

Presentation of BWplus project during the Africa Festival in Würzburg



On the 27th of Mai, my colleague Albert Eisenbarth and I traveled to Würzburg where we wanted to visit the ‘original Africa Festival’, which is known to be the biggest African-related festival of Europa. When we reached this beautiful Bavarian town, it was almost 1 pm. The weather was at its best, and the look of people, already at the train station, indicated how lively the town was.

My first impression already from the bridge spanning over the festival area was that the village was big and well hidden from the outside public. It stretched longitudinally along the picturesque Main river just opposite of the towns vine slopes.

I even had to wonder more when I could not enter with my empty bottle of water because I was an adult. Only kids could get in with drinks.

Right after entering the festival village we felt like in Africa, illustrated by an impressive and beautiful portrait photo exhibition. Soon we reached the music stage for artist to produce themselves. We took a quick tour around the festival village. The Bazars occupied more than half of the whole festival area and offered a high diversity of African products, from colorful scarfs to unrefined shea butter and much, much more. The food cuisines mostly came from North, East and also Central Africa, represented by a stand from Cameroon. The festival’s hosted project included the “Medécins sans frontières”, the Department of Tropical Medicine in the Medical Mission Hospital of Würzburg, the non-governmental organization OneDollarGlasses, the S.Oliver & Africa Festival Würzburg Foundation and the Africa fashion show. The University of Würzburg had a conspicuous round tent lying a bit sideways of the other projects and describing its activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular, the Excellence Scholarship Program BEBUC (<http://www.foerderverein-uni-kinshasa.de/>) aiming to create a new generation of Professors in this most particular country. This scholarship program, founded in 2008 by a Prof Bringmann (from Wuerzburg) and Prof Mudogo (from the Congo), supports currently about 190 young, excellent Congolese pupils and students. One of them, Blaise Kimbadi Lombe, who welcomed us and explained all about the project, emphasized on the great contribution of this project towards the development of the Congo.

As both African and German students are in perpetual search of support to proceed in their studies or to achieve educational projects, we found it a good opportunity to promote the aims of the Baden Württemberg foundation (<https://www.bwstiftung.de/die-stiftung/die-stiftung/>). We distributed flyers, answered questions about our own BW project, and brought information about how it can foster academic careers of young researchers. Although the audience at the African Festival in Würzburg was only composed of a relatively small fraction of students, we found our way to present the project which has been itself sponsored by the BWS.

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