

1. Background

The Youth Sports Exchange Program (YSEP) has been coordinated by The Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF) and funded by The Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (Norec) since 2001. There are five partner organisations in the program, The National Organisation for Women in Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation (NOWSPAR), Sport in Action (SiA), Response Network (RN), EduSport and the Malawi National Council of Sport (MNCS).

YSEP has primarily been funded by Norec, an executive under the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, since 2001. Norec base their work on the idea that civil society can be strengthened, both directly and indirectly, through exchange projects. Cooperation among organisations creates new knowledge and potential to learn, it mobilises volunteers, and it further develops young leaders.

Norec's objectives are

- To create young leaders and give young people new perspectives, as well as work experience that will give them the opportunity to make a difference – in their own lives, in their organisations, and in their local communities.
- To contribute to contact and collaboration between a diversity of youth centred organisations and institutions in Norway and in low- and middle income countries, built on equality, reciprocity, and solidarity.

NIF is an umbrella organisation that organises all national sports federations in Norway. NIF has more than 2 million members, making it the largest volunteer organisation in the country. In 1982 NIF began its work with international development cooperation and became a relevant actor in the Sport for Development field, working closely with local partners on issues such as good governance, safe sport, inclusion, gender equality, coach development and more. The partners have all been located in the Southern region of Africa.

NIF developed an exchange program, YSEP, for youth in the 1990s and became part of Norec (former Peace Corps) in 2001. The current program is a collaboration between NIF and five African partner organisations that have come into the collaboration in different stages, as other partners and partner countries have left. Four of the partners are in Zambia, and are all non-governmental organisations. They work within sports, but with different emphasis and focus areas. Still, the organisations share the same idea of using sport as a tool for development and the importance of the contribution of volunteerism in the sports field. The main coordinating partner in Zambia is NOWSPAR, an

umbrella organisation conducting advocacy, awareness research and capacity development on gender equality in sport. NOWSPAR is responsible for the budget in Zambia and for coordinating meetings and training taking place in the partner countries. Our second partner in Zambia Sport in Action's purpose is to improve people's quality of life through sports and recreational activities. This is similar to our third partner, EduSport, an organisation created as a response to identified gaps in opportunities for communities to participate in sport and for youth empowerment. Both Sport in Action and Edusport work more closely with sporting activities than NOWSPAR and have large numbers of local volunteers out in the field as coaches. Our final partner in Zambia is called Response Network, not solely a sports organisation but a self-help organisation working in rural areas within many thematic areas, one being sports for development. Outside of Zambia, we currently have one other partner, the Malawi National Council of Sports (MNCS) in Malawi. MNCS was established by an act of the national Parliament to provide oversight to the development of all sporting disciplines in Malawi.

YSEP has had more than 300 youths on exchange between the ages of 20-30 from Norway and countries in southern Africa (previous partners have been located in South Africa, Namibia, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, and Zimbabwe, currently our partners in the South are all in Zambia and Malawi). The exchange participants travel abroad and do voluntary work for a period of 10 months, with one of the six partner organisations, including NIF. YSEP has participants going from North to South, from South to North and from South to South. Until 2019 the participants travelling from Southern Africa to Norway attended a Norwegian Folk College whilst on exchange. The participants use their skills as coaches, administrators, and activity leaders, and provide sport activities in their new local communities. Over the years changes to the program have been made and some partners have come and gone, but the overall objectives have almost remained the same.

In addition to the exchange, the partners in Zambia are also collaborating with NIF on other projects, funded by Norad.

The program objectives from the previous 4 years have been:

- To strengthen the participants leadership abilities
- To enhance young sport leaders' personal development through cultural exchange
- To increase the partner organisations sports activities
- To develop strong volunteer management systems
- To promote the use of sport as a tool for development

Our exchange program is based on a firm belief that participation in sport can foster comradeship, fair play, good health, gender equality and democracy. As a program it has a reach of several thousand children a year that are taking part in physical activity.

Funding from Norec for the past four rounds of exchange:

YEAR	PARTNERS (SOUTH)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ON EXCHANGE	BUDGET GRANTED FROM NOREC
2016-2017	Chrich (Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya), Sport in Action, EduSport, Response Network, NOWSPAR, ZAVA (Zambian Volleyball Association), ZAAA (Zabian Athletics Association), SARU (South Africa Rugby)	21	3 501 000 NOK
2017-2018	Sport in Action, Response Network, NOWSPAR, MNCS, SARU (South Africa Rugby), HAZ (Handball Association Zambia), IWG (International Working Group on Women and Sport)	20	3 332 220 NOK
2018-2019	Sport in Action, Response Network, NOWSPAR, MNCS, HAZ (Handball Association Zambia), Judo Association Zambia, ZAVA (Zambian Volleyball Association)	21	3 699 500 NOK

