in a project you propose, with the first three months spent in Germany, followed by three months at a project partner in Africa, Asia, Latin America or South-East Europe. The work in your project should allow participants to gain insight into sustainable economy at the local and international level.

ASApreneurs project examples

- Fostering Social Entrepreneurship for socially and environmentally sustainable jobs
- Developing campaigns and projects for a sustainable use of water
- Product development and marketing for a baby sling produced fairly and ecologically
- Designing an online-platform for networking and yield increase in agriculture
- Developing strategies against obsolescence in Mexico

“The low-threshold approach of the ASApreneurs programme enables especially small- and medium-size companies to engage in sustainability and receive support for innovative projects. Make use of this chance!”

Heiko Schwiderwski, DIHK (our translation)

Contribution of the ASA Programme

- Upon request, we advise you on how to elaborate and develop your project proposal.
- We advertise the programme to applicants in Germany, manage their application process, and select engaged young participants for your project through a tried and tested process. At the time of the application process and during the project phases the ASApreneurs participants are usually enrolled at a university or another institution of higher education.¹
- We support the participants’ learning and preparation process through seminars and tutorials.
- If the realisation of the project phase in Germany involves relocation for the participants, the ASA programme pays a rent subsidy.
- Engagement Global covers the travel and accommodation expenses incurred in connection to the ASA seminars. For the project phase outside Germany and in case the trip abroad is possible, we provide health, liability and accident insurance and cover part of the flight costs².

¹ Graduates of a school-based/dual vocational training or interested students who are no longer enrolled, but whose Bachelor’s degree was earned within the last 18 months as well as German citizens who study abroad can also apply in consultation with you. Please note that this would imply that the remuneration of ASApreneurs participants must comply with the requirements of the German Minimum Wage Law during the project phase.

² Equals 82 % of the travel cost grant of German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for the respective country for students; the amounts are adjusted annually, minor deviations may thus be possible for 2022.

“We have the opportunity to transport specific knowledge within our international network across different countries with the help of the ASApreneurs scholarship holders.”

Michael Vollmann, Ashoka Germany, ASApreneurs project partner (our translation)

Your contribution

- You develop the project proposal jointly with a company or a business-oriented organisation in a country in Africa, Asia, Latin America or South-Eastern Europe.
- Following a pre-selection process by Engagement Global staff, you independently select the participants for your sustainability project.
- You support the participants in your country and abroad and provide adequate framework conditions for the project work.
- You assist those attending the Programme with the formalities necessary for entering the country (e.g. their visa application).
- You commit to paying the participants an adequate remuneration. Moreover, you are responsible for checking whether you are bound by the German Minimum Wage Law.³ Project financing may be subsidised upon request in order to support innovative start-ups if the minimum remuneration (see below) cannot be guaranteed independently.
 - When calculating a minimum remuneration for the project phase in Germany, the ASA Programme refers to the amount of pocket money approved by the Federal Volunteer Service (Bundesfreiwilligendienst)⁴ and to the subsistence allowance set out in the relevant directive on social security payments (Sozialversicherungsentgeltverordnung - SvEV)⁵. This currently corresponds to a total of 633 Euro per month.
 - When calculating a minimum remuneration for the phase in the project country, the ASA Programme refers to the rate for students set by the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst/DAAD); 61 % of the DAAD rate to be precise. The exact amount depends on the DAAD rate for the country in question and corresponds to 719 Euro⁶ per month on average.

ASApreneurs calendar

15 September 2021: Submission deadline for your ASApreneurs project proposal

October 2021: Project selection by the ASA Programme

1st December 2021 to 20 January 2022: Publication of selected projects on the ASA website; interested and eligible young professionals and students can apply

³ The latter might apply if you conclude a contract with the participants for the duration of the two project phases irrespective of the project location such that the contract term exceeds three months.

⁴ In line with the spending allowance in the Federal Volunteer Service (BFD)

⁵ In line with the Social Security Compensation Directive (SvEV, § 2); the amounts are adjusted annually; therefore, minor deviations are possible for 2022

⁶ the amounts are adjusted annually; therefore, deviations are possible for 2022

February 2021: Selection of participants: You have the opportunity to read the applications for your project and to participate in the selection meeting in Berlin. If you are unable to attend, we will send you a shortlist of two to five applicants who match your project brief that you can use as a basis for filling the place(s) on your project.

April to June 2022: The participants' seminar phase takes place in Germany.

April to June 2022: Three-month project phase in Germany or remotely in case of a digital project implementation

Between July 2022 and December 2022: Three-month project phase in a country in Africa, Asia, Latin America or South-Eastern Europe or remotely in case of a digital project implementation.

February/March 2023: RENEw seminars invite participants to review the project phase(s), exchange their views about future engagement opportunities and find ways to establish networks.

Imprint

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