

## **Volunteer Service MaZ (Temporary Missionaries)**

**Temporary Missionaries** are young women and men (18 – 24 years), who for a limited time do a voluntary service according to the motto: sharing life, sharing prayer and collaborate.

### **Vision of the voluntary service MaZ**

MaZ wants to offer young people the opportunity to look beyond their own horizons and to stand up for social justice and brotherly and sisterly cooperation based on the Christian understanding of humanity. MaZ concentrates on a learning experience: young people get to know and understand better other people, cultures and religions. MaZ is committed to the Vision of ONE World in which we are all brothers and sisters. The MaZ year shapes their personal lives and sets the tone for their future actions.

### **Sharing Life:**

The MaZ-volunteers live in a community, a host family or in the locality of the project. In the run-up to the project, there is a clear discussion about the possibility of living with and in the respective community.

### **Sharing Work:**

Depending on the circumstances, the MaZ-volunteers work in projects/facilities of the sisters in the social area with or in a project with which the sisters have a good contact/cooperation.

### **Sharing Prayer:**

The MaZ-volunteers take part in the pastoral life of the community and parish. After consultation with the sisters, they take part in their prayer life and religious services. As most of the young people are not used to regular prayer life, they might not attend every prayer or mass as the sisters do.

### **How do we prepare future MaZ for their experience?**

The first step to become a MaZ is to take part in our online-information day. During this day the SSpS present themselves in general and the MaZ-program in detail. Topics like Mission and Solidarity are discussed. Former MaZ share their experiences during their MaZ-year. After this day all the candidates had an interview by phone.

The aim of this day is to provide the young people interested in the program with enough information and impressions so that they are able to decide if they really want to become MaZ.

For those who decide to become MaZ the preparation starts with a weekend of getting to know each other and deepen the understanding of Mission and Solidarity.

The different workshops comprise personal formation as well as topics of the worldwide church and the challenges of our society.

These are the preparation workshops in Germany, Austria has an equivalent program:

- 5-day course in Frankfurt: Raising the topics of social justice and the situation of people living in poverty in Germany. Based on meeting people affected and involvement in activities of the sisters in Frankfurt, we reflect our experiences based on facts of global and local structures. We learn how contact with people, especially those who are vulnerable, touch our lives and question our perspective on the world, our faith and our lifestyle. We hope that these activities will make it easier for the young people to get into contact with people of foreign cultures and see the need of acting together with the people around them, searching for dialog and understanding.
- 1 week-end workshops: information about the host country: history, culture etc.
- 1 weekend workshop at Pentecost in Steyl: Organisation of workshops for the children (it is a big family festival), exchange with returned MaZ, meeting giving parents information on the program
- a 2 weeks' internship in one of our communities together with an internship in a social institution, e.g. a hospital or kindergarten; this gives MaZ the possibility to get to know a bit more about SSpS community life and can gain a few insights into the fields they will be working in in the host countries.
- a 10 day-seminar (the "Blockseminar") as immediate preparation for their MaZ-year: During this seminar the group will work on topics like intercultural communication, racism and colonialism, prevention training on sexualised violence, what it means to "being a foreigner", reflections about their own identity, former MaZ report about their experiences and give practical and medical information; language-tests are made. - We stay in Steyl during the whole time and meet Sisters of the congregation; 1 day of spiritual exercises and meditation are part of the seminar.

### **Accompaniment during and after the voluntary service, organized by us:**

- 5 days intermediate seminar in the host country
- Volunteers have to write some reflection reports during their time and will get feedback

After return:

- 2 weekend workshops to reflect their volunteer time and how they can implement the experience in everyday life back in Germany.

The MaZ volunteers are prepared for their volunteer service in Germany by a team and are also accompanied during their time. Usually they are 18 or 24 years old and have completed their schooling. They come to learn and develop competences. Mostly they are not trained professionals. But they are enthusiastic and eager to get involved in projects and activities as well as to share their talents and gifts generously. It is often their first experience outside their family, therefore they need help finding their place in the community. Especially they need to be shown how they can contribute by taking over duties in the community. Furthermore, it is helpful for the young people if the places of volunteer service are well structured. It is important to have a contact person on their site who introduces and accompanies the volunteer during his/her volunteer time, gives feedback and is available to answer questions. During their time they will often struggle with a culture shock or other minor crises. Monthly meetings for reflection are desirable and sensible.

## **Language:**

The volunteers try to acquire basic knowledge of the national language already in Germany. At the beginning of the MaZ-year they have to attend a language course in the country of assignment (they have to pay the costs themselves).

## **Funding programs with IJFD/weltwärts in Germany (not in Austria)**

The IJFD is a voluntary program run by the Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and weltwärts is a program from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The funding programs result in a number of regulations and requirements:

The volunteers **have to** get:

- preparatory seminars, mentoring during the term of their service, and debriefing subsequent to their stay abroad (at least 25 days of seminars in case of a 12-month-service, attendance mandatory)
- insurances during the stay abroad (international health insurance, civil liability insurance, medical repatriation insurance, and a private accident insurance for any leisure time; during their service the volunteers are insured under the statutory occupational accident insurance)
- an appropriate number of vacation days (for 12-month-placements at least 20 days)
- a certificate by the placement agency upon completion of the service abroad (and/or, upon request, also a letter of reference).

The salary costs for MaZ-team/Staff is supported from the sisters. We ask the volunteers to get financial support through donations. We can give a subsidy for board and lodging. Normally we pay 50 euros to the sister communities for accommodation and meals.

## **Registration of volunteer placement**

The volunteer's placement must be registered and recognised by the Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (IJFD) or by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for weltwärts. The placement site must not replace a workplace.

## **Documents**

For the MaZ volunteer service, there are some documents that the volunteers, the sending organization and the partner organization have to sign:

- IJFD/weltwärts agreement with the volunteer
- Partnership agreement between Sending organisation (SSpS Germany by the MaZ-Team) and Partner organisation (SSpS or partner organizations)
- MaZ-Agreement for Austria

## **Links to the funding programs:**

[IJFD in English Language: Internationalen Jugendfreiwilligendienst - IJFD \(ijfd-info.de\)](#)  
[Homepage - weltwaerts \[EN\]](#)