2019-2020	Sport in Action, Response Network, NOWSPAR, MNCS, EduSport	18	3 289 500 NOK
<p>In 2020-21 the exchange was put on a hold due to Covid-19, and it is not clear when we will be able to start exchanging participants again. YSEP receives funding from Norec in this period to undergo an external evaluation, where we have decided to focus on the four exchange rounds from 2016-2020 with three out of six partner organisations, including NIF.</p>			
2. Purpose			
<p>The evaluation shall look into the exchange program and identify to what extent the program has led to mutual learning between the partner organisations and the participants. It should also give advice and suggestions as to how to improve the exchange program.</p>			
3. Scope			
<p>In line with the above, the purpose of the evaluation is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify to what extent the exchange has added value to the partner organisations (Identify relevance and effectiveness of the exchange program and whether the objectives are aligned with the needs of each partner) b. Identify the value and results of the exchange program for participants c. Identify results deriving from the exchange program activities in line with the overall expected outcomes and results framework d. Give recommendations and input to a new agreement after 2021, addressing challenges and opportunities in all partner countries <p>More specific questions to look at could include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are YSEPs objectives relevant for the work of the partner organisations? - What is the demand in administrative resources compared to the funding received for partner organisations? - Is it an equal partnership between the organisations? - What have the organisations learned whilst being partners in the exchange program? - What do former participants describe as personal effects of participating in the exchange program? 			

- How has YSEP increased the former participants involvement in sports and development?
- How do former volunteers describe new knowledge they have attained during the exchange period, and are partner organisations aware and able to take advantage of this knowledge?

The evaluation report is intended primarily for:

- YSEP partner organisations
- Norec
- Norad
- Other relevant stakeholders may also include similar exchange programs under Norec

4. Methodology

Applicants are expected to present a detailed methodology with suggestions of effective data collection methods. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the evaluation will rely mostly on digital tools and not physical meetings.

Secondary sources: program related documents such as overall project description, results framework, applications for funding and narrative reports.

Primary sources: interviews, surveys, case studies, collection and analysis of data – involving partners, relevant stakeholders and former participants.

Specific methods could include:

- Review annual applications and reports
- Review partner organisations' strategies and Norec surveys
- Face-to-face interviews with organisations and former participants (digitally)
- Face-to-face with key stakeholders, such as Norec (digitally)
- Case studies and examples of good practice
- Questionnaire/survey

The evaluation will have access to information in official documents, full involvement of three partner organisations located in Zambia and Norway, and access to former participants from exchange rounds 2016-2020.

If more information is needed prior to sending in applications, do not hesitate to contact:

juliekarima.berg@idrettsforbundet.no

5. Work plan and timeline

Tentative timeline

Release of tender	15 th June 2021
Application deadline	15 th July 2021
Sign agreement	25 th August 2021
Consultant's review	1 st September 2021 – 1 st October 2021
Draft report completed	1 st November 2021
Presentation of the draft	Mid November 2021
Final report completed	Before end of December 2021

Locations

The evaluation is to be done remotely with access only to digital interviews and documents, unless it is possible to meet some of the partner organisations in person.

6. Management of the report / Professional qualifications

Criteria for the selection of evaluation team

- Experience and knowledge of development work or other relevant work in the field of social sciences.
- Familiar with exchange or volunteer programs.
- Additional knowledge of Southern Africa is an asset. The evaluator/evaluation team should strive to use local knowledge and expertise and may for example have members from Norway and Zambia (or the region).
- Experience with evaluation processes.
- Adequate language skills in English to perform the evaluation. The final evaluation paper and presentation shall be in English.

Expected deliverables

- Inception Report containing summary of understanding of the project with reference to initial information and research collected, a detailed work plan, final methodology with proposed evaluation tools, limitations if any, responsible persons and timeframes.
- Draft Evaluation Report in English (maximum 30 pages, excluding appendixes)
- Oral presentation in English of the findings to NIF, partner organisations and Norec
- Final Evaluation report in English

7. Limitations

The effect that the Covid-19 pandemic has on international travel leaves the option of the evaluators being present in both countries impossible at this point. The information that is needed to conduct the evaluation will therefore have to be gathered digitally.

8. Budget considerations

The total budget available for the evaluation is NOK 200 000 (including VAT).

The budget should cover all aspects of the evaluation including working time of the evaluator/evaluation team and any expenses related to communication costs.

9. Contact

Application deadline: July 15th · 2021

Please apply via email: juliekarima.berg@idrettsforbundet.no

The application should contain:

- Profile of the consultant/team members with traceable references and copies of/links to CVs and previous writing and published materials.
- A layout and a breakdown of how the consultant/s understand and plan to carry out the evaluation.

- Professional fee quotation indicating envisaged actions, the requested fee for the work in the job description.
- Motivational letter.

NIF will be appointing an evaluator and all applicants will be informed of this in writing. The written information will include a short reasoning of the decision that is made and there will be given a 5-calendar day limit to dispute the selection.

A contract will be completed after potential disputes have been processed.

Questions and applications may be directed to:

Julie Karima Berg

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Email: juliekarima.berg@idrettsforbundet.